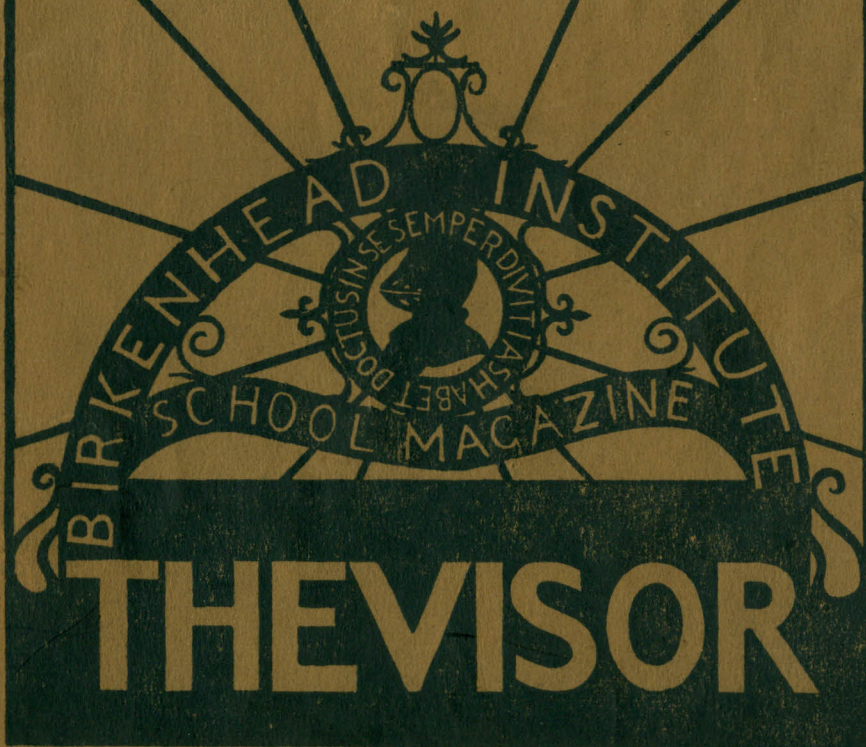


SUMMER

1945





School Calendar

HALF-TERM	May 19th—May 22nd.
SUMMER TERM BEGINS	April 18th.
SUMMER TERM ENDS	July 27th.
AUTUMN TERM BEGINS	September 10th.

Editorial

THE previous number of the *Visor* may be regarded as beginning an entirely new series. After four years of silence, it was impossible for a variety of reasons to issue the magazine anew in exactly the old familiar form. War-time conditions reduced the number of pages available, a large quantity of material relating to many aspects of school life had accumulated in the long interval and this had to be drastically compressed. Again, many of the true magazine features, essays, articles, stories, and poems, which it had always been our aim to include, had to be left out. At the same time a new generation had grown up in the School who had never known the *Visor* in its prime. Yet we are confident that the future of our magazine should be a bright one. We sold five hundred and fifty copies of the Autumn issue and received many inquiries for copies in letters which showed great interest in its revival. Again, we refuse to believe that, although the war has interrupted its publication and modified its quality, our present members are incapable of producing articles up to the level we once expected. Topics abound:—that unusual experience in the holidays, that absorbing hobby (not completely eclipsed by homework), that urge to burst into lyric verse, if not poetry. Look around. '*Si materiem requiris, circumspice.*' Let us see what you can write to get the *Visor* fairly going again. A new series provides new opportunities. We appeal to all our readers to remember that, if they want their magazine to flourish, they must write it.

Salvete

1942-1943.

Adams, C. G.; Adams, J. D.; Allt, F.; Bell, A.; Bell, J. A.; Bibby, G. E.; Bird, N. L.; Blondel, R. O.; Buckney, R. M.; Burls, D. R.; Burls, F. A.; Bush, D. R.; Campden, R. E.; Cann, L. W.; Capon, B.; Cashen, S.; Citrine, T. G.; Clements, M. W.; Court, H. R.; Davies, E. J.; Edwards, S. W.; Fixter, A.; George, T. G.; Gibbons, W. A.; Gould, D. L.; Gray, W. L.; Greenfield, B. S.; Griffiths, T. H.; Harris, J. D.; Harris, R.; Hart, T.; Hayes, F.; Heath, M. F.; Henry, C. D.; Hinds, W. J.; Hodgson, J. B.; Holden, J. C.; Hollinger, P. G.; Horton, R.; Hough, E.; Howard, R. H.; Hudson, A. W. T.; Hutchinson, B. R.; Hutton, G. M.; Ibbotson, D.; Jackson, A.; Jackson, W. E.; Jones, C. M.; Jones, D. G.; Jones, E.; Jones, H.; Kearney, J. W.; Laker, P.; Laurie, K. T.; Lewis, P. J.; Lloyd, W. H.; Lowe, W.; Macdonald, R. F.; Maddock, C.; Manly, J. E. W.; Marshall, A. H.; Massey, G. A.; Maxwell, D. J.; May, J. K.; McGowan, W. J.; McLeod, D.; Millar, J. C.; Millar, T. G.; Moore, D. H.; Morton, W. H.; Moxon, A. P.; Munro, R.; Murdock, I. M.; Murray, K. L.; Nobes, C.; Paterson, J. R. V.; Pearson, J. M.; Powell, A. G.; Prole, D. R.; Quayle, A. W.; Reardon, R. E.; Redfern, A. F.; Reed, B.; Reid, R.; Richardson, J. W.; Ridge, W. K.; Riley, P. D.; Roberts, C. J.; Roberts, H. T.; Roscoe, P.; Sandwith, B. M.; Scregg, G. C.; Sedman, J. K.; Shaw, E. R.; Sherlock, J. A. L.; Sherry, N. R.; Skinner, W.; Skipsey, A. L.; Smith, A. A.; Staughton, A.; Sutton, F. D.; Taylor, H.; Tector, G. A.; Thomas, S. R.; Telford, J. L.; Turner, H. M.; Twist, N.; Veitch, R.; Vick, W. S.; Watters, I. G.; Whitworth, R. F.; Wiggins, P.

1943-1944.

Acton, J. M.; Barrington, A. A.; Beckley, L.; Blackwell, L. C.; Boardman, C. F.; Bowen, G. E.; Brown, P.; Burkett, H.; Burrows, J. A.; Byron, J. R.; Campbell, M. G.; Cattrell, K. G.; Christian, W.; Coen, W. B.; Cole, R. N.; Corlett, R. G.; Crebbin, E. V.; Cross, D. A.; Crowe, J. R.; Derrick, K. B.; Derriscott, E. H.; Edwards, A. C.; Edwards, H. G.; Edwards, R.; Elliot, J. H.; Ennion, J.; Entwistle, R. S.; Fitzsimmons, T. E.; Gordon, F.; Gough, H. B.; Graves, J. L.; Greenwood, M. J.; Griffiths, H. S.; Guirion, J. D.; Hepple, F. L.; Hodgson, G.; Hollerhead, P. D.; Hosker, R. A.; Houghton, S.; Hughes, K. T.; Hughes, L. A.; Hughes, N.; James, B. C.; James, K.; James, M. H.; Jeffers, W. S.; Jellicoe, B. F.; Johnston, B. J.; Jones, C.; Jones, G.; Jones, R. M.; Jones, K. P.; Jones, W. G.; Kay, P. A.; Kenworthy, F.; Kirchner, R.; Larkin, J. S.; Leeming, F.; Little, J. A.; Lowry, R. A.; May, A.; Melling, D. A.; Moorhouse, J.; Morgan, W.; Morris, J. R.; Moss, E. R.; Mowll, R.; Murthwaite, A. T.; Otter, A. W.; Palmer, R. G.; Parry, A.; Parry, R. A.; Perry, W. G.; Ratcliffe, C. J.; Ridgeway, F.; Roberts, A.; Roberts, K. J.; Roberts, R.; Rollins, J. F.; Seymour, J. H.; Sheppard, J. J.; Sherlock, G. H. L.; Shields, R. W.; Shimmin, R.; Smith, P.; Stevens, A. E.; Stone, S.; Turner, T. G.; Upton, W. J.; Waring, R. E.; Watters, J. M.; Westthorp, P. R.; Whitworth, M. J.; Williams, J.; Wollaston, G. H.

SEPTEMBER, 1944.

Aspey, K.; Barlow, S.; Bearsley, P. H.; Boardman, G. A.; Boddy, F. R.; Brady, W. G.; Branscombe, H. E.; Buckley, R. F.; Burton, W. R.; Butchart, K. J.; Chambers, D.; Cooper, C.; Cowle, L.; Dade, E.; Docherty, J. G.; Duchars, K.; Edwards, G. P.; Evans, H. K.; Fenlon, B. W.; Fenton, K.; Finney, F. D.; Foster, P. F.; Gardner, J. F.; Gill, B. M.; Gilroy, J. R.; Gleave, J.; Gregory, J. A.; Griffiths, F. H.; Hand, M. A.; Hipkin, G. A.; Holland, M. R.; Jones, D. O.; Jones, T.; Kelsall, G. B.; Lloyd, R. M.; Malcolm, G. A.; McDonald, M. K.; McKay, J.; Merritt, B. C.; Miller, D. W. J.; Mitchell, E. E. L.; Molyneux, B. H. P.; Moore, F.; Morris, Albert R.; Morris, Anthony; Murphy, L. J.; Nash, A. R.; Owen, R. B.; Peters, D.; Price, F. W. C.; Rushton, B. J.; Shimmin, R.; Smith, D.; Smith, W. A.; Stokes, G.; Thomas, H. P.; Thompson, W.; Tilston, A.; Twomey, B. J.; Valentine, R. W.; Walklett, J.; Williams, J. G.; Williams, M. F.; Wilson, G. A.; Woodfine, A. N.

SPRING TERM, 1945.

Baker, J. W.; Gore, K. O.; Haddock, L. H.; Hessler, L. F.; Hessler, P. T.; Jones, D. E.; Jones, G. W.; Jones, P. R.; Thomas, L. R.; Wood, M. N.; McLaughlin, R.

Valete

1941-1942.

Ambrose, F. G.; Bailey, W. H.; Barnes, E. C.; Bartlett, J. T.; Bateman, J. E.; Baxter, H. J.; Brecknall, K.; Bryden, J. W.; Catherall, G. A.; Cavanagh, J. R.; Clampitt, W. J.; Cooper, W.; Cowgill, J. K.; Crowcroft, T. V.; Duchars, D.; Dudley, P.; Edwards, D. S.; Ellis, A. R.; Emmas, G. R.; Evans, S.; Foxcroft, G. E.; Gægson, T. H.; Harris, R. G.; Harrison, J.; Hayes, L.; Heaps, G.; Heath, L. B.; Hughes, A. G.; Hughes, F. G.; Hughes, H. J.; James, T. L.; Jardine, D.; Jones, B. J.; Jones, E. S.; Jones, E.; Jones, T. E.; Killip, W. A.; Lane, E. E.; Lutas, P. R.; McCabe, L. P.; McNeill, A. G.; Millington, W. G.; McLachlan, A. J.; Morgan, V. T.; Morris, K. R.; Moore, F.; Moxley, S.; Nugent, J. R.; Posnett, J.; Powell, C. K.; Reekstin, R. R.; Robinson, D. C.; Roddick, D. N. C.; Rogers, P. O.; Rushton, R.; Salter, G.; Shields, E. G.; Smith, W. T.; Storer, R. A.; Sudworth, J. F.; Swift, W. C.; Tarpey, J. A.; Inkester, P. T.; Thomas, G. A.; Tressider, G. R. A.; Williams, C. V.; Wood, E. T.

1942-1943.

Baker, J. D.; Beckett, H. G.; Boston, C.; Bowyer, Bretherick, R. N.; Britton, W. F.; Brooks, H. R.; Bruce, D. S.; Burls, F. A.; Cracknell, D. S.; Davies, A.; Edwards, D. S.; Evans, E. J.; Evans, R.; Frankland, R. H.; Glover, J. E.; Gould, G. A.; Hatton, R. A. N.; Henharen, D. B.; Hirst, P.; Hoogstraten, P. E. T.; Hughes, G.; Hughes, R. J.; Jones, L.; Kendrick,

R.; King, C. R. D.; Lamb, J. W.; Law, I. W.; Lee, R.; MacDonald, C. A.; Malcolm, L. T.; Mandy, A. J.; Moran, J. T.; Moss, S. E.; Moyes, F.; Nieto, K. D.; Orrell, R. C.; Osborne, K. A.; Peever, B. H.; Peters, T. N. W.; Pryde, K. J.; Randles, L. A.; Redmond, J. E.; Riley, E. J.; Roberts, J. E.; Roberts, J. T. R.; Rolph, B. D.; Scott, A. M.; Simpson, A. L.; Smith, K. I.; Tunna, R. B.; Turnbull, R.; Ward, T. R.; Watkins, I. N.; Woolley, P. P. I.

1943-1944

Amery, G. G.; Ayres, B. W.; Baines, A. B.; Bower, G. H.; Broadfoot, R. K.; Bushell, A. E.; Byrne, A.; Campbell, L.; Cooper, J.; Cowgill, J. M.; Cracknell, G. L.; Cross, D. D.; Davidson, R.; Dawson, F. E.; Dillow, D. I.; Dodd, J. F.; Eccles, W. A.; Edwards, J. D.; Edwards, R. C.; Egerton, J. W.; Evison, A. W. G.; Foxcroft, G. A.; Foxley, F. J.; Garrett, T. R.; Greenfield, R. E.; Grierson, G. S.; Harris, J.; Hassal, K. W.; Haughton, M.; Hinds, W. J.; Hinton, E. E.; Horton, R.; Hughes, A. L.; Hughes, J. A.; Jackson, E. E.; Jones, E. F. G.; Jones, H. E.; Lamb, J. R.; Lambert, R.; Larsen, A.; Lewis, R. J.; Martin, C. T.; McCready, J.; McDonald, A.; McFarland, A. R.; McPherson, A. J.; Moore, D. W.; Munro, R. W.; Norman, J.; Ogden, E. W. M.; Owen, J. M.; Peers, F. G.; Perrin, A. J.; Proctor, R. D.; Prole, D. R.; Simon, J. W.; Smallman, E. E.; Smith, D. J. (6 S.); Smith, D. J. (R. J.); Smith, G. B.; Sutherland, F. W.; Sutton, F. D.; Tarpey, L.; Thomas, T. I. V.; Turton, J. L.; Walton, R. J.; Ware, B. E.; Williams, W. J.; Williamson, J. F.; Wintle, D. W. R.

SPRING TERM, 1945.

Bailey, T. N.; Boyd, N. J.; Dawson, R.; Fenton, K.; Groom, G. N.; Keen, L.; Morgan, W.; Scott, K. E.; Smith, D.; Wellman, R.; Whitworth, R. F.

Corrections

SEVERAL corrections of School News in our previous number have to be made:—

STAFF CHANGES: The name of Mr. McLeod (1941-1944) should be added to the list. Mr. Parkinson joined the Staff in January as Senior Physics Master.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES: To the previous list, there are the following additions:—

C. J. Thompson, Distinction in Chemistry, Scholarship Paper 1940;
G. A. Thomas, Distinction in Chemistry, Scholarship Paper 1941;
F. G. Peers, Distinction in Chemistry, Scholarship Paper 1944.

We also wish to correct the date of the Bursary awarded to F. G. Hughes, which should have been 1942.

Decorations

Sergeant R. C. LOWSON (S.A.S. Regiment), M.M.

Squadron Leader A. S. DUFF (R.A.F.), O.B.E.

S. G. BACON, M.B.E. (Services to Civil Defence).

Lieutenant W. HODGE, M.C.

Additions to the Roll of Honour

H. AUSTIN.

R. LIDGATE.

W. J. JONES.

Obituary

DURING the years when no *Visor* was in print the Institute lost in Mr. John Hargreaves yet another of those stalwart supporters who have given such long and whole-hearted service and whose numbers are decreasing.

Mr. (John) Hargreaves had been connected with the School since a very early age, and was one of those present when the Duke of Westminster formally opened the Birkenhead Institute on the 12th January, 1889. At that time he was a young boy, accompanying his father, who was one of the foundation governors, and whom he succeeded as a governor.

From that time until his death on the 2nd February, 1944, Mr. Hargreaves was a constant and assiduous member of the governing body, a meeting of which he attended very shortly before he died. He was a supporter of our Athletic Sports, and always attended Speech Days and Prize-givings, especially those of the Junior School.

We have lost a good friend in Mr. Hargreaves. On behalf of the School the *Visor* offers its condolences to Mr. Hargreaves's family.

At School in a N. W. Port 1939 to 1945

THE historian of a century hence will know all about the causes, events, and even the results of the European war just over, and by then he will have analysed them into neat headings for the torment of School Certificate candidates. But how much will he know about the changes which took place in the lives of ordinary people during that period? How many university professors in 2045 A.D. will be able to "write short notes explaining the meaning" of 'squanderbug,' 'gremlin,' 'chindit,' or venture a date when these words were in use? At the moment they are part of the stuff of our war-time life, but we may soon forget them. Some of the changes we have lived through (like the withdrawal of street lighting) were drastic and immediate, but many others stole upon us gradually, imperceptibly almost, until it became difficult to

remember what life was like before. We therefore propose to record some of them while they are still freshly remembered, in the hope that a century hence they may help some poor wretch in an examination.

To start with, about June 1939, we discovered a new use for the word 'evacuation' (hitherto known only to medical pedants), and we began to connect with it another unfamiliar word—'Oswestry.' Not many weeks afterwards on looking out of our first-floor windows we were amazed to see rotund, silvery snapes resting on the house-tops. Next time we looked they were in mid air, and it became a new sport to count how many one could see. One became rather short with any objectionable quibbler who counted 63 of the things to our 61. But, by the time these argent sausage had soared until they were mere pin-points, we felt the matter had got beyond mere arithmetic. Meanwhile, men were busy painting white rings on tree trunks, lamp-posts (soon to lose their lanterns), and pillar-boxes. The evening 'bus became a ghostly thing of dim blue light. We began to carry about a cardboard box on a flimsy string (do you remember being refused admission to the Ritz without one of these passports?), though later it was replaced by a tin canister with which one smote one's neighbour or in which (till in not in Whitehall) Spam sandwiches were carried. Windscreens began to sport such labels as 'Doctor,' 'Regional Offal Overseer,' or the like. We had a new thing called an Identity Card like the lesser breeds without the law. Gay, crimson and green petrol trucks turned grey overnight, and 'Pool' replaced the names of the familiar juices of yore. The war was on with a vengeance! In the Spring of 1940, more surprises were in store for us. Used as we were by then to the sight of policemen wearing white "tin buckets," we had a shock one night in May to see one or two with rifles. It was the season of 'Go to it.' Adolf was coming at last. But, to quote the words borrowed by inspired brewers from Queen Victoria, "we were not interested in the possibilities of defeat." When the School's Whitsun holiday, was cancelled that year, the German High Command was badly shaken. During those summer months sign-posts disappeared, and no Hun could ever have found our short cut to Oxton without them. Masters began to wear khaki L.D.V. armlets in the evenings, and to argue about Ross rifles in the Common Room. The name 'Birkenhead' was painted out on the sides of vans and lorries, though curiously enough our 'buses never became anonymous. We hoped we should *not* hear church bells ringing! In the late summer and autumn life became noisy. We talked about alerts, searchlights, tracer bullets, and unexploded bombs. Did you wear one of the natty siren suits when they were fashionable that winter?

This was the back cloth of our life at school then, and our daily journey to it was a string of tribulations. We were not 'workers' it seemed, and were apt to be elbowed out of queues or thrown off 'bus platforms by the new Amazons in charge ("Look, mummy, there's a man conductress!"). The large and thick ticket we had formerly chewed reflectively en route from Pensby had become a miserable scrap of paper

by this time. Concrete blocks held up our progress; dead traffic lights cancelled by a huge white X afforded us no protection. Within our building the new life gradually took shape. Sand, with which we had played at Wallasey, was put to sterner uses. In bags, it was simply 'out of bounds' to us. A brick maze ("blast wall" to you) was inserted between 'lines' and the back door, and against it we hardened our ribs. The dining-room was reinforced as a shelter, and the cycles were banished from their ancient home for the same reason. During alerts we trooped to these catacombs, and in theory pursued our lessons without interruption, though with a deal of hearty and perhaps noisy badinage. Though by order of the Home Office the bell was dumb, we kept up our spirits by chalking up the new V-sign. We invented some gloriously convincing new excuses. "Please, Sir, I have no geometry set, atlas, text book, football pants, gym. shoes, white flannels, etc., etc." "Please, Sir, we had to wait while a convoy passed." "Please, Sir, we had a direct hit last night, and it blew my homework away." Who shall tell the whole tale of these years? Utility pencils, no red margins on our paper, no gilt motto on our record books, anacmic blotting-paper, no ribbon around the backs of our caps (though history was only repeating herself here if you only knew), no envelopes for the reports, no prizegivings, no *Visor*, no swimming gala, no material in the woodwork shop. Your Meccano Magazine or B.O.P. shrunk until it was a slim pamphlet convenient for the pocket. You lost your sweets points and got the form master to sign the application for a new set, cheerfully indifferent to any legal penalties he incurred. You brought a battered Hornby engine to school and explained what it was to adjacent fellow-sufferers. You made pretty criss-cross designs with strips of paper on the windows, or if there were no windows you wrote slanders on the cardboard substitutes. You made designs for 'Dig for Victory' or 'Wings for Victory' Week posters; for 'Weeks' were the things then, just as 'Days' are now. You came dressed as miniature sailors, soldiers, or airmen. You added the text-books of your colleagues to the Paper Salvage Drive. Your vocabulary was enriched with new words and phrases, 'quisling,' 'priority,' 'short supply,' 'careless talk,' 'bomb snobs,' 'fire-watchers' (an ambiguous term I always thought), 'blitz,' 'prang,' and 'the gen.' The American Star became as familiar to you as your own Corporation crest, and a jeep was merely a new kind of insect.

Outside the School it was the same story. No newsbills outside the newsagents, no page of pictures in the morning paper, no news about ships on their lawful occasions ("Accra for West Africa embarks passengers at Princes Stage at 3 p.m."—How long ago that seems!). No cigarette-cards, no silver paper, sometimes no paper at all on your chocolate, sometimes no chocolate. Utility buses as comfortable as the 1910 models, grey funnels on ferry boats, diminutive labels on tins of jam and bottles of sauce. Alphabetical riddles on walls provided by the N.F.S. for our entertainment, artificial ponds at street corners into which it was an

offence to cast discarded bedsteads, no front gate to the house, and no railings round the park. Yes, you know what war on the Home Front can be like even though you are sometimes a bit shaky on the Wars of the Roses. Well, it is over now and "belongs to the ages." You will remember V.E. day for a long time, and perhaps remember even longer that V.E. + 1 was celebrated on a Wednesday! Let us inaugurate happier times with the still familiar idiom. We hope that the 6th Form are in strenuous commando training for S.C. day, and that E.T. day will rapidly approach, when we can leave the Stalag for a few weeks. We won't ask you to have 'holidays at home' this time, and if you are going away we shall not confront you at Woodside with, 'Is your journey really necessary?' If you understand basic English (another momentous aspect of 'our finest hour') we wish you happy and peaceful days. And many of them! Now that the weather forecasts are back, it is bound to keep fine for you.

The Inauguration of the Mayor of Birkenhead

ONE day, I, with some other boys from this School, was invited to the Town Hall to see the new Mayor of Birkenhead (Alderman Herron) officially installed in his office. As we ascended the steps leading to the Public Gallery, we were aware of a hum of excitement coming from the Main Hall below us. On reaching our seats, we looked down, and found that the proceedings had already commenced, and Alderman McVey had started to second the nomination of Alderman Herron. Comments flowed unceasingly, showing appreciation of, or objection to, various sentences of the speech.

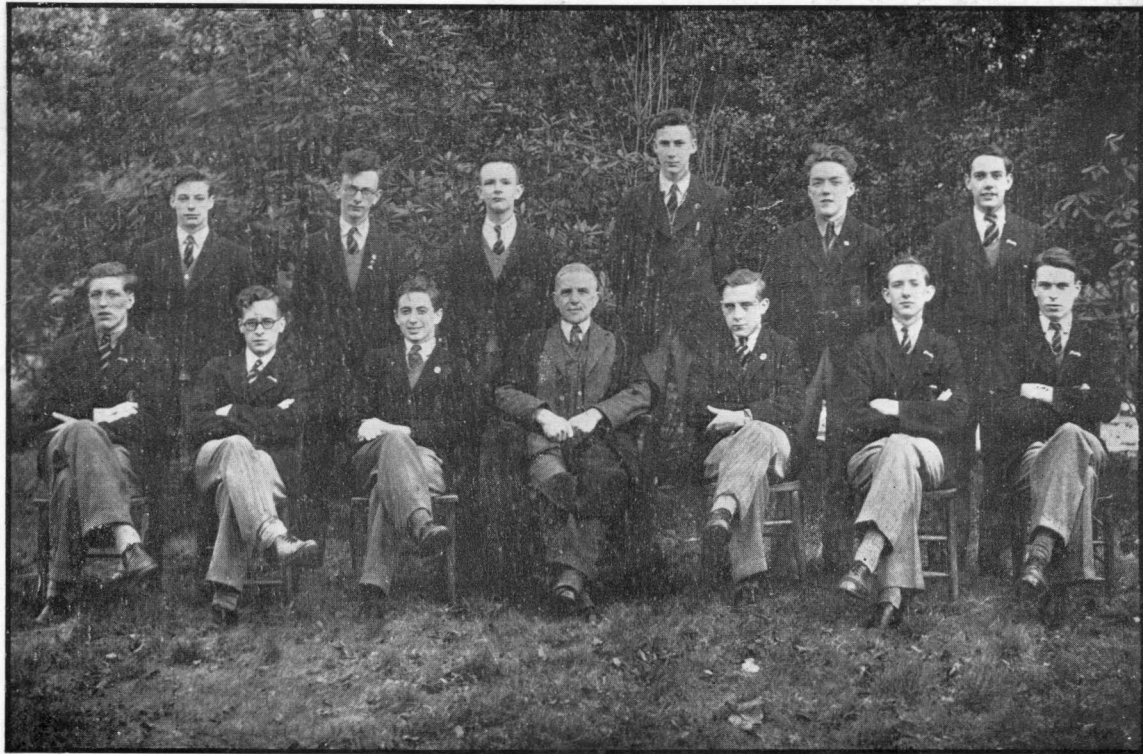
Then the actual inauguration began. On the platform appeared the late Mayor (Alderman Hodgkinson), Alderman Herron, and all the leading town officials. After a short address, Alderman Hodgkinson, assisted by the major-domo, took off his ceremonial robes, and put them on Alderman Herron, together with the chain of office. Then followed addresses by the new Mayor and by an American Mayor, who had been invited to come along. He gave a good and amusing address, and put in remarks about the awful likeness of women's hats, and the difference in the weather in the two countries.

"There is a hill outside my little town," he said, "and we tell visitors that when you can see the hill it is going to rain heavily, and when you can't see the hill, it *is* raining heavily."

After this address came various proposals for bettering the amenities of the town. The business was soon settled satisfactorily, and the major-domo announced, 'Lunch for the Council is served in the Mayor's Parlour.' This was also the signal for the public to depart, and so, reluctantly, we put on our coats and went out into the cold November air.

A. HUDSON, IV A

Prefects 1944-45.



H. D. Thomas, R. Brymner, W. E. Jones, J. E. Morris, E. W. Pringle, R. P. L. Evans.
R. Binyon, P. A. Hosker, P. J. Harris, R. H. Lamb, D. N. A. Osborne, J. W. L. Young.

Photo by Wm. Cull.

1st XV. 1944-45.



Mr. Jones, I. Duckworth, D. N. A. Osborne, R. Binyon, J. H. Liggett, L. A. Crossley, J. S. Bassett, Mr. Paris.
P. J. Harris, P. A. Hosker, H. D. Thomas, R. H. Lamb (Capt.), G. M. Pollard, E. W. Jones, J. W. L. Young.
E. W. Pringle. C. H. Lloyd.

Palestine: Christmas 1944

WE are indebted to an Old Boy, Captain W. J. Woolman, R.A., of the 19th Coast Battery M.E.F., for the following account of a Christmas leave spent in Palestine:—

"I applied for, and was granted, forty-eight hours' leave as from December 24th, and betook myself to Jerusalem, getting a lift in the Major's jeep from Haifa. We found the city crowded out, much as Bethlehem must have been nearly two thousand years ago, but were fortunate to find hospitality at the home of the Swedish Consul. We wished to go down to Bethlehem for the Carol Service in the courtyard of the Church of the Nativity, and so, after an early dinner, we made our way to the King David Hotel whence Army Welfare Services had arranged a shuttle 'bus service. When we arrived at the starting point, we found a queue some couple of hundred yards long, with Bethlehem a half hour's ride away and only three-quarters of an hour to go before the time of service. So we said, 'Hang the expense!' and took a taxi. Our driver was an expert, fortunately, for the road was crowded—our M.P.'s counted over five thousand army vehicles going down to Bethlehem that night. When we arrived in the courtyard the weather had turned frosty, which made the worn paving-stones sparkle. Overhead the moon and stars shone crisply from the clear sky. So was the stage set for Christmas Eve, 1944. A small choir led the singing, and the courtyard was packed with service men and women; for they formed ninety nine per cent. of the pilgrims. As the service drew to a close and we sang "Adeste Fideles," the bells of Bethlehem rang out proclaiming yet another Christmas. Our dinner next day was supplied by the Officers' Club and included the usual turkey, plum pudding, and mince pies. I spent Boxing Day wandering round Jerusalem, and took the afternoon train "home." Travel on the local 'buses in Haifa is something of a nightmare. They are one-man-operated single-deckers. The entrance is forward where the driver sits at the receipt of custom. I have seen him holding the bus on a hill with the clutch pedal while collecting a fare. Standing is limited only when the driver can't get at his gear lever! The driver's nonchalance in descending steep, twisting hills is truly hair-raising.

In conclusion, please give my very kind regards to the Staff, and may the New Year see us all back home again! "

Poem

THE *Ark Royal* lies under the ocean,
The *Bismarck* lies under the sea;
Old Hitler is in a commotion,
Saying, "Bring back my *Bismarck* to me."

A. G. WILDE, IIIA



AN old Instonian, Mr. Herbert Andrews, who joined the Birkenhead Borough Treasurer's staff as a junior clerk in 1923, has been appointed Borough Treasurer of Bromley, Kent. Mr. Andrews came to the Institute with a scholarship won from Temple Road (Council) School, and during his career has served with the Corporations of Bebington, Oldbury and Winchester. From August 1939 to September 1941, he was a flight-lieutenant in the R.A.F.

* * * * *

The prospective Labour candidate for the parliamentary division of Crewe at the next General Election will be Mr. Sydney Scholefield Allen, who is an Old Boy of the Institute and a barrister on the Northern Circuit. Mr. Allen had a distinguished career in the Law Faculty of Liverpool University, and has been briefed as counsel in many important cases.

* * * * *

Admirers of Watt and Newcomen will be sorry to understand that the historic boiler of the Institute has been removed without ceremony by sacrilegious hands. It has been replaced by a utility contraption which, it has been claimed, will heat every class room throughout every cold day (mitigating even the arctic rigours of Remove B), and also by means of holes providentially provided in the yard wall, conduct hot air to the flower beds beyond.

* * * * *

An extract from "AFRAF" (Weekly Newspaper of R.A.F. units in Rhodesia) Rugby Notes for August 24th, 1944, refers to an Old Boy, Cadet Stuart B. Huntriss, stationed at Kumalo, who has been playing regularly for his Station XV. In this match he converted three tries, and the account concludes, "Huntriss was outstanding for Kumalo scoring no less than 12 points for his team which won by 22 points to 10."

* * * * *

It is not every day that an Old Boy has breakfast with a Queen, but this honour was enjoyed by L.A.C./K. A. Osborn of R.A.F. Meteorological Service, who was entertained by Queen Marie of the Belgians on September 4th, 1944. An excellent photograph of the group appeared in the local evening papers.

For the first time in the history of the School as far as we know, shortage of fuel compelled us to close for the day on January 31st. On several other occasions we had practically exhausted our coke, but supplies arrived at the eleventh hour to the disappointment of many!

* * * * *

We regret to report the death on active service of Captain Walter Henry Poole, an Old Boy of the Institute. He was for many years with the Cunard Line, and became captain of the *Bosnia* in 1932, remaining with her until her destruction by a U-boat in 1939. He was appointed Commodore R.N.R. for Ocean Convoys in December 1940, and two years later became A.D.C. to the King. A Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, Captain Poole had lived in Birkenhead since 1890.

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One morning last term we found in the entrance some natty little lockers, which aroused considerable enthusiasm. Later, it was found that they were not intended for us but for another building not very far away. Strange short-sightedness!

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We have just heard that, among the prisoners of war liberated by the Red Army, was A. Jackson, an Old Boy. We congratulate him heartily on his return to England.

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Since the above was written Jackson has visited the School. The Headmaster congratulated him on his return, and on behalf of the School gave him a book token for one guinea. A few days later he had the pleasure of repeating his action; this time welcoming home Corporal R. H. W. Evans.

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In our last issue we referred to Bartlett's notable achievements. We now congratulate him on a further one, that of Captain of the Combined Universities' XV. Our congratulations are also due to him for his success in his Final Examination.

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We have just heard with great regret of the death during our Easter Holiday of the School Janitor, Mr. E. Davies. We knew that *Janny* had been seriously ill, but fancied that he was well on the way to recovery. His death will be a great shock to many, with whom he was extremely popular. The sympathy of the School is extended to Mrs. Davies. The funeral service was attended by the Headmaster, Mr. Morris, Miss Cojeen, L. T. Malcolm, B. E. Ware, and R. H. Lamb.

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We regret to record the death of J. H. Pilkington of Remove a, which occurred during the Autumn term, 1944.

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

ATKIN HOUSE, 1944-45.

THIS year one hundred and sixteen boys are members of Atkin House. During the Rugby Season, House activities have been confined to one set of House Matches. Atkin Seniors beat Stitt Seniors quite comfortably, but the Bantams lost through not being able to field a full team. Another match was due to be played against Westminster during the Spring term, but owing to lack of support and a glaring number of detentions the match had to be given to Westminster without being contested.

In the School 1st XV. Atkin is represented by four players, viz., Liggett, Pollard, Pringle, and Binyon. Athol and Thompson have also played at odd times during the season. Pringle has brought distinction to the House by scoring 29 tries in inter-school matches.

In other School activities, Atkin has two members on the committee of the Literary and Debating Society, and Pringle represents the House as secretary of the Table Tennis Club. Atkin has supplied two prefects this year.

STITT.

THERE are a hundred and twenty-one boys in Stitt House this year. Three members of Stitt are prefects—Hosker, W. E. Jones, and Morris. The House is represented in the 1st XV. by Hosker and Duckworth, Johnson is captain of the 2nd XV., and Burls, Dickson, and Morris are also in this team. In the Bantams are Hughes (captain), Turner, Kearney, Riley, Seymour, Sedman, and Shaw.

The Stitt Senior Rugby team has not had a very successful season this year. In the match against Atkin they lost 22-3, while owing to their inability to raise a team the match against Tate had to be cancelled. Against Westminster Stitt lost 28-8. This lack of interest in Rugby among the senior boys of the House is a sad reflection on Stitt which in the past has always been able to field a fairly strong Senior team. The Bantam XV. won the only match it has played this year by 12 points to 6. The interest displayed in Rugby by the junior members augurs well for the future.

TATE.

IT is indeed a long time since House Notes have appeared in the *Visor*. A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then, and on the whole Tate has done very well. Last year the House gained first place in Rugger, Cricket, and Athletics, and second place in the mark sheets, a really stupendous result. This year unfortunately shows a general reduction in the interest of boys in the welfare and achievements of their house. We hope to see a marked improvement in the coming season.

The Rugger so far has not been very successful. The Senior XV. has played two games, against Westminster and Atkin, and only lost them by a very small margin, the scores being 11-pts.—5-pts. and 18-pts.—17-pts. respectively. The Bantam team has also played two matches, against Westminster and Stitt, and won the first, but lost the other by a large margin since three members of the team were injured.

In the various School teams, we have supplied five players to the 1st XV., Smith G.A., Young J., Lloyd, Bassett, and Osborne, and to the 2nd XV. and Bantam XV. we have supplied Lovatt, Rixon W., Fisher, Pownall, Blondel, Graves, Hough, Young W., Young R., Wellman, Podmore, and Rixon A. This is a large number, and they are all a credit to their House.

D.N.A.O.

WESTMINSTER.

THIS year there are a hundred and eleven boys in Westminster House, including five prefects.

During the Autumn term, House activities were confined to one set of Senior, and one of Bantam, Rugby matches. This was because of the large fixture list of the 1st XV. Tate were our opponents, and, although the Seniors won their game by a small margin, the Bantams were unlucky. Westminster is well represented in the School Rugby teams, both the captain and vice captain of the 1st XV. coming from this House. Five members play regularly for the 1st XV., Lamb, Thomas, Harris, Jones E. W., and Crossley. In the 2nd XV. and Bantam XV. we are represented by McLaughlin, Owers, Roberts C. J., Black, and Redfern.

Three members of Westminster are on the Committee of the Literary and Debating Society, and one is the Secretary of the Scientific Society. In a General Knowledge Bee held on February 1st, 1945, Westminster proved to be the superior House.

House matches were arranged for March 14th, but, owing to the inability of Atkin to raise a team, we gained the points without a contest.

March 25th: As a result of Rugby House matches, Westminster and Atkin tie for 1st place, and Stitt and Tate are also equal on points.

Chess Club

DURING this term the Chess Club has met every Friday, and all the boards have been in use. There is a good deal of latent talent among the members which should assure a bright future for the club. House

shaped well in the back division. Owers has been the most vigorous forward.

The 3rd XV. has had few fixtures, but has given practice to many boys who will reach the 2nd, or even 1st, XV. next season.

The Bantams have been very successful. Seymour has played well at forward, while among the backs the most promising have been R. E. Hughes, Bird, and Turner.

Rugby in the School has inevitably suffered by the loss of Mr. D. J. Williams, who was its mainstay for many years. The game, however, is still very much alive. Even bad weather and the plea of 'no boots' have had no adverse influence on the progress of the game. For the statistically-minded a table of results is appended. J.P.

Opponents.	1st.	2nd.	Bant.	Gd..	1st	2nd.	Bant.
Old Boys	W.	—	—	...	H. ... 29-8	—	—
Hawarden	W.	—	—	...	A. ... 24-0	—	—
Birkenhead School ...	L.	L.	L.	...	H. ... 8-11	0-42	3-18
Calday G. S.	L.	W.	W.	...	H. ... 3-9	11-9	20-0
St. Mary's, Crosby ...	L.	W.	W.	...	A. ... 3-8	11-8	11-5
Rock Ferry High Sch.	W.	W.	W.	...	A. ... 7-0	19-3	20-0
Wirral G. S.	W.	L.	W.	...	H. ... 16-0	9-13	6-0
Oldershaw G. S.	W.	W.	W.	...	H. ... 50-0	22-6	33-0
R. N. College	L.	—	—	...	H. ... 5-16	—	—
Upton R.U.F.C.	L.	—	—	...	H. ... 3-16	—	—
Wrexham	D.	—	—	...	A. ... 3-3	—	—
Upton R.U.F.C.	W.	—	—	...	H. ... 20-0	—	—
Wallasey G. S.	W.	—	W.	...	H. ... 26-8	—	11-6
Hawarden	W.	—	—	...	A. ... 16-6	—	—
St. Mary's, Crosby ...	W.	L.	L.	...	H. ... 33-0	9-11	3-27
Calday G. S.	L.	—	L.	...	A. ... 5-6	—	3-6
Wirral G. S.	W.	W.	L.	...	A. ... 23-9	16-9	3-6
Oldershaw G. S.	W.	—	—	...	A. ... 52-3	—	—
Birkenhead School ...	L.	—	W.	...	A. ... 0-21	—	22-0
Rock Ferry High Sch.	W.	W.	W.	...	H. ... 6-0	19-5	30-0
Rock Ferry High Sch.	W.	—	—	...	A. ... 8-0	—	—

Scientific Society 1944-45

MEETINGS.

1944.

Oct. 6—Election of Officers.

12—"Plastics," by R. Brymner.

Nov. 7—"Methods of Transport Operation," by Mr. Williams.

28—"Science in the Countryside," by Mr. Speight.

1945.

Jan. 16—"Yacht Design," by Mr. Townsend.

30—"Scientific Bee," arranged by P. J. Harris.

matches and games in the beginners' division have been postponed until next term, when we also hope to play off the 1944-5 Championship. A. Smith (IVa.) has become Secretary in place of A. W. Watt (Rem. A.), and Mr. Moore has continued to act as chairman.

Literary and Debating Society

ONLY three meetings of the Society have been held this year. At two of these General Knowledge Bees were held, and at the other meeting there was a debate.

Four teams took part in the first General Knowledge Bee, which was won by the Science team, who were $4\frac{1}{2}$ points ahead of the Literary team. The other two teams taking part were a VIth form team and a mixed team.

The second General Knowledge Bee was a competition among the four houses. Westminster were first with 19 points, followed by Tate and Atkin who each gained 16 points. Stitt were fourth with 12 points.

The subject for debate at the third meeting was "That women should have equal rights with men." Although there were not many members present, the meeting was very lively, and nearly everyone had something to say. The motion was lost by 5 votes to 11.

The small number of meetings held and the rather poor attendances were due mainly to the number of new societies which have been formed in the School, and the fact that many of the senior boys are busy in the evenings with outside organizations.

Mr. Lake was again Chairman of the Society this year.

P.A.H.

Rugby 1944-45

THE past season, in spite of many rainy weeks, has been a very enjoyable one. Three teams have been turned out regularly, and a 3rd XV. has appeared whenever required. The three captains, Lamb, Johnston, and R. E. Hughes, have managed their XV's. very capably and have had their reward in keen players and a good number of well-fought games.

In points scored the 1st XV. compares well with the best XV's. of the last ten years. The backs played well from the first, and the forwards, this term at least, have scrummaged well and shown a stout heart against the doughtiest opponents. Pringle, at left centre, has scored most tries, and Thomas and Hosker have been the makers of many openings. At full-back, Lamb has shown splendid resource and courage. He is never caught in possession, an invaluable habit in a full-back. Binyon has been the acknowledged leader of the forwards.

The 2nd XV. has been above the average, though it has not had the support of many of the heavier boys in 6s. and 6A. Johnston has been a very sound full-back, while Podmore, Simons, and C. J. Roberts have

Feb. 18—Four Short Lectures: 1. "Explosives," by D. Burls; 2. "The Camera," by J. W. L. Young; 3. "Film," by W. E. Jones; 4. "The Eye," by R. Brymner.
Mar. 6—"The Sounds of War," by The Headmaster.

This season has been a great success owing to the efforts of our secretary, P. J. Harris, who also arranged a most exciting "Scientific Bee," which was won by a team which was composed of W. E. Jones, J. E. Morris, T. Byrne, G. A. Moore, and G. Clare. The speakers at each lecture have done particularly well, keeping their audiences interested up to the end. A lecture of particular interest was given by Mr. Williams, who has a way of keeping his audience interested by relating various stories of interest related to his subject. Mr. Speight gave a very good description of life on a modern farm. The paper by R. Brymner on "Plastics" was an experiment which came off very well, Brymner explaining the tremendous importance of plastics in the future by a brilliant description of life about fifty years from now. The lectures by Mr. Townsend and the Headmaster were of a technical nature and were attended mainly by the older boys of the School.

Decline

ON the trembling soil of Europe

The mad Dictator stands,

Receding chin, significant hair,

Eyes with insanity hidden there;

An upstart from a broken power,

Counting the seconds of his final hour,

Gazing with fear to West and East,

A servile, cowardly, cringing beast.

What fears portrayed upon that face,

"Monarch of a Master Race,"

Seeking power through blood and death,

Fearing now his final breath.

The people whom he held enslaved

Now see him as a man deprived,

Responsible for all their woes,

A nation with the world as foes.

Their fates are now to be decided

By noble Powers they once derided:

An end is coming to their dreams,

The fabric of a madman's schemes.

The ground beneath his feet is shaking,

The hearts of all his dupes are quaking,

As from the land, the air, the sea,

Advance the hordes of VICTORY.

D. HARRIS, IV.