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of the

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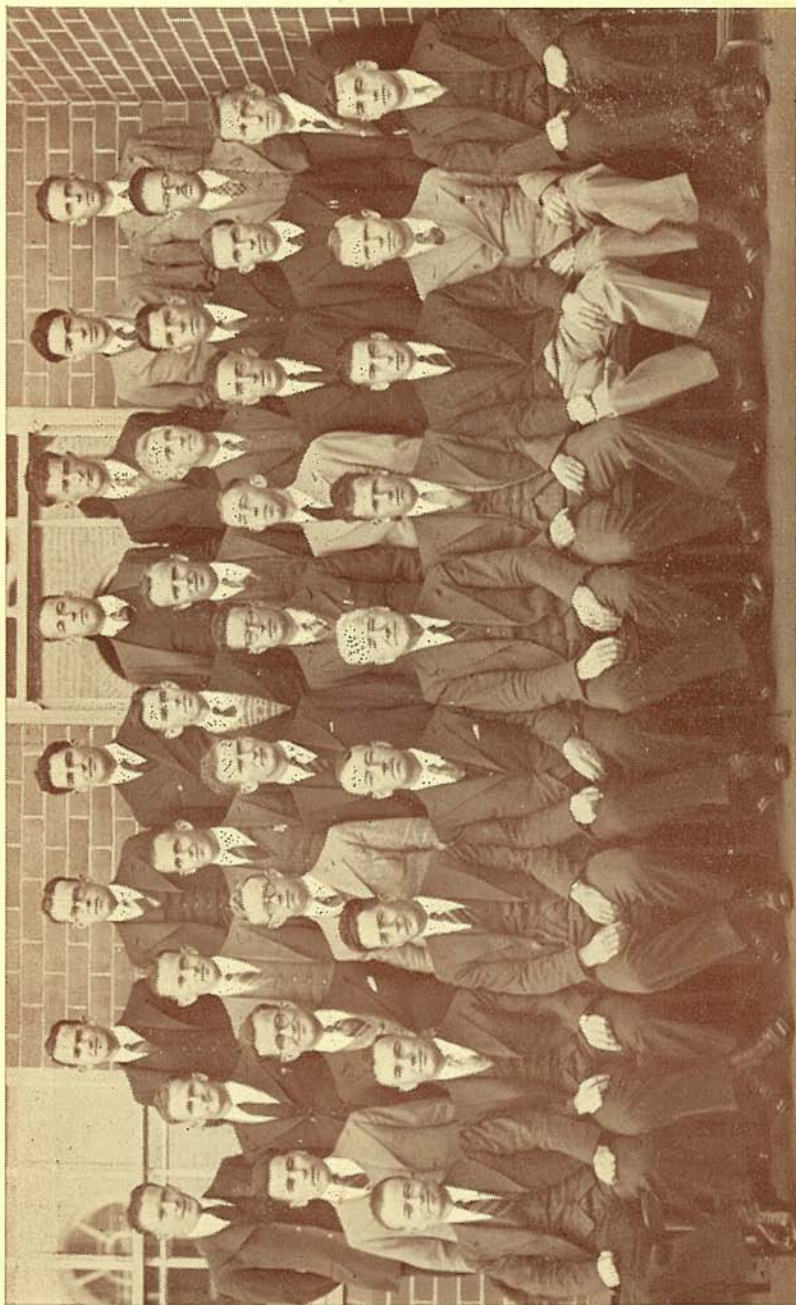
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STAFF PHOTO.

Back Row: J. H. Britton, H. Carson, H. O. Howard, O. N. Burgess, E. L. Hoolahan, J. H. Pratt, S. L. Neilson,
 Third Row: A. Day, D. K. McKay, M. E. Thomas, W. R. Palfrey, E. A. CRAIG, F. McNair, H. J. Paterson, R. Mylchrest, A. J. Day,
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 J. Aspery, J. L. Monaghan, G. D. Gawthroppe,
 Absent: R. A. Anderson, J. E. Harrison, J. Gibson, H. J. Price, J. P. Callaghan.



THE MAGAZINE
OF THE
HOMEBUSH BOYS' JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

EDITOR: R. V. Smith
ASSISTANT EDITOR: J. E. Harrison
BUSINESS MANAGER: D. L. Guthrie

VOL. I, No. 5

DECEMBER, 1940

Another year draws to a close — a year of crises, the gravity of which has rarely, if ever, been equalled in the history of this world. Times there have been, since last we went to press, when the very worst that could befall our Empire lurked before us in the light of grimmest possibility. With our friends trampled down and the very threshold of liberty within the monster's reach, the final stage was set. Beyond that point, however, the scourge of man did not proceed.

With mingled feelings of gratitude and pride, this school pays tribute to the men who halted the most mighty march of terrorism ever to threaten a civilised community. They have paved the way for its ultimate destruction; their deeds have filled with pride the heart of every boy at school, who cherishes the thought that, in days to come, his will be the task of guarding those ideals, which are now so forcibly threatened.

Even more inspiring than the deeds is the spirit in which they have been performed. No finer illustration of that spirit can be found than the famous letter, written to his mother, by a young British airman, just before the flight which proved to be his last. We feel that motives so noble fully justify our taking this opportunity of placing before our boys the words of this gallant representative of the British race.

TEXT OF THE LETTER.

Dearest Mother,—Though I feel no premonition at all, events are moving rapidly, and I have instructed that this letter be forwarded to you should I fail to return from one of the raids which we shall shortly be called upon to undertake. You must hope on for a month, but at the end of that time you must accept the fact that I have handed my task over to the extremely capable hands of my comrades of the Royal Air Force, as so many splendid fellows have already done.

First, it will comfort you to know that my role in this war has been of the greatest importance. Our patrols far out over the North Sea have helped to keep the trade routes clear for our convoys and supply ships, and on one occasion our information was instrumental in saving the lives of the men in a crippled lighthouse relief ship. Though it will be difficult for you, you will disappoint me if you do not at least try to accept the facts dispassionately, for I shall have done my duty to the utmost of my ability. No man can do more, and no one calling himself a man could do less.

I have always admired your amazing courage in the face of continual setbacks; in the way you have given me as good an education and background as anyone in the country; and always kept up appearances without ever losing faith in the future. My death would not mean that your struggle has been in vain. Far from it. It means that your sacrifice is as great as mine. Those who serve England must expect nothing from her; we debase ourselves if we regard our country as merely a place in which to eat and sleep.

History resounds with illustrious names who have given all, yet their sacrifice has resulted in the British Empire, where there is a measure of peace, justice, and freedom for all, and where a higher standard of civilization has evolved, and is still evolving, than anywhere else. But this is not only concerning our own land. To-day we are

faced with the greatest organized challenge to Christianity and civilization that the world has ever seen, and I count myself lucky and honoured to be the right age and fully trained to throw my full weight into the scale. For this I have to thank you. Yet there is more work for you to do. The home front will still have to stand united for years after the war is won. For all that can be said against it, I still maintain that this war is a very good thing; every individual is having the chance to give and dare all for his principle like the martyrs of old. However long the time may be, one thing can never be altered—I shall have lived and died an Englishman. Nothing else matters one jot nor can anything ever change it.

You must not grieve for me, for if you really believe in religion and all that it entails that would be hypocrisy. I have no fear of death; only a queer elation. . . . I would have it no other way. The universe is so vast and so ageless that the life of one man can only be justified by the measure of his sacrifice. We are sent to this world to acquire a personality and a character to take with us that can never be taken from us. Those who just eat and sleep, prosper and procreate, are no better than animals if all their lives they are at peace.

I firmly and absolutely believe that evil things are sent into the world to try us; they are sent deliberately by our Creator to test our metal because He knows what is good for us. The Bible is full of cases where the easy way out has been discarded for moral principles.

I count myself fortunate in that I have seen the whole country and known men of every calling. But with the final test of war I consider my character fully developed. Thus at my early age my earthly mission is already fulfilled and I am prepared to die with just one regret, and one only—that I could not devote myself to making your declining years more happy by being with you; but you will live in peace and freedom and I shall have directly contributed to that, so here again my life will not have been in vain.

Your loving Son,

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

THE STAFF

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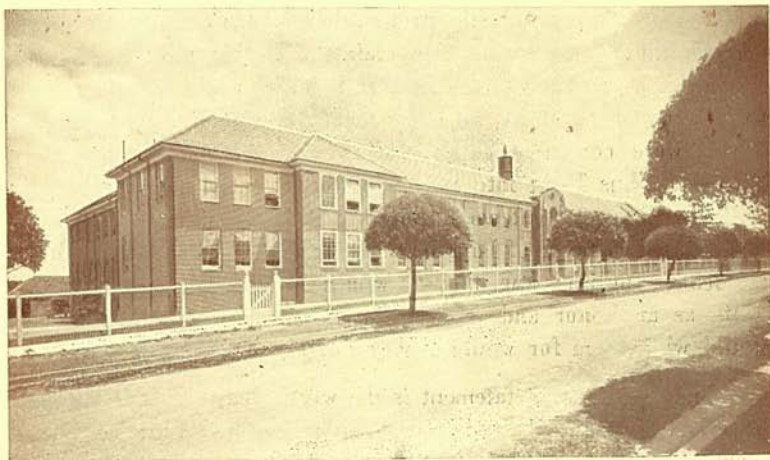
SCHOOL COUNSELLOR: R. G. Staines, B.A., Dip. Ed.

PREFECTS, 1940:

K. Lenox (Captain), F. Flynn (Vice-Captain), T. Amos, N. Anstey, L. Armfield, A. Barrett, J. Barriskill, J. Buxton, K. Canham, F. Cavanaugh, G. Duncan, R. Hamilton, M. Hancock, F. Johnson, C. Johnston, D. Lawrence, R. Macfarlane, J. McKinlay, J. Mulvaney, R. Robertson, J. Somen, R. Willett, T. Williams, J. Young.

HOUSE CAPTAINS, 1940

Blaxland: J. Barriskill; Lawson: K. Lenox; Mitchell: C. Johnston; Oxley: J. Young; Sturt: J. Somen; Wentworth: M. Hancock.



HEADMASTER'S FOREWORD

To-day the English-speaking countries of the world stand grouped together in defence of civilisation. It is among the people of the British Commonwealth of Nations and of the United States of America that the ideals of liberty, tolerance and culture are still cherished. To these same people there seems to have come in the last year a reawakened consciousness of the power and beauty of their common language and literature. Mr. Churchill (who has as many firm admirers in the United States as in his own land) has given the lead to this revival of interest in the English tongue, which, as we can never too often remind ourselves, is almost unrivalled in the whole of human history for subtlety and strength, and has in modern times spread widely to all quarters of the earth. The British Prime Minister has found time, since he assumed his high office, to insist that government officials shall shed any bad habits of expression they may have—the use of circumlocution, the hiding of meaning in a maze of words—and shall concentrate on concise, vivid and glowing English. Certainly the calibre of Mr. Churchill's spoken and written English permits him to make such suggestions to his compatriots.

One remark which appears in a recently published autobiographical work by Mr. Churchill should provide us all with food for thought. He recounts how he went to Harrow as a lad of

twelve with little scholastic preparation, and was for some time kept in the lowest form. He claims that this gave him, as it happened, a great advantage in life, because, while the other boys were allowed to study an assortment of subjects, those in his form "were considered such dunces that we could learn only English. Thus I got into my bones the essential structure of the ordinary English sentence—which is a noble thing. Naturally I am biased in favor of boys learning English. I would make them all learn English; and then I would let the clever ones learn Latin as an honor and Greek as a treat. But the only thing I would whip them for would be for not knowing English."

The core of this statement is the word "learn." It is the duty of every Englishman and every Australian to "learn" his own language. We sometimes assume that, because we can read our newspaper, talk to our friends and understand the dialogue when we attend the cinema, that we have learned to read and speak English. Perhaps we have—in a way.

There is, however, more entailed in learning English than the ability to make oneself relatively comprehensible to the people one meets. Firstly, it should be a point of pride with every student to strive for the best expression of his thought that he can achieve. Few persons can hope to write great English, but everybody can be constantly asking himself, "Do I, when I write, make myself perfectly clear? Do I use unnecessary words? Do I use the right and suitable words?" Secondly, it is necessary that we should always be deliberately examining words and widening our vocabulary. Schoolboys learn lists of Latin and French words; why should they not compile and learn similar lists in their language, and why should they not make this a life-long habit? Then there is the matter of pronunciation. Australians are often said to be very lazy and careless speakers. Visitors tell us that we draw our words in a toneless, muffled fashion, that our speech is ugly, that we seem unwilling to enunciate properly. So frequent is this condemnation that there must be an element of truth in it. We Australians are, in fact, rather frightened of good speech, and some of us even tend to think of it as effeminate.

Every school student's main task undoubtedly is, as Mr. Churchill would have it, to speak well and to write well. If a boy

leaves his school unable to express himself in clear, forthright English, his education is incomplete. From the point of view of self-interest, too, attention to English studies in school days is a sound investment. For men, employers included, in the world outside the school, will judge younger men to a great degree by their habits of speaking and writing. He who spells, writes and talks correctly shows courtesy and, as well, impresses others by giving evidence of good breeding, sound taste and developed intellect.

CARNIVAL

Far in the distance I spy the carnival. Bright lights beckon to me. Blaring music, that only a care-free carnival can concoct, urges me to join with the happy throng who are going to throw off their superficial cares for an hour or two in the fun and gaiety of the amusement-seekers' Utopia.

I imagine the delights which abound in that fairyland of bobbing balls of man-made fire.

First I see the merry-go-round, a whirling, twirling circle of noise and lights. The gaily-coloured horses prance around and around in a never-ending circle.

There are side-shows where one may feast his eyes on "The Wild Man from Borneo," the only one in captivity, or, if one's fickle fancy chooses, "The One and Only Bearded Lady," who, if you only knew, had laboriously stuck on her whiskers a few scant hours previously.

Next, I see the stall-keepers, mostly fat, rapacious looking rascals, bellowing out at the tops of their voices to advertise their wares to the pot-pourri of jostling humanity who have no use for orthodox introductions. There, a chance friendship may spring up that will thrive and blossom in the years to come, or, perhaps, will grow into something more than friendship.

These thoughts, and more, come racing through my head as I contemplate the happy scene. I willingly surrender to the lure of the carnival, and, with heart as happy and free as a lark in spring, I hasten to disperse my sorrows.

I. SIMONS, 2A.

The Boys Abroad

Our soldiers and our airmen,
Our boys in navy blue,
Are sailing o'er the ocean
With a spirit brave and true.

A sense of duty calls them
Across the world so wide;
They've gone to fight for England,
And our prayers go by their side.

And when the fight is over,
And home they ride again,
We'll pray their willing sacrifice
Has not been made in vain.

—A. DUNCAN, 3E.

PEACE

Dawn broke, the sun rose in all its glory, with its wondrous hues of blue and gold blending with the maroon, and making a vivid contrast to the already decreasing shadows of the wooded hillside. The serrated edge of the mountains was dimly silhouetted against the brightening sky. It seemed as though faint wisps of mist still drifted around the mountain top; yet it was clear in the valley beneath.

The valley itself, nestled between the huge and awe-inspiring mountains, was quiet, as the small township situated therein was still asleep.

Gradually the people began to stir, for it would soon be time to commence the daily routine of work that was so common to them. It was almost fantastic to watch them go about the work so patiently, caring little for the turmoil of the world and the unhappiness around them.

Silent herdsmen drove the bellowing cattle across the rich plains, where they would browse in the tall grass, munching contentedly.

The women went about their household duties as though it were no effort, and yet everything was so spotlessly clean that it suggested much labor.

So time passes. At night the inhabitants of the valley indulge in quiet amusement to complete the day.

This is the very nature of human life. We pass through peace into the turmoil of evils that harsh rulers and stern dictators, who are forever looking into the future, press upon the modern world.

—W. VIDLER, 3E.

A Trip Through the Milford Sounds

All was fuss and bustle as we boarded the *Titirangi*, the boat which was to convey us from Picton (a port on the South Island of New Zealand), to Wellington (the capital of the North Island), and it was not long before we were cruising along the Milford Sounds.

These sounds were once formed by earthquakes, which forced the ground to "cave in," and the sea, being near, rushed in and filled up all the valleys and ground below sea-level. On either side stretched the magnificent hills, which were covered with verdant grass, making contrast between the blue sea and the azure blue skies. They were dotted with occasional trees, beneath which lingered newly-shorn sheep.

After about 15 miles the scenery changed, for now the hills were covered with dark green foliage, which was hiding the soil from view. Now, hundreds of seagulls, petrels and gannets wheeled about the ship, looking for food, and shoals of fish could be seen darting hither and thither. Suddenly, after travelling for about three hours (which is equivalent to 30 miles), we turned through a narrow passage, and were confronted by the ocean—Cook Strait!

—B. HOLLANDS, 3B.

DAWN AND DAY

The black sky began to turn to a faint grey as the first signs of dawn appeared. The stars grew pale, and paler still, till at last they vanished. Birds rose from their nests, soon took to wing, chirping in flight, with keen eyes, over the water and around the near-by scrubland, looking for their prey. The dark shadows of night, which reflected in the placid water, now began to take the form of trees and of the now blue sky. The rocky cliffs which surrounded the lake could be recognised. The east began to blush. There came faint glints of primrose light, which presently changed to golden rays.

The moon waxed wan, and her mountain ridges stood against her sickly face like the bones of a dying man. Bright-colored birds filled the sky. They were singing merrily and darting hither and thither. A few children were now shouting and playing, happily contented on the beach. Several small yachts and boats were straggling into shore with tired fishermen at the oars.

Then came spear upon spear of light, flashing far across the boundless wilderness, piercing and firing the veils of mist till the mountain was draped in a golden glow. It was day. The half-dead trees were now green and fresh, as the golden shafts of sun danced on glittering leaves.

The sun, directly overhead, beamed down on the great forest. The birds sat perched on the branches with mouths open and wings drooping.

As the sun sailed into the western sky the feathered world began to find more comfort. Time went on and voices died away. Lights began to show through the windows of houses around the lake, in the shadows of the cliffs. The sun's rays weakened, and at last it fell behind the west.

The mellow moon rose, and night set in. Everything was perfectly at rest.

—F. BREEN, 3F.

A Note of Appreciation

On behalf of the boys and ourselves, we desire to thank Mr. Cook and Mr. Aspery for their hard work, which made successful our various sports meetings.

We also desire to express our appreciation of the willing co-operation which the other members of the staff offered, by devoting their spare time after school hours to coaching teams and keeping up the high standard already achieved by the school.

K. LENOX, Captain.

F. FLYNN, Vice-Captain.

Parents and Citizens' Association

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Messrs. NIBLETT, SHARP, COURT, BEASLEY, ROWLAND,
DOYLE, FALLON.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Once again the Association is elated to be able to present in the school's magazine a brief report of the year's activities. The "P. and C." is now four years old.

Finances are still as sound as ever, and our main objective has recently been brought to a successful and happy conclusion. This refers to the additions made to the Assembly Hall stage in the form of a proscenium with magnificent curtains and appointments. All parents are invited to visit the school and have various interesting features explained, and the splendid Assembly Hall, with its modern stage, will be the first feature to be pointed out.

Monthly dances are held in the Assembly Hall, and these have come to be recognised as standard social features in the Western Suburbs.

Owing to the healthy state of the finances, the Association is now able to provide the funds for the annual school prizes and to assist materially in connection with the school's patriotic efforts.

The Association's Committees are still deeply interested in the welfare of the boys at the school, and the ladies are again asked to accept our genuine appreciation of their co-operation throughout the year. Such co-operation can produce only success.

May I appeal to parents to lend more aid by at least becoming members of the Association? We have a fairly satisfactory enrolment of members, but not a good number when one considers that there are over 800 families represented at the school. Our Committee has done excellent work for the past four years, but it still consists mainly of the original members. The sons of these stalwarts have left the school but they loyally carry on. We therefore ask all parents to attend the meetings and give the Committee their assistance. We need at least six ladies and six gentlemen as active members of that body!

The meetings are held at the school on the third Wednesday of each month. Everybody is welcome.

H. N. TINCKAM, Hon. Sec.

CHINA AND THE CHINESE

In speaking of China, the first and most important feature to mention is that it is the most ancient country of the world, and that no other country has a greater population. The figures, by the Chinese Maritime Customs and Chinese Post Office, are approximately 480 million and 350 million, respectively. The latter figures were arrived at by counting the number of families in each province, some being six and seven, perhaps eight, and adding the resultant figures. These figures are at a wide variance, and, according to Dr. Legendre, an accepted authority on China, they are both too high. Dr. Legendre states that there are not more than 300 million people in China, and also (contrary to the general belief) that the population is decreasing and not increasing. This statement can be easily believed when one thinks of the number of millions that have died during recent years, owing to famine and flood in North China. Moreover, there has been great slaughter of the badly equipped Chinese army during the present Sino-Japanese war, which has raged these last three years, without having been paid much interest by the peoples of the West.

China is unlucky in that, although she is one of the richest countries for natural wealth in the world, this wealth is so far from means of transport that it has not been tapped and developed.

Agricultural methods are still very crude, all the land being ploughed by a wooden plough drawn by water-buffalo or cows. The buffalo is also very useful on account of its milk, which is said to be richer than that of cows. It is a common sight to see a water-buffalo, when not working, lying in a pond or creek, with only its nostrils above water. The buffalo enters the water in order to escape the flies and mosquitoes, and, on leaving, rolls in the mud. In this way it gains a thick coating of mud all over its body for protection against insects.

The Chinese have one written language which is understood by scholars all over China, but there are many variations of the spoken language, forming dialects which are frequently unintelligible outside the area in which they are spoken. The Chinese are, as a whole, a race of thrifty and sober people, well built and of an average height of about 5ft. 7in. In the north we find men frequently 6ft. tall, but moving southward the height has a tendency to decrease, until, on reaching the country round Canton and Amoy, we find an average height of about 5ft. 4in. The majority of the Chinese of Australia hail from Canton and Amoy, and speak the Kwangtung dialect. Some Europeans are of the belief that the difference in stature between men of north and south is brought about by the difference in their staple food, the people of the north eating wheat, while the southerners prefer rice. Other Europeans believe that the northerners are taller on account of some of their forefathers being descendants of white races.

In the various provinces the Chinese have different habits and customs. One hobby of the Chinese adults and boys is kite-flying, and their proficiency at making them in all shapes, designs and colours is well known. Another hobby common to all China is the keeping of cage-birds of almost every kind. One can often see competitions in parks and open spaces between the best whistlers. The average Chinese is a keen gambler, especially on cricket fights. Each competitor keeps his fighting cricket in a little cage and trains it carefully. The competitors meet at the arranged place, and the two crickets are put together in the same cage and coaxed to the duel by being tickled by their respective owners. Their bets having been placed, the fight usually ends with one of the crickets being killed. The winner then may sell his champion at a price as high as an Australian pound. So much interest is taken in this sport that men supposed to be experts are sent to the country to find the pugnacious ones, and the keen gambler will spare no expense in his desire to obtain a champion.

—J. LOVELL, 3F.

The Birds —

Because I set no snare,
But leave them flitting free,
The birds of glen and air
Belong to me.

The blue-tit on the ground,
The eagle on the height,
Uncaged they fly around,
For my delight.

So, in my mind I wing
Skyward on eagle's wings,
And in my heart I sing
When the magpie sings.

—B. GOOLEY, 3E.

THE WAR MEMORIAL

Stately and erect, mirrored in the Pool of Remembrance, stands the War Memorial in Hyde Park. It is a fine example of modern architecture in grey stone, and has rows of steps, faintly marked with red, from the paths leading to it.

On passing through the massive, brass-studded doors, one instantly notices the whiteness of the walls, in which great grooves have been carved. On the ceiling are thousands of tiny golden stars, clustered together, each of which represents an Australian soldier killed in the Great War of 1914-18. A large balustrade is in the centre of the Memorial and a bronze statue of a soldier, spread-eagled over a shield, which is supported by three Spartan women, can be seen.

The entire structure is impressive in its simplicity, and a feeling of respect and reverence overwhelms a beholder, standing in the presence of this tribute of bronze and stone to the Mighty Dead.

—CALLAGHAN, 3B.

SCHOOL NOTES

ANZAC DAY

On Tuesday April 23, the school assembled at 11 a.m. to commemorate the deeds of our soldiers during the Great War. The Headmaster delivered a brief address on the significance of the gathering. Following the singing of patriotic hymns and songs by the entire school, the choir very effectively rendered "O Valiant Hearts."

EMPIRE DAY

This occasion was observed on May 24 by a general assembly at mid-day. The Headmaster, after a brief address to the boys, read a very striking and appropriate message from the British Empire Day Movement. The prayer, "Our Responsibility," was repeated by the scholars, who then sang "The Recessional Hymn" and "Oh, God, Our Help in Ages Past." Proceedings closed with cheers for the Empire, and the National Anthem.

ARMISTICE DAY

Through the offices of the United Returned Soldiers' Fund, every boy received a badge, "Lest We Forget." These were worn on November 11, and at 11 a.m. the school assembled and observed the two minutes' silence.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS

The Public Schools' War Service Auxiliary has been formed, and the schools of N.S.W. have been asked to put forth every effort to raise funds for the assistance of our men on service abroad and of our fellow citizens of the Empire.

The first effort at this school was an appeal for voluntary contributions to the Public Schools' War Gift. The result was that we were able to forward a cheque for £70 1s. 7d. to the Hon. Treasurer of the Teachers' Federation. In addition, groups were formed among the staff for the purchase of War Savings Certificates, and a few boys also bought certificates from their savings.

One very pleasing feature of the activities in this direction has been the spontaneous effort by the boys themselves. 2F Class was first in the field, and, under the direction of H. Ellice, presented a very enjoyable concert. This class has among its

members a ventriloquist, a magician and several comedians, vocalists and amateur actors. Although the price of admission was only 3d., the boys raised £4 for the War Fund.

A committee, chosen from Classes 1A, 1C and 1E, staged a really first-class exhibition of cards, badges, stamps and curios. Each class in rotation viewed this interesting collection, which was centred in the School Library. A further sum of £4 was raised by this worthy effort.

Some first-year boys, led by Billyard, Catliff, Bennett and McLean, organised a Railroad Exhibition. Model engines, carriages, trucks, rails, stations, shunting points—all manner of things connected with railways—were assembled in the hall. Interest in these mechanical toys was most marked and by no means confined to the younger boys; £4 11s. came to the War Fund through this effort.

Our next feature was of a different nature, and came through the generosity of Miss G. Ives, who has a nephew at the school in the person of L. Badge. Miss Ives, who is a teacher of dramatic art and has formed an amateur dramatic club, offered to present at the school a three-act comedy-drama. "Precious Inheritance," written by an Australian authoress, Miss Marguerite Rivers, was chosen. The completion of the stage lighting enabled the production to be made under excellent conditions. We had a satisfactory attendance of parents and boys, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the comedy. We wish to express our sincere thanks to Miss Ives and her company of actors. Their assistance will augment the War Fund to the extent of approximately £20.

Other projects by groups of boys are being considered for presentation after the yearly examinations, and we compliment the boys on the spirit which is actuating them.

STAFF CHANGES

Through various causes, this year has brought a number of changes in staff.

Prior to his departure with the A.I.F., Mr. Hoffmann was in camp at Wallgrove. He was replaced by Mr. Mylchrest, who was later transferred to Randwick.

Mr. Gawthorpe and Mr. Crago were appointed to positions on the Educational Staff of the Bradfield Air Force Training School.

Later in the year, Mr. Thomas was appointed School Counsellor at Parramatta, and Mr. McLean was transferred to Newcastle in a similar capacity.

Mr. Price and Mr. Gibson have come to Homebush as teachers, and Mr. Staines as School Counsellor.

We extend our best wishes to the former members of the staff and a hearty welcome to their successors.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Our list of successful candidates at the Intermediate Certificate Examination continues to grow. Each year has shown an increase of the percentage of passes, and last year 96 per cent., or 187 boys passed the test out of a total of 196. In view of the large number of candidates, this is a very gratifying result, and reflects credit on both masters and pupils.

This year 209 boys will sit for the Intermediate Certificate, and we hope that our previous percentage of successes will be equalled, if not surpassed.

We take this opportunity of extending to all our lads the very best wishes for their success, and trust that they will thoroughly enjoy the vacation which will follow.

TEXT-BOOKS

We have received plaudits from all quarters on the success of our text-book enterprise. We have now practically reached our goal, whereby every boy in the school receives all his books on loan for a small contribution per year.

No boy can do secondary school work without text-books, and many parents find difficulty in providing them. Under present conditions of overseas transport and the high cost of books printed in Britain, parents could not procure the books even if they were willing to buy them. By organisation and buying in quantity beforehand, the school has been able to supply our needs. To date we have expended £1250 in the purchase of about 8500 volumes.

The clerical work involved in the purchase and distribution of hundreds of books is no mean task. We owe a debt of thanks to Mr. Harrison, Mr. Farrington and the other teachers associated with them, for the time and effort they have put into this work. Boys and parents can best show their appreciation of this assistance by proper care of the books and prompt return at the end of the year.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

The appointment of a Physical Training Instructor to the staff has made possible regular training in this valuable section of a boy's education. Mr. Callaghan takes each class for one period per week in Physical Culture, and the boys show a keen interest in their work. The programme of physical education includes gymnastic exercises, recreational activities, exercises that give practice for field games, and athletics.

The general aim is to teach the need for a balanced mental and physical life, a knowledge of the structure of the body and how best we can cultivate improved physique in order to withstand the strain of modern life and tendencies to weakness and disease.

ASSEMBLY HALL

The school has now a splendid stage in the Assembly Hall, equipped with a truly magnificent set of curtains. It has been a long wait for the alterations to be made, but our patience has been fully rewarded by the final result. We have every reason to be proud of the proscenium and curtains. Our P. and C. Association has worked hard for this addition to the school, and we sincerely thank the members for their interest. They are to be congratulated for their selection of materials and colors.

The structural alterations and erection of a proper proscenium were carried out by the P. and R. staff of the Education Department. Tenders and suggestions for curtains were then called by the P. and C. Association, and the work was finally entrusted to Mr. W. A. Hart, who is regarded as a leading expert in stage furnishings. The committee is very pleased with his work.

Footlights and overhead lighting have now been installed, and the effect is certainly very attractive. The school is now in a position to carry out dramatic work effectively, and the P. and C. Association's Committee is naturally delighted at the attainment of its goal.

SHAKESPEAREAN PERFORMANCE

Third-year boys are studying Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," and, with the other pupils, thoroughly enjoyed the presentation of this play by Roland McCarthy's company of actors. The possession of an Assembly Hall, with furnished stage, made it possible for the play to be performed at the school, thus saving the boys the time and expense of journeying to the city.

The quality of the acting was of a high standard, and the characters and incidents of the play were interpreted in a very entertaining and instructive manner.

MUSIC

All first-year boys devote three periods per week to music—one period each to theory and appreciation and one to singing in combined classes.

We have discovered some excellent singing voices, and the School Choir, under the baton of Mr. McNair, is doing very fine work. Many of these younger boys are developing a genuine interest in music, and appreciate fully their opportunities at the school.

MOBILE ART EXHIBITION

During the year the school has received on loan from the National Art Gallery a series of pictures—oil and water-color paintings, etchings and sketches by Australian artists.

Through the efforts of Mr. Crowley, a gentleman interested in disseminating knowledge of Australian art, these pictures, in groups of about twenty at a time, have been hung in the School Library for periods of two to three weeks. Accompanying each group of pictures is a paper in which Mr. Crowley points out some of the features of each picture and some characteristics of the artist.

The pupils have had a splendid opportunity of seeing these representative pictures and of learning something of present-day art. The whole work of transporting and hanging these pictures has been done by Mr. Crowley in a purely voluntary capacity, and this school expresses its very high appreciation of the rather unique method of bringing high-class works of art before the eyes of our boys.

P.M.G. LECTURES

The Postmaster-General's Department has continued its policy of giving instruction in the workings of the telephone, and we have had two visits from officers of this department. These gentlemen very thoroughly demonstrated, by means of a working model, just what happens when the telephone is put into operation. The lectures were very instructive, and the illustrations of what should not be done were amusing as well as valuable.

The Origin of Tea

According to the Chinese, the practice of drinking tea began in 2737 B.C. The Chinese Emperor, Shen Nung, a ruler remarkable for his hygiene, was one day boiling his drinking water, a precaution which he was always teaching to his subjects, when a few dry leaves from a small shrub fell into the boiling water, giving to it that "exquisite aroma." After some investigation, it was revealed that the dry leaves were from a wild tea-plant.

However, the Indians' version is entirely different. They state that it was first discovered by the saint, Darma. Darma decided to devote seven years of his life to sleepless worship of his god Buddha. At the beginning of the fifth year he was attacked by a fit of drowsiness and unconsciously plucked some leaves of a nearby shrub and started to chew them. Needless to say, these leaves were from the tea-plant, and they had such a reviving effect that all drowsiness disappeared and Darma was able to continue for the remaining two years of his vigil.

The Japanese state that when Darma felt extremely drowsy, he cut off his eyelids and threw them away. Immediately, much to his astonishment, there sprang up two bushes which proved to be tea-plants.

Although the origin of tea may be doubtful, there is no question that the habit of drinking tea started in China.

B. ROBERTSON, 3D.

Famous Sayings

Take a run down to the back fence!
There will be an afternoon tea-party!
Name and class on top!
That boy running up the corridor. . . .
Tennis as usual. . . .
Just a bunch of silly little kids.
Now I was talking to a chap the other day. . . .
You don't get the fundamental point.
Who's away to-day?
Don't kick the bucket!
Let your parents know!

Where was I?
Into the office!
There are papers on the floor!
Last eight lines, right turn!
Open those windows at the top!
Sonny, I do not like your attitude.
Any doubt?
That infernal drum!
No book? Out!
Take that stuff out of your mouth, and put your feet in.
Oh! I must have left it at home.
Front boys, collect them!
I think I'll go over to the tannery for some fresh air.
Twice blessed, thrice blessed!
There's another matter. . . .
"School" means "stand at ease"!
On your hind legs, son!
Arrant rubbish!
Hand up, the boy in pain!
Big mouths, little brains.
Who has a nice thick ruler?
And that includes you!
Why, even 3C can do that!
You're a menace to the community, son!
Pick your feet up!
There's plenty of meat in it.
Bags one two!
Frankly. . . . !
Oh, well, your funeral, not mine!

Advice

Spend not thy youth in search of gold,
Nor waste thy hours when life is young;
The bright bloom pluck before 'tis old,
And drops its head the weeds among.

—S. YOUNG, 2D.

PANAMA

Never have I read an account of a passage through the Panama Canal, and I think that is due, in part, to the fact that the experience leaves the traveller with a general impression rather than a number of individual mental pictures. However, come with me, and I shall do my best to describe the voyage from one great ocean to another.

Entering the breakwater from the Atlantic side, just as the sun is rising, we expect to cover the 45 miles in daylight. We are met by a smart pilot-launch flying the "Stars and Stripes," and soon our pilot is dangling at the end of the ship's rope-ladder. The launch stands off, ready to escort us to the locks.

These locks are necessary because the lakes, which make up the greater part of the canal, are many feet above sea-level. Built two abreast, they enable two vessels to be lifted simultaneously. The four electrically-driven "mules" are waiting to take us in tow, two forward and two aft.

The method used to lift the ship is very simple. As we move into the first lock the gates are closed behind us and the lock is flooded by water from the next one above. We are astonished at the rate at which the flooding raises our ship—about 18 inches per minute. When the levels coincide the gates ahead are opened, and we proceed to the next lock. This operation is performed once more before we reach the level of the lakes.

There is no shouting or wild waving of arms. Any exchange of orders between the pilot and the shore is carried out by a signal movement of the hand. Everything is under a heavy military guard, and each alternate soldier is equipped with a small machine-



"MULE" AT SECOND LOCK.



ATLANTIC ENTRANCE.

gun. Despite the heavy rainfall of Panama, these precious lakes would rapidly drain into the sea if the locks were seriously damaged.

As we move into the lakes, the tropical atmosphere is more apparent. In place of the fresh sea-breeze, there is a strange stillness in the air. Beyond the glassy surface we see steaming swamps and dark, dense jungle. A yellow haze is over all. At intervals the silence is broken by the call of some strange bird—it is weird! There to port is twisted wreckage of machinery, slowly rusting, slowly sinking—a grim reminder of the tragic past, when disease took heavy toll of those who first essayed to link the two great oceans.

Gradually, the foreshores give way to hills. We pass through the great Culebra Cut, one of the greatest excavation works ever to be performed.

Two or three hours with the engines at "Dead Slow" finally bring us to the San Miguel Locks, which gently lower us to the Pacific Ocean level. In the town of Panama everybody clamors to purchase postcards and other souvenirs. We notice that this canal zone has its own postage stamps, but the currency is chiefly American.

Ten hours have elapsed since we entered the canal. Clear of San Miguel, we recapture the comfort of a strong sea-breeze—for here is the Pacific!

Few of us realize that, instead of travelling east-west, we have actually moved in a direction nearly from south to north. In fact, the Atlantic entrance is slightly westward of that on the Pacific side.

Though seldom prominent in the news, the Panama Canal, as a feat of engineering, compares more than favorably with Suez, Kiel or any other throughout the older continents.

—"OSCAR."

ON DIT-

That the recent tornado gave Mr. C——, of high rank in the army, plenty of work to do.

That someone has drunk the bubblers dry in the southern quadrangle.

That 2F boys often mutter unsavory things under their breaths when in trouble.

That in recent combat Mr. N—— established his reputation as the school's smartest boxer.

That our Tivoli artist escaped detention by performing before the teachers.

That our floating fortress is the envy of other schools.

That a certain dictionary is really well disguised. (Ask 2A.)

That Mr. S——goes trout-fishing with a fly.

That ambiguous cases always occur in Mr. ——'s periods.

That the old custom of "dusting your pants" has returned to the school.

That northern digestions have suffered from excess of grammar—and choc-ettes.

That the weekly splashing of Mr. H—— is not quite accidental.

That the boys are fast becoming proud of their two "gentlemen" bike-riders.

That it has been quite heartening to discover, without much effort, that some tissues of ham have been placed on the rolls.

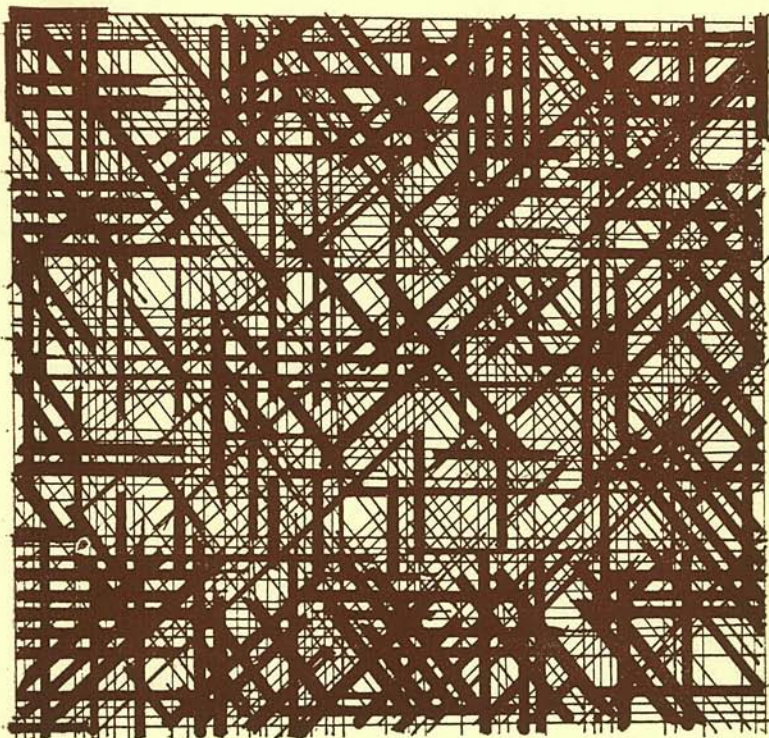
That old age interfered with the proposed football match.

That when the doors of the hall refused to close during the recent storm, a certain person was heard to ejaculate rather colloquially.

That Mr. M—— should have been a fairy, for his footsteps are so light.

That the foredeck of 3—is often awash during English periods.

That larger lorries are urgently required to carry away 3A's pile of paper for Stewart House.



D. JENKINS, 3F.

The square above contains an important and, we hope, exclusive message to Homebush boys. That is the reason for our printing it in such an unusual style of lettering. If, at first, you fail to read it, do not despair. There is no time limit but we are confident that most boys will find the secret within half an hour (about 20 serious attempts). Those who lack courage and determination will look to page 65 for the solution.

SPORTSMASTERS' NOTES

After the conclusion of the winter programme, 1940 seemed but a mediocre year. As a result of summer premierships in first and third grade cricket and first and second grade tennis, the year ended in a blaze of glory. Moreover, a close analysis of the whole year's activities reveals quite a healthy state of affairs, for, despite fewer premierships wins, the school has been well to the fore in all sports. In comparison with previous years, there were perhaps fewer brilliant individuals, but this was more than offset by a greater prevalence of team work in all codes.

Cricketers at last gained the reward of consistently fine play, and the two wins will be a much-needed incentive to maintain interest in this sport.

In these times, when physical development is of greater importance than ever before, we are pleased to report an ever-increasing desire among all to become members of teams.

The shirker has become a rarity. Keenly contested House competitions still provide an ideal medium for all to enjoy the benefits of virile, healthy play, and few fail to avail themselves of the opportunities offered.

We sincerely congratulate Randwick on its phenomenal success during the football season, and North Sydney on its victory at the annual athletic carnival.

The following are performances grouped together for school record purposes:

FOOTBALL: K. Milne and C. Grono, "centuries"; June 7, 1938, and May 9, 1936, six wins (out of possible six); 1st Grade, 1939, undefeated premiers.

CRICKET: S. Young, 1940, 116 (retired); 1st Grade, 1940, 239 runs; Cooper and Walsh, 1940, 211 partnership; C. Johnston, 1940, hat trick in each innings; September, 1940, three outright wins.

Sports Awards

1. P.S.A.A.A.

(a) *Football:* Inter-city badges—A. Stephen, M. Fisher.

(b) *Cricket:* Premierships badges—First Grade and Third Grade.

(c) *Athletics:* Combined schools' badge—D. Pyne.

- (d) *Tennis*: Combined schools' badge—W. Murdoch (singles and doubles); premierships badges—First and Second Grades (summer competition).

2. BLUES

- (a) *Football*: J. Walsh, G. Shaw, K. Lenox.
(b) *Cricket*: K. Lenox, C. Johnston, F. Nisbet, S. McCarthy, S. Young.
(c) *Athletics*: D. Pyne, A. McDonald.
(d) *Tennis*: W. Murdoch, N. Playford, J. Sunderland, J. Nesbitt.

3. INTER-SCHOOL PENNANTS

- (a) *Football*: B. Ottoway, R. Hamilton, D. Thompson, C. Johnston, M. Fisher, A. Stephen, F. Nicholson, S. Smith, C. Cooper, F. Reardon, K. Hodge, L. Armfield, K. Henderson, A. Smith, B. Chapman, J. Counsell, T. Howe, T. Fisher, C. Priestley.
(b) *Cricket*: D. Pyne, D. Perks, M. Willcoxson, R. Constance, R. Cooper, A. Bell, J. Walsh, K. Henderson.
(c) *Athletics*: F. Flynn, G. Shaw, R. Wanless, C. Campbell, K. Lenox.
(d) *Tennis*: E. McInnes, J. Easter.

4. CUPS

- (a) *Athletics*: K. Lenox (senior), F. Campbell (intermediate), B. Hobson (junior).
(b) *Swimming*: L. Hodge (senior), G. Layton (intermediate), R. Jenkins (junior), A. Robberds (12th year).
(c) *Tennis*: W. Murdoch (singles and doubles), J. Sunderland (doubles).

5. INTRA-SCHOOL PENNANTS

- (a) *Athletics*: B. Satchell, K. Cornwell, J. Doyle, B. Scott, W. McClure, J. Mulvaney, J. Martin, K. Salvesson, R. Shields, M. Wiechman.
(b) *Swimming*: E. Ransley, K. Greenwood, H. Mercer, K. Hodge, R. Crofts, J. Doyle, R. Elvy, B. Michie, A. Klees.

Football

Unless you can run like a rabbit,
Unless you can hop like a flea,
You'll never succeed as a scrum-half
Or join a strong front line of three;
But if you're the kind who puts fear out of mind,
And can take any knocks as they come,
There's room sure enough (if you're certain you're tough)
In the melee entitled "the scrum."

—M. WILLARD.

Grade	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points—	
					For	Against
1	14	10	1	3	203	55
2	12	7	2	3	121	44
3	11	7	1	3	77	44
4	10	6	—	4	88	85
5	11	7	—	4	141	78
6	10	6	—	4	57	73
					687	379
	68	43	4	21		

FIRST GRADE FOOTBALL

First Grade this year finished runners-up in the competition. Despite misfortunes towards the end of the season, when as many as four lads were unavailable at once, the team as a whole just fell short of the standard required to win a competition. The forwards played consistently good football. The backs at times did likewise, but under pressure proved unable to cope with strong opposition, some proving irresolute and at times even crude. The way to the final was hard, two defeats and a draw being our portion. Our opponents in the final, normally a stronger team than we, were below standard, and actually Homebush should have won. Twice the Randwick line was crossed, but each time the ball was dropped—fatal errors when the final score was only 17-12.

Highlights of the season were a record 57-0 victory over Belmore, two matches against Katoomba and one against the Old Boys. A very enjoyable trip was made to Katoomba, a return match being played at Pratten Park, and both games resulting in wins for Homebush—8-6 and 22-3. Such visits should be encouraged in the future. The first annual match against the Old Boys resulted in a narrow defeat of the School, 17-16. For various "reasons" the match against the Staff was not played.

Lenox: Captain, skilful five-eighth, unselfish, excellent kick.

Shaw: Vice-Captain, rugged and fiery leader of forwards.

Walsh: Fine rake, very good in all forward play.

Mercer: Solid and reliable.

McKinley: Fast, keen, greatly improved.

Ransley: Solid second-row, safe handler.

Young: Plucky half, slow.

Flynn: Improved into good centre.

Somen: Keen trier, weak in defence.

- Clarke*: Developed into strong forward.
Whitbread: Determined, good tackler.
Barriskill: Usually sound and reliable full-back.
Johnstone: Good utility man, handling uncertain.
Hodge: Always trying.
Buxton: Good attacker, defence weak.
Macfarlane: Reliable, good team man, did not reach peak expected.

SECOND GRADE FOOTBALL



SECOND GRADE FOOTBALL.

Runners-up.

Back: C. Abbott, B. Pyle, D. Lawrence, C. Johnston, J. Martin, A. Massey,
L. Crewes.

Centre: K. Gridale, B. Ottaway, Mr. Farrington, G. Dunkley, G. Sanders.

Front: D. Thompson, E. Hamilton (Captain), A. Payne.

"Seconds" persevered and showed what team work and training could do to improve a mediocre team.

At the beginning of the season the team performed in a very disappointing manner, and offered little resistance to several of the weaker teams. The lack of success was due to lack of vigour in the forwards and failure to make use of the ball given so consistently by Hooker Ottaway.

However, the team rallied well and, by strenuous training, soon became noted for its rugged play, and ultimately reached the semi-final, which it won by defeating the unbeaten Manly team. An idea of the improvement of the team may be seen by comparing the two matches against Ultimo, the ultimate premiers. Early in the season they outplayed Homebush to win by a big margin. In the final it was anyone's game until the final whistle.

The outstanding players for the season were Ottaway, Sanders and O'Rourke in the forwards, and Hamilton, Johnston and Payne in the backs. Crewes, a recruit from the House competition, strengthened the full-back position towards the close of the season, and, with more experience, should do well.

The team wishes to congratulate Ultimo on its final victory and to convey its thanks to those members of the opposition who so readily shared with us the "fruits" of victory.

THIRD GRADE FOOTBALL

Containing a large number of inexperienced players, the Third Grade team did well to reach the semi-final.

Most of the early matches were dull and uninteresting as spectacles, the football being ragged and lacking team combination. However, as the individuals developed more confidence, the team gradually became a much more potent force.

The semi-final against Newtown was a true reflection of the team's capabilities, and, had all matches been played with the same vigour and determination, no praise would have been too high. In a hard, fast, clean, open game the side was beaten by the narrowest of margins, and on the day would have fully extended any team in its division.

Of the individual players, Smith, as captain, five-eights, was an expert at making openings, which, however, too often came to naught through lack of support. Fisher, one of the most versatile backs in the school, played well in all positions, being a particularly good tackler and generally safe in all departments of the game. Crawford, half, and Mallin, full-back, were consistently good, and will easily find places in better teams next year. Shrimpton, Nicholson and Steven, in the forwards, deserve special mention for their dogged tenacity at all times, both in the rucks and in the loose. Coward, at lock, at times showed promise, and should develop. The other members, Brown, Reid, Barkell, Maiden, Munsie and Pierson were all enthusiastic, and each played his part.

Congratulations to Fisher and Steven for winning their inter-city badges!

FOURTH GRADE FOOTBALL

The Fourth Grade team enjoyed only moderate success during the season. It was handicapped throughout by a lack of suitable three-quarters. Despite early reverses, the team, later, fought back and finished the season with six wins to its credit out of ten matches played.

The opening match of the season resulted in an overwhelming defeat by 28 to nil. Few of the home team showed any initiative, and relied mainly on Cooper and Reardon to do the work.

In the following match Homebush team met the strong Ultimo team, and, for the first half, played splendid football, leading 5-3 at the interval. In the second half the superior combination of Ultimo brought results. They scored two quick tries in the last few minutes, and thus won, 13-8. In this match our Fourth Grade played as a team, every boy giving his best. Reardon was outstanding; Cornwell, at full-back, was very safe; and Hoyle was responsible for some good moves.

In the next match Homebush scored a good win against Hurstville, and the following week easily outplayed Mosman. The Fourth Grade then suffered an unlucky defeat from Crown Street by 13-6, beat Parramatta in a dull game by 10-2, and then outclassed a weak Camdenville team.

Homebush gave its best exhibition as a team by beating Newtown, 7-5. Every boy played well. Paley scored a fine individual try, Hodge was in everything, and Morrow did well. The team lost its chance of qualifying for the semi-finals when it was defeated by Belmore.

During the season the players trained seriously, and never lacked effort. Reardon led the team well, and, despite early reverses, the season was completed with a fairly creditable record.

Lack of initiative and anticipation were the chief causes of defeat.

FIFTH GRADE FOOTBALL

Fifth Grade had a very mixed season. At times, for example, against Drummoyne and Cleveland Street, they showed definite signs of being a winning combination. Against Ultimo in the last match of the round, when they were defeated 3-31, they did not even look like a team for most of the match. Typically enough, however, on the next Tuesday, in the semi-finals, they gave an altogether different display, and made this same team realise they were worthy opponents. Unfortunately we were without our straight-running, speedy winger, Chapman, on that day.

The team as a whole lacked that bit of extra "punch" (not necessarily with the fists, Walker!) which carries off the match. A couple of members were quite prepared to imitate revolutionaries in their dash and fighting spirit, but in the process forgot that a team is a combination and that others might be able to use the ball when they've finished with it.

Practices, also, were not taken sufficiently seriously, and too often resembled a picnic outing with everyone yelling and playing about, waiting for a lolly scramble.

Two outstanding players, Chapman and Walker, have already been mentioned. In addition, Henderson played a good, consistent game at half, and Captain Smith did good work in the forwards and in keeping the team at work. He was well supported by Armfield and Batchelor, who at times made an excellent play-the-ball dummy-half combination. Mulvaney at times played a very good game on the wing, and is to be congratulated on the success of his first year's football.

The team's "social secretary" wishes to congratulate the team on the cleanliness of its togs.

SIXTH GRADE FOOTBALL

We did not reach the semi-finals this year, but enjoyed some good football. Failure to gain a higher place in the competition was due mainly to lack of combination in the back line. Counsell's play at five-eight made for open football, but too often support was not forthcoming. Weichman, on the wing, made many brilliant runs, and, with a little improvement in his handling and defence, will gain a place in a higher grade. Nesbit was good in defence, even when his opponents were much heavier. Priestley, as centre, was always consistent, but unfortunately met with an injury and missed many games. Prince and Woods both succeeded as halves, but hung on too much at times, while Giles, on the wing, played many fine games.

The full-back position was shared by Woods and Osborne, neither of whom relished the position, although both acquitted themselves well. Fisher, at back, was the best footballer in the team, being a fine tackler and a hard worker in the rucks. Atwill, Wishart and Macpherson, as second row players, all showed up favorably at times, but were often too slow to act. Howe, as a front-row forward and goalkicker, was an asset to the team. The two Elvys were both noteworthy for their tackling and general enthusiasm.

The forwards were generally satisfactory, whereas the backs placed too much reliance upon individual efforts.

With this year's experience to develop them, we hope to hear more of these boys next year.

Cricket

SUMMARY

Grade	Played	W.O.	W.I.	D.	L.I.	L.O.
1	9	2	3	3	1	—
2	8	3	4	—	1	—
3	9	3	5	—	1	—

FIRST GRADE CRICKET



FIRST GRADE CRICKET.

(Joint Premiers with North Sydney).

Back: N. Roden, F. Nisbet, F. Flynn, J. Somen, F. Johnson, R. Macfarlane.
 Front: S. Young, C. Johnston (Captain), Mr. Langford, K. Lenox, S. McCarthy.
 Absent: J. Brown.

Well-merited success in the final of the first grade cricket competition was the culminating point of a very interesting season. A generally high standard of fielding in support of reasonably accurate bowling was mainly responsible for getting the team to the final, in that it gave the recognised batsmen more confidence in their efforts.

The final match was the highlight of the year, interest being sustained until the last over. Homebush, requiring two runs to attain major honors, could get only one run in that exciting last over, and thus finished joint premiers with their opponents, North Sydney.

McCarthy and Young proved reliable openers throughout the year, the former's defence being well above schoolboy average. This year McCarthy has cultivated some good on-side shots. Young was the sole century maker, and his 116 retired gives him the honor of record holder for the highest individual score for the school.

Stylishness and grace were given to the batting by Clive Johnston and Lenox. Both forcing and attractive, Clive Johnston proved an excellent captain, for he knows his cricket, and in the field exerted a very pleasing influence and control over the team.

He, and the vice-captain, Lenox, set a fine example in their fielding and general manner. Macfarlane, as a cover field, and Roden in the slips, at times showed glimpses of brilliance rarely seen in schoolboy cricket. Nisbet proved himself a match-winning slow bowler. He can turn a ball well, but owes most of his success to the good length he keeps.. Flynn proved his value. He keeps a straight bat, fields well and gets wickets. Somen has improved as a bowler, and on his day will trouble the best batsmen. On occasions Fred Johnson and Brown proved their ability to hit the ball hard and get runs quickly; in fact, in the final, Fred Johnson's batting, together with that of Macfarlane, contributed in no small manner to the team's success.

A word of praise is due to Armstrong and Sorbie who, in filling gaps during absences, both played their parts well.

Several members of the team should be heard of later as cricketers, notably Clive Johnston, Lenox and Nisbet. McCarthy, too, should be able to go on stumping batsmen as brilliantly as he has done in recent matches.

An excellent team spirit prevailed throughout, all showing a willingness to place the interests of the team before all other considerations.

The annual staff v. pupils match, to be played on December 3, promises to be a dour struggle for supremacy. Both teams at the moment are confident of success.

CRICKET

The "umps" are ready, the crowd agog,
 But the players linger on,
 For one has a trusty pad to strap,
 And one has a glove to don.
 They make through the gate to the turf so green,
 Free from the dirt and the dust;
 "We will win," they say, as they stride away,
 "We will win, or else we'll bust."

—N. RODEN, 3B.

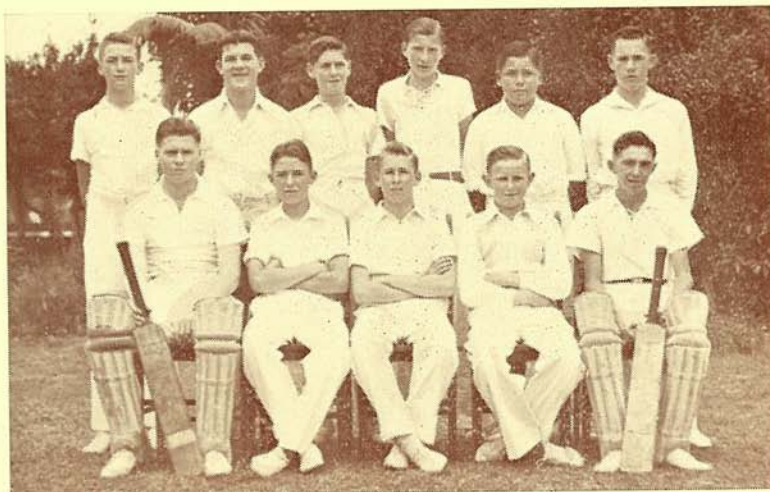
SECOND GRADE CRICKET

Scores this season were remarkably low in our division. All the matches were closely contested, particularly that against North Sydney, who were defeated by only seven runs. The team won three matches outright and the rest on the first innings. First and only defeat of the season was by a stronger Ultimo team in the semi-final.

The most pleasing feature of the series was that every member of the team proved his worth. Pyne, as captain, showed fine judgment in the use of his bowlers and field placements. In addition, he set a fine example to his fellows by getting a fair share of wickets and runs in all matches. Buxton, although slow to find a length, finished the season with a good average, while his improved batting is also noteworthy. A survey of the "sundries" score shows that Perks performed creditably behind the stumps. Schneider, an accurate medium-paced bowler on the turf wickets, did not meet with the success he deserved on the less responsive concrete wickets. Willcoxson consistently broke up dangerous partnerships, and obtained figures very flattering to his type of bowling. Jones and Taylor, who had few opportunities, revealed definite promise when called upon to bowl, and often dismissed good batsmen.

Constance, as opening bat, was outstanding in this department, and gave several displays revealing a fine variety of effortless shots. His hook and cover drive are much above the average.

Grono and Neasmith opened the season with a partnership of 100, and have wearied many bowlers since. Armstrong, a late addition to the team, proved an immediate asset with the bat and ball, as well as being a fine field. Hancock's defensive batting has greatly improved, and more will be heard of him as his confidence develops. All members of the team had an enjoyable and successful season.



THIRD GRADE CRICKET.
Premiers.

Back: F. Cavanagh, E. Whitbread, E. Kime, A. Bell, R. Amos, R. Lewis.
Front: J. Walsh, K. Henderson, B. Colyer (Captain), H. Lennartz, R. Cooper.

THIRD GRADE CRICKET

Third Grade has again enjoyed a very successful season, winning the premiership for the third successive year.

The semi-final against Parramatta and the final against Ultimo both proved exciting matches. In the final Homebush was dismissed for 126. At lunch Ultimo had scored 67 for the loss of only two wickets. Inspired bowling after lunch by Bell (4-29) and Cooper (4-24) produced a remarkable change in the game, and Homebush won by ten runs on the first innings.

Outstanding for their vigorous batting during the season were Walsh and Cooper, each of whom scored almost 400 runs. Against Crow's Nest these two made a record partnership of 211 (Cooper 105, Walsh 81 n.o.). Cavanaugh, Bell and the captain, Colyer, played some very attractive innings, while others, such as Henderson, Lennartz and Kime, unfortunately, had little opportunity to reveal their true batting ability.

The bowling had variety, the most successful performers being Bell, Cooper, Lennartz and Walsh. Lewis as opening bowler and Kime, Whitbread and Amos, as slow bowlers, also registered some good performances.

The bowlers were ably supported in the field, and fine fielding was responsible for the dismissal of many opponents. Bell's excellent fielding made him a really first-class all-rounder, while Henderson (keeper), Walsh and Cooper also deserve special mention in this regard.

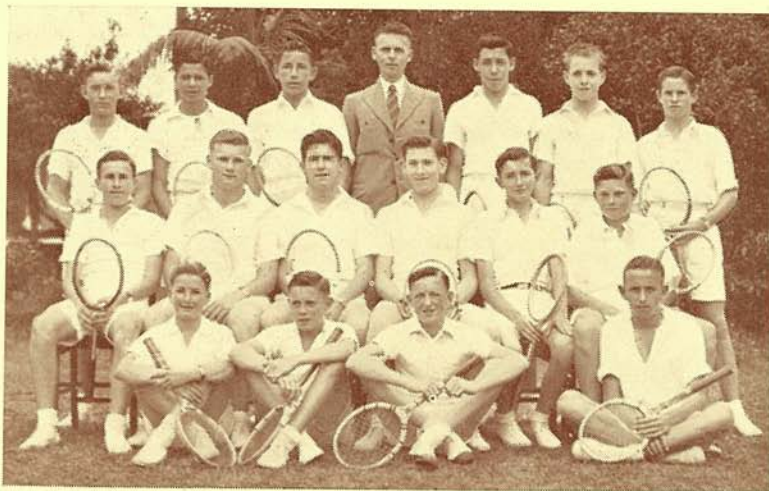
The team was very keen and enthusiastic, showing fine team spirit, and thoroughly deserved its success.

Tennis

SUMMARY (Winter and Summer)

Grade	Won	Lost	Sets for	Sets against
1	16	2	224	64
2	17	1	248	40

Our first and second grade teams this year were composed of players of remarkable ability and enthusiasm.



FIRST AND SECOND GRADE TENNIS.

Summer Competition Premiers, Winter Competition Runners-up.

Back: J. Nesbit, J. Sunderland, T. Amos, Mr. Nelson, W. Nutt, M. Blamey, G. Gemmell.

Centre: E. Waller, N. Playford, W. Murdoch (Captain), E. McInness, R. Wallace, L. Ellis.

Front: R. Vidler, F. Jenkins, L. Henecq, K. Easter.

In First Grade the outstanding performer was Murdoch, who, with wins in the intra-school and the combined schools singles and doubles, proved himself one of the best schoolboy players of recent years. Containing supporting players of the calibre of Playford, Nesbitt and Sunderland, the team moulded itself into a formidable combination, and, after a series of decisive victories, reached the final of both the winter and summer competitions.

In a close and keenly contested final the team won the summer competition, defeating our old rivals, North Sydney, and thus avenging a previous defeat in the winter competition.

The second grade team, mostly composed of boys who learned their tennis in House Teams, was also successful in the summer competition. The standard of play in this team was really high, and we have little hesitation in claiming that players of the keenness and ability of Nutt, Blamey, Gemell, Easter, McInnes, Wallace, Henocq and Ellis would have fully extended many first grade teams.

The ability of House players competently to fill important gaps during a grade player's absence revealed a pleasing standard of play in that department of the game, and here, as in inter-school tennis, rivalry for places in teams is a great incentive to better play.

To those boys who will leave at the end of the year, and whom we confidently expect to attain even higher honors, we wish every success.

Finally, we must include a brief reference to the match of the year, pupils v. staff.

The staff won!

Athletics

With colors a-flying, and high rising hopes,
We went to do battle with hurdles and ropes.
The contest was difficult, keen was the field,
But proudly did Mitchell come back with the shield.

K MORRIS, 2F.

At the school's annual carnival the competition for the three championship cups was much more even than in previous years, and, after very close contests, especially in the senior and junior divisions, the senior cup was won by Lenox, the intermediate cup by F. Campbell and the junior cup by Hobson.

Several records were broken, and some new events were added to this year's programme. McDonald and Pyne established record times in the senior 880 and senior hurdles respectively; C. Campbell broke the junior 100 yards record and Hobson's winning jump in the junior broad jump created a new record. In the juvenile section the winner of each event, Salvesson 70 yards and 100 yards, Shields broad jump, Weichman high jump, become the record holders.

The competition for the Murdoch Shield was close in the early stages of the carnival, as there were no less than 1588 entries in events in which House points could be won. When the finals commenced, Sturt soon gained a decided lead, and won the Murdoch Shield from Lawson by 20 points, while Mitchell, holder of the shield for the two past years, finished third.

At the combined schools' carnival, after a keen struggle with Randwick and North Sydney, Homebush finished third. The school was well represented in all divisions, but our competitors lacked that little extra brilliance which meant the difference between first and second place. One of the outstanding competitors at the carnival was Pyne, who won the senior hurdles in record time. Pyne, later, won the same event at the State schoolboys' championships, and broke the existing record. Lenox, Flynn, McDonald, Shaw, Seamons, Wanless, Mulvaney, Weichman, Hayden, C. Campbell, Lawson and Hobson performed creditably, and, as most of these boys will still be at the school next year, the prospects for 1941 are good.

With most of those mentioned above forming the nucleus of our team, we hope to win again the coveted challenge cup.

Swimming

Hail! Happy Cabarita,
 With your crowd of laughing boys,
 With your cool, refreshing water,
 And your multitude of joys.

—A. LLOYD, 2D.

Despite the fact that an average of 320 boys regularly attend Cabarita Baths, swimming is still the Cinderella of our sports. No boy has as yet earned his blue for this sport. Admitting the disadvantages of our swimmers, in comparison with those of other more favorably situated schools, the standard of swimming, when compared with other sports, is definitely low. In those other sports

vigorous and conscientious training is an important factor in successes achieved.

Perhaps our swimmers could emulate their fellow footballers and cricketers in this regard. To those who claim that there is little space in the bath for serious swimming, we reply, "Where there's a will there's a way."

The annual carnival was, as usual, a brilliant success. In running the numerous heats, semi-finals and finals, a total of 1384 starters left the board to test their prowess in the various events. I. Hodge, senior cup winner, was the outstanding swimmer, with wins in the 50 and 100 metres free style, 100 breast stroke (all three records) and also the 200 and 400 metres. Others to gain first places in senior championship events were Greenwood (50 back stroke) and Ransley (the dive).

In the intermediate division, G. Layton, with wins in the 50, 100 and 200 metres, won the intermediate sup. In this division, K. Hodge, 50 breast stroke and dive (equal), Doyle, 50 back stroke and Crofts, dive (equal), also performed creditably. The junior champions were Jenkin and Robberds, the latter revealing promise of a bright future.

Scott, whose swimming was consistently good, thoroughly deserved the honor of becoming the season's senior trophy winner. Sturt House surprised all its rivals by easily winning the Jenner Shield, relegating last year's winners to third position.

At the combined schools' carnival, the school was represented in all events, and, although a few minor places were filled by our swimmers, the team offered little serious opposition to its rivals.

During the year life-saving classes were conducted by Mr. Hoffmann. Twenty certificates of varying standards were won, and, in addition, Knight, Stevenson, J. Williams, Hunter, Clayton, Lawrence, Floyd and Bowie qualified for the bronze medallion.

In conclusion, we hope the time is not far distant when the swimming report tells of successes comparable with those of other school activities.

HOUSE COMPETITION

In the four years since its inception no house has won the premiership more than once. Wentworth was successful in 1937, Mitchell in 1938, Lawson in 1939 and Sturt is assured of victory this year, as the present position of the houses is: Sturt 576, Lawon 503, Blaxland 501, Wentworth 468, Mitchell 446 and Oxley 440, and only the points for the Headmaster's Shield remain to be allocated.

SHIELD AND PREMIERSHIP WINNERS

Football.—Priestley, Eason, Shield, Wentworth. First Grade premiers, Wentworth; Second Grade, Blaxland and Wentworth (joint premiers); Third Grade, Oxley; Fourth Grade, Wentworth.

Cricket.—Bert Oldfield Shield, Sturt. First Grade premiers, Sturt; Second Grade, Wentworth; Third Grade, Sturt.

Tennis.—Angus and Coote Shield, Oxley.

Athletics.—Murdoch Shield, Sturt.

Swimming.—Jenner Shield, Sturt.

Physical Training.—Smith Cup, Blaxland.

HOUSE HONOUR ROLL

The following boys were prominent in the competitions :

BLAXLAND.

Football.—Clarke, Bowie, Crewes, Carey, Blackman, Barrow, Blight, Bennet, Crooks, Board, Browne, R., Bromhead, Berndorf, Collimore, Burns, Corfe, Barker.

Cricket.—Collum, Cox, Boland, Bradley, Crawford, Caldwell, Coward, Beynon, Bovard, Campbell, C., Budden.

Tennis.—Creak, Burgess.

WENTWORTH.

Football.—Wiles, Williams, F., Hunter, Willet, Hampson, Walker, Wain, Holborne, Willsher, Whitmore, Warning, Hammond, Hobden, Hillman, Hobson, Holland, Webb, Willard, Hazleton, Hoyer, Harper.

Cricket.—Walsh, C., Willet, Williams, T., Hurley, Hobson, Holland, Hearne, Willard, Hampton.

Tennis.—Wiles, Wanless.

LAWSON.

Football.—Foy, Gibbons, Lorching, Lee, Liston, Anstey, Lowe, Frizelle, Fielding, Garret, Forrester, Faulkner, Grant, Fisher, Graham, Grime.

Cricket.—Amos, Armstrong, Gooley, Fuller.

Tennis.—Logan, Allen.

OXLEY.

Football.—Reynolds, Robertson, Young, Ellis, Rhall, Rowe, Davis, Rolph, Eaton.

Cricket.—Quelch, Dunlevy, Vidler, Ross-Fitzer, Thelning.

Tennis.—Duncan, Vernon, Dircks, Yeomans.

STURT.

Football.—Stewart, Shield, Salvesson, Sticpewich, Upham, Shafer, Snowdon, Sloss, Satchell.

Cricket.—Sorbie, Pritchard, Pegge, Pyne, Price, Nicholson, Parsons, Shield, Newton, Porter, Salvesson, Jones.

Tennis.—Smart.

MITCHELL.

Football.—McDonald, Knight, Kalyk, Mulvey, Jones, Mottow, Miller, Jenkin, McCarthy, McGregor, Marygold, Matheson.

Cricket.—McDonald, Macpherson, Martin, Muir, McCarthy, Munsie.

Tennis.—Murray, McKenzie.



CUP WINNERS.

Back: L. Hodge (Senior Swim), G. Layton (Inter. Swim), F. Campbell (Inter. Athletics), K. Lenox (Senior Athletics).

Centre: R. Jenkin (Junior Swim), Mr. Roberts, B. Hobson (Junior Athletics).

Front: A. Robberds (12th year Swim).

Absent: B. Scott (Cremer Trophy).



HYSTERICAL FACTS

The other night, wearied by my studies in History and English (Teachers take note) I fell asleep and dreamt I had composed a poem. Like Coleridge, I awakened to find much of it was fresh in mind, and I hastened to set it down, with this result:

'Twas Disraeli who won Waterloo,
 With submarines at sea,
 And Robert Peel, with his spinning wheel,
 Chopped down the cherry tree.

Lord Aberdeen was the gay old bean
Who always kept late nights;
Accounts, they say, he refused to pay,
So they sent him the Bill of Rights.

"The bird has flown!" Lord Clive made moan,
As he ran to save his bride;
Sir Thomas More the Alps crossed o'er,
To get to the other side.

(Editor's Comment.—You are not only one with Coleridge now, but you can say, with Bottom, "I have had a dream—past the wit of man to say what dream it was: man is but an ass, if he go about to expound this dream. . . . The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath not seen, man's hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his heart to report what my dream was. . . . I will tell you everything, right as it fell out."—"Midsummer Night's Dream," Act IV., Scene I.)

—B.M., Class 2D.

The Stream

Rippling crisply down the hillside,
Runs my little streamlet gay,
Skipping over banks and ledges,
Passing on its joyful way.

Quickly through the fern-clad gullies,
Slowly o'er the plain it wends,
Till it swells some mighty river—
There my little streamlet ends.

—L. GARDNER, 2C.

TWELFTH NIGHT

In Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" the concluding act does not show the results of Malvolio's vow:

"I'll be revenged upon the whole pack of you!"

This is my version of the results:

Act VI.—The Scene: Olivia's garden.

Enter Sir Toby, Sir Andrew and Maria.

Sir Toby: Now, as thou lovest me, tell Andrew of your device.

Maria: Foolish sir, we are in good fun.

Sir Andrew: Mistress, you pay me great compliment.

Sir Toby (softly): Why, I might well fleece him more; one thousand ducats yet to be spent. Here's Signor Fabian. I'll warrant a stoup o' best canary to a botcher's patch that he'll agree!

(Enter Fabian.)

Fabian: How now, knight? Hast seen the faithful Malvolio?

Sir Toby: Aye, but I'm not. Yon'd Marian has couched up more gulling for the approbationed scab.

Fabian: Art thou not satisfied? Here comes the haughty wretch.

(Enter Malvolio.)

Sir Toby: How now, Malvolio?

Malvolio: Away! Thy place is with the swine that feed upon the thistles in the fields. I shall have my revenge! Do not bear a doubt!

Fabian: Thy leg is very dark to-day. Where are thy gay strings? La, sir!

Malvolio: Silence! My lady bids you go. Would you litter her house like so many straws in a barn? My master, Sebastian, will have no more of that fool. He says his wit is like the wild grass-seeds. It flies before the wind of question.

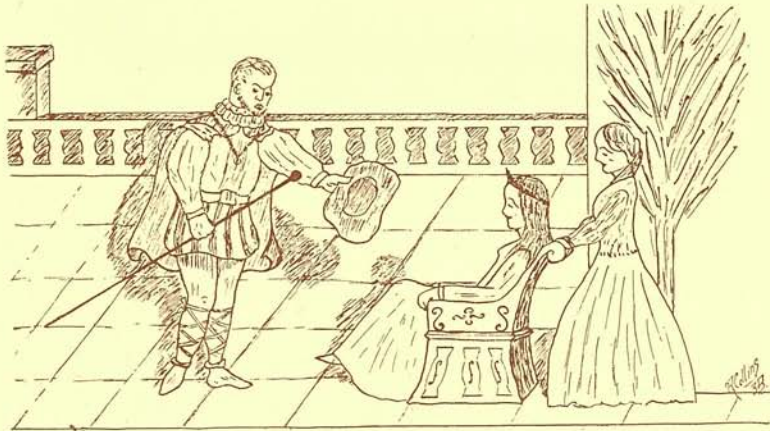
Sir Toby: Come, sir, I'm of the utmost opinion that you jest in your calculations. But here is my lady.

(Enter Olivia.)

Olivia: What! Still here, cousin?

Malvolio: Madam, they know not what I speak. They are clay heads, soft and plastic.

(Exit Malvolio.)



Malvolio appears before Olivia in yellow stockings and cross-gartered.

Sir Toby: Verily he hath a slippery tongue. Now, niece!

Olivia: I can hear you no longer. Go and take poor Maria with you. You have snared her by enthusiasm. Poor Maria, I bear you no ill-will.

Maria: Pardon me, madam, let us stay.

Sir Andrew: Can we not intrude your roof, mistress?

Olivia: I can waver no further. Let my word suffice.

(Exit Olivia.)

Sir Andrew: Your niece is beyond my powers.

(Enter Feste.)

Feste: My master and mistress have bid me hence. How is it with you, sirs? And you, Madam Belch?

Maria: We must all go.

Sir Toby: Give us a catch, fellow.

Sir Andrew: Something sad (weeps).

Feste: So let it come to us.

(Sings.)

What is life without a wife
 But mis'ry truly bent,
 For when we to man's state acquire,
 We to a task are surely sent.
 If that task will not unfold,
 We must do as we are told.

Sir Toby: Ah! Take this, sot.

Sir Andrew: One of me too. T'was well.

Maria: We must say farewell, sir fool. Where are you bent?

Feste: I must to my brother's house. He is a monthly priest.

Sir Andrew: I must see to my flask.

(Exit Sir Andrew.)

Sir Toby: I must join you in a stoup. Farewell, fool. Come, mistress.

Feste: Farewell.

(Exeunt.)

J. JOHNSON, 3F.

LIBRARY NOTES

We report with pleasure that the Library has continued to grow since last issue. What is more pleasing is that the number of boys who use the Library has also increased. So marked has been this increase that on most Library days, capacious as our reading room is, some boys have been refused admittance. Those who have been disappointed must realise that a reading room ceases to be such if the reader cannot find a seat on a chair or on the floor.

Just as popular as the reading room has been the magazine room. Fortunately, the overflow from Room 22 can be accommodated in Room 23. Magazines to which we now subscribe are *Walkabout*, *Popular Science*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Students' Digest*, *Tutorial Guide*, *Popular Education*, *La France* and *National Geographic*. Recently we tried the experiment of allowing boys to borrow magazines. We intend to make this a permanent privilege. Let all borrowers of magazines remember this, that a magazine can and must be read in one night. It is unfair for a boy to retain any magazine for a longer period. If, for example, you wish to use a copy of *Popular Science* to obtain information about the building of a model aeroplane which you intend to make at home, you can surely take a copy of the diagram and the necessary measurements in one night. If this does not suffice, borrow the magazine on Friday and return it on Monday.

New books have been selected in accordance with our fixed policy of building up the reference section. New departments have been created for books on physical training and for the School Cadet Corps. Existing departments have all been increased. We

have also added rather more books of fiction than in previous years. These have proved to be a very popular choice.

The Library staff for 1940 was as follows:

Library Prefect: D. Lawrence (3B).

Assistants: B. Bromhead (2E), K. Davies (2A), D. Macfarlane (2E), B. Moore (2D), N. Schafer (2A), K. Stewart (2A), K. Bowering (1D), N. Fahey (1D), and J. Griffiths (1D).

These voluntary workers carried out their tasks most efficiently. Lawrence's work was more arduous than the Library prefect usually finds, for he did the work shared by two prefects last year, and did it well. The school is grateful to him and his assistants.

—THE LIBRARIAN.

OLD BOYS' UNION

OFFICE BEARERS, 1940

President.—W. ROBERTS, B.A., Dip. Ed.

Vice-President.—F. V. COOK, B.A.

Hon. Secretary.—R. A. WATERS, Esq.

Hon. Assistant Secretary.—M. A. LLOYD, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer.—W. O. RUDD, Esq.

General Committee.—Messrs. H. BYWATERS, D. DODDS, O. EVANS, H. JACKSON, H. MASON, R. MASON, D. MERCER, J. McLAUGHLIN, E. ORR, J. RICHARDSON, B. SWANTON, S. YOUNG.

Social Committee.—Messrs. C. ATKINSON, G. BREW, E. CULLERNE, K. HALLAM, P. HEATH, P. HOBSON, R. HOOKER, M. LLOYD, R. MURRAY, J. OTTOWAY, T. O'ROURKE, W. RUDD, A. TERRY, E. TURNER, W. STRANG, R. WATERS, S. YOUNG.

The formation of an Old Boys' Union is rather unique in the case of Homebush Junior High School, since this school has been in existence only four years. One usually associates an organisation of this kind with schools whose traditions go back fifty years or so. However, the ex-students of this school felt that they wished to retain in some way their connection with their school.

A small band of enthusiasts met and decided to take steps to form a union of old boys of Homebush. The response, to a

circular sent to a number whom they were able to locate, was very gratifying, and over 200 came to the first meeting. An executive committee was elected. All ex-students of the school are eligible for membership, and are invited to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Waters, c/o H. J. Brown and Co., Box 682 F.F., Sydney, or with the Headmaster.

The Old Boys' Union was formed on April 24, 1940, and approximately 130 members were enrolled. The following functions were held during the year:

- (1) Football Match—Old Boys v. The School, Friday, July 26, 1940.
- (2) DANCE, Saturday, August 3, 1940.
- (3) DANCE, Saturday, November 2, 1940.

In the very near future the first Annual Dinner of the Old Boys' Union will be held.

REPORT OF FOOTBALL MATCH

On Friday, July 26, the first annual Old Boys versus School football match was played, the former winning by 17-16.

We wish to congratulate the school team on its fine performance, and to record the following as high lights of an interesting day:

Mason's number 10's.

Sheppard's "harlequin coat of many colours."

Ottaway's dummies and side-stepping.

Laylor's accurate goal-kicking.

Milne's fine defence.

Mr. Roberts' biased support for the present boys.

REPORT OF DANCES

The first Old Boys' dance was held on August 3, 1940, in the School Hall. The evening proved a great success in every way. The attendance was by far the largest ever seen in the Homebush School—but what else could you expect when the Old Boys were responsible?

We cleared £20 net profit, and the evening was considered the best of its kind ever held in the district.

Mr. Roberts and some members of the staff, including Mr. Cook, were present, and, judging by the expression of the Head-

master, there was little else that could have been done to add to what was indeed a great evening's entertainment.

We wish to extend our thanks and congratulations to the P. and C. Association, who excelled themselves in satisfying the appetites of the 320 young people present, and to Mr. Bell, who so ably assisted us by taking over the responsibilities of Master of Ceremonies.

Another such evening was held three months later, on November 2, and, although there was not quite the same number present, the evening was most enjoyable, and all wended their way homewards satisfied with an evening well spent at Homebush Old Boys' dance.

The members unanimously resolved that the Union should donate two prizes to the school, one for scholarship and the other for sport. It is disappointing to see that out of 1000 ex-pupils of the school only 130 are actual members of the Union. However, we feel confident that, as a result of the successful activities of the Union during the current year, our numbers will increase substantially in the near future.

MUSIC NOTES

Many boys commence to study the piano or violin, but leave it after a short time. Then, in after life, they regret that they did not continue with their musical studies when they had the chance. It is not surprising that they should wish that they had continued, for music enters largely into our lives whether we be wealthy or poor. It is hard to imagine a person who cannot enjoy some form of music. How much greater is that enjoyment when one can take a part in the actual rendition!

Now that music is included in the High School curriculum, much can be done, and is being done, to stimulate the interest of boys in music, both vocal and instrumental.

There would appear to be two main reasons why children fail to continue with the study of an instrument: (1) That the pressure of examination work does not leave sufficient time for music practice; (2) That the child shows no desire to continue.

The tendency to-day is to reduce the amount of examination "grind" in the schools and leave more time for the schoolboy to devote to his individual hobby. Moreover, it is now possible for a boy to take music as an Intermediate and Leaving Certificate subject, in place of another subject. So the difficulty mentioned in reason (1) above should disappear.

A reply to the second reason is being given in the musical activities of the school.

It has been the custom for parents to send their children for "piano" or "violin" lessons, overlooking the fact that there are many other instruments which boys would probably prefer. Success with the piano or violin calls for hours of tedious toil, and, unless a boy has a natural bent for the instrument, his interest soon flags; but, put a cornet, flute, clarinet, saxophone, or other such instrument into his hands, and he finds that music may, after all, be quite interesting. He finds that in a very short time he can join in the band or orchestra, and help to make "worth-while" music. There is nothing like the team spirit for producing keenness in a healthy-minded boy.

The school helps in this by introducing the boys to the various instruments, by leading them into the mysteries of harmony, through the agency of part-singing and by making them familiar with written music. (What bandmaster has not seen good men lost because they could not grasp the meaning of the strangely-shaped hieroglyphics adorning the five lines of the staff?)

All this work cannot be accomplished entirely in the classroom. In addition to the orthodox class-room lessons, our musical activities have been many and varied.

VIOLIN RECITALS

Mr. de Fouesnel has been kind enough to give two recitals. Mr. de Fouesnel is a splendid violinist, and he combines the qualities of a musician with a perfect understanding of a juvenile audience. His programmes were selected and arranged in such a manner as to grip his young listeners. This was accomplished without descending from the first-class work of the best composers. That the boys appreciated Mr. de Fouesnel's playing is very evident from the fact that, after the programmes, they called for request numbers, regardless of the lateness of the hour.

In the second recital, Mr. de Fouesnel was assisted most ably by Ellis of 1B (violinist) and Cranfield of 1A (pianist).

TOWN HALL RECITALS

A large party from Homebush attended each of the two orchestral recitals given in the Town Hall by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Professor Bernard Heinze. They were two most enjoyable and profitable outings. We were able to

see and hear each instrument separately before we heard them together. Professor Heinze very cleverly led us into the very heart of the orchestra. The whole of that youthful assembly listened spellbound. The spontaneous applause at the end of each number showed how the orchestra had captured its audience. We thank the Australian Broadcasting Commission for having made these recitals possible, and we sincerely hope that it will see its way clear to continue the good work.

THE CHOIR

Attendance at the School Choir practices is entirely optional, yet upwards of 80 boys have given up much time in order to learn and sing part-songs. It is to be regretted that they have not had more opportunity to show what they can do.

The Choir rendered several items at the School Speech Day function, and it led the singing at the various choral assemblies which have been held during the year.

Our thanks are given to Watts of 1F, who has so ably acted as accompanist.

FLUTE BAND AND ORCHESTRA

The Flute Band has had regular practices. To the members of last year have been added several flautists from primary school bands, and a few new recruits who were individually coached by Mr.



Nelson. The band assisted the choir on Speech Day, and rendered an item on Anzac Day. Several of our members assisted the special flute band at the Town Hall on the occasion of the Super-Primary Schools' Concert.

An orchestra has been inaugurated. To the flute band have been added violins and brass instruments. We have been able only to make a small beginning this year, but the foundation is set, ready for a flying start next year.

INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS

It is our aim to foster the efforts of individual artists amongst the boys. To this end, boys are invited to render their favorite items at the regular singing classes in the hall. This provides an excellent opportunity for the boys to gain confidence before an audience. The standard reached by the artists is consistently high. Up to the time of going to print, the following artists have all been heard from the stage in the Assembly Hall:

1A: Cranfield (piano), Knight (piano), Dupen (flute), Roberts (piano).

1B: Court (piano), Ellis (violin), Lloyd (piano), Cardwell (piano), Jones (piano).

1C: Fox (vocal with ukelele accompaniment).

1D: Bowering (piano), Willoughby (cornet), McCulloch (banjo).

1E: Wood (vocal), Bennet (vocal), Cook and Tankard (flute and drum).

1F: Lindon (vocal), Gibson (flute), Watts (piano), Storr (piano).

1G: Dyer (piano-accordion), Tanner (vocal).

1H: Gillies (piano), Colwell (piano).

1J: Doyle (piano), Seamons (piano), Blight (mouth-organ).

Spring

A rose's scent, a golden gleam,
A wooded bank, an artist's scheme
Of silver, interlaced with green—
Betray the stream.

A glint of sunlight, snatch of blue,
A song-bird's note, a wren or two,
A finch with wing of brilliant hue
Complete the scheme.

—F. UNWIN, Class 2D.

SPEECH DAY

The Annual Speech Day was held at the Vogue Theatre, Homebush, on Wednesday, April 3. Quite a number of parents were present, but, considering the enrolment of the school, the attendance was rather disappointing.

The Director of Education, Mr. J. G. McKenzie, B.A., B.Ec., accompanied by Mrs. McKenzie, was present, and expressed his delight at the progress of the school and the fine record of achievements, scholastic and athletic, during the year 1939. The Headmaster presided, and among the visitors were Mr. K. R. Cramp, M.A., Inspector of Secondary Schools; Mr. H. G. Campbell, B.A., Inspector of Schools; Mr. H. Mitchell, M.L.A.; and Mr. H. N. Tinkam, Hon. Sec. of the P. and C. Association.

The prizes consisted of an excellent collection of books for academic proficiency and shields, medals and badges for sporting prowess.

Mr. McKenzie gave an excellent address to the boys, and was ably supported by Mr. Mitchell and other speakers. During the afternoon the school choir rendered some very enjoyable musical items.

After the function in the theatre the official guests visited the school and were entertained at afternoon tea by the ladies of the P. and C. Association.

Following is the list of awards for 1939:

SCHOOL PRIZES

Dux of School: C. SMITH.

Principal's Prize: A. IVANOV.

Mr. Tinkam's Prize: H. WILSON.

Debating Club Trophy: BLAXLAND HOUSE.

Dux of Third Year: C. SMITH.

Second Place, Third Year: G. HICKSON.

Dux of Second Year: K. WILLISHER.

Second Place, Second Year: F. CAVANAUGH.

Dux of First Year: J. WHITE.

Second Place, First Year: D. KERR.



PREFECTS.

Left to right—

Back Row: J. Somen, A. Barrett, J. McKinlay, F. Johnson, K. Canham, R. Macfarlane, B. Robertson, M. Hancock.

Second Row: F. Cavanagh, G. Duncan, N. Anstey, T. Amos, J. Buxton, D. Lawrence, J. Mulvaney.

Front Row: J. Young, T. Williams, R. Hamilton, K. Lenox (School Captain), The Headmaster, F. Flynn (Vice-Captain), C. Johnston, R. Willett, L. Armfield.

Absent: J. Barriskill.

CLASS PRIZES

- 3A.—1st, C. Smith; 2nd, F. Kaldasaun.
- 3B.—1st, A. Duncan; 2nd, D. Graham.
- 3C.—1st, J. Alexander; 2nd, I. Mackley.
- 3D.—1st, G. Hickson; 2nd, K. Milne.
- 3E.—1st, P. James; 2nd, E. Skeen.
- 3F.—1st, D. Watts; 2nd, D. Kenyon.
- 3G.—1st, H. Grundy; 2nd, R. Mashford.
- 2A.—1st, M. Hancock; 2nd, R. Hillman.
- 2B.—1st, A. Dircks, 2nd, G. Hampson, N. Roden, G. Duncan.
- 2C.—1st, K. Upham; 2nd, K. Lenox.
- 2D.—1st, A. Massey; 2nd, R. Price.
- 2E.—1st, F. Cavanaugh; 2nd, K. Jones.
- 2F.—1st, K. Willsher; 2nd, T. Amos.
- 2G.—1st, J. Johnson; 2nd, T. Williams.
- 2H.—1st, K. Matthews; 2nd, J. Bowie.

- 2J.—1st, W. Nutt; 2nd, K. Canham.
 1A.—1st, P. Diplock; 2nd, J. Finlayson.
 1B.—1st, J. White; 2nd, Neil Schafer.
 1C.—1st, D. Kerr; 2nd, A. McDonald.
 1D.—1st, K. McDonald; 2nd, Eric Lewis.
 1E.—1st, C. Couper; 2nd, S. Hobbs.
 1F.—1st, R. Brown; 2nd, R. Buckland.
 1G.—1st, S. Young; 2nd, A. Cottle.
 1H.—1st, A. Sorbie; 2nd, R. Acroyd.
 1J.—1st, W. Sullivan; 2nd, R. Perks.
Hemingway and Robertson Scholarship: G. Hickson.
Blennerhassett Scholarship: 1st, C. Smith; 2nd, K. Marshall.

HONOR ROLL

TEACHERS AND EX-STUDENTS ON ACTIVE SERVICE

We proudly record the names of several former associates who have enlisted for the defence of the Empire.

Lieut. C. H. Hoffmann, a member of the staff, is now attached to the artillery in Palestine.

Lieut. D. McCarthy, formerly a member of the staff, is now intelligence officer with the 6th Division.

The following ex-students have joined the forces:

- Jack Wickenden, Sergeant, A.I.F., now in Palestine.
 Keith Stringfellow, Corporal, A.I.F., now in Palestine.
 Jack McLean, A.I.F., now in Palestine.
 Robert Johnson, A.I.F.
 George Roberts, A.I.F.
 Cliff Richardson, A.I.F.
 Ken Elliott, A.I.F.
 Edward Newsom, A.I.F.
 Walter Ward, A.I.F.
 William Watson, A.I.F.
 Ken Hallam, A.I.F.
 C. B. Shepherd, A.I.F.
 Allan Brennan, Jack Pollard, now serving with R.A.N.
 Ross Murray, Denis Sheppard, Brian Moxon, Darwin Expeditionary Force.

The list, unfortunately, is incomplete, as it has not been possible to learn the movements of all our old boys. The Headmaster will welcome any information concerning ex-students who have become attached to any of the services.

Intermediate Certificate, 1939

The following boys from our school were successful in the Intermediate Certificate Examination of last year:

KEY TO SUBJECTS:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. English. | 6. Latin. |
| 2. History. | 7. French. |
| 3. Geography. | 11. Elementary Science. |
| 4. Mathematics I. | 15. Business Principles. |
| 5. Mathematics II. | 21. Music. |

- Abbott, Gordon J., 1B 2B 3B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
 Adlington, Jens. R., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 7B 11B.
 Alexander, H. J. G., 1A 2A 4A 5A 6B 7B 11B.
 Arnold, Trevor D., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B.
 Baker, John S., 1B 2A 4B 5B 6B 7B 11A.
 Barnett, Donald T., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 7B 11B.
 Bellamy, Lindsay, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11A 15B.
 Bennett, Norman E., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
 Bennett, Stanley, 2B 4A 5B 6B 11A.
 Borland, Raymond A., 1B 4B 5B 11A 15B.
 Bosward, Richard H., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 11B 15A.
 Bow, William, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11A 15B.
 Brown, Arthur E., 1B 2B 3B 4B 7B 15B.
 Bromwich, Augustus R., 1B 2B 3B 4B 7B 11B 15B.
 Brown, John H., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 11B.
 Brown, Rupert P., 1B 2B 4A 5A 6B 7A 11A.
 Buchanan, John, 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11A.
 Buckland, Keith E., 1A 2A 4B 5B 6B 7B (o) 11B.
 Caton, Geoffrey, 1B 2B 4A 5B 11B.
 Chapman, Richard M., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
 Clark, Eric H., 1B 2A 3B 7B 11B 15B.
 Clarke, John A., 1A 2A 6B 7A(o).
 Clifford, Kenneth, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11B 15B.
 Cobham, G. McC., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.

Cochrane, William, 1B 2E 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Coggan, Harold A., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B.
Collum, Leslie, 1B 2B 4B 5B.
Crane, Beverley D., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B.
Darke, Alfred E., 1B 2B 5B 15B.
Day, Jack W., 1B 2B 4B 7B 11B.
De Brabander, Richard, 1B 2B 3E 4B 15B.
Dick, Eric H., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Dicker, Raymond, 1B 2B 4E 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Dickson, Albert H., 1B 3E 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Diessel, Jack, 1B 2B 3E 4B 5B 15B.
Dixon, William A., 1B 2B 4A 5B 6A 7A 11B.
Donald, Bruce A., 1B 2A 3B 4B 7B 11B 15B.
Dowling, George J., 1A 2A 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Doyle, Ronald F., 1B 2B 3E 4B 5B 15B 21B.
Duncan, Alan T., 1B 2A 4A 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Dunlop, David B., 1B 2B 4A 5B 6A 7A 11B.
Dunn, Ian McP., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B.
Durham, Owen J., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11B.
Evans, Albert G., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6A 7B 11B.
Farrington, Rex, 1B 2A 3B 7B 11B 15B.
Finch, Reginald, 1B 2A 4B 5B 11B 15B.
Frizelle, Charles A., 1B 2A 4E 5B 7B 11B.
Fuller, Arthur W., 1B 2B 3B 7B 15A.
Gambrill, Stanley W., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11A.
Gilbert, Lionel A., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11B.
Giles, John, 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Gillespie, Andrew, 1B 2A 4B 5B 6A 7A (o) 11B.
Glenn, Peter, 1B 2A 4B 5B 11B.
Graham, Donald E., 1B 2B 4A 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Greeshaw, Sidney E., 1B 2B 3B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Grieve, Ronald W. D., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 11B.
Griffiths, David G., 1B 2A 3A 7B 11B.
Griffiths, Norman W., 1B 2A 3B 5B.
Grocott, Noel F., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15A.
Grono, Colin L., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B.
Guiver, Raymond J., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Gunston, George A., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B.
Hackman, Harold, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11A.

Hair, James, 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Hammond, Aubrey M., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6A 7A.
Handel, David, 1B 2B 4B 6A 7A.
Harding, Bert, 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Hardy, John W., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B.
Haskell, Harry T., 1B 2B 4B 7B 11B 15B.
Hastie, George C., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 15B.
Henderson, Edward D., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B.
Hicks, Edward, 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Hickson, Gordon, 1B 2A 3B 4A 5B 7A(o) 11A 15A.
Hill, Robert S., 1B 2B 4A 5B 7B 11B.
Hook, Norman J., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Hoseason, Richard J., 2B 3B 4B 5B 11B 15B.
Hoy, Allan L., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15A.
Hunt, Ian S., 1A 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B.
Isherwood, James, 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 15B.
Ivanov, Aksel, 1A 2A 4B 5B 6A 7A(o) 11B.
Jackson, William G., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B.
James, Paul R., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11A 15B.
Jamieson, Kenneth R. J., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 15B.
Johnston, Clive W., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 15B.
Jones, George H., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11B.
Jones, Thomas, 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Kaldasaun, Felix, 1A 2B 4A 5B 6A 7A 11B.
Keith, Ronald, 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 11A
Kenny, Leo J., 1B 2A 4B 5B 6A 7B 11B.
Kenyon, Douglas, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7A 11B 15A.
Kirk, Allan, 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 11B 15B.
Knight, Kenneth, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 15B.
Knowles, Derek S., 1B 2B 11A 15B.
Knox, Colin, 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 7B 15B.
Laffan, John, 1B 2B 4B 5B 11B.
Lalor, Ronald K., 1B 2B 5B 6B.
Lambert, Gordon F., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 11B 15B.
Lawson, Cedric, 1B 2B 3B 4B 11B 15B.
Layton, Frederick, 1B 2B 3B 4B 11B 15B.
Lee, Geoffrey F., 1B 2A 3B 7B 11B 15B.
Lee, Robert G. W., 1B 2B 3B 5B 7B 15B.
Levi, Louis, 1A 2A 4B 5B 6A 7A(o) 11B.

Lewis, Wilfrid N., 1B 2A 3B 15B.
Lunn, Raymond C., 4B 5B 6B 7A(o) 11B.
Mackley, Ian P., 1A 2B 3B 4A 5A 7B 11B.
Magrath, Cedric W. C., 1B 2A 4A 5B 6A 7A 11B.
Marsh, Jack A., 1B 2B 6B 11B.
Marshall, Keith D., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Mason, Howard M., 1B 2B 3B 4B 15B.
Mason, Robt. A. F., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 7B 11B 21A.
McAllery, John C., 1B 2B 4B 7B 15B.
Macdonald, Bruce, 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Mackintosh, Ronald W., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11A.
McLeod, Ian Colin, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 15A.
Meares, Clifford G. J. D., 1B 2A 4B 5B 6A 7B.
Mills, William J., 1B 2B 3A 4B 5B 11B.
Milne, Keith W., 1A 2A 3B 4B 5B 11B 15A.
Moore, Ian, 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B.
Moore, John, 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Morcom, Patrick J., 1B 2B 4A 5B 6A 7A(o).
Morris, Kenneth H., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Murray, Kevin, 1B 2B 6A 7B.
Nicholson, Horace S., 1B 2B 3A 4B 5B 7B 11A.
O'Brien, Kevin, 1B 2B 5B 7B.
Olsen, Stanley O., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6A 7A(o) 11A.
Orr, Ernest McL., 1B 2A 3B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Ozard, Harry T., 1A 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Parkin, Rupert A., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Parsons, Kevin A. G., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 15B.
Patfield, Ronald, 1B 2B 3B 15B.
Payne, Norman, 1B 2B 3B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Perry, Robert, 2B 3B 4A 5A 11B 15B.
Pickering, Charles G., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 15B.
Pontifex, Russell B., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15A.
Pringle, Milton, 1B 2A 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Prochaska, Gerald, 1B 2A 4B 5B 6B 7A(o) 11B.
Pyne, Keith F. E., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B.
Rawlinson, William, 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B.
Rayer, Gordon , 1B 2B 3B 11B 15B.
Rees, Norman R., 1B 2B 4B 6B 7B 11B.
Renwick, Maxwell C., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B

Robson, Gordon D., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 11B.
Rogers, Harold F., 1B 2A 3A 4E 5B 11B.
Rooke, Edward W., 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Round, Ronald W. H., 1B 2B 4A 5B 6A 7A(o).
Rowland, Mervyn T., 1B 2B 3B 4B.
Rowley, Leslie R., 1B 2A 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Sanderson, Victor F., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7E 11B 15B.
Schneider, Lawrence M., 1B 2A 4A 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Seale, Ross O., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 15B.
Sherring, Peter W., 1B 2A 4B 7B 15B.
Shipton, Arthur G., 1B 2B 4B 7B 15B.
Simpson, Leslie W. R., 1B 2B 4A 5B 6B 11B 21B.
Skeen, Earl G., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Smith, Colin McC., 1B 2B 4A 5A 6A 7A(o) 11A.
Smith, George S. J., 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B.
Spedding, Neale E., 1B 2B 4B 5E 6B 7B 11B.
Spencer, Albert F., 1B 2B 4B 5B 11B 15B.
Stubbs, Roland R., 1B 2B 3B 4E 5B 11B.
Suttle, Francis W. J., 1B 2B 4B 7B 11B 15B.
Taylor, Charles A., 1B 2B 4B 5E 15B.
Thew, Lindsay G., 1B 2B 4A 5B 7B 15B.
Thomas, Jack E., 1B 2B 4B 7B 15B.
Thompson, George M., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11A 15B.
Thorpe, Allan J., 1B 2A 3B 4E 5B 7B 11B.
Tinckam, Douglas, 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7A 11B.
Townsend, Jack, 2B 3B 5B 15B.
Vaughan, Warren L., 1A 2E 4B 5B 6B 7A.
Vincent, Jack, 1A 2B 3B 11B.
Vindin, Frank N., 1B 2B 3B 4E 5B 7B 11B 15B.
Wade, Eric C., 1B 2B 3B 5B 11B 15B.
Waterhouse, David, 1B 2A 3B 4B 7B 15B.
Watkins, Gwyn F. T., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Watts, Douglas B., 1B 2E 3B 4B 5A 7B 11A 15B.
West, Charles M., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11A 15A.
West, Frank, 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 15E.
Wheeler, John E., 1B 2B 3B 4B 7B 11B 15B.
Whipp, James P. W., 1E 4A 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Whipp, William B., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
White, Keith L., 1B 4B 5B 6B 11B.
White, Robert, 1B 2A 4E 5B 11B 15B.
Whitehurst, Douglas, 1B 2B 4B 7B 11B 15A.
Willis, Ivor R., 1B 2B 5B 11B 15B.
Wilson, Horace J., 1B 2A 3B 4E 5B 11A 15A.
Wogan-Brown, Donald M., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
Woodward, Bruce, 1B 2B 3E 4B 5B 11A.
Younger, Milton C., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 7B 11A.

The Crash of Space Ship VII

The shrill whistle silenced the city of Rocketropolis (known as London back in 1940) in thirty seconds. Without warning, it pierced every building, like needles of sound. Television blurred, flickered, and then glowed danger-red. Those inhabitants who were not looking in when the whistle was sounded, hurried to their television sets and jerked over the switches.

In the cinemas and entertainment halls the performances stopped abruptly, as the emergency screens were slid into place, and the audiences watched the ominous red glow in silence.

In the streets, on every one of the sixteen levels, traffic stopped while people watched the public television screens. Then, suddenly, the whistle stopped and the announcer's face looked upon the twelve million people who watched and listened.

Space Ship VII, carrying seven hundred people, on its return journey from the Moon, and not due till late to-night, is falling to the earth, out of control."

Even in that year of A.D. 2574, when the factor of human safety had almost reached perfection, the people knew that a giant rocket-ship, out of control, almost inevitably meant death to someone. Rocket ships in those days were in their comparatively early stages, and were not able to go farther into space than the moon.

"It has been calculated that the ship will strike Sector 23 at forty-two minutes past five," droned the announcer's voice. "All residents of 22, 23 and 24 must be out of their sectors by half-past-five."

It was then a few minutes past five, and the public, following the announcer's instructions, switched their television sets to a different wave-length, so that they would be able to see the ship.

The gleaming pool of mercury, which the space-ship had become, spun incessantly in the well of the screens, catching in its great parabola the light of the heavens, and upwards through the lenses where the public gasped in terror.

The people in the sectors to be evacuated scrambled out of their apartments, down the lifts at a hundred miles per hour, into the streets below, grasping their credit slips, the only form of currency.

Suddenly there was a jarring and grinding, the world became a furnace, and then a hell of shattered sound. People flung their arms wide to grasp at something substantial. Screaming, some were hurled by great forces up . . . up . . . up . . . into darkness and silence.

As the chief scientist of Rocketropolis gazed out of the council room, he said sadly, "This, gentlemen, is the greatest disaster since 2547. I hope we shall never have another."

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