AUTUMN

1945



THEVISOR



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Scout Master: W. D. COUGHTRIE.

Troop Leader: N. PETERS.

Senior Patrol Leader: R. E. P. WRIGHT.
Patrol Leaders:

J. BLACK, J. GOODWIN, J. DAVENPORT, F. OWERS.

School Calendar

Autumn Term begins Monday, September 10th.

Half Term October 27—November 4th (incl.)

Autumn Term ends Thursday, December 20th.

Spring Term begins Monday, January 7th, 1946.

Half Term February 22nd—25th (incl.)

Spring Term ends Thursday, April 11th.

Summer Term begins Monday, April 29th.

Half Term June 8th—16th (incl.)

Summer Term ends Thursday, July 25th.

Autumn Term begins Monday, September 9th.

Editorial

CINCE our last issue went to press, Japan has capitulated before the latest triumph of Western physics, and, apart from some sporadic burst of fire in Java and Walthamstow class rooms, the war is over. But if we had any illusions about the "outbreak of peace" they must be speedily dispelled by the most superficial glance at the world around us. The period on which we are entering is inevitably bound to be one of difficulty, tension, impatience, querulousness even. Shortage and dislocation are not removed overnight by armistice, and though the human mind may be inspired in a "finest hour," however perilous, it becomes strained and intractable in the after-battle time. We say this to the "gentle readers" of the Visor because we must still ask for their patience and forbearance. It may be some time before the magazine can be enlarged, and a glance at the following pages will show that the chronicle of two terms has still to be forced into the pint-pot of one issue. Yet we cling to the obstinate conviction that things are on the mend. One by one, members of the Staff who have been away on active service are returning, and it would surely hearten the Big Three to know that our detentions have been restored. Bonfires, more genial than those of '41, have lit the skies, and fire-works have barked their defiance in the face of gloom. In the brighter future, we hope, first of all, to bring the Visor back to its former strength and prosperity, and beyond that to make it better than ever. But, remember, this is not merely a job for sub-editors and printers. All can help. We want more contributors, and we want more subscribers. Overwhelm us! We will let you know when it is time to cry, "Hold, Enough!"

Staff Changes

TWELVE months ago, we noted the many changes which had taken place on the Staff between 1941 and 1944. This term has brought several more changes too. At the end of the Summer Term, we said good bye to Messrs. Moore, Smith, and Speight, and now offer a hearty welcome to Mc. Allen, Mr. Bailey, and Mr. Malcolm, who joined us in September. We had already welcomed Mr. Edge before the close of last term and are glad to see the Woodwork Shop once more flourishing under his direction. It was with very great pleasure that we greeted the return of Mr. Bloor, who had been away since 1940 on active service in Africa, Ceylon, and Burma. Not only does Mr. Bloor's return restore something of its pre-war gaiety to the Staff Room, but the presence of his car outside the school is also an augury of better times to come. Old stagers will recall the very impressive show of limousines put up by the Staff in former days. After halfterm, we were very glad indeed to welcome back Mr. Fox, who had been away on war service for exactly five years. During this period, he has been twice round the world and is now the terror of geographers. Demobilisation of members of the Staff makes other changes inevitable, and it is with real regret that we have to record the resignation of Mrs. Maillard. Those who have been in her form will look back on her period in the Institute with distinct pleasure. In a difficult period, she promptly took her place in the School, and was always bright and resourceful. We would like to assure her of the School's sense of obligation for all she has done here since 1941.

Sports 1945

THE Annual Athletic Sports were held on Wednesday, June 13th, a fine but rather windy day. The prizes were presented by the Mayor, Councillor Furness. The Victor Ludorum was G. M. Pollard with 10 points, E. W. Pringle being the runner-up with 7 points. The Junior Victor Ludorum was G. M. Dickson (15 points) and the runner-up A. Smith (12 points).

Long Jump, Open: 1, McLaughlin, K.; 2, Pollard, G. M.; 3, Thompson, C. R. 16-ft. 10-in.

Long Jump, Under 14: 1, Dickson, G. M.; 2, Smith, A.; 3, Lloyd, W. H. High Jump, Open: 1, Pollard, G. M.; 2. Young, J. W. L.; 3, Pringle, E. W.

High Jump, Under 14: 1, Dickson, G. M.; 2, Smith, A; 3 Crowe, J. R. Cricket Ball, Open: 1, Roberts, C. J.; 2, Pollard, G. M.; 3, Liggett, J. H. 83-yds. 2-ft. 9-in.

CRICKET BALL, Under 14: 1, Smith, A.; 2, Shimmin, R.; 3, Miller, D.

100 YDS., Under 12: 1, Dodd, G.; 2, Kitching, T.; 3, Duchars, K.

100 Yps., Under 13: 1, Lloyd, W.H.; 2, Williams, J.G.; 3, Morris, J.R.

YDS., Under 14: 1, Dickson, G. M.; 2, Lloyd, W. M.; 3, Smith, A
 YDS., Under 15: 1, Goodwin, J. B.; 2, Rowlands, F. P.; 3, Turner, H. M.

100 Yps., Open: 1, Pringle, E. W.; 2, Jones, E. W.; 3, Pollard, G. M. 12-secs.

220 YDS., Under 13: 1, Crowe, J. R.; 2, Williams, G.; 3, Cattrell, K. G.

220 YDS., Under 14: 1, Dickson, G. M.; 2, Smith, A.; 3, Hollinger, P. G.

220 Yps. Under 15: 1, Turner, H. M.; 2, Goodwin, J.B.; 3, Murray, K.

220 Yds., Open: 1, Bassett, J. S.; 2, Crossley, L. A.; 3, Thomas, H. D. 27-secs.

440 YDS., Under 14: 1, Dickson, G. M.; 2, Smith, A.; 3, Harris, R.

440 YDS., Open: 1, Roberts, C. J.; 2, Pollard, G. M.; 3, Johnston, H. 64-secs.; 29-secs.

880 YDS., Open: 1, Pringle, E. W.; 2, Osborne, D. N. A.; 3, Graves, J. L. 2-mins. 129-secs.

House Relay, Junior: 1, Atkin; 2, Westminster; 3, Tate.

House Relay, Intermediate: 1, Stitt; 2, Tate; 3, Westminster.

House Relay, Senior: 1, Westminster; 2, Tate; 3, Atkin.

House Tug: 1, Westminster; 2, Atkin.

MILE OPEN: 1, Binyon, R.; 2, Henry, C. D.; 3, Rixon, W. L.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP: 1, Westminster; 2, Tate; 3, Atkin; 4, Stitt.



CONGRATULATIONS to J. Bartlett, who gained his cap for Cheshire on November 3rd.

Our Thanksgiving Service for V.J. was held on October 26th, and was followed by an enjoyable Concert to which both Staff and boys contributed.

The Education Act has caused some changes in our daily life, especially in the method of registration and the supply of text books.

An innovation this term has been the experiment of doing away with lines in the yard before afternoon school. This has been so successful that we wonder why no one thought of it before.

The new boiler, installed last spring, gives us hope that we shall be able to work in comfort this winter—for the first time in history. We wish we could give similar praise to the hot water installation at the pavilion.

Since V.E. day we have welcomed to School many Old Boys who had been prisoners of war in Germany, and have given them book tokens. We are now hoping to welcome some of those released from captivity in former Japanese-held territories.

The Headmaster has a list of over two hundred Old Boys at sea or in H.M. Forces who have visited us during the war years. We are proud of them all and are glad to welcome them to their old School.

Part of our Victory celebrations was a visit to the cinema, where we saw the film King Henry V. and enjoyed a smashing ice-cream.

We congratulate former members of the Staff on their promotions to headmasterships: Mr. Cartwright in Sheffield; Mr. Speight in Northamptonshire; and Mr. D. J. Williams in Nottingham.

Now that the war is over, we are trying to get our form libraries back to a peace-time state, but new books are both scarce and expensive. If you have any BOVS' books in good condition that you can spare, please hand them to your form librarian. He will be extremely grateful.

As usual a party from the School attended the Mayoral inauguration on November 9th.

Our annual sale of poppies, including £1 10s. for the wreath for the School Memorial, amounted to £4 16s. 7½d.

Examination Results, July 1945

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

Hosker, P.; Pringle, E. W.; Brymner, R.; Burls, R.; Harris, P. J.: Jones, W. E.; Osborne, D. N. A.; Young, J. W. L.

LETTERS OF SUCCESS.

Thomas, H. D.; Edwards, F. R.; Fanning, J. T.; Horne, K.; Lovatt, J. H.; Morris, J. E.; Parrott, A. P. W.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Form VIs.: Black, J. M.; Burton, R. F.; Byrne, T.; Cadwallader, R; Capon, A. S.; Clare, G.; Clark, R. F.; Dobbing, P.: Duckworth, J.; Evans, N. J.; Finch, K. B.; Graves, T. L.; Haspell, F.; Henry, C. O.; Johnston, H. A.; Lumley, G. E.; McLaughlin, K.; Owers, F.; Sharpe, R. D.; Simons, G. A.; Smith, M.; Thompson, C. R.; Tracey, W. D.; Whalley, P. G.; Wilkinson, J. J.; Wright, P.

FORM VIA: Eden, P.; Green, T. D.; Jones, W. F.; Leverett, E.; Liggett, J. H.; McDonnell, R.; Plimley, A.; Richardson, J. K.; Riley, L. F.; Short, D. D.; Stewart, J. H.; Wright, R. E. P.



F. R. Edwards, K. B. Fineh, J. H. Lovatt, R.E.P, Wright, J. H. Liggett, W. E. Jones, K. J. Horne, T. J. Fanning, P. G. Whalley, J. W. L. Young, D. N. A. Osborne, H. D. Thomas, J. E. Morris, D. R. Burls.



Mr. Thacker, K.B.Finch, J.H.Lovatt, R.Binyon, M. G. Pollard, E. W. Pringle, J.S. Bassett (Scorer). D. Athol, P. J. Harris, H. D. Thomas, R. H. Lamb, P. A. Hosker, K. McLaughlin.

Inauguration of the Mayor, 1944

IT is only right, in view of the date given above, that we should begin this article with a short explanation. We are recording here the inauguration of Mr. Furness, as owing to a misunderstanding in the current issue of the time—Autumn 1944—the record was omitted, that which was printed having been the record of the previous year's ceremony.

A large gathering was assembled to witness the inauguration of Mr. Furness as Mayor of Birkenhead in the assembly hall, Birkenhead Town Hall, one Autumn afternoon in 1944. Mr. Furness had been a councillor for ten years, and was elected unanimously, his sponsors being Mr. Melville and Alderman Prentice. The ceremony was a repetition of those of earlier years, to the very placing of the people and even to the town clerk's whispered advice to the new mayor. The programme ended with the changing of the robes.

Mr. Melville paid tribute to three committees with much influence on the schoolboy—The Education Committee, the Food Control, and the Communal Feeding Committee.

Mr. Furness responded afer the ceremony by saying that he considered it a great honour to be elected Mayor of so important a Borough as Birkenhead. He promised his close attention to the Mayor's War Fund, to which he said his wife was very devoted. He also expressed his appreciation for personal help and advice received from his wife in his own civic career, and guaranteed her continued interest as Mayoress in the affairs of the town. Mr. Furness closed by a recognition of those present and future responsibilities of housing the town's homeless and those returning from the forces in the anticipated days of victory and peace ahead, and of re-building a new Birkenhead.

Old Boys' News

WE are indebted to several Old Boys who are serving overseas for the following accounts of their experiences:—

From K. A. OSBORN (R.A.F.) who is with the B.L.A.: "The German countryside and scenery are similar to the English, but the scale is far larger. A three hours' train journey in England would take you through many diverse types of scenery, but to witness equivalent changes in Germany

a very long trip would be necessary. Viewing the German landscape from the windows of the railway coach, while there is little to distinguish the fields from our own. I always experience a sense of difference. This is perhaps due to the smaller number of trees and hedge rows. Some of the farmers have their farmsteads among their own fields, but the majority prefer to live more collectively in near-by hamlets or villages. In the main, farmhouses contain the living quarters together with the stables, cowsheds, and stalls, under the one roof. There is a great scarcity of modern agricultural equipment. Although the towns I have seen are now little more than ruins. they must have been beautiful once with their wide boulevards. I found the countrymen less alert and perhaps less Nazified than the townsmen, but both are addicted to the eating of sauerkohl (pickled cabbage) in place of our boiled greens, to many kinds of sausage, and to pork, which largely takes the place of our beef. It is difficult to assess the German view of current events. I asked one German for his opinions, and he replied: 'I am a good German but not a Nazi.' We found the people humiliated during the first days of the occupation, but now their attitude varies between respect and mild truculence. I was most impressed by the Autobahns, though other roads appear to have been neglected at their expense. Once off the main roads, surfaces are much poorer than what is usual in England." berough as Birkenhead. He promised ". belgna attention to the Mayor's War Fund, to which he said hus

From Captain J. N. SMITH (R.A.), C.M.F., who has served in Italy and Austria: "Vesuvius is still having its worst eruption for two hundred years. Lava has poured down in several streams, the largest being three or more miles long and three hundred yards wide. The stream moves at about a hundred vards an hour. Three of us went to see the village of San Sebastiano completely wiped out. We had a 'grand stand' view from the flat roof of a house, the edge of the stream having reached the garden below. It was uncanny to see what appeared to be a huge field of cinders, red hot below, and sometimes piled up to thirty feet. This slowly engulfed the fields and houses. A great wave of cinders would rear itself up until its crest broke over the buildings, and then moved on relentlessly carrying the debris with it, like a giant bulldozer at work. The heat is tremendous, but only at night is the red glow of the moving stream visible. We were forced to abandon our vantage point before it became too dangerous. From our billets miles away we could still hear loud explosions and see columns of smoke rising to 10,000 feet.

In contrast, I have enjoyed some pleasant sport in Austria. For five successive days two of us with an Austrian stalker went out at sunrise and at dusk to shoot deer. This was to provide venison for a farewell party to the Major. I managed to shoot one deer with the local weapon, a lovely gun, with telescopic sights. The local hunters insist on using expanding ammunition, but this makes an awful mess of one's quarry. When I first went out with a service rifle and standard ammunition, the Austrians wanted me to cut the points off the bullets. Later we turned our attention to chamois. It is amazing how far we have had to climb up these almost vertical mountain paths to find these creatures. On one early morning trip in search of them we climbed (partly by jeep) over 3800 feet. Peeping over the top of a ridge we saw four chamois feeding below us. I bagged one, and I am having its skin cured to send home."

K. I. Smith (serving in the Fleet Air Arm) writes this account of his experiences on a troop ship: "Life on board is the most monotonous of all existences, and strict regulations control your life. You must keep to your own part of the ship, and, though you have a bunk, you are seldom allowed near it until 18.00 hours, having been turned out of it at 06.00 hours prompt. You are allowed to sit on the decks, but must not lie on them, since this would take up too much space. In this uncomfortable sitting position all your reading is done, and the literature available is quickly exhausted. Even 'highbrows ' are glad to turn to American 'funnies.' But reading palls if you are doing it practically all day, and then ca ds come to the rescue if you are lucky enough to possess a pack. Meals divide the day up, and for these you have the pleasur: of queuing, the lines often stretching round the promenade deck and down into the bowels of the ship. At the end of every perfect day, getting into your bunk is a work of art if neighbours are not to be roused to unpleasantness. Perhaps the most trying conditions are met aboard the large troopships, particularly on the American transports. These are notable for two uncomfortable practices. Firstly, they swab the decks incessantly—poetically described as 'manning' or 'starting brooms' and making 'a clean sweep-down fore and aft.' Secondly, they use a loudspeaker system for piping calls. On the average, one 'pipe' is made every two minutes. and the announcer introduces his message with a maddening "D'ye hear there!" or even merely "Hear this!" These reflections of mine will explain why the troops are so glad to make a landfall."

Roll of Honour

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product vent and for a furnish norther to the Maine.

1935—1945 House

H. E. Rogers. F. R. Ainley. K. A. Harland. E. W. Hirst. C. J. Rowlands. D. Ashton. ! Samson. H. Austin. S. Hughes. G. A. Hunt. A. E. H. Sargent. D. Barker. L. W. Jones. T. Smart. I Barker. T. A. Jones. A. Smith. E. L. Bartley. J. G. Beckett. W. Jones. Smith. L Black. W. H. Jones. G. Sproat. W. J. Jones. R. G. Sutherland. H. J. Bozier. C. E. Bryan. W. L. Leeman. R. W. Sutton. W. A. Casey.]. A. Lees. F D. Tarbuck. C F. Taylor. L. S. Coathup. R. Leyland. C. Coffey. R. Lidgate. C. Todd. H. McIver. J. Tomlinson. J. K. Cooke. D. J. Malley. A. D. Turner. J. K. Cooper. F. J. Matthews. H. L. Ward. W. D. Crail. R. Wilde. D. A. Cumming. J. Meakin. A. C. Williams. K. W. Dean. R. R. Meneely. S. Moore. I. A. Williams. G. Downing. A. Moss. T. H. Williams. G. R. Edwards. M. D. Forshaw. G Ovens. E. H. Wilson. L. H. Gallagher. W. J. Pegg. H. E. Wilson. A. R. Gibbons. F. D. Phoenix. W. K. Wood. N. W. Rees. I N. Gullan.

V. Roberts.

"D've liear there!" or even merely "Hear this!" These

G. Hardie.

Old Boys' Successes

- R. Brymner—Awarded £75 per annum ifor 4 years to read for B.Sc. degree and training at Hull University College.
- P. J. Harris—Gained State Bursary for Mining Engineering to be taken at Cardiff University College. He also gained a Boyd Scholarship in Science at Liverpool University but was not able to accept this since he had accepted a State Bursary.
- P. A. Hosker—Awarded £75 per annum for 4 years to read for the B. A. degree and training at Hull University College.
- D. N. A. Osborne—Accepted at St. John's College, Cambridge, for R.A.F. training in Mechanical Science Tripos but was rejected owing to eye trouble.

During the years 1941-1945 one State Scholarship (to St. John's College, Cambridge) and twelve State Bursaries (six to Cambridge) have been awarded to pupils of the Birkenhead Institute on their results in the Higher School Certificate Examination.

Camp Communique

ONE feature of School activity which has received little publicity is the School farming camp, which has been held each year since the beginning of the war, at Barrow, a small village a few miles outside Chester. An average of twenty boys has attended each year, and, as a result, the School is now quite well-known amongst the villagers.

The camp held during the summer of 1945 lasted a total of eight weeks, the longest held so far. The only casualty during the run of the camp was one boy who fell out of a tree during a treasure hunt. The hunt was won by Burls, Owers coming in a minute later to win second prize.

The farmer, Mr. Harry Blackburn, sends his good wishes to you all and hopes to see you out again next year.

Model A selso Hailden L.T.M.

The Chess Club

THE Chess Club although commencing late this year seems to be very popular throughout the School. meeting was held, under the chairmanship of Mr. Allen, in the dinner hour of November 7th. This meeting was convened to discuss arrangements for the coming year and was excellently attended, there being over fifty members present. Friday and Wednesday nights were fixed for beginners, and the latter for the many experts in our midst. A record of all games is kept by the Secretary, Horne (Adv.), and it is hoped to pick a team which will play other schools interested. The season opened properly on Friday, November 9th, when eighteen experts enjoyed an hour's play among themselves. It was obvious that the players were rather stale, but that with some practice a fairly strong team coud be selected. It is to be hoped that our many younger members will continue to come, so that they will be able to keep the club going when all the present experienced members have left.

Will all members and prospective members kindly bring their own chess sets if they have them, as decent full sets are not too plentiful?

K.J.H.

Cricket Results

Tst XI.2nd XI.1st XI. 2nd XI. 1st XI. 2nd XI.

Home or Away. Result. Score.

St. Edward's College	A H	L W.	53-65 62-43
Bootle Secondary	H A	L W.	36-63 63-32
Oldershaw Grammar.	H A.	L W.	47 5470(7) 42
Calday Grammar	H A	L W.	33-5555(5)-30
L'pool Collegiate Sh.	A H	W L.	75(9)—67 33— 60
Alsop High School	H A	W W.	45(4)—33 35— 14
Wirtal Grammar	A H	L L.	49— 85(8) 37—127

1st XI. Captain: Lamb, R. H.

1st XI.: Lamb, Thomas, Pringle, Harris, Binyon, Lovatt, Pollard, Finch, McLoughlin, Hosker, Athol.

Also Played: Henry, Roberts, C. T.

Dramatic Society

THE Society held three open meetings during the winter term, confining itself to play reading and general discussion. At the first meeting "The Dover Road" by A. A. Milne was read and appeared to be highly appreciated both by those taking part and by those in the audience. The second and third meetings consisted of a general knowledge bee on theatrical subjects presented by the chairman and a general discussion on the present-day London theatre.

Next term the Society is to present a full length threeact play, and hopes that the whole school will give its active support to this venture.

Scout Notes and band said spon

SINCE the publication of the last Scout Notes the activities of the School troop have been confined to our gymnasium headquarters at the Institute. Meetings have been held on Wednesday nights, and so far the attendance has been satisfactory.

Badge work has been progressing favourably, and in addition to the large numbers of proficiency badges obtained three boys took a course for the Civil Defence badge, and all passed with very good marks.

This year the intertroop Scout Sports were held at Solly Recreation ground, but since the day was very wet only two members of the troop turned up to run. We obtained places in the following events:—

Event.	Time. Pos.	Name.	Point
440 Yards under 16			
880 Yards under 16 2 min.	15 se- 2nd	R. E. P. Wright	2
220 Yards under 13	35 sec 2nd	M. McDonald	2
100 Yards under 13			
High Jump 4-1			
Long Jump 15-f			
	n	M. Connett - VIII as a	(ETTAL)

So far this term three recruits have joined the troop, but there is room for more. Newcomers to the School can obtain all the information they require from R. E. P. Wright.

121XV: Johnson: Goodwin Thomas Ower Reduced Dickson But

Table-Tennis Club

THIS Society is so well supported that the members have had to be divided into three distinct groups which meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, respectively. This term a rota has been arranged, so that each person will play everyone else in his own particular group. A ladder will thus be drawn up with members in order of merit.

Next term a competition is to be arranged to decide who is

the champion player.

Rugby Notes

THE term has so far brought rather mixed results—four victories for the 1st XV. followed by five defeats. Individuals however, have played well: Thomas at centre and, until October, Pringle, played brilliantly, and Podmore and E. W. Jones showed distinct promise. The great need is for one or two more big, bustling forwards. All stand in need of more play, to improve their condition, and practice in fielding and defensive kicking.

The 2nd XV., thanks to Horne and Morris, have settled down well and had several creditable victories. The backs

play pluckily, but the passing is too slow.

The Bantams, again under R. E. Hughes, have played well and shown their ability to score tries. Hughes, D. O. Jones, and Rixon, have given good service, and Hipkin and Crowe are useful recruits.

Thanks are due to the new Canteen syndicate: Messrs. Wright, R. E. P., Stewart, and Haspell.

J.P.

Home of Away. Result. Score. 1st. 2nd. Bant. 1st. 2nd. Bant. 1st. 2nd. Bant. Calday Grammar H. A. H W. L. L. 18-6 0-17 0-3 Grove Park, Wrexham H. A. W. L. - 11-0 5-8 -Hawarden School H. A. W. D. 25-3 3-3 Wirral Grammar H. A. W. A. W. W. 40-3 8-5 6-0 A. Birkenhead School ... A. L. L. H. L. 10-17 0-29 6-12 Grove Park, Wrexham A. H. W. L. 3-30 35- 0 Royal Naval College... A. H. W. L. 8-17 19-8 K. George V., S'port. A. L. 0-18 Birkenhead School H. A. L. L. H. W. 0-22 6-31 33- 3 Calday Grammar — H. W. -21-11 Captain 1st XV .: Thomas, H. D.

Smith, L. V., Silcock, Liggett, Smith, A. A., Lovatt; Young, Jones, E. W., Morris.

Also Played: Pringle, Osborne, Crossley, Roberts, C. J., Jackson, Henry.