

BAINES'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Poultonian

No. 6.—VOL. XII.

DECEMBER.

1944

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.—Christmas: Wednesday, December 20th, to Thursday, January 11th.

Spring Mid-Term: Friday, February 23rd, and Monday, February 26th.

Easter: Thursday, March 29th, to Thursday, April 19th.

Whitsuntide: Friday, May 18th, to Monday, May 28th.

Summer: Wednesday, July 25th, to Wednesday, September 12th.

The Armistice Day Service in Poulton on November 11th was attended by senior boys, members of the Staff, Scouts and A.T.C. The Senior Prefect, Alan Taylor, laid a Poppy Wreath on the War Memorial on behalf of the School. Our contribution to the Earl Haig Fund was over £9.

A donation of eight guineas has been sent to St. Dunstan's; other donations to war charities within recent months are:—

	£	s.	d.
Y.M.C.A. War Service Fund	3	3	0
Poulton, Chairman's Services Welfare Fund	10	10	0
Blackpool Services Welfare Fund	10	10	0

Some 40 boys from the Fourth Forms engaged in potato-lifting at Mythop Lodge during the month of November. They averaged 30 hours of work apiece in very difficult weather conditions.

A number of senior boys will, as usual, be working with the Post Office during the Christmas period.

•Our Cub Pack won the Blackpool Northern Area Sports Championship held last July.

H. N. Heywood, past President of the Old Boys' Association, and a director of the Kemsley Press, was one of a number of English Editors who visited Field Marshal Montgomery's headquarters in November.

Two Carol Services, arranged by Mr. Rawes, were held in the School on Friday, December 15th. A number of parents and friends attended, in addition to the boys. A collection, which was taken, will be devoted to the fund for sending Christmas greetings and booklets to Old Boys serving in H.M. Forces. Our sincere thanks are due to parents who have spontaneously contributed to this fund.

Toy-making, under the direction of Mr. Warburton, has proceeded apace in the workshop. Proceeds will be allocated to war charities. No "fancy" prices have been charged for these toys.

We welcome an Old Boy and a Deputy Senior Prefect, Mr. A. Unsworth, B.A. (Hons.), Manchester University, to the School Staff, and also Mrs. Warburton and Mrs. Reade. Mr. Unsworth taught for a year at a Normal College in France after graduating, and later was on the staff of the Manchester University Press.

SCHOOL PREFECTS.

Senior Prefect : Alan Taylor.

Deputy Senior Prefect : G. Hope.

Full Prefects : A. G. Wyatt, G. H. Brown, H. T. Greaves, J. H. Rigby.

Sub-Prefects : W. Darbyshire, B. K. Chambers, A. P. Wigginton,
P. D. Bell, R. B. Davenport, M. P. Barnett, J. Cooper, P. L. H. Withers.

We congratulate Dr. Pennington on his good recovery from a very severe illness ; Mr. Harris hopes to be well enough to return to School before the end of term.

We are proud to record the following war honours gained by Old Boys :—

D.S.O. : Wing Commander F. W. Thompson, D.F.C., A.F.C.

D.F.C. : Ft.-Lieutenant D. Maxwell.

D.F.M. : Pilot Officer Leonard Howarth.

D.S.C. : Midshipman L. S. McKnight.

Mentioned in Despatches : L.A.C. H. Pilkington.

Congratulations to A. J. W. Beck, H. Eddleston, E. Kendrick and N. F. Robinson on gaining State Bursaries in Science.

SCOUT NOTES.

During the summer holidays, over 40 members of the School Troop took part in 10-day Patrol Camps at Great Tower. A great deal of useful work was done, and the Patrol Leaders deserve praise for the manner in which the camps were organised.

This term, M. Lowe, who had been in charge of the Troop for two-and-a-half years, left school and his place was taken by G. Hope. The Group split into two sections, the Senior Scout and Boy Scout Troops ; the former is under the leadership of T.L. E. Butler, and the latter under that of T.L. J. C. Greenlees.

The Senior Scout Troop consists of two Patrols under the leadership of Sen. P.L.'s B. G. Stott and V. Leach. Meetings have been held fairly regularly throughout the term. T.L. E. Butler, T.L. J. C. Greenlees, P.L.'s V. Leach and B. G. Stott have passed the Senior Scout Initial Test. Three members of the Troop cycled up to Great Tower during the half-term holiday and were able to put in some useful work on the ground during their three days' stay. We congratulate those who have gained First Class and Bushman's Thong Badges this term.

In the Boy Scout Troop, there are six Patrols, the Bulldogs, Curlews, Owls, Seagulls, Squirrels, and Swifts, under the respective leadership of P.L.'s N. Sargeant, P. Greenlees, J. A. Whewell, M. J. Brooks, P. Myerscough and J. M. Ross. Regular Troop and Patrol Meetings have been held. Our congratulations go to P.L.'s Whewell, Greenlees and Sargeant, who have gained the First Class Badge, and to Second B. T. Cowell and Scout G. Barnes, who have gained the

Second Class Badge this term. Three new members have been invested; they are M. A. Keirby, R. Colley and N. Whewell. In the competition for the Rawcliffe Inter-Patrol Trophy, the Owl Patrol is slightly in the lead.

Members of the Group have attended the monthly meetings of the Blackpool Patrol Leaders' Parliament. A number of Scouts took part in the pageant "Masque of Empire," which was presented by the Poulton Girl Guides early in November. At the Poulton Armistice Day Service, the Group was represented by a small party of Scouts. Our annual Social was held at School on Saturday, December 9th, and was voted a success by all.

We heartily congratulate L. S. McKnight, an ex-Troop Leader, on his award of the Distinguished Service Cross. Our first vivid memory of "Mac" is of the 1940 camp at Southwick, when he had the misfortune to walk straight through a plate-glass window in Southwick House, fortunately without any very serious consequences to himself.

We congratulate G.S.M. H. N. Moulding, from whom we hear regularly, on his recent promotion to the rank of Flight-Lieutenant.

BADGES GAINED :—

BUSHMAN'S THONG : T.L. E. Butler, Sen. Sec. H. W. Merrill, Sen. P.L. B. G. Stott, T.L. G. Hope, Sen. Scout E. L. Barrett.

FIRST CLASS : Sen. Scout E. L. Barrett, P.L.'s J. A. Whewell, N. Sargeant, P. Greenlees.

SECOND CLASS : Second B. T. Cowell, Scout G. Barnes.

PROFICIENCY BADGES :—

BUSHMAN'S THONG BADGES :

Camper and Pioneer : P.L.'s J. A. Whewell, P. Myerscough, N. Sargeant, J. M. Ross; Seconds P. D. Gaskell, P. E. Burns; Scout G. M. Greenwood.

Pioneer : Scout J. J. Hall.

Stalker : T.L. G. Hope, T.L. E. Butler, H. W. Merrill, B. G. Stott, E. Barrett.

KING'S SCOUT BADGES :

Cyclist : Second D. Bennett, Scout F. D. Foden.

OTHER BADGES :

Missioner : Second B. T. Cowell.

We conclude by wishing all Scouts, past and present, and especially our Scouters in the Forces, a very happy Christmas and " Good Scouting " in 1945.
" BILL."

NATIONAL SAVINGS BRANCH.

Our returns for this term, up to 8th December, are :—

Average number of subscribers per week, 284 (52% of the School).

Amount subscribed this term, £896 0s. 0d.

Amount subscribed since September, 1939, £20,096 14s. 6d.

Forms with the best record : Va., 93% ; IIc., 89%.

The special National Savings Badges, awarded each term for good work, have been awarded to the following Form Secretaries :—A. Stuart, Va., and B. Lever, IIb.

On Tuesday, 7th November, we were presented with the Certificate of Honour gained by the School in connection with the " Salute the Soldier " Week. Since that date we have reached our own " target," set at the beginning

of this term—to reach the sum of £20,000 since the beginning of the war. Even in these days of regular saving £20,000, almost entirely in “small savings,” is an achievement of which the School may feel justifiably proud. The greater part of this sum has been handled by the various Form Secretaries who week by week have carried out their responsible duties with remarkable accuracy. Congratulations, Form Secretaries! Well done, Savers!

A.C.O.

SCHOOL SKETCHING CLUB.

During the early part of the term some sketches were made around Oldfield-Carr and Hardhorn; later a “faithful few” have kept in practice by attending meetings in the Art Room.

Better weather, we hope, will again arouse enthusiasm.

J.C.

A.T.C.

Mr. H. E. Tomlinson has been granted a Commission in the R.A.F.V.R. and attached to 191 Squadron, A.T.C., as Equipment Officer and for general duties.

PROMOTIONS: Cpl. Withers to be Flight-Sergeant.
L./Cdts. Cooper, Farman and Holland to be Corporals.

PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATES have been gained by Cadets Brown, Dewdney, Holland, Wigginton, Farman, Mitchell.

FLYING.—Inclement weather has several times prevented flying on appointed days, but those cadets who have been up enjoyed flights of about three hours' duration over the Irish Sea, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland.

GLIDING.—F./Sgt. Greaves and L./Cdt. Fiefield have been through a Gliding Course and successfully flown “high hops.”

SPORT.—191 Squadron was well represented in the R.A.F. Swimming Sports at Morecambe, when the A.T.C. team won the Pre-entry Training Units' Events. We also won the Relay Race at the R.A.F. Athletic Sports at St. Annes.

Cpl. Cooper and Cadets Brown, Lunn and Rigby will play in the area football trial match, from which a team is to be chosen to play the Wirral Area at Bloomfield Road on Boxing Day.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.—We appreciated the invitation of Mr. Leonard Thompson to visit the Ice-drome and greatly enjoyed our evening there.

A Dance at the Church Hall on Monday, 11th December, will afford some relaxation at the conclusion of examinations and herald the approach of Christmas.

VISITORS.—Two cadets, both formerly F./Sergeants, have spent some time with us when on leave and we are very glad to find them so ready to come along and give present cadets the benefit of their experience.

F. B. Robinson slips in on parade days between flights over Germany in a Lancaster; and H. K. Stock came when he was half-way through his Short University Course, and several times when on leave after its successful conclusion. P. E. Goodhall, on leave from Northern Ireland, has also spent a day with us.

JOINED H.M. FORCES.—F./Sgt. Greaves, Sgt. Goodhall and L./Cdt. R. F. Taylor have joined the Army since last term, because the intake for the R.A.F. has been temporarily suspended. We wish them well.

FIRING.—Every cadet in the Flight has now fired on the range.

NORMAL ACTIVITIES.—Messrs. Pickett, Astell and Warburton have conducted their usual classes, while Mr. Taylor has started a boxing class. Visits have been paid to R.A.F. stations.

THE HOUSES.

HODGSON HOUSE.

House Masters : Messrs. WADDINGTON, OKELL and ASTELL.

Captain : G. H. BROWN.

Vice-Captain : W. DARBYSHIRE.

Secretary : R. B. DAVENPORT.

The football results have been very disappointing this year. It is therefore hoped that an all-out effort will be made by everyone, who is fit and able, to take part in the Cross-Country Run next term and gain at least one point for the House.

Our hearty congratulations go to our Captain, G. H. Brown, on being awarded his Football Colours. W. Darbyshire, R. H. Davies and T. Lucas are all regular First Eleven players.

Further distinction has been brought to the House by our last year's Captain, D. Eakins, who has played for Blackpool on two occasions.

Finally, Best Wishes to all Old Boys and a very Merry Xmas to everybody.

R.B.D.

WHITTINGTON HOUSE.

House Masters : Messrs. PICKETT and HOOD, and Miss BINKS.

Captain : ALAN TAYLOR.

Vice-Captain : J. COOPER.

Secretary : P. C. E. FARMAN.

We would like to congratulate Alan Taylor on becoming the School's Senior Prefect, and J. Cooper on being elected Captain of the First Football Eleven.

Up to date we have done quite well in the football matches, but we must do much better if we are to retain the Cock House Trophy. Perhaps a few more spectators might help the teams.

P.C.E.F.

FOUNDER'S HOUSE.

House Masters : Messrs. RAWES, TOMLINSON and CROSWELL.

Captain : P. L. H. WITHERS.

Vice-Captain : J. K. RIGBY.

Secretary : B. K. CHAMBERS.

Welcoming all newcomers to the House, we earnestly commend them to the task of winning the Cock House Cup.

Although we did not fare as well as we had hoped to in the Football Cup, we have every intention of winning the Cross-Country Race again. It's up to you.

Congratulations to G. Hope on being appointed Deputy Senior Prefect, J. K. Rigby on being promoted to Full Prefect, and P. L. H. Withers, B. K. Chambers, and M. Barnett, on being made Sub-Prefects.

We extend best wishes to P. E. Goodhall, H. T. Greaves and R. F. Taylor, who have recently left us to serve their country.

B.K.C.

HIBBERT HOUSE.

Tutors : Messrs. HARRIS, READE and WARBURTON.

House Captain : W. G. LUNN.

Vice-Captain : A. P. WIGGINTON.

Secretary : P. D. BELL.

We congratulate the members of the House Football Teams, which are, so far, undefeated.

We trust that the same enthusiasm will be shown for the Cross-Country Run which will be held next term. Every member of the House who is physically fit should do his best to gain a point, which, with training, is within the reach of everyone.

We wish Mr. Harris a speedy return to good health after his recent illness.

M. Lowe is at Cambridge, A. J. Beck is at Liverpool, and H. K. Stock is continuing his R.A.F. training at Torquay. We wish them, and all Old Boys, good luck in their adventures.

P.D.B.

LIFE-SAVING 1944-45.

The examinations for the awards of the Royal Life-Saving Society will be held at the end of the Spring Term, 1945. The number of boys who have joined classes this term is almost as high as last year's record total. Next term, all candidates must continue to attend land and water drills regularly, in order to reach the required standard of efficiency.

SCHOOL AND HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS.

JULY, 1944.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATES.

Allen, R. G. H. ; Booth, C. W. ; Clarkson, M. P. H. (2) ; Dagnall, J. C. (1) ; Humber, T. R. ; Sidebottom, P. P. ; Southworth, I.

Barnes, A. M. (1) ; Bleazard, G. B. ; Booth, S. B. ; Box, R. H. (1) ; Coxall, R. (3) ; Eakins, D. ; Farman, P. C. E. ; Fiefield, D. C. ; Gamble, J. E. (1) ; Gardner, D. ; Greaves, R. I. ; Hardwick, D. E. (1) ; Haythornthwaite, E. (5) ; Heyes, J. A. C. (3) ; Jackson, H. (2) ; Jones, C. W. (3) ; Mitchell, D. G. ; Morgan, D. G. ; Pafford, D. D. (2) ; Rowe, K. ; Singleton, J. T. (1) ; Strother, R. ; Taylor, D. M. (1) ; Singleton, W. J. D. ; Withers, P. L. H. ; Wood, B. D. (1).

Butler, E. (5) ; Cooper, J. (1) ; Dewdney, J. C. (2) ; Dodgson, J. M. (5) ; Green, G. (6) ; Haythornthwaite, R. H. (3) ; Holland, J. J. (3) ; Hyde, J. S. ; Makinson, D. ; Morgan, I. N. ; Murray, I. M. ; Parsonage, T. E. ; Swift, J. ; Wilkinson, H. C.

(The figures in brackets indicate the number of subjects in which a "Very Good" mark was obtained. "Credit" marks are not indicated).

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATES.

Beck, A. J. W. (W., P., C.).

Bostock, J. F. (*E., *H., *F., I., also "Very Good" mark in H. Scholarship paper).

Eddleston, H. (*W., *P., *C.).

Kendrick, E. (*W., P., t., b., also "Very Good" mark in P. Scholarship paper).

Robinson, N. F. (*W., *P., C., t.).

Taylor, A. (E., T., F.).

Wyatt, A. G. (P., *C., t., p.).

Barnett, M. P. (P., *C., B., m.).

(Capital letters denote Principal Subjects, small letters Subsidiary Subjects; * denotes "Good" mark in Principal Subjects.)

(E., English Lit.; H., History; F., French; M., Pure Maths.; P., Physics; C., Chemistry; W., Pure and Applied Maths.; B., Botany; L., Latin; G., German.)

Letters of Success to Godfrey, P. H. P. (H., g.), and Lowe, M. (T., e., f., g.).

OLD BOYS' PAGES.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

ABRIDGED LIST OF OFFICERS, 1944-1945.

President : T. H. NEWTON, A.S.A.A.

Hon. Secretaries :

G. SHAW, B.A., 14, Ash Drive, Poulton-le-Fylde.

J. RAWCLIFFE, 14, St. Luke's Road, South Shore, Blackpool.

Hon. Treasurers :

E. A. HORNER, 8, Prestbury Avenue, South Shore, Blackpool.

J. SHIELDS, "Snibfield," Hardhorn Road, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Old Boys' Editor :

A. C. OKEIL, B.A., "Knaresgarth," Staining Road, Normoss, Blackpool.

OLD BOYS' EDITORIAL.

Again we have a welcome abundance of correspondence from Old Boys in H.M. Forces and once again we regret the necessity of having to attempt to convey by isolated excerpts something of those experiences which are so vividly expressed by the O.B.'s themselves. The victories on the Western Front and in the other spheres of the war have been detailed in their letters over and over again. Many of them have played an active part in chasing the Hun since "D" Day.

One of the most interesting and most greatly appreciated features of the Old Boys' Reunions since the war commenced has been the reading by the Secretary of a selection of such letters, and no doubt this practice will be kept up at the forthcoming gathering in February. The Secretaries' task of "selection" will this time be even more difficult than has been that of the Old Boys' Editor!

A Happy Christmas and Good Luck in the New Year.

O.B.E.

OLD BOYS' NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE.

MARRIAGES.

- FLOOD : FREEMAN.—On Saturday, 15th April, 1944, at Manchester Road Methodist Chapel, Chorlton, John Gordon Flood to Miss D. M. Freeman.
- MCINTYRE : TITE.—On Monday, 29th May, 1944, at St. Andrew's Church, Cleveleys, 2nd Lieut. John McIntyre to Dorothy Tite, of Cleveleys.
- NUTTALL : CLEGG.—On Saturday, 8th July, 1944, at Todmorden Parish Church, Gunner John Windle Nuttall to Alice Marion Clegg.
- HUNTER : DARBYSHIRE.—On Wednesday, 26th July, 1944, at Raikes Parade Methodist Church, Blackpool, Sub-Lieut. William Kenneth Hunter (A.), R.N.V.R., to Petty Officer Joan Margaret Darbyshire, W.R.N.S., of Blackpool.
- BOWMAN : NIELD.—On Monday, 23rd October, 1944, at St. John's, Kingsley, Cheshire, Sergt. John Edwin Bowman to Lillian Joan Nield.

Provisional arrangements for the 1945 Reunion :—

Date : Saturday, 17th February, 1945.

Place : Savoy Café, Blackpool.

Time : Annual General Meeting, 3-30 p.m. ; Dinner, 5-0 p.m.

Price : 5/-. (In the case of O.B.'s who have left School during the last two years, the charge will be 3/6.)

The Headmaster hopes that, as on previous occasions, those Old Boys who are serving in H.M. Forces, and find themselves in a position to attend, will accept the invitation to do so as guests of the School.

Jack W. Corbridge has received his Commission in the Royal Navy and is now Sub-Lieut. The minesweeper on which he was serving prior to taking up his Commission was lost in action three weeks later.

A third Honour has been awarded to Wing-Commander Frederick W. Thompson, who now holds the distinctions D.F.C., A.F.C. and D.S.O. The citation in connection with the award of the D.S.O. includes :—

"Wing-Commander Thompson has completed numerous sorties against a variety of targets. On one occasion *en route* to Stuttgart his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, disabling one engine which caught fire. The fire was eventually extinguished . . . he continued his mission and completed a successful attack.

"By his personal courage and enthusiasm this officer has raised the efficiency and morale of his squadron to a very high level."

Wing-Commander Thompson holds the B.Sc. and B.A. (Intermediate) degrees and the member's diploma of the Institute of Hygiene and when the war broke out was a science master in Southern Rhodesia.

After some 30 years we were pleased to have news of John R. Hosking, who was at School during the last war and is now in business in Massachusetts.

The D.F.C. has been awarded to Acting Flight-Lieut. Douglas Maxwell for gallantry in flying operations against the enemy. He enlisted for air crew in 1940 and was trained and commissioned in Canada. At the time of the award he was in hospital in England suffering from a fractured spine received in Normandy. "He has invariably pressed home his attacks with great skill and courage and has proved a cool and determined leader" is part of the citation.

Sergt. F. Elwood, M.Sc., who was at one time a science master in Khartoum, is now engaged in "plotting for aircraft."

L./Cpl. George Thompson was wounded in Italy whilst in action with a tank regiment in the Adriatic sector, and in October was in an Italian hospital.

Dennis D. Airey, LL.B. (Hons.), has been commissioned in the King's Own Regiment.

An excerpt from "The Union Jack" (printed in Tunisia, November, 1943) :—

"A novel and successful sports meeting was staged at the stadium of a General Hospital in Sousse . . . S./Sergt. L. Unsworth received top honours for his general display."

Prominent in the Press during September were the exploits of Flight-Sergt. Alan Wright, a tail-gunner of the R.A.F., who returned with the repatriated prisoners of war on the "Arundel Castle." He has since paid us a visit at the School and told how he had gambled with death over Essen. His plane was hit and when attempting to bale out he was trapped by his right leg as the aircraft dived to earth at over 400 miles an hour. The bomber blew up and he was set free, but not without injury, as the ligaments of his legs had been torn and his spine twisted. He crawled for four days in an attempt to get out of Germany and was actually within sight of the Dutch frontier when he was captured. He was paralysed from the waist downwards and cannot walk yet, but he convinced us all that patience, determination and optimism will eventually enable him to throw aside the power-chair supplied to him by the Red Cross.

"In recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations," the D.F.M. has been awarded to Pilot Officer Leonard Howarth (of Blackpool). He was trained in South Africa, where he gained his wings.

Formerly Sergt. Pilot, Brian Haslam has now been promoted to Flying Officer. He joined the R.A.F. four years ago and was trained in Canada and America.

Gunner-Driver Charles W. Hewitt, who was a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, is now reported as missing at sea, following the torpedoing of a Japanese transport.

2nd Lieut. J. L. Clarke was wounded in Normandy.

Midshipman L. S. McKnight has been awarded the D.S.C.

L./A.C. Harry Pilkington has been commended "for exemplary behaviour, courage and devotion to duty" during the establishment of beachheads in the invasion.

We regret to record the following :—

Pilot Officer J. G. Swain has been killed in an accident whilst on active service.

Sergt. Ronald D. Crook, who was reported missing in the last issue of the magazine, is now presumed killed.

We have just learnt that Pilot Officer John Dickinson was reported missing about last August.

Flight Sergt. Charles R. Clement is missing from air operations.

Captain E. Fenton has been killed in action.

Private H. Wharton, who was recently reported missing, is now reported killed. Private Wharton joined the Forces at the age of 18 and was in France on "D" Day.

Older O.B.'s will be sorry too to hear that Titley Haworth's son, who paid a surprise visit to Mr. Shaw last term when he came to this country from South Africa, has been killed in air operations.

Amongst those who have visited the School this term have been :—

Lieut. D. D. Airey, Engin. Officer E. D. Simmons, Radio Officer K. W. F. Henderson, F./O. J. F. Walker, Sub-Lieut. J. W. Corbridge, A.C.2. George Curwen (who is now back in the N.F.S.), Lieut. E. Hill, Radio Officer J. Greenhalgh, Sig. C. Brook, Sergt. F. B. Robinson (Observer), Cfn. P. T. Hinchcliffe, Sig. A. Tweedale, Sergt. J. E. Bowman, Pte. J. W. Merrill, F./O. H. Pender, Sergt. J. Walton, R.A.F.; P. G. England, who was going into H.M. Forces a few days later; Sergt. H. A. S. Wilson, R.A.F.; L./Cpl. D. W. Cross, recently repatriated from Switzerland after escaping from Italy (he was taken prisoner at Tobruk and an interesting souvenir of his escape into Switzerland is his bogus identity

card bearing his photograph and name, "Ettore Fangareggi"); Lt./Cpl. J. A. Holden, Coder G. K. Stewart, Cpl. J. Brown, after active service overseas since 1939; Sub-Lieut. J. T. Coope, Midshipman L. S. McKnight, D.S.C.; Ord. Seaman D. Sutcliffe, F./O. K. H. Pickup, Cadet Officer H. Whitehead, Merchant Navy, bound for a long trip with the Royal Mail, starting the next day; Ft. Sergt. J. Whittaker, on leave from Italy; Fus. P. E. Goodhall, Lieut. J. Horsfield, R.N.V.R.; Sub-Lieut. H. B. Clarke, Ord. Seaman C. Driver, K. Hardman (recently discharged from the Navy), N.A.2 J. S. Thornley.

Armt. S./Sergt. E. H. Dinsdale, writing (8/6/44) to us again from "somewhere in Italy," tells how after the fall of Rome the great news of the opening of the Second Front was "celebrated" in true British Tommy fashion. "Everywhere little groups of men were eating and drinking; rations saved and guarded for months appeared from bags and haversacks. The fun and games started at dusk as Jerry flares captured during the advance soared all over the sky, red, green, yellow; one set of men firing at another. Singing could be heard for miles—that is how the lads took the great news." He describes the advance from Cassino to Rome, giving details of the Gustav line ("a very interesting line like a blinking rabbit warren"), and remarks that "they went through the Hitler Line too quickly to see much of it." Written in Bombay (6/6/44), a letter from Lieut. A. S. Binnie informs us that he is "once again in hospital." No sooner had he recovered from malaria than he was "involved in a close contact brawl with the yellow-men," as the result of which he received "injuries of a minor character, though one small piece of a grenade in the left knee gave quite a lot of trouble." He goes on to tell us that a tiny fragment penetrated his right eye, causing about 90 per cent. blindness for which there is no cure. Older O.B.'s will be interested to hear that Major A. M. Hutchinson, who left School 35 years ago, is now once again "overseas." He thought that "he was going to be left out of it this time," and writes, "It is rather strange and yet perhaps not so, to be back again on service overseas after I had done so much wandering in strange parts of the earth and then settled down as it seemed for good." Pte. W. Walsh (C.M.F., 2/7/44) tells of one morning when he was "sent to draw rations in a jeep at Ortona, Italy." He had not much experience in jeep driving, but "when the bullets from a Jerry sniper began to whistle round the hood" he soon made himself scarce. Cpl. W. G. Payne sends us news from East Africa Command (6/7/44) that during the past year his experiences and existence have been very varied: draughtsman, clerk, species of "confessor-general" to the native ranks and finally once again filling the role of pupil, this time on a Military Engineering Course. He had heard from B. C. Wilmot, who had arrived in East Africa on Colonial Service in the Medical Department and is now stationed in Dar-es-Salaam. Lt./Cpl. R. Fenton wrote from India Command to send thanks for the Christmas greetings, etc., which were "rather a long time" in reaching him. F./O. R. Evans, writing from Aden (19/7/44), tells us that the greetings had only just "caught him up." "The heat and humidity are terrific and the various pests, flies, mosquitoes and locusts, are no added attraction." Pte. J. Towler wrote (21/7/44) to tell us of his return to his unit (he was wounded on active service in Italy), of the break through at Anzio and of the march on Rome. He describes in wonderful detail his impressions of the Eternal City and relates his visit to Tel Aviv in Palestine. Another long and interesting letter came from Armt. S./Sergt. E. H. Dinsdale (6/8/44) after "five days' leave in Cairo." He was "now out of the fighting for a time after twenty-one months of almost continuous fighting." He concludes, "And so to Cairo, with its swimming pools, open-air cinemas, soft drink bars, ice cream; an oasis in a soldier's life spent on mountain tops, in valleys, sleeping in dried river beds, in foxholes, dug-outs, snow, mud, desert, blistering sun but *never* near a town!" Lt. A. S. Binnie wrote again from hospital (7/8/44) with another attack of malaria. He had been having trouble with his mail owing to the fact that "three other Binnies with similar initials have arrived in India. This has baffled the Postal

Authorities and I frequently open passionate letters from girls who are unfortunately not my own!" His cup of woe was "just about filled" when he heard that all his decent uniform and his civilian clothes had been blown up in the recent Bombay explosion. An account of nine months of experiences in different parts of the world comes from Sen. Apprentice R. Jackson who, at the time of writing, was back in England. He writes, "I was sent to New York with a full crew to fetch a Liberty ship. I crossed the Atlantic in the "Queen Elizabeth," stayed three months in New York, where I worked for a tea firm, and then sailed for Calcutta instead of England. I contracted typhoid fever, dysentery and dengue fever, was carried ashore and remained 11 weeks in hospital. I was then sent 1,349 miles to Bombay and there embarked for England in company with several thousand Chindits from the Burma front. On the way home all my hair fell out and it has amazed me by coming again a different colour and curly instead of straight as it was before." Air Artificer C. R. Kingswell wrote (8/8/44) to say that after nine months of teaching he was now having the novel experience of sitting on the wrong side of the instructor's desk taking a short "Instructor's Course" in England. A very much censored letter from Tpr. G. G. Rigby (B.L.A.) (10/8/44) relates his visit to an Ensa Depot where he had "quite a nice chat with George Formby."

Sergt. J. E. Bowman was in hospital at Whiston (14/8/44) when he wrote, "During my stay in various hospitals I have developed a 'surgical' mind. Sutures, incisions and scalpels and the like are no mystery to me. Foreign bodies have been recovered from my anatomy. One more visit to the 'pictures' (a soldier's term for that holy of holies, the operating theatre) and I shall be allowed to go my way in peace." He continues, "I cannot praise too highly the excellent work turned out by these hard-working surgeons—do they ever sleep? By the way, the first surgeon I met on my arrival in England was Dr. Buckley, Senior House Surgeon at Southport Hospital. I could not introduce myself just then, but I vividly remembered the 'fifty lines' that he 'dished out' in the happy days when I was a docile youth in short trousers and he wore the emblem of discipline and terror—the gold-braided cap!" "Just a few lines" from A.C.2 George Curwen to let us know that he had been disappointed (6/9/44) over his "Board," when he was informed that he would be unable to remain in the R.A.F. He wrote of a possible return to the N.F.S., but at the time "he was expecting to hear something." Another long and welcome letter from Lieut. G. H. Chapman (School Staff), B.L.A. (5/9/44), details his progress from the beachhead to "the door of the Reich," covering his "meanderings through Europe up to the entry into Holland." "It has been a whirl of movement—down at night and away again at dawn usually; we have had little enough time to stop and sight-see." Trooper J. Wood in his letter of 19/9/44, C.M.F., describes his transfer from Tunis to Italy and the taking of the Hitler Line. "My tank was dead lucky," he writes, "as we smashed a track on the way in and missed the fate of the other two in the troop, which were both lost." The Hitler Line was carried in conjunction with three Canadian Regiments, and the C.O. of the Canadian Division has asked all ranks of the Tank Brigade to wear the Maple Leaf for the part they played in this momentous action. A.F.E. J. D. D. Lowe wrote from H.M.S. — (10/8/44). Another much censored letter came from Cpl. P. J. Thatcher (South East Asia, 15/8/44), who describes his journey "from Bombay to . . . where his main duties are to maintain . . . and supervise . . .!" Sig. G. M. Whiteside landed "somewhere in France" on "'D' Day plus 6." Writing (3/9/44) of the early days on the beachhead he traces the advance until he is "across the Seine." Sergt. R. H. Crawshaw had plenty to write about in his letter (6/9/44) from France. The censor has "let his hair down," and Sergt. Crawshaw was able to give details of "disembarkation without the slightest interference," the "de-waterproofing" and his first taste of war. His Division took the centre lane in the attack on Caen, and was responsible for the first bridgehead across the Orne. Then life became one long rush until the "bag" was closed. On 12/9/44 L.A.C. H. G. Pearson was "still fit and well in Italy." L./Cpl. B. Lloyd was (14/9/44)

"resting in the South of Italy" after starting from Cassino and travelling with the Eighth Army up to Florence. He had spent a day in Rome and had been to the top of the dome of St. Peter's. He told us that his brother, Baron, had been wounded at Caen. He was carrying back the rifles of his wounded comrades when he received a sniper's bullet in his right thigh. Luckily the bullet passed through without damaging the bone. Sergt. G. Aspin, after training in Canada was (19/9/44) stationed in England, waiting for posting to a flying station. He wrote, "It is a queer coincidence that has thrown Lawson and myself together; we did a Commando Course together." Sig. H. W. Atherton, M.E.F. (24/9/44) reported that he was still "a base-wallah," though working very hard and feeling very fit. A letter from Jack Smith tells us that he had (27/9/44) been in the Royal Navy about a month and gave details of his early training. From C.M.F. (30/9/44) Driver R. Hall told of his leaving North Africa and his eventual arrival in Italy to "take part in the fun and games there." He was unable to visit Rome, which he saw in the distance as "they were doing their best to catch up with the Hun." A most interesting letter from Tpr. R. Walker (6/10/44) describes pre-"D" Day training, the trip to the South Coast in readiness and the final preparations. Before embarkation they were inspected by H.M. the King and General Eisenhower. They "embarked at a large port to the light entertainment of the first of the buzz-bombs, some of which dropped a little too close for our liking. The voyage was uneventful and the beaches had been cleared when we landed." He too tells of the "endless streams of bombers dropping their loads on the fortifications of Caen" and of the later "rush across France." After remaining behind to clean up the few thousand Germans who were holding Le Havre they had "some three hundred miles to go to catch up with their group"! Yet another letter from (now) Capt. A. S. Binnie, in hospital again with the fourth attack of malaria in four and a half months! He is now (9/10/44) posted to a special Force Training Wing as a Tactical Instructor. Xmas Greetings come to us in another long letter from Armt. S./Sergt. E. H. Dinsdale, still in Italy, "fighting in the clouds" (the Gothic Line). From Major D. H. Bamber too come greetings, from Calcutta (20/10/44). Major Bamber was recuperating from an attack of jaundice.

Pte. N. C. Nelson wrote from India. Writing (5/8/44) from Italy, F./O. H. N. Moulding (Staff) tells us that the things he would write about are "verboten" by the Unit Security Officer (himself!). He is now the "oldest inhabitant" in the Mess, both in service with the Unit and in age. Another long letter (16/10/44) from Pte. J. L. Towler gives details of "another glorious leave—this time in Jerusalem." A.M. (1) E. Allsopp, H.M.S. — (27/10/44) wrote from Ceylon, where he had been for 10 months. He wrote "with nothing in view on three sides but rubber plantations," and describes his 14 days' holiday on a tea plantation. Leading Coder W. H. Black sent greetings and told us that "down there" he had "bumped into Jack Cottam who is in the R.A.F. in training for an Observer." Coder Black tells too of a recent experience in picking up 35 survivors off a desert island; he was surprised at the fitness of these 32 Chinese and three Britishers after 72 days on the island with no water but that distilled from the sea.

New members of the Association this term are:—

- 1944. A. J. W. Beck, 10, Hamlet Road, Fleetwood.
- 1944. J. F. Bostock, 61, Fleetwood Road, Carleton, Blackpool.
- 1944. D. Eakins, 4, Dinckley Grove, Blackpool.
- 1944. H. T. Greaves, 7, Stanah Gardens, Thornton.
- 1944. E. Kendrick, 48, Adelaide Street, Fleetwood.
- 1944. M. Lowe, 26, Lincoln Road, Blackpool.
- 1944. J. W. Merrill, 107, Marsh Road, Thornton.
- 1933. A. Unsworth, 63, Lawson Road, Thornton.
- 1944. E. F. Whittaker, 88, Beach Road, Fleetwood.

BY THE WAY.

The School Roll contains 557 names.

New boys (House indicated by appropriate letters) are:—

FORM PREP.—Allen, H. G. (Hi.); Ashworth, P. G. (Hi.); Bryant, D. W. (F.); Forster, A. E. (W.); Heney, P. J. (W.); Matthews, B. N. G. (W.); Pameley, T. (Ho.); Raffles, M. (Hi.); Southern, A. (Hi.); Southern, J. L. B. (Hi.); Still, R. S. (F.); Warren, D. (Hi.); Waxman, A. (F.); Wilson, G. H. (W.); Wotherspoon, A. S. (Ho.).

FORM SHELL.—Alcock, A. C. (Hi.); Bannister, B. T. (Hi.); Bates, B. (Hi.); Coleman, D. B. (Hi.); Crumblehulme, W. J. (Hi.); Dodgson, P. (W.); Duckworth, M. J. (W.); Faulkner, J. G. (F.); Foy, J. F. (W.); Hampton, J. K. (Hi.); Hinchliffe, K. B. (Ho.); Houghton, C. B. (Hi.); Hull, H. J. (F.); Jackson, E. C. (Ho.); Jones, R. N. (Ho.); Palmer, K. (Hi.); Petterson, K. P. G. (W.); Pinder, J. C. (Ho.); Travis, M. N. (Hi.); Weigh, F. V. (F.); Wilding, F. (Ho.).

FORM Ib.—Bentley, K. M. (F.); Brown, R. F. (Ho.); Colley, R. (Hi.); Conyers, D. A. (F.); Ellwood, G. D. (W.); Farmer, A. W. (F.); Fennell, D. V. (Hi.); Gair, J. H. (Ho.); Green, V. (W.); Harrison, P. H. (Ho.); I'Anson, J. D. (Hi.); James, P. N. (W.); Knowles, B. (F.); Lawrenson, W. B. (F.); Lawson, J. A. C. (Hi.); Lovatt, G. R. (Ho.); Nutter, J. A. (F.); Robinson, P. B. A. (F.); Smith, P. D. (Ho.); Swain, H. I. (W.); Swarbrick, G. H. (F.); Sykes, W. G. (Ho.); Tonge, B. (Hi.); Topping, D. (F.); Walker, G. (W.); Waring, B. (Ho.); Wolstenholme, J. F. R. (W.); Yarham, J. (F.).

FORM Ia.—Biltcliffe, P. (F.); Braid, W. T. (Hi.); Chapman, P. J. (W.); Curwen, B. S. (F.); Dewhurst, B. W. (F.); Dickinson, J. F. C. (Hi.); Drury, J. R. (W.); Eaves, N. A. (Hi.); Halldearn, D. M. (Hi.); Hallworth, B. I. (F.); Hammond, J. (F.); Hill, A. (W.); Huckle, J. P. (F.); Kagan, M. R. (Hi.); Lee, M. R. (Ho.); McNaught, I. D. (Ho.); Middleton, M. W. (Hi.); Mills, T. (F.); Penwarden, J. (W.); Ratcliffe, C. (F.); Robinson, P. F. (Hi.); Shaw, M. A. (W.); Smith, M. I. (Ho.); Stubbings, G. (Ho.); Sutton, D. F. (W.); Thompson, G. B. (F.); Tute, G. W. (Ho.); Usherwood, C. W. (W.); Wiener, P. B. (Hi.); Wraith, D. B. (Hi.).

FORM IIc.—Barcroft, I. S. (F.); Jackson, J. H. (W.); Sayer, G. E. J. (Ho.); Sear, D. W. J. (W.); Shippam, N. C. (W.); Sowerby, P. (F.); Wyatt, I. H. (F.).

FORM IIb.—Mackrael, J. A. (W.); Ogden, P. (Ho.).

FORM IIIb.—Bannister, S. (Hi.).

FORM VIb.—Lawrence, H. T. (F.); Singleton, S. W. (Hi.).

We are encouraged by those in high places to hope that the sixth year of the war will see the end of hostilities in Europe; we look forward eagerly to the day when German resistance finally comes to an end, and in the meantime congratulate ourselves that the danger of attack by piloted aircraft appears to be virtually at an end.

At this stage, following the lead set by the Press, it is perhaps as well to set down in print some account of those incidents of the "blitz" which closely concern our own School, and which the censorship has quite rightly prevented us from mentioning before. There are many amongst us who will retain unpleasant memories of those dark and troubled days of 1940-41, when the people of our towns and cities were in constant danger of sudden death and mutilation, when alerts even in our comparatively quiet district were by no means uncommon; when we listened to the throbbing drone of hundreds of enemy aircraft as they passed far overhead, and we watched the glow of fires 40 or 50 miles away. Unpleasant memories of cold, anxious nights as we

waited for the cheering sound of the " Raiders past " ; but how lucky we were compared with those upon whom the full fury of enemy wrath was launched ; how lucky compared with those who only this year have been the victims of the latest terror weapons !

And yet one evening in the early Autumn of 1940 (in the month of October), there might, but for the merest chance, have been an end of our School buildings. It was the late John Minshull, at that time School gardener, who, on duty as a Special Constable at High Cross, said that he was listening to an enemy aircraft as it came quite low, and that he heard the click of the release mechanism as a stick of four heavy bombs was dropped. Imagination may have coloured his memory with this unlikely detail, but the fact remains that the bombs were dropped and that they fell in a line on to soft ground in the fields a little to the west of " Uplands " corner, perhaps 150 yards from the old School buildings. Four large craters in the field were the sum total of the damage caused (one of the bombs did not explode until 72 hours later), but if the aircraft had been flying very little to the south, there could have been very sad wreckage in our precincts. And we shall never know whether the airman was aiming at the traffic on the main road, attempting to hit the School in the belief that it was a factory, or merely jettisoning his bombs.

One humorous side to the story was provided by a number of Wardens who were on duty ; they were following the progress of the aeroplane when they heard the whine of the dropping bombs ; the next moment saw them all neatly " jammed " in the School door as they (very sensibly) dived for shelter.

Later in the same " blitz " season, early in 1941, well over 500 incendiary bombs were dropped by a machine which was apparently being chased by a fighter. Again, by a stroke of Providence, practically the whole of these fell in the fields which stretch from Carleton Crossing to High Cross, and caused no damage. A few which happened to fall on houses were quickly extinguished, and our fire-watching party spent a happy hour or so near the School wood helping to deal with some of those which had fallen there, within a comparatively short distance of School.

We understand that one member of the Staff has received a document of many pages instructing him what action to take about National Savings when the European War is at an end. He has been heard to say that he could have compressed the whole document into one sentence ; but he should know by now that Government Departments are experts at the game of *parvum in multo*.

We have had a number of visiting lecturers this term. Dr. Wood, of Blackpool, gave an excellent talk on " The Art of Listening to Music " ; our old friend Mr. Adrian Harley gave a recital of " Kidnapped " ; and senior boys have heard a native West African schoolmaster and an Indian talking about life in their respective countries.

We regret the departure of Miss Haselden, who has now obtained a permanent post at Newton-le-Willows, and who was with us for two years. She has the best wishes of all for her future success. We welcome in her place Mr. A. Unsworth, B.A., an Old Boy of the School who graduated at Manchester University ; and we are pleased also to have the assistance of Mrs. Warburton and Mrs. Reade, who have kindly volunteered to help in our staffing difficulties.

Dr. Pennington, who was seriously ill during the holidays, has returned after being absent until Half-Term. We are glad to see him looking so well.

There is news of absent members of the Staff. Captain (Acting Major) Paterson is in Khartoum, where, by way of occasional relaxation from hard work, he has been taking part in representative games ; Flight Lieut. Moulding is actively engaged in the Italian campaign ; Lieut. Chapman is " somewhere in the Low Countries " ; and Flight Lieuts. Alderson and Charlton are " somewhere in England," the latter having returned to this country from Egypt.

Our senior football teams have found some difficulty in obtaining fixtures this term, owing to wartime restrictions of travel and the lack of Services teams. Hitherto we have been very lucky to have fairly full fixture-lists, and perhaps there are grounds for hoping that next season may see a return to something like the pre-war School's engagements.

Our numbers continue to be very high, and accommodation has been difficult to find, especially for the Sixth Form, which is like a School in itself, with over 50 on the register.

Congratulations to those Scouts who helped the local Girl Guides' Association in the Masque of Empire, which succeeded in raising £60 for the Poulton Chairman's Welfare Fund. They did a very good "Good Turn"; incidentally we have never seen them remain so still for so long as they did during the performance.

A pleasant holiday and a Happy Christmas to all!

FOOTBALL.

Captain : COOPER.

Secretary : CHAMBERS.

Vice-Captain : LUNN.

Cooper, Brown, Lunn, Rigby, Darbyshire, Mortimore, Davies, Taylor and Lucas have established themselves as regular members of the First Team. Hardwick, Farmery, Dewhurst and Wignall have also played. Football Colours have been awarded to Brown and Rigby.

FIRST ELEVEN RESULTS.

- Sept. 23—Preston Grammar School, 3; B.G.S., 3.
 Oct. 14—B.G.S., 9; G.P.O. Engineers, 1.
 Nov. 4—Alleyn's School, 1; B.G.S., 2.
 „ 11—B.G.S., 6; G.P.O. Engineers, 2.
 „ 25—B.G.S., 0; Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, 1.
 Dec. 2—B.G.S., 1; Alleyn's School, 3.

SECOND ELEVEN RESULTS.

- Nov. 25—B.G.S., 3; Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, 4.

B.K.C.

" UNDER FOURTEEN " ELEVEN.

Captain : DAWSON.

Vice-Captain : DURIE.

Team : Martin; Walters, Lawrenson; Stewart, Garner, Dewhurst; Glossop, Coe, Darlington, Durie, Dawson. Also played: Scott, Halstead.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|----|-------|-----|
| Oct. 7—v. Hodgson Senior School | ..... | H. | ..... | 8—1 |
| „ 14—v. Hodgson Senior School | ..... | A. | ..... | 2—3 |
| „ 21—v. Bailey Senior School | ..... | H. | ..... | 3—4 |
| Nov. 4—v. Bailey Senior School | ..... | A. | ..... | 3—3 |
| „ 11—v. Thornton Senior School | ..... | H. | ..... | 9—0 |
| Dec. 9—v. Preston Grammar School | ..... | A. | ..... | 3—0 |

Scorers : Durie, 7; Dawson, 5; Coe, 5; Walters, 3; Garner, 3; Glossop, 2. Opponents, 3.

" UNDER FIFTEEN " ELEVEN.

Nov. 4— <i>v.</i> Alleyn's School	.....	A.	.....	3—1
Dec. 2— <i>v.</i> Alleyn's School	.....	H.	.....	6—0

Scorers : Dawson, 4 ; Durie, 2 ; Coe, Cudlip, Garner.

" UNDER SIXTEEN " ELEVEN.

Oct. 21— <i>v.</i> Thornton Army Cadets	.....	H.	.....	5—3
Nov. 18— <i>v.</i> Blackpool Army Cadets	.....	H.	.....	5—3

Scorers : Dewhurst, 3 ; Mortimore, 2 ; Lunn, 2 ; Barlow, Bardsley, Darbyshire.

H.E.T.

TABLE TENNIS.

Two games have been played against the Ministry of Pensions. The School Team (Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Shaw, Darbyshire, Stuart and R. F. Taylor) won by 15 games to 10 at School, and won the return match at Norcross (with Abram *vice* Taylor) by 17 games to 8.

H.E.T.
