

From: Philip Jefferis <philipoli.jefferis@yahoo.co.uk>  
Subject: **Old Harlovians**  
Date: 22 August 2009 17:13:50 BDT  
To: michael@fugit1812.freerve.co.uk

Hi Michael -

Thinking about Harlow College the other day it occurred to me that there might be a website - so here I am!

My brother Roger and I were only at Harlow 1941 to 1942 (part of a process of being evacuated from Woodford Green in Essex) moving back home in '42 as bombing there had been far less than expected. In '42 I was 12 and he was 9.

He and I have great memories of Harlow - as boarders at a school so well run by Mr Dames.  
**Why ever did it finish? - and that lovely building pulled down?**

My brother has Class Lists for Summer 1941 (me 5th in Class 3 and him 1st in Class 1.) There is also a mention of a Nita Simons being in Class 2. Roger and I were at the Simon's farm during school holidays. As I recall, Nita's 2 older brothers were also at Harlow - I remember that they were in the football team.

Various other memories (by now some a bit vague);

- 1) We were both in Keayes House.
- 2) Shoes were identified by numbers - marked out underneath, just ahead of the heel, with small brass nails. Mine was 30?
- 3) We had tuck-boxes in the basement where, it being wartime, we (all?) slept. Despite absolute trust (!) it was prudent to keep them locked.
- 4) In the playground, next to the fives 'corner' [ was a large wall marked up every so often with different coloured bricks. Throwing a ball up to each section was known as 'up the wall'. 2 in that section, 3 in that - played a bit like shove-ha'penny!
- 5) Occasionally some of us received an egg (from doting parents no doubt). The thing to do was to (very wastefully) keep them 'til they were bad and then quietly take them to a building (the gym?) at the end of the playground and throw them as high as possible against an inside wall. Mess and pong etc.
- 6) There was a tuck-shop (permanently or sometimes?) in the playground. A good buy was a white bread roll (1/2 penny?). One took it to a working radiator (in the sports changing room?) left it there for 1 or more Form periods and collected it nicely warmed.
- 7) I had 3 Holiday Annuals (Greyfriars School, Frank Richards) which I foolishly lent to someone at the end of one term and never got them back.
- 8) The name of Barham (listed in form ) in 1941 stands out to me. I remember my parents taking my brother and me to a teashop in Old Harlow one afternoon (Saturday?) Barham was at another table (looking a bit lonely?) and he was asked to join us. He said he would look after me - and from time to time he did. It is right to say that at no time was there any impropriety from him or anyone else while we were at Harlow. I mention this because there's a lot of totally unjustified 'wink. wink, nod, nod' comment about boarding schools from time to time.
- 9) I do recall one bully though. Prep was in a room with seats all round the walls and one overseer on a stool in the middle. (Could be in the art-room shown in one of the photo's on the web-site.) The overseers were prefects and one of them (who we all did our best to avoid at all times) would, at a misdemeanour either real, imagined or intentionally imagined, would order the boy to bend over, at which point he would give a very hard run -up kick to the unfortunate bottom.
- 10) Someone (Barham?) showed me how it was perfectly possible to make a salad with cut up cabbage - lettuce being in short supply.
- 11) **We were always well fed at the school - though vegetables at meals were often swedes (I still don't really like them!)**
- 12) **Instead of (or as well as) lines as a punishment, one could be sent to the sacred lawn outside Mr Dames study to pull out 'twitch' (couch grass) which occasionally sullied the hallowed ground.**

Is Bob Barham still around? I'd love to have his 'phone number or e-mail.

We may not have been at Harlow very long but I'm going to apply for an Old Boy's Tie!

Please reply - Pauline and I living in Dorset now. Still driving but coming to any reunion could be difficult.

With many Blessings

**Philip Jefferis (now a Rev - Congregational (Free Church) - still like me ale though!)**