

H.C.M.



Xmas '06

The Festive Spirit

Another year draws to its close and Christmas is almost upon us again. And although the world is plunged in bickering and turmoil, the message of Christmas has not altered: 'Peace on Earth to Men of Goodwill.'

This term we are marking the occasion in three ways: a play, a carol service and a party.

Seward I has written a very interesting drama set in the backwoods of Canada, and the play is being staged in R.A. form room under Mr. Perkins' direction.

With the help of the Headmaster, Miss Haigh and Mr. Lofts, the carol singers have made good progress, and the end of term concert promises to be a memorable occasion.

Finally comes the traditional Xmas party at the end of term to which the boarders look forward eagerly.

Life in the Gold Coast

Isaac, R.B.

The Gold Coast is a remarkable place for several reasons.

(1) It produces more than half the world's cocoa in a very small area. This area is situated in the Northern Territories which has about 20 farms made up of many cocoa trees. These have bare branches with little stalks to which the cocoa pods are attached. There are about 8 cocoa beans in each pod, and, after picking, they are left out in the sun to dry until they become a rich brown in colour. The beans are then ground and put into sacks for export to other countries.

(2) The Gold Coast produces quite a lot of gold which is mined in Bibiani in the central part of the country known as Ashanti. Natives are employed down these mines, but the pay is poor. These people live very cheaply, however. They are a very dark brown in colour, as they have to stand temperatures up to 130 degrees. After mining, the gold is fashioned into bracelets and other ornaments which traders send down to Accra the capital to sell.

Hong-Kong, Outpost of Democracy

Knight, R.B.

Hong-Kong is an island of great beauty, but there is another side to the story as well: great poverty is to be seen in its streets. Often at night you can see a Chinese family lying down to sleep on a cheap mat on the

pavement with all their possessions in a few cardboard boxes; beggars can be seen slumped in doorways. The streets are often dirty and covered in litter. The city is so overcrowded that each week, on an average, 2,119 births occur as compared to 357 births.

You can get to the mainland quite easily; ferries run from Hong-Kong to Kowloon, and the fare is only 10 cents. The chief means of transport in the city, however, is the coolie. He carries a bamboo pole across his shoulders, with heavy loads slung at each end: both men and women do this backbreaking job.

If you want to get a really superb view of Hong-Kong and its teeming harbour, the best way is to take a peak tram up the mountain side, from where the view is a panorama of mountain and white, sandy beaches. Swimming is a bit risky, because sharks and giant manta rays have been seen along these beaches, and on the land danger lurks in the shape of cobras and giant pythons.

Famous Sportsmen

Boulter, R. B.

Bert Trautmann, Manchester City's German-born Goalkeeper.

The end of the war saw Bert Trautmann in a prisoner of war camp in England, but after the fighting had ended, he decided to stay in this country and make a career in football. This was quite a brave decision to take at that time for naturally, there was still a lot of anti-German feeling.

Bert started off as a centre-half with a small non-league club. One day the regular goal-keeper could not play owing to injury. He was so successful that goal became his regular position. His brilliant play soon attracted the scouts and Trautmann signed professional forms for St. Helens Town. His next move was to Maine Road where, less than three years after his first game in goal, he played his first league game against Bolton Wanderers. Manchester City supporters were soon hailing him as a second Frank Swift.

But it has not been all plain sailing for Bert Trautmann: he has had more than his share of ill luck. He broke his neck in last year's Cup-final, playing most of the match in a daze, and soon afterwards his small son, aged four, was killed in a road accident. Again he had to return to Germany in 1954 when his mother was seriously ill. His broken neck took away any chance the German might have had of representing his country just when he was on top form. Happily the neck has completely healed, and Bert is once again delighting the City crowds with all his old brilliance and daring.

Whatever the future may bring this courageous footballer in the shape of representative honours, he already possesses one unique distinction: he is the first German ever to play in an English Cup-final.

A Commentary on Einstein's Special theory of Relativity Martin, V.B.

An arbitrary assumption of Lorentz and Fitzgerald was found to be justified when Einstein developed his Special Theory of Relativity in 1905.

Einstein's theory is really concluded from two statements concluded from an experiment performed by Michelson and Morely. They are:-

Quote "(a) that no observer can detect his motion through the medium that is the vehicle for the transmission of light.

and (b) That the velocity of light through this medium is independent of the motion of its source and has the same value relative to every observer."

Curious results follow from these facts. The contraction that takes place in the direction of motion of a body is very small for the velocities to which we are accustomed.

A man travelling at 160,000 miles per second, for example, would appear to the observer to have his dimensions halved in the direction of his movement. If he were travelling vertically to the earth, his breadth would appear normal, but his height would appear halved, and, if he were travelling horizontally, his breadth would appear halved and his height normal. But if the speed man measured his dimensions he would not find these changes, because his measuring rods would have undergone the same change also. In fact, this is not an illusion, for a photographic plate operating at the same speed for such a photograph would give permanent confirmation of the contraction.

Another result of the theory is that no body can travel faster than light. If a man were to do this, his height or breadth (as the case may be) would appear to contract to nothing.

Quote: "Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity is something more than a closer approximation of truth; it demands a complete revolution in the ^{fundamental} ideas of the natural world."

Formerly space was divided into three dimensions. An example is the position of an aeroplane given by its latitude, longitude and height above sea-level. It was believed that time was distinct from space in the sense that the determination of the position of the aeroplane was quite distinct from the determination of the time at which it occupied that position. The theory of Relativity recognises that four parts are involved in determining the position of an event. The geometrical system involved in the development of the theory is four dimensional in the sense that the position of an event is recorded in space time. The very idea of Newton's 'force' is abandoned by the theory.

Two experimental verifications of the theory are well known;

- (1) it accounts for the peculiar behaviour of the planet Mercury that could not be explained by Newton's theory.
- and (2) it accounts for the observed deviation of light in its passage near

Einstein's Theory(continued).

- (1) it accounts for the peculiar behaviour of the planet Mercury, that could not be explained by Newton's theory.
 (2) it accounts for the observed deviation of light near a material body like the sun.

SEPTEMBER

Now the candescent spirit
 Burns in the slinky paths;
 Trees glee-gloating,
 A witches' broomstick tangle
 Haggling round the river;
 A floating and a silence all in one
 Of white-winged willows,
 Save for the little night music,
 In bated whispers of supple wands,
 Of swaithes and bank-marching rushes:
 Then suddenly streams of comotion come tumbling
 In a rich, dark parabola of sound
 Bisecting the arc of tree and sky:
 The whistle-thresh of swans' wings,
 Blurting movement and motion
 With a loquaciousness of other lands to be gotten;
 Of the beauty-tide of other felt silences like these.

Badminton

One Sunday three weeks ago, Harlow College played Rex Hare's team in a close-fought match in the gym (Rex Hare was a boy hero during the last war) After nine closely contested games, Rex Hare's team won by five games to four, Rex Hare himself, and his partner winning two matches out of three.

Harlow College team consisted of Jefferies and Maitland-Walker I who won all their matches, Wiles and Minahan I who won one match, and Watts and Ried who played well considering it was their first match.

After the Badminton, tea was provided by Miss Johnson in the office.

Underwater Fishing in Corsica

Collins II, R.B.

During the Summer holidays I spent some time in Corsica, and in Calvi, bought all the necessary equipment for underwater fishing: harpoon gun, snorkel, face mask and frog flippers.

Now I enter the water, warm under the Mediterranean sun. I swim after a fish about two feet long; it tries everything to shake me off

Underwater Fishing, (continued)

Now I unclip my harpoon gun, then undo the safety catch. The fish is in my sights, so I pull the trigger. Whoosh! - the harpoon speeds through the water and goes clean through the fish. I pull back the harpoon, which is attached to a line, and there on the end is a dead fish with its nerves still twitching; the clip at the end of the harpoon prevents it from escaping.

Then I put the fish on a hook, and returned to the beach to go back to the camp. x snorkel - a tube enabling the swimmer to breathe underwater.

Was The War Justified?

Sainsbury I, IViForm.

This past Suez war has cost Britain fifty million pounds, and now the public have to pay for it. Was it worth it? The Conservatives say 'yes', the Opposition says 'no'. The Conservatives say that it has averted a major war, poor blind people. Russia has just moved into Syria preparing to start more trouble.

"What should we have done, then?" people will ask. I think that the Russians would have lost hands down if we had just gone round the Cape as we are doing now. It probably cost a lot per week to run the canal, say three million pounds, and dues levied on ships in the same period amounted to ten million pounds, but if ships stopped using the canal, Nasser would soon go bankrupt.

As it is, the canal is blocked, and we are going round the Cape as I suggested, but we are also paying another one shilling and five pence extra on one gallon of petrol. One shilling of this is going to pay for the war, and income tax, which is already too high, is probably going up again in the new Budget. In fact, we spend fifty million pounds for nothing because RUSSIA has just moved on.

The Conservatives say the major war is stopped, but is it? Trouble will soon start up again in Syria; oil is vital and Syria is too near our life-line for comfort. If Eden thought he was right, why did he not make war sooner? He stopped for the United Nations half way through. Why, if he was prepared to take orders from them, did he not do so in the first place, and save us £50,000?

What have the United Nations done about Hungary, besides tut-tutting? Nothing! Then why not? If they are prepared to go to war against us over Suez, then why not against the Russians over Hungary, where the RUSSIANS are being far more cruel than we will ever be?

HUNGARIAN RELIEF

A grand total of £15 was subscribed by The Headmaster, members of the staff, and boys, in aid of the Lord Mayor's appeal for help to the Hungarian refugees.

The Battle of the Dogger Bank

Weeks, IV Form

On the fifteenth of January, 1915, units of the British Home Fleet were seeking out a German fleet reported off the Dogger Bank. The German units had been spotted moving towards Norway, and were reported to consist of battle-cruisers and destroyers.

The range was closed to 14,500 yards before a shot was fired. Then the "Lion", a British cruiser, opened fire, and a hit was seen to register in the after turret of the German battle cruiser 'Seydlitz'. If the German captain had not had the presence of mind to flood the aft magazine immediately, the vessel might well have blown up, as happened to the "Hood" in the last war.

The result of the early encounters between the 'Lion' and the 'Seydlitz' was that the enemy Rear-Admiral wirelessed for help and the main enemy flotillas hastened to his aid.

By 9.50 a.m. on the following morning other units of the German fleet had arrived on the scene of the battle and two British capital ships, having been forced to reduce speed owing to extensive damage, had dropped astern.

The "Lion", being the leading ship of the British fleet, received the main brunt of the German fire-power. She had been hit several times: hits on her structure had put some of the lighter guns out of action; havoc had been wreaked in the engine-room; her port engines were at a standstill.

Meanwhile the rear cruiser of the enemy line was also suffering severely. At 10.30 a.m. her rear magazine was hit. The stern of the ship was transformed into a blazing inferno, the steering gear seriously damaged. She was thus reduced to the same sorry state as the 'Seydlitz'.

At 10.40 a.m. the 'Lion' received another salvo amidships which put her remaining dynamo out of action. She was now no more than a drifting hulk at the mercy of wind and tide.

Fortunately, other units of our fleet had now arrived on the field of battle, and seeing this the enemy commander decided to break off the engagement. The German ships turned tail and fled, leaving the 'Seydlitz' to its doom. The 'Lion' was safely towed into Harwich.

Thus ended the first major naval action of World War I.

Postscript

A film which has just been released in London, called "The Battle of the River Plate" tells the story of the epic battle in December 1939, between the German pocket battleship "Graf Spee" and the British cruisers "Exeter", "Ajax", and "Achilles". There are fine performances by Peter Finch as Capt. Langsdorff, commander of the "Graf Spee", and by John Gregson as Captain of the "Exeter".

This Term's Weather, compiled by Fisher, IV Form.

OCTOBER

Maximum Temperature: 66° F. on October 1st.

Minimum Temperature: 32° F. on October 26th.

Freezing point was reached only once during October.

Heaviest rainfall was on October 31st: 1.955ins.

Total rainfall for October 1956 was 2.015ins as compared to 1.989ins for October 1955.

NOVEMBER

Maximum Temperature: 56° F. on November 7th.

Minimum Temperature: 23° F. on 23rd-24th November (i.e. 9 degrees below freezing point for two nights.

There were, in all, 13 days of rain during November.

Total rainfall for November was 0.80ins.

There was a damp atmosphere during most of both months, but less actual rain than usual, especially in November. Occasional sunny patches occurred during both months with a hard hoar frost on several mornings. Early morning mist or fog was a feature of the October weather, and rainfall was mostly in the form of drizzle.

The Geology of Essex

In the Geological Museum, London may be seen an oil painting of an imaginary scene in South East England fifty million years ago, when the clay that covers a great part of Essex was being deposited. Why not go and see it? There are similar pictures on a large scale of other periods in the long geological history of England, in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

By far the greater mass of rocks in England have, as you know, been deposited by water in the form of great seas or rivers throughout the millions of years before the land reached its present form. Such rocks are called sedimentary. Other rocks which have resulted from the cooling of molten matter, sometimes being in crystallized form, are called Igneous. These may have been belched forth from Volcanoes, or been pushed to the surface and cooled on the way. These often are very ancient, and from them much of the sediment has been worn away by water.

Essex may be described as a low plateau cut up by numerous rivers. This slopes gently to the North East and the Thames Estuary. Along the river there are strips of silt and river gravel forming terraces. These terraces show the height and extent of the rivers at different periods. The rivers of the Eastern half of Essex drain into the North Sea by way of the Chelmer, Blachwater, Colne and Stour. (Look at your map.)

The Geology of Essex(continued.)

At one time there was a slight folding due to Earth movement in a and South direction along the Lea Valley.

Underneath the clay there is a huge mass of chalk which was uplifted and worn down before the clay deposition. The main period of folding was after the clay deposits, and corresponded in time to the upheaval of the Alps.

XX The chalk which underlies the London clay is more than 500ft in thickness, and 890 ft measured at a bore near Harwich. The lowest bed of this period is Greensand and Greensand water supply is obtained by pumping at several places, including Harlow. The London clay is 430 ft thick, measured by a bore at Brentwood. Between the chalk times and the deposition of the clay, the Southern half of Essex was under the sea. There are patches of sandy and gravelly beds laid down after the clay, which are suffaced (outcrops) in several places in Essex, often on high ground.

Of later deposits which in a few places in Essex may be seen, there are those of three successive Geological periods viz: Pliocene, Pleistocene and Recent.

Of the former, the cliffs at Walton on Naze, show the best deposit, which probably marks a shore line of the period. Many fossils have been found in these cliffs. The deposits of Peistocene times are mostly of gravel of gravels and clay rather than of any solid rock. They are known as drifts, and were made by rivers or glaciers in the more recent times. East of the river Lea are found patches of gravel, e.g. in Epping Forest, Danbury and other places, and geologists think some may be of glacier origin. There is little of this in Essex, but the river deposits contain evidence of the flow of water from the melting ice of the glaciers.

The more recent deposits bring us to times when man lived. He was a Stone-Age man, since his primitive implements and possibly his dwellings, if any, were of stone. Clacton has provided relics of a very early Stone Agriculture, and the name of Early Clactonian has been given to it. The implements were made from flints which abound in the chalk and chalky gravels and clays.

EPPING FOREST

Riley, R.B.

The Autumn leaves were falling,
The wind blew loud and shrill,
I saw the deer come trampling home,
And a bird sharpening its bill.
The hedgehog with his prickly back
Was plodding through the trees,
And squirrels hid their store of nuts
Beneath the heaps of fallen leaves.

During the night of September 29th, 1944 there was to be an operational bombing raid on Wismar in Northern Germany. Squadron Leader C.S. Morrison was to lead the formation of Lancasters in a Mosquito.

The night before the raid was due to take place, The Air Raid Siren wailed near the airport as the German bombers thundered overhead towards their target. "Very so often a stick of bombs would fall earthwards and a thunderous explosion would follow. Finally the All Clear sounded, and people emerged from the underground shelters near the airfield. Later that night some 'V 2s' fell not far from the aerodrome.

At the beginning of the war, the V I was the menace. It was 22ft long weighed 10 tons and flew at about 200 miles an hour. The machine could be heard approaching, because it sounded like a motor-bike. The V 2 was 46ft long, weighed 12 tons, and flew at about 1000 miles an hour.

The next day, preparations were being made for the evening raid, and at 22.00 hours the twelve bombers took off and joined formation with the six Mosquitos. They crossed the Channel and Northern France: flak opened up at them as they flew on into Germany. It was like being in the middle of a snow storm. Two of our bombers were hit, but still the tattered squadron flew on.

Morrison spoke over the inter-comm, to the bomber crews, telling them that when they reached their objective, his Mosquito would go in first and drop incendiaries and flares. One of the crews remarked: "don't make a bloody mess of it".

As they reached the target, the Lancasters, one after the other, dived into the attack, and dropped their batch of bombs. A lot of heavy ack-ack flew past them as they turned for home. One of the bombers sustained a shattered windscreen: the rear turret of another was pierced by a shell. One of the Mosquitos crashed in flames over Northern France. The pilot parachuted to safety only to be caught and marched off to a P.O.W. camp two miles away.

Meanwhile the homing squadron was being engaged by M.E. 109s over the French coast. The result of this running dog-fight was that 3 enemy fighters were destroyed for the loss of 1 Mosquito.

Aerial photography showed later that the raid had been an extremely successful one, and Morrison was awarded the D.S.O. for his distinguished leadership.

TAILPIECE

Overheard; a conversation between two drunkards in a railway compartment:

"Is this Wembley?"

"No, Thursday"

"So am I, lesh go and have another drink!"