

**THE
HARLOVIAN**



**The Magazine of
Harlow College,
Essex**

Vol. 9 No. 13

Winter, 1941-42

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WINTER. 1941-42

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Captain of the School: T. A. Cox.

Prefects:

T. A. Cox, J. Brazier, T. Cullum, D. Williams, R. Engeham,
I. Morley, A. Goozee, G. Kelly, M. Willmott.

Sub-Prefects:

R. Spicer, D. Valder, R. Pain, B. Barham, J. Power,
I. Gardiner.

Football Captain: G. Kelly.

Vice-Captain: T. Cullum.

Captain of Beatty House: A. Goozee.

Captain of Nelson House: D. Williams.

Captain of Rodney House: M. Willmott.

Captain of Keyes House: G. Kelly.

SCHOOL NOTES

Staff Changes.—At the end of the Spring Term Mr. Robertson was appointed to the Staff of Brentwood School, and his departure was greatly regretted by all, Staff and Boys, as was that of Mrs. Robertson. Mr. Robertson has served the School for twelve years, while his wife has been with us for over six. In school he has taught both Maths. and Science throughout the course, while Mrs. Robertson, after looking after Form II for four years or so, stepped into the breach shortly after the outbreak of war and took over the rather unwieldy Third Form, taking the place of a master. Throughout her stay she also was responsible for the music lessons, and gave us invaluable help at the organ in our School Chapel services. Mr. Robertson will probably be the more remembered for his untiring efforts on the field, since he was entirely responsible for the athletics and games of the School. We shall always remember his organization of the athletic sports, which were run off with the precision of clockwork, ending always at the promised time. Since the beginning of the war Mr. Robertson has acted as House Master, taking the place of Major Castle, and here, too, he will be much missed.

As a token of their esteem the boys presented Mr. and Mrs. Robertson with a cheque, in the hope that it will be of some service to them in the furnishing of their new house. Our best wishes to them both for real happiness and success.

The following letter has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Robertson:—

8 Woodstock Avenue,

Harold Park, Essex.

June 7, 1942.

Dear Mr. Dames,

May I express our extreme delight at the gift subscribed by the boys for us? We have already earmarked the money (for peace time) to buy a case of cutlery, which will remind us whenever used of many happy days spent at Harlow.

It meant a very big break for us leaving Harlow, as it had become part and parcel of our lives, but the opportunity offered to me was too valuable to be ignored. I can say, sincerely, that much as I like my present post, Harlow will always be a pleasant and cherished memory.

We were unable to obtain a house in Brentwood, but were lucky to get one (the only one apparently) a few miles out. As there is an excellent bus service this distance from school is of little disadvantage. We are almost as much in the country as at Harlow.

I find my present work very congenial and have, as at Harlow, a considerable interest in the out-of-school activities (this term cricket and athletics).

When travelling facilities become easier I hope that the College will be able to visit Brentwood both at cricket and soccer.

Our best wishes to the School Certificate Form, to the Cricket XI, and to all School Certificate Forms and Games XIs, be it next year or in the years to come.

We have discovered that one Old Harlovian lives near us, A. G. Ross, whom we had the pleasure of seeing last Tuesday (on 33 hours' leave from the R.A.F.).

We should much appreciate a copy of the *Harlovian*—perhaps you would let me know what the yearly subscription is.

The best of terms and of the years to follow to Mrs. Dames and yourself, the Staff, and the Boys.

Yours very sincerely,

E. A. E. Robertson.

Mr. Cairns now comes into the House as House Tutor, and to him we extend a hearty welcome, with all wishes for happiness in his new post.

School Chapel.—An innovation during the Spring Term was the holding of our own School Chapel services in St. John's Church at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Since last Summer Term the trebles of the choir had been practising assiduously in the singing of the psalms, an art new to them all, and in the singing of the responses, while during the Spring Term we were joined by a number of "broken voices" who mastered the task of singing bass in a remarkably short time, one of them holding the fort, and making himself heard, as alto. In the earlier part of the Spring Term we held our own service for the first time, conducted by the Headmaster, and felt considerable pride in the result. There is no doubt whatever that these short services have meant more to us than the parish services, in which we felt that we had no part, for they are our own, and we take a pride in the

performance of them. The prefects have in turn been responsible for the reading of the lessons, as they have in our week-day services, and the improvement in their reading has been most marked. Even at the organ one of the boys has been in command. The School are very grateful to the Vicar for his permission to us to use the church, and it is hoped that in the near future the improvement in the singing of the boys will be of some service to St. John's parish in the performance of their services. In the meantime we attend the parish service on the first Sunday of each month.

It is now tradition that the final act of each term should be a service in church, in which the best reader of the prefects should take the lesson, and we close with the singing of the Nunc Dimittis.

Our grateful thanks are due to the Rev. W. B. Dams, for his most valuable help and advice, both with regard to the training of the choir and the advice to the prefects in their reading. It was also due to his generous gift of twelve Cathedral Psalters that we were able in any way to attempt the singing of the psalms.

War Savings.—The School Savings campaign has flourished throughout the winter months, and the average weekly total of previous terms has been improved upon. During the last ten days of the Spring Term we joined in the local Warship Week, and improved our figure from £800 to just over £1,000 in the ten days. This £1,000 represents our savings in the two years in which the Bank has been worked.

Film Shows.—In connection with the local Warship Week, two film shows were given in the Gymnasium, the films shown being those produced by the Ministry of Information, and covering the activities of all the Services. Previous to this, during the term, another show was given to us, of a similar nature, but consisting mainly of films that we considered rather out of date.

Unfortunately we were unable, during this winter, to hold our own shows in the Gym. on Saturday nights, owing to the fact that the Kodak Library had closed down. Mr. Smith, however, by means of his concerts, entertained us weekly, as reported elsewhere.

Gilbert and Sullivan.—The informal "club" continued its activities during the winter, when "Iolanthe" and "The Mikado" were repeated. In future we must not be contented

merely to listen to others singing of "The flowers that bloom in the spring," but must ourselves "sing a merry madrigal." And why not, now that we are learning to sing in parts?

Radiogram Concerts. — We now nearly know when to stamp our feet in the Sailors' Hornpipe in Sir Henry Wood's Fantasia of British Sea Songs, and some of us know the difference between Elgar and Brahms. In short, the Sunday evening so-called "silent reading" has become a tradition, and many boys will be able, in later life, to trace back their love of good music to these informal concerts in the Dining Hall. Some listen, some don't (and probably never will): some are openly sceptical and claim in their ignorance that hot rhythm is music. The "spotting competition" was again held at the end of the Spring Term, and the prizes won by Cox and Valder.

St. John Ambulance Cadets.—Mrs. Dames (Lady Superintendent of the Harlow Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade) has formed a Boys' Cadet Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. About 25 College boys have joined, and they are really keen on the job. They learn how to treat wounds, to administer artificial respiration and to apply splints to fractured bones, as well as stretcher-bearing work. They are working for the recognized Preliminary First Aid Examination, and it is hoped that they will eventually follow this up by taking the adult certificate, which gives them full membership of an adult Ambulance Division.

E. S. Davies (i) received a prize from the Royal Drawing Society for his work in Division IV in the R.D.S. exam.

Harlow College War Memorial Literature Prizes were awarded in the Autumn Term as follows:—Vb: 1 Sait, 2 Graham ii. IV: 1 Nobes, 2 Maskell, 3 Sandell. U.R.: 1 Robbins, 2 Lawrence, 3 Hayward. L.R.: 1 Whitby, 2 Bonfield, 3 Lancaster.

The exams. in the Winter Term were unavoidably delayed, and the prizes will be awarded along with those for the Summer Term.

In Form III both exams. were completed and the winners of the prizes were as follows: — Autumn: 1 Foulkes, 2 Southgate, 3 White. Winter: 1 Southgate, 2 Foulkes, 3 Stephens.

THE SCOUTS

During the two terms that have passed the Scouts have been making slow but considerable progress.

We have, with the kind assistance of Mr. G. H. Young, obtained our badges and we have held investitures of new Scouts and those to whom this ceremony was due. We welcome Scouts Baldock, Buist, Cocks, Crussell, Gardiner, Jackson and Roe to the Brotherhood of Scouts, and hope that they will grow in the faith of the Brotherhood. We congratulate Roe on his obtaining the second class badge, and I suggest that there are several Tenderfeet who might make tracks in this direction. First aid should present no difficulty to those who attend the St. John's classes.

The hut, which had not improved for another winter's weathering, has been given a spring clean, and with its new paint the smarter hut calls for a smarter troop.

We have now four patrols which are at minimum strength and require building up. Gardiner is now P.L. of the Eagles, as we have lost Bristol to the lures of aircraft. Franklin remains P.L. of the Owls and Dawes of the Peckers, who is ably supported by his second, Roe. During the holidays the latter has attended the meetings of his town troop and he recommends the experience to others in the troop as a way of widening their scout experience, improving efficiency and putting the fourth law into effect. Cocks is P.L. of the new patrol, the Seagulls, and his patrol has fluctuated in size but contains a good nucleus.

Scouting in the district is becoming co-ordinated again, and at the meeting of Scoutmasters an inter-troop camping competition was arranged for the summer. The more Scouts that can meet and exchange views, especially in camp, the more is the spirit of brotherhood fostered. The other object of the Scoutmasters' meeting was to try to answer the appeal of the Association for the B.P. Memorial Fund. The memorial is to take the form of a house, a great centre in London, and it will be dedicated to the B.P. way of life. It will be a house where scouts from all parts of the world will be welcome and feel at home; a common meeting ground where the true spirit of Scout Brotherhood will be seen in actual practice. Its size and usefulness will depend upon the response that Scouts and friends of scouting make to the scheme.

The money is to be invested in National Savings Bonds until after the war, when it will be possible to build again. I

should like through these pages to appeal to parents of Scouts, to old Scouts, and to all those who admire the work of B.P., to subscribe to the Memorial Fund. You are asked by the Association to send your donations to the Scoutmaster, 10th Harlow Troop, Harlow College; and every penny of your money will go towards the Memorial as the administrative expenses of the fund have been guaranteed.

S. M.

A.T.C.

Whist Drive.—An Air Training Corps Whist Drive was held in the College Gymnasium to raise funds for the provision of football shirts and stockings for their team. Mrs. Marston was M.C., Mrs. Dames presented the prizes, given by various donors, to:—Ladies: 1 Miss I. Springham, 2 Mrs. Skingle, 3 Mrs. Clarke, other prize Miss Rutherford. Men: 1 L/Cpl. A. J. Hill, 2 Mr. H. Fish, 3 Cpl. Simpson, other prize Mr. R. Spicer. A.T.C.: 1 Cadet Franklin, 2 Cadet Bristol, 3 Cadet Cullum. Sgt. Walker won the prize for the Forces, and many others were successful in gaining minor prizes.

Football.—The Harlow Flight won the Essex Youth Service League Cup, defeating Loughton St. John's by 1—0 on the Thornwood ground. The School was represented in the team by Rolstone and Kelly (Williams, Hullett and Cox putting in occasional appearances), and by Old Boys in Whitby and Hockley.

The Flight team also headed their section of the League.

Proficiency stars were obtained by Goozee and Kelly, while Morley and Power passed in all but their trade paper.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

On October 1st the Harlow College Debating Society was reconstituted, T. A. Cox being elected Chairman and R. Spicer Hon. Secretary. At the first meeting of the new society it was proposed that Mr. Dames be asked to accept the office of President of the Society, which office Mr. Dames most courteously undertook.

The motion before the House at the first meeting was "That Boarding Schools be abolished," a perennial visitor

amongst us. There was of course much plain speaking, the motion being finally defeated by 28 votes to 10.

The second meeting of the Society took the form of a balloon debate in which various members undertook to defend such personalities as Herr Hitler, the Devil, Lord Haw-Haw, M. Molyneux, Julian Huxley, Augustus John and Miss Deanna Durbin. M. Molyneux was ejected from the balloon by eleven members to whom the sartorial æsthetic is either anathema or a closed book.

The third meeting was perhaps the most interesting of all. The motion was "That incurable invalids be painlessly put to death." There was a great deal of speaking from the floor, the speech of T. A. Cox being outstanding. Finally, and probably mostly as a result of Cox's speech, the motion was lost by 33 votes to 3.

There was also an impromptu debate on such themes as "Should boys be used as fags at school?" (carried by 26 to 10), "That traffic lights should show red for 'go' and green for 'stop'" (voted to be ridiculous and dropped), "That refugees should be allowed to stay in England" (carried by 31 votes to 11), "That fox-hunting should be abolished" (defeated by 30 votes to 10), "That trousers be banned to women" (carried by 30 votes to 13).

A mock trial was also one of the efforts of the Society, and the final meeting had for a motion, "That the internal combustion engine has done more harm than good." The motion was defeated by 35 votes to 8.

DRAMA

After the lapse of a year, due to blitz conditions and consequent lack of facilities for rehearsal, preparations for a Drama Festival were renewed in the Autumn Term; and though the break in practice coupled with a new staff had made co-ordination much more difficult than usual, the Festival would have taken place despite its poor quality and been a step in the right direction once again had not the threat of a fever epidemic obliged us to close a week early.

The Lower Remove was rehearsing a mime of "The Jackdaw of Rheims" and the Upper Remove scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Form IV rehearsed scenes from "Twelfth Night," Vb the first act of "As You Like It," and Va with Vb for minor characters was to present three acts of "Julius Cæsar."

The four Houses also were preparing "Chiselling" (Keyes), "A Collection Will Be Made" (Nelson), "Thread o' Scarlet" (Beatty), and "The Crimson Cocoon" (Rodney).

Although the circumstances of renewing the festival after a year's discontinuance were difficult there was at the same time a deplorable lack of initiative and drive on the part of the House Captains, which we trust will not be so patent again, for competition is the life of the Houses and the competition need not, indeed should not, be confined merely to games.

In another school year we hope to see the old keenness to achieve some really adequate productions — productions which an outside audience could be asked to witness and approve of. And this is possible, for the ultimate productions of "The Swineherd" and "Thread o' Scarlet" during one of Mr. Smith's weekly concerts showed talent and promise enough.

MR. SMITH'S CONCERTS

During the Winter Term every Saturday evening for an hour and a half in the Gym. Mr. Smith ran concerts which were designed more for the amusement of the School than for an essay in polished dramatic art. These concerts were non-stop, a floor show being in progress between each stage item. The major part of each concert was taken up by sketches originating amongst the boys themselves, with some coaching and moulding from Mr. Smith during the day of production, so that the concerts were largely impromptu and naturally had severe imperfections to a very critical eye. This should be borne in mind by the School, which must distinguish between the different aims and standards of perfection of these concerts and the Drama Festival.

However, there is no doubt that Mr. Smith's venture was truly successful, and the Gym. rang with happiness each time. Games, songs, sketches, etc., all played their part, the whole being very ably compered by Mr. Smith, whose fund of invention seems inexhaustible. And it was noteworthy that on the one occasion when the School had to run the show itself the basic scheme of the previous concerts was closely adhered to. Such approbation was flattering.

The concerts revealed some talent which determinedly cultivated may yet flower pleasingly to our enjoyment and the School's credit. Certainly the School owes some happy hours entirely to the patient endeavour of Mr. Smith, and we hope in another year that it will not be idle to repeat the idea.

FOOTBALL

House Matches

A spell of cold and frosty weather, coupled with the fact that snow was on the ground for some weeks, prevented the House matches from being completed.

For the first season for a long time the Houses were evenly matched, and it was possible for any house to finish on top.

The Autumn Term saw the following games played.

Nelson v. Beatty. Nelson won a very close game by one goal to nil.

Rodney v. Keyes. Another exciting game with the result 3—2 for Rodney.

Nelson v. Keyes. A surprise. Keyes won by three goals to nil.

Beatty v. Rodney. Rodney after having the greater share of the game, faded away towards the end of the game and Beatty won by 2 goals to 0.

The position of the Houses at the end of the term was:—

Beatty: Won 2, Lost 1, Drawn 0.

Keyes: Won 2, Lost 1, Drawn 0.

Rodney: Won 2, Lost 1, Drawn 0.

Nelson: Won 1, Lost 2, Drawn 0.

This goal average was deciding the position. It was a great pity that weather and "mumps" prevented a decision being made. Perhaps Keyes would have won the football cup for the first time; perhaps not. Who knows?

School Games

Owing to difficulties of travel School fixtures were curtailed to a certain extent. Nevertheless some enjoyable games were played, and although we did not have many wins to our credit the team improved with every game. At the beginning of the season there was no team. There were eleven players each playing hard individually but not collectively.

However, after the initial defeat at Saffron Walden to the Senior Wanderers by 10—0, Kelly, the Captain, put in some intensive practice with the team, and as the season wore on

better football was played. Epping St. John's were beaten twice, and Newport were given two very hard games. Both should have been at least drawn, but lack of finishing let Harlow down. Against a strong S. Walden Friends' School XI, including masters, we won a good game.

The Spring Term was depleted of School games. The first part of the term the ground was unfit, and towards the end of the term mumps got the team in its grip and games had to be cancelled.

TEAM CRITICISM

KELLY (*Capt.*).

ROLSTONE (*Back*).—Always played an excellent game.

WILLMOTT (*Back*).—Improved with every game.

BRISTOLL (*Half-back*).—Worked hard but wandered too far.

VALDER (*Centre Half*).—Plenty of hard work but rather slow.

HULLETT (*Left Half*).—Will make a good footballer.

ENGEHAM (*Outside Right*).—Has the makings of a useful winger.

WILLIAMS (*Inside Right*).—Dribbles and passes fairly well.

CULLUM (*Centre Forward*).—Very fast but too selfish.

HAWKINS (*Outside Left*).—Small, but will be good.

COX (*Goal*).—Good—at times can be excellent.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Senior Cross Country winners were: 1 Willmott, 2 Goozee, 3 Stone, 4 Grabham.

The Junior winners were: 1 Grabham, 2 Soper, 3 Robertson, 4 Whitby.

SALVETE

W. M. Sheeran, J. R. F. Hawkins, D. W. J. Willmott, R. B. Bonfield, H. A. Bodger, E. G. T. Charleston, D. Cox, J. D. Fowler, K. H. Heffer, D. P. Hellicar, R. W. C. Jennings, W. R. Lancaster, J. Sheldrake, R. H. Weal, J. A. Welch, R. A. West, L. A. Whitby, W. W. Barclay, D. J. Batten, B. G. T. Copeland, P. T. B. Hill, A. T. Hill, W. E. L. Minter, R. E. Sebry, A. J. Southgate, J. R. Gibbs,

D. B. Thomas, J. G. Veszi, B. M. Agnew, P. A. Klarner,
B. A. Barltrop, D. H. L. R. Burrige, A. W. Davies, A. F.
Dudley, A. J. Mackenzie, N. G. E. Norman, D. C. Russell,
M. A. Lee, C. C. Pryor, T. P. D. Fitch, A. Whittington,
K. F. Belben, B. P. Springham, R. E. Hare, B. G. Wallis,
J. G. Lane, Zoë Newton, P. G. Fordham, P. G. Green,
R. R. Heaton, M. C. Sharpless, D. J. White, M. J. Smith.

VALETE

J. B. R. Brazier, T. F. H. Cullum, R. C. Fellgett,
C. H. Dams, M. K. Chaney, D. Collins, I. Thomson,
K. Thomson, G. N. Meade, P. C. Drake, P. J. Drake,
N. F. Robinson, H. G. R. Asiby, B. W. Berry, R. W.
Marsh, E. Matthews, Zoë Newton.



OLD HARLOVIANS

NEWS AND EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

J. B. Bassford, Staff (1909-1913):

32 Mount Vernon Crescent,
Barnsley, Yorks.

"I don't know whether you will have heard of Major Hendin's death, but in case you have not I thought I'd write to you. I sent him my usual Christmas letter and got it back marked 'deceased,' but was able to get into touch with his wife ('Glasheen,' Weyhill Road, Andover—if you happen to want it). Hendin had just been promoted to Grade II, and was to have taken up a post at Torquay when he was taken ill with heart trouble. He had apparently recovered and was convalescent: then died suddenly.

I've always thought him one of the best men I've ever met, and loved him and admired him for his sincerity, his courage and his kindness. Although we've not seen much of each other lately, I shall miss him and his cheerful letters. He's lived a long while after Seabrook—but what a couple of good men to have known!

I've not much to say of myself, except that I'm always busy. In addition to my ordinary work as Second Master, I do extra-mural work for Sheffield University (a little extra nowadays in place of tutors who have gone into other 'national' work), skipper a squadron of the A.T.C., fire-watch, and in my *spare* time cultivate a couple of allotments for school and home feeding. I managed at the back end of last season to squeeze in a game or two of cricket against the Forces, and though eyesight is not good enough now to make a reasonable score anything but a fluke, I still can get a wicket or two if batsmen are unwary or over-confident. But it has to be by guile nowadays. As to appearance, I've not 'filled out' at all, and the thatch on top is still all there and of its natural brown.

I hope you're all keeping well. Whenever the *Harlovian* comes along I read it with interest, especially for its news of *very* Old Boys. I was sorry to hear of the sad death of 'John,' and if his father is still alive, please give him my kind regards."

Tribute to the late *Mr. John Elwell* (1884-1888).

The following tribute to Mr. Elwell has been sent to us for publication:

"In John Elwell, whose sudden death on Easter Monday so shocked his family and friends, Potter Street has lost one whose place in the affection and respect of everyone it will be impossible to fill. In the village and around it he was known to all; to the older people he was 'Mr. John'; others who had not known his father or his brothers were more formal, but to old and young, rich and poor, John Elwell was the embodiment of the old rural spirit of service. No one could have done more to help his neighbour nor have done it more willingly, and many are the men and women who will long remember his unfailing kindness, cheerfulness, and simple wisdom. His own physical disability he bore without complaint, though it seldom left him entirely free from pain. An hour spent with him in his home or garden, where his pleasure in the simple things of life was so plain, brought comfort to many who perhaps never mentioned their troubles but found strength and refreshment in his example, and all who knew him are the poorer for the passing of a Christian gentleman. He might well have been known as John the well-beloved, and we thank God that he has been here.—
J.W."

Herts. and Essex Observer.

* * *

Captain H. L. Gummer (1905-1911):

Addis Ababa.

Sept. 16th, 1941.

"Here I am at last at Addis Ababa, after a journey of 4,000 miles. We came by sea from Durban to Mombasa, where we stayed for a short time, which I spent with Sir Henry and Lady Moore at Government House. We then went to Berbera in British Somaliland—one of the worst places in the world—a temperature of 120 in the shade and millions of insects. Luckily we only stayed one night, and then went by road convoy for 600 miles to Addis. Abyssinia is a rather beautiful country, but the people are shockers. However, we are quite comfortable, and are quartered free in the local hotel. Most of my colleagues are good people, and there are a large number of officers of other regiments here. The Ethiopian army hardly exists yet and, in fact,

will not do so officially until the agreement is signed between the British War Office and the Emperor. This will probably be in about a fortnight's time. I am to be Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of the armoured car regiment. On Saturday I am flying down to Nairobi with my second in command to do a course. It's a flight of 1,100 miles, so I am moving about a bit. When the course is over I shall stay for some time in Kenya until the armoured cars are ready to bring up here. I may be there for two or three months I think, which will be grand, as Kenya is a delightful country and I know quite a lot of people there."

* * *

Ord./Sea. J. G. Horder (1915-1923):

Jx 291373, Mess 17,

H.M.S. *Edinburgh*,

c/o G.P.O., London.

"For the time being I have exchanged the bank stool and counter for the varied life of a sailor. I trained in a delightful training camp near Snowdonia, which gave me an opportunity to explore that district; then I was drafted to Devonport, which is in my old home county, and so it was good to be in dear old Devon. I am now the other end of the stick, where the climate is somewhat colder.

Life is rather different from office work—mainly jobs of pulling, pushing, carrying, hauling, painting, scraping paint off, and charring! However, we get fresh air and good food, and I have put on weight!

Last week I had a chill and was sent ashore to the local sick quarters, and you will agree the world is small when I tell you that one of the delightful Red Cross nurses there turned out to be your niece, Audrey Horsey (commonly known as 'Budge,' she told me). She gave me up-to-date news of you all, and it brought back old times. I understand Margôt is in Aberdeen.

'Budge,' another nurse, and I had a very pleasant evening together yesterday, and went to a very nice local hotel for dinner. (I didn't mention that I am back on board again now.)

I am hoping the Royal Navy will be able to make some use of the knowledge of French and German which I mainly

owe to you. Since I left Harlow I have learnt Spanish and Norwegian—mainly through travel in those countries—and I have met one or two Norwegian sailors at Plymouth and taken them round the countryside there and had a bit of practice on them. I had to act as interpreter for one at the Sick Bay. I also had three days translating French with the First Lieutenant there, so perhaps the languages won't get quite rusty after all.

I am off for 14 days' leave tomorrow and looking forward to it very much. This time tomorrow I hope to be in Birmingham.

(No, I am not married yet—unfortunately. I wish things would settle down. There is little inducement to make ties—or even plans—while the war lasts.)"

* * *

Donald Brierley (Staff), 22 London Road, Maldon, Essex: "I must report progress since I last wrote you, which was in October, 1939, when I was hoping to enter the Royal Engineers with a commission, for which I had been recommended by Geographical Section, General Staff. What service I should have seen in my particular job (Field Survey Company) had I done so! However, the County refused me leave of absence, and very firmly said, 'Stay put.' A year later, in the autumn of 1940, I tried again. Permission was again refused. Then, early in 1941, came the Air Training Corps. As far as I could see, the reservation of my age-group looked as if it might last for ever, so I applied for an A.T.C. commission. A few weeks later, the reservation was lifted, and when I was summoned before my R.A.F.V.R. Selection Board, I was very firmly spoken to by the Chairman when I expressed a preference for Active Service rather than A.T.C. work. 'I will note your preference in my report,' he said, 'nevertheless I shall recommend that you be retained by the Air Training Corps. That's a blow, isn't it?' I gulped a bit, and replied, 'Very good, sir; yes, sir,' and that was that. I have now completed a year's service with the Maldon Squadron, where I hold Flying Officer's rank, and serve as Adjutant and Navigation Officer. I did a R.A.F. course in Navigation last summer holiday, and was passed out 'above the average.' I believe Robertson is in the A.T.C. too."

J. W. Cook (1926-31): "I had a splendid leave, despite minor annoyances caused by the Luftwaffe, and was appointed to a ship being built and nearing completion in West Hartlepool. I passed my exam. on leave for 1st Mate, and joined the ship in February as Second Officer. The ship was the *Ihanna*, a brand new modern cargo ship of about 8,000 tons and a speed of 12 knots, and was in fact the last ship built to private specifications before the builders turned over to 'standard ships.' She was very well fitted out, and of course I was very proud of her.

After receiving our 'orders' at Oban, we sailed entirely on our own, arriving at Cape Town four weeks later. We called at Durban, Aden, and Bombay, completing our voyage on July 18th, so I have $3\frac{1}{2}$ years to do out here from that time. I was sent up to Calcutta to join my present ship as Second Officer. We loaded for Aden, but on arrival there had our orders changed to come up here—we put the Captain ashore there in hospital, and all moved up one, so at present I am acting Chief Officer. We've just given Naples four bombing raids in succession. I would be very pleased to hear the news about the School, etc. My address will be:

J. W. Cook, Second Officer, B.I.S.N. Co. Ltd., c/o Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co. (agents), Strand Road, Calcutta, India."

* * *

[S. W. Browne has now gained his Captaincy; he is only twenty years old. Hearty congratulations.]

S. W. Browne (1931-37), Havelock Barracks, Lucknow: "Out here vultures and kite hawks wait round the cook-houses for any food that is thrown out. The kite hawk is very daring and will swoop down and take a man's dinner off his plate if he happens to be carrying it in the open. It is therefore a common occurrence to see a soldier rushing from the cookhouse to the dining hall across the open with his dinner in one hand and waving the other in the air to frighten the hawks away.

The other day one of my drivers happened to be going across the football field carrying a plate on which were ten rounds of ammunition in clips and a rissole (don't ask me why he had ammunition on his plate!). Suddenly a kite hawk swooped down and neatly removed his rissole plus five rounds of ammo. in clip.

Losing ammunition out here is a very serious charge, and the man would not have made things better by saying that a hawk had taken them off his plate.

Luckily, several hours later, two band boys happened to find three rounds right in the opposite corner of the soccer ground. The C.S.M., being a bright fellow, told the boys to search along a line running through the place where the bird had stolen the rounds, and sure enough the other two rounds were discovered in the clip, so the man got off.

Things are going on quite well out here. The C.O. has put my name up for an Acting Captaincy, but it is not through yet.

I have just come back from a six weeks' course of driving and maintenance—very interesting indeed. I feel I am more worthy to hold the post of M.T.O. now. I spent Christmas in Bombay with the M.T.O. of the British Battalion there—he was also on the course. We had a very good time, and I played in a fancy dress football match, officers v. sergeants. The inhabitants must have got quite a shock on seeing me walking along the road clad in a tie, bathing dress, and a straw shirt made from straw bottle covers strung together.

We went out on a scheme two days ago. In the morning there was 6 inches of dust on the road, then suddenly we had our first rain for three months. We were soaked through in no time, and of course all the dust turned to mud, and I had a pretty hectic time on a motor cycle. The lorries were going round in circles in several places. A rum and lemon and a hot bath went down very well on return to barracks."

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James W. Grundy (1937-38), 657833, U.K. Aviation Cadet, Grundy, J. W. E., Souther Field, Americus, Georgia, U.S.A.: "I felt that you would be interested to know that I am now in the States, undergoing flying training with the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Since the procedure now for all British cadets is the same, I thought that perhaps my outline of events will be of value to you in the event of anyone asking your advice with regard to service in the R.A.F.

It appears that it has been decided to close most of the elementary training schools in England, owing to various

difficulties—weather, war situation, etc. Therefore all cadets who pass the initial examinations should be sent overseas to Canada or the U.S.A. Of course, the R.C.A.F. follows our own lines in training, its discipline and traditions being very similar. On the other hand, the U.S. Army Air Corps is very different in nearly every respect.

Basically their course is founded on a 'Cadet system.' It is designed to produce officers for duty as Army pilots; the difference is very striking. In the R.A.F., after the disciplinary course, the emphasis is laid on flying. Flying, tactics and air discipline take precedence over normal ground discipline, which is relaxed. The R.A.F. aims at a high standard of ground subjects, navigation, airmanship, signals, etc. In fact, the British air crew gradually become a corps unto themselves.

The Americans do not take this view. The Air Corps is a branch of the Army. The air crews are all commissioned Army officers. As such they must show all the qualities of our Army officers; they must be infantrymen in aeroplanes.

With this end in view, cadets over here are first put through a rigorous drill course at an Army cadet centre (not 'center'!). Here there is a cadet system which is as follows:

Upon entry the cadet is classified as 'Lower Class.' Here he remains so for five weeks, when he should graduate as 'Upper Class.' The upper class form the cadet officers. They are in charge of all those things normally done in England by N.C.O.s. It is amazing to see the powers with which they are entrusted. They can punish, with very little limit, and absolutely control the lower classmen. From the upper class are chosen cadet captains, lieutenants, supply sergeants and corporals. British cadets so chosen are usually commissioned upon completion of the flying course.

The upper classmen supervise all meals. Etiquette is very strict here. The cadet stands at attention behind his chair. Upon the 'seats' he sits down, also at attention. Then upon the command 'rest' he may eat, observing all the normal table manners. A band, usually drums and bugles, accompanies the dinner formation.

The Americans seem to like most things done in a hurry. Therefore the programme for the day allows only one hour's relaxation. Physical training is very well planned and executed, and is most beneficial.

After this course the cadet enters primary school, where he receives his first flying instruction. The routine is similar, and is so also at Basic and Advanced schools. Two hundred flying hours should be completed in these three courses, which total thirty weeks in length.

At all stations the camps or posts are very modern, clean and most comfortable. There is no lack of sport here, as you can imagine. Every facility is provided, which is very fine indeed. The food is very good, and well served by coloured waiters.

We were assured that the instructors and teachers are the best in the U.S., and I believe it. They do their best to bridge the gap between two very different ways of thinking, not a job I should like. They pull our legs a lot over our conservatism and different tastes, but genuinely seem to admire the British as a whole.

People are very kind to us outside the post, offering us all manner of invitations. Our march through the town of Montgomery was cheered very heartily by the Americans, who all were thrilled by our method of swinging arms in time from the shoulder.

We have been able to co-operate very well with U.S. cadets; there is very much exchanging of invitations to each other's clubs.

In short, we receive a very fine training here, and an enjoyable time. Our only wish is to return and fly once more in England."

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Gordon Jeffreys (1928-38): "Instructor at 19, only a few weeks after graduating as an American Flying Officer-Instructor Gordon Jeffreys, of Station Road, Loughton, must indeed be one of the youngest instructors with the R.A.F. in America.

Educated at Harlow College, Flying Officer Jeffreys joined the R.A.F.V.R. only a year ago. He was attached to the staff of the Blue Star Line until volunteering for flying duties.

He does not attain the age of 20 until the end of this month."—(Extract from "Loughton and District Advertiser.")

Rev. R. F. S. Abbott (1892-1902), Weston Vicarage, near Hitchin: "I married Alan Deans last week to Miss Joyce Parish, daughter of a farmer in the neighbourhood. It was quite a Harlovian gathering: (1) Self, (2) Alan, (3) Jack Pedley's father (Jack himself is in the Army), (4) a chap named Ansel, whom I know quite well, but didn't know his son had been at the School. Alan tried to get Gregory as best man, but I think he is abroad."

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Captain B. K. Killerby (1909-12), Officers' Mess, 44 Battalion, Melville, W. Australia: "Am now on full-time duty for duration of war. I have offered myself for service overseas, but have been turned down four times. Two old at 42½!"

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Gerhard Moses (1938-40): "Now that nearly two weeks of my training have passed, I can say that so far I like Army life. I must say that we are terribly busy all day, and that my muscles were pretty stiff during the first days of drill. But as I got used to that sort of primitive life in Australia, it does not affect me at all. However, I dare say, for a chap who is used to a luxurious life, it is rather tough at first. We play soccer every week, and I was appointed Company football captain. We won the first match against the N.C.O.s on Saturday last; I scored the only goal. This is a lovely place; unfortunately we shall not remain here much longer. We have got a very mild climate down here, and being on guard at night is not half so bad as I expected it. The day before yesterday I had letters from Ansell and Engeham. On Christmas Eve we have arranged a great party—unfortunately I am on fatigue duty: my luck."

[After being interned on Whit Sunday, 1940, and later taken to an internment camp in Australia, G. Moses surprised us all by appearing at the School, where, needless to say, he received a hearty welcome. He had returned to England in order to join the Pioneer Corps.]

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Trooper R. E. Wells (1932-39), 7,947,601, 119/3rd Troop, "A" Squadron, 61st T.R., R.A.C.: "I have been in the Royal Armoured Corps now for 4 months, and am training as a Wireless Operator and Tank Commander. The

course of training is now about 6 months, during which we do 9 weeks of wireless, about 7 weeks tank gunnery, and 8 weeks' driving and maintenance. I am hoping to go to an O.C.T.U. soon, but have to finish my course first. Ernest is waiting to go overseas with his regiment, but at the moment he is convalescing from mumps.

Our wireless course is an extremely interesting one. We pass out at reading morse about 15 to 20 words per minute, and have to know two sets, receiving and transmitting short wave, thoroughly. On driving we have to know the Covenanters, Crusader and Valentine, although the latter is becoming out of date with some of the present British Tank Regiments."

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J. H. Elphick (1936-41), "Alandale." 9 Poplar Road, Willowbank, Uxbridge: "I started work at an Insurance Broker's Office, evacuated to Ickenham, on my birthday, July 28th, so you see I did not have a very long summer holiday. The work is very interesting, and I work from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5.30 for 5 days a week.

I had only been there with the firm for a week when Engeham also started working there. It was quite a surprise, as I had no idea he was coming, although he had told me that he was going to work for an Insurance Broker. We were working together in the same department for over a month, and then Engeham went up to a different department in our London office.

I have also seen Willy up in town. He seems to be getting on very well. He has joined his local A.T.C. and is now a flight-sergeant.

How is the School football getting on? As yet I have not played any football this season, but I am hoping to play for Uxbridge Town in the near future."

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Montague F. Willy (1931-40), 126 Ridgeway Drive, Bromley, Kent: "Early in January Elphick, D. Willmott, Whitby, D. Engeham and myself had a little outing, at which Tilley was the honoured guest. As you know, he is in the R.A.F.V.R., and was then expecting to be called up any minute. We were all going to the Palladium. While Elphick and I were waiting outside the theatre, we were nearly swept

off our feet by Walford (in uniform), who also seemed to be in rather a hurry to get inside, so much so that he did not even recognize us.

I am still at Glyn Mills & Co., and although some of the work is rather tedious I enjoy the company I am in. I am in a department where I get a lot of fresh air, collecting cash and cheques from many parts of the Metropolis. When I go out on the bullion van, armed with a pair of knuckle-dusters, in company with a senior man carrying a loaded 'six-shooter,' and two hefty police regulars complete with truncheons, I feel as though I own the world.

It will soon be my time to volunteer for service with the forces, and my ambition is to get into the Fleet Air Arm. I am just awaiting the result of my A.T.C. Proficiency Exam., which, if I pass, will offer me some assistance to attain this ambition."

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G. B. Hart (1930-36), A.B., Jx 250,252, Mess 7, H.M.S. *Edinburgh*, c/o G.P.O., London: "Having just received the latest *Harlovian*, I thought I would let you know that I am in the Royal Navy. I have now been in the Service over a year, so I have travelled quite a bit and visited many places which I never thought I would see.

As I expect you already know, there is another Harlovian aboard, that is to say, Paymaster-Lieutenant Stansbury."

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Alan Brierley (1917-24), 3 Dent Street, Whangarai, North Auckland, N.Z., is 2nd Lieut., 1st Battn., N.Z.A.T.B., Area 7, Waiouru M.C., N.Z., has joined the New Zealand forces, and sends greetings from himself and his wife.

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D. M. Desprez (1932-38) has been successful in passing the Surveyors' Institute Examination (Intermediate, 1st Part).

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News is much appreciated about all Old Harlovians, particularly those serving in the Forces. Letters will be gratefully received at the College by Mr. Dames, or at Baythorn House, Harlow, by the Old Harlovians' Sub-Editor, E. Percival Horsey.

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