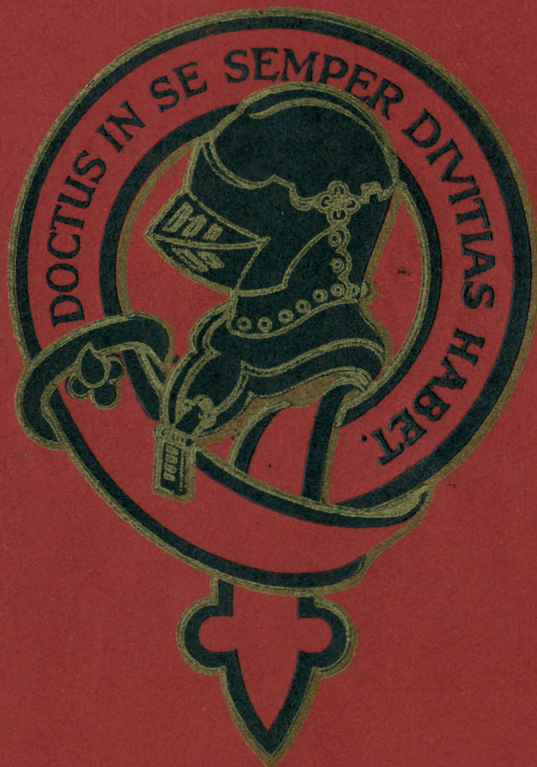


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WINTER, 1960.

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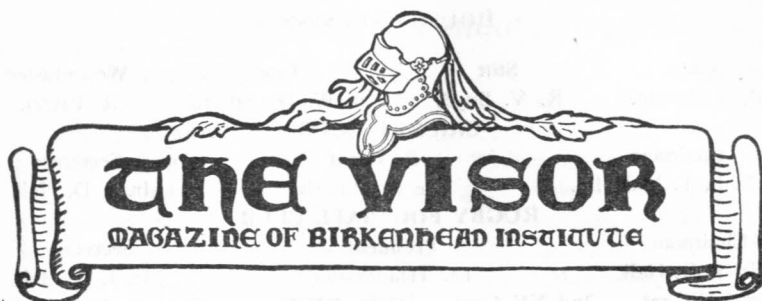
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Assistant Scoutmaster: D. Potter.

Troop Leader: P. E. Ogden.

Patrol Leader: J. K. Dodd.

School Calendar.

Autumn term began	September 5th
Half-term holiday	October 24th, 25th, 26th
Autumn term ends	December 20th
Spring term begins	Wednesday, January 4th, 1961
Half-term holiday	February 13th and 14th
Spring term ends	March 29th
Summer term begins	April 17th
Half-term	May 22nd, 23rd, 24th
Summer term ends	July 21st
Autumn term begins	September 4th

Editorial.

IN a short time after this Christmas number of the *Visor* has reached you, another year will have ended, and yet another will begin. "Old time is still a flying," said the poet; and indeed it has flown this year. It seems a very short time since 1960 was ushered in with the dreaded "mock", followed by "Speech Day" and the Cross Country. Summer brought the Athletic Sports and the General Certificate Examinations (the results of which are detailed elsewhere in these pages), and now the wettest autumn term in memory completes the cycle of the year, as, with bonfire night and Remembrance Day behind us, the School Choir prepare for Christmas carols, and all from Head Prefect to most junior first-former look forward to seasonal good cheer. And no sooner shall we have celebrated Christmas and welcomed the New Year, than we shall be back at Whetstone Lane on Wednesday, January 4th, 1961, to start the seventy-third year of the life of Birkenhead Institute. And in that newest of new years the *Visor*, you may feel confident, will remain what it has been since its inauguration in 1929—the reliable announcer of what is to come and the faithful recorder of what is past. In that year, too, we earnestly hope that it will be the duty of this magazine to record with pride and gratitude the School's generous response to the Headmaster's appeal in this number for subscriptions to the Wilfred Owen Library Memorial Fund.

Salvete.

Hansen, C.; Gregory, W. J.; Thomas, C.; Carter, T. C.; Clark, J. E.; Dutton, K.; Frost, F. B.; Gartland, D.; Hinds, D. G.; Lowe, A. C.; Myers, E. A.; White, D. A.; Allen, P.; Barlow, R.; Bettley, J. R.; Bickley, M. P.; Birss, A. D.; Burkey, M. W.; Burns, P.; Campbell, S.; Challinor, P. C.; Coey, B. G.; Copeland, R. A.; Davies, E. N.; Davies, R. J.; Dawson, S.; Diamond, A. E.; Goldsmith, D.; Grover, M. G.; Haddow, J. H.; Hadfield, P.; Harper, C. R.; Hartley, L.; Hodgson, V. Y.; Houghton, B.; Jackson, P. R.; Jarvis, M. J.; Johnson, A. P.; Johnston, L. J.; Jones, I. O.;

Jones, S. L.; Keating, G. F.; Laing, J. A.; Lamb, S. S.; Lampkin, C. S.; Little, C. R.; Loy, A. J.; McKay, E. W.; McLaughlin, J. A.; Macklin, J. L.; Martingell, K. E.; Mort, R. J.; Neale, W.; O'Connor, J. J.; Popham, A. M.; Price, P. R.; Ramsdale, P. H.; Reid, J. C.; Roberts, A.; Roberts, P. H.; Rogers, J. P.; Shaw, M. J.; Smith, B.; Snook, R. J.; Stott, R. E.; Strange, A. R. F.; Stuart, D. I.; Titchmarsh, T. F.; Vaughan, P.; Wade, D.; Walton, R. H.; Watson, P.; Williams, J. H.; Wood, M. D.; Young, A. W.; Fraser, J. S.; Wige, G. J.

Valete.

July: Rich, J.; Chalkley, K. B.; Gahan, H. A.; Barwell, D.; Bird, P. A.; Chesworth, D. C.; Hadfield, F.; Harding, A. F.; Kellett, G. L.; Lightfoot, D. A.; Miller, D. M.; Phipps, F.; Pierce, W. V.; Roche, P. W.; Pollock, L.; Wood, R. E.; Brobyn, A.; Chesworth, M.; Delves, D. H.; Dodd, J.; Humphreys, K. E.; Johnson, J. K.; Jones, M. V.; McRae, D.; Manley, P.; Mannion, T. W.; Smith, J. A.; Squires, A. F.; Sutton, R. J.; Wills, J. N.; Buchanan, J. S.; Cooke, B. D.; Cram, G. H.; Croft, D. G.; Davies, J. I.; Edwards, G. E.; Gibson, F.; Houghton, C.; Hughes, D. L.; Jones, A. T.; Kennedy, D. W.; Lee, J. M.; Lomax, D. O.; McKelvey, D.; McLaren, N. B.; Morris, J. R.; Orme, R.; Pendleton, J. W.; Povall, R.; Quinn, S. G. P.; Roberts, D.; Roberts, E. H.; Roberts, G.; Smith, J. M.; Swindells, H. C.; Thomas, A. J.; Tucker, M. C.; Walker, C. G.; Watson, B. A.; Westwater, P. W.; Leeming, G.; Jones, K. G.; Reynolds, A. R.

September: Meacock, R. H.
 October: Landsborough, J.
 November: Moyes, P. J.

Staff Notes.

THIS term the School welcomes to the Staff four new masters. Mr. R. E. Evans, M. A. (Oxon), Senior History Master, comes to us after serving for five years (1952-1957) in educational administration and at Government College, Zaria, Northern Nigeria, and for three years at Chatham House School, Ramsgate (1957-1960). Mr. W. Taylor, B.A., Senior Geography Master, graduated at the University of Manchester (1951-1954) and took the Diploma in Education at the University of Liverpool in 1955. It was at this time that Mr. Taylor first taught in the School, since he carried out some of his teaching practice on our premises. After leaving the University Mr. Taylor, who is an Old Rockferrian, spent five years teaching Geography. The appointment of Mr. P. Townsend, B.A., who graduated in Geography at University College, University of London, presents us with what appears to be a fresh record, since, as far as the writer's knowledge goes, this is the first time that a father and his son have been fellow members of the Common Room. Finally, Mr. T. J. Walsh, B.A., needs little introduction to the School, being a former Head Prefect and member

of the 1st XV, who has graduated in English at the University of Leeds (1957-1960) and is teaching French in addition to his specialist subject. All these gentlemen have already identified themselves with various out of school activities, and **Visor** takes this opportunity of wishing them every success.

The School regrets that we are now to lose the valued services of Mrs. J. P. Kinch, who came to us in 1959 at great personal inconvenience to assist us at a time of serious shortage of Staff. Since then Mrs. Kinch has afforded invaluable assistance in both the English and the French departments. We part from her with regret and wish her all good fortune for the future.

Examination Results.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION 1960.

Key—General Paper, G.P.; English Language, Lang.; English Literature, Lit.; History, H; Geography, G; Art, A; Latin, L; French, F; Welsh, W; Mathematics, M; Physics, P; Chemistry, C; Woodwork, Wk.; Biology, B; Music, Mu.

Ordinary Level

- 5A—Brobyn, A.—G, M, P, Kk; Canning, B. M.—A, F, M, P, C; Capstick, N. E.—Lang., Lit., F, M, P, C; Chesworth, M.—Lang., M; Davies, A.—Lang., A, F, M, P, C; Delves, D. H.—Lang., Lit., G, F, M; Dodd, J.—Lang., Lit., H, F, M, P; Edwards, D. G.—M, P, C, B; Glynn, S. J.—Lang., Lit., A, F, M; Goodwin, D. A.—Lang., Lit., H, G, M, P, C; Gregory, G. O.—Lang., Lit., G, L, F, W, M, P, C; Gurden, J. R. M.—Lang., G, F, M, C; Harding, K. C.—Lang., H, A, F, M, C, B; Humphrey, K. E.—Lang., A, F; Johnson, J. K.—Lang., Lit., A; Jones, M. V.—Lang., F, M, P; Lanigan, M. J.—Lang., G, F, M; McRae, D.—H, A, F; Manley, P.—F; Mannion, T. W.—Lang., Lit., A, F, M; Meacock, R. H.—Lang., Lit., F, M, P; Oxtou, J. E.—Lang., Lit., A, F, M, P, C, B; Price, B. R.—G, F, M; Quail, C. W.—F, M, P, C; Rushton, M.—F, M, P, C; Smith, J. A.—M; Sutton, R. J.—Lang., Lit., H, F, M; Tooley, P. W.—Lang., Lit., H, G, L, F, M, C; Williams, J. A. G.—Lit., H, A, M, P; Wills, J. N.—Lang., G, M, P; Wood, B.—Lang., Lit., A, F, M, P, C.
- 5B—Buchanan, J. S.—M, P; Chisholm, J. M.—Lang., F; Cooke, B. D.—Lang., Lit., A; Crain, G. H.—Lit., A; Croft, D. G.—Lang., Lit., G; Davies, J. I.—Lang., F; Edwards, G. E.—Lang.; Hude, J. C.—C; Houghton, C.—A; Hughes, D. L.—Lang., F; Jones, A. T.—Lang.; Kennedy, D. W.—Lang., G, F, C; Lee, J. M.—G; Little, J. D.—Lang., Lomax, D. O.—Lang., A, F; McCracken, A. K.—Lang., C; McGregor, I.—Lang., A; McKelvey, D.—Wk.; McLaren, N. B.—A; Moyes, P. J.—Lang., M, P; Orme, R.—G, C, Wk.; Pendleton, J. W.—H, B; Proctor, R. W.—Lang.; Quinn, S. G. P.—A; Rich, J.—A; Roberts, D.—Lang., C; Smith, J. M.—A; Steedman, A.—Lang., Lit., B; Swindells, H. C.—Lit., C.; Thomas, J. A.—Lang., Lit., H, F, Mu.; Tucker, M. C.—A, F.

Lower Sixth—Boyd, R. V.—Lang.; Doveston, B. W.—Lang.; Fisher, P. A.—H; Stewart, C. S.—M; Timmons, D. J.—G, F; Pollock, L.—Lang.

Advanced Level

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Wilfred Owen sensed this vital change which he did not survive; for he died in 1918. He wrote, in 1914, prophetically,

"War broke. And now the winter of the world
With perishing great darkness closes in.
The cyclone of the pressure on Berlin
Is over all the width of Europe whirled,
Rending the sails of progress".

He even foresaw in "Strange Meeting" the East-West division.

"Now men will go content with what we spoiled.
Or, discontent, boil bloody, and be spilled.
They will be swift with swiftness of the tigress,
None will break ranks, though nations trek from progress".

His words came true. The world of the British Empire and the Kaiser, living in a twilight of Viennese Waltzes and "Rule Britannia", disappeared for ever. It was replaced by a world of H-bombs, V-2 rockets, labour strikes, and rationing. This, of course, is only half the story, but it is the half with which Owen was concerned.

He was interested in how war and change affected men. Described by Robert Graves as "a quiet, round-faced, little man", he demonstrated this both by the way he led and encouraged the men under his command, and by the manner of his death. The latter is narrated by Edmund Blunden in his Introduction to "The Poems of Wilfred Owen" (Chatto and Windus, 10s. 6d.). "The Engineers who were trying to bridge the Canal almost all became casualties. Owen took a hand with some duckboards or planks, and was at the water's edge helping his men to fix them when he was killed." Modest, undramatic, he died characteristically.

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"Futility", one of his poems, dramatises the major themes of his work. It is an objective poem: Owen stands back, and gives his dead warrior a scope and importance which ranges him beside Shakespeare's Antony or the wounded Achilles. The soldier is not visualised since he is **all** soldiers.

Owen's voice is one of sadness and resignation in "Futility". Why was the fine earth created if men were to kill each other?

"Move him into the sun—

Gently its touch awoke him once
At home, whispering of fields unsown.
Always it woke him, even in France,
Until this morning and this snow.
If anything might rouse him now
The kind old sun will know."

In the second part of the poem Owen exemplifies his own statement "The Poetry is in the Pity",

"Think how it wakes the seeds,—

Woke, once, the clays of a cold star.
Are limbs, so dear-achieved, are sides,
Full-nerved—still warm—too hard to stir?
Was it for this the clay grew tall?
—O what made fatuous sunbeams toil
To break earth's sleep at all?"

Before the War Owen, educated at B.I. and London University, was fond of the poetry of John Keats. His delight in the sensuous aspects of nature, as well as his vivid eye for colours, is retained in his war poetry where it is used with telling effect. This may be illustrated anywhere in his poetry, but particularly in "Greater Love",

"Red lips are not so red

As the stained stones kissed by the English dead",
or later in the same poem,

"Your voice sings not so soft,—

Though even as wind murmuring through rafters loft—
Your dear voice is not so dear,
Gentle, and evening clear,
As theirs whom none now hear,
Now earth has stopped their piteous mouths that coughed."

What Owen hated most was insensibility among those who had not suffered like the soldiers. In this he was like his contemporary writers Robert Graves, Isaac Rosenberg, Charles Sorley and Siegfried Sassoon, the latter of whom threw his Military Cross into the sea as a protest against those who used war to further their own ends.

"Insensibility" is a poem on this subject:

" But cursed are dullards whom no cannon stuns,
That they should be as stones;
Wretched are they, and mean
With paucity that never was simplicity.
By choice, they made themselves immune
To pity and whatever moans in man
Before the last sea and the hapless stars;
Whatever mourns when many leave these shores;
Whatever shares
The eternal reciprocity of tears."

I hope that these few observations on Owen's poetry will encourage 'Visor' readers to read deeper into Owen's work. His poetry is not an escape from reality. It is sometimes horrifying in its realism, like the beginning lines of "The Show",

" My soul looked down from a vague height with Death.
As unremembering how I rose or why,
And saw a sad land, weak with sweats or death,
Gray, cratered like the moon with hollow woe,
And pitted with great pocks and scabs of plagues."

But always it is full of love for humanity. This is why Owen is a very great poet and visionary.

Wilfred Owen Memorial Library.

THE appeal mentioned in the last edition of the *Visor* was started with the consent of the Governors, at the beginning of term. We hope in time by the efforts of the School, and with the help of parents, old boys, and friends of the School, to raise enough money to provide a worthy memorial. It is considered that a sum of at least £500 is necessary as a start. We therefore urge all who read these lines to support us in every way, by a personal contribution and by making this appeal widely known.

Up to the time of writing we have received 110 contributions and have £136 12s. 9d. in the fund. Eleven of these contributions come from Old Istonians or friends of the School. The remainder are either personal or Form contributions from the School. We must thank all who have contributed so far, especially the parents who have no doubt provided most of the boys' contributions. At the same time we urge all the others who have so far not helped to do their best for this worthy cause.

Holland 1960.

A SCHOOL party of 29 boys, Mr. Malcolm and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hall went this summer to Holland, staying in Belgium for one night both going and coming back.

We crossed the channel from Dover and arrived at Ostend at about 15 hours on the 25th August, moving at once through the Customs hall to a waiting coach which took us along the coast road to our hotel in Blankenberg, a typical sea-side resort with open air cafes and broad promenade. Our hotel opened on the market square and was only a few minutes walk from the sea. We first made a perilous ascent up several flights of steep and narrow stairs and finally reached our rooms. Most of the party then set off to explore; not so the senior boys who showed complete lack of adventurous spirit by promptly going off to sleep only to awake for dinner at 18.30. After dinner and a short walk, we retired for the night.

When we woke up in the morning the market-place was a hive of activity, but we had little time to explore. After a quick breakfast we bundled into another coach and set off for Sluis, the border post where the only attention we aroused was a courteous wave from a border official. On we went to the ferry at Breskens; here we sampled for the first time Dutch coffee and salesmanship, the latter in the form of an enthusiastic gift-seller. From Breskens we boarded the ferry-boat for Flushing, our crossing being made all the more pleasant by the harmonious singing of a Dutch girls' choir which, although unaccompanied, was extremely impressive. Once out of Flushing, the countryside was typically Dutch, very flat and extremely fertile with farm produce growing on almost every square inch of available land. By mid-day we had reached a small town called Roosendaal, where we stopped for a really excellent meal to which we did full justice. On then to an autobahn which led us rapidly to Rotterdam, a modern city still in the process of being built, having been completely razed by the Germans. The weather was now very hot and our progress through the city was very slow. Once through the centre, however, we travelled quickly on and, after an interesting stop at the Delft pottery works, where we saw some unique pieces of craftsmanship, we finally arrived at the hotel Verloop, our hotel in Noordwijk aan Zee.

In the morning, after a continental breakfast which naturally included cheese, we set off for the beach and a bathe. The water was clean and warm, and thus invigorated we split up to explore the town. The beach was very straight and was bordered by a long promenade on which were hotels and open air cafes. At one end of the promenade there was a lighthouse and at the other a truly massive hotel resembling a Norman castle. The beach here was crowded with bathing huts and small basket-like wind shields, and here also was the strip reserved for bathing. Despite its innocuous appearance, the sea had many treacherous currents. Behind the promenade lay the town, very compact and clean, with a midget golf course and a fine set of tennis courts. After lunch we boarded our coach

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and travelled to IJmuiden at the mouth of the Noordzee Canal which serves as an entrance to Amsterdam. Here we saw some of the huge locks, the biggest in the world, and caught a glimpse of a large liner leaving the canal. We returned to the hotel via Aaarlem, where we saw the exterior of one of the famous Dutch cathedrals. After dinner it began to rain, the first rain since we left home, and we were forced to remain indoors.

The next day we again bathed in beautiful weather and had another morning free in Noordwijk. After an early lunch we travelled to Alkmaar, the principal cheese market of Holland, and, although the market was not open, I found this small Dutch town enchanting. The countryside around Alkmaar and that bordering the Zuider Zee abounds in windmills, and we saw many from the coach windows. We went from Alkmaar to a cheese farm where the lady of the house described to us, in somewhat erratic English, the cheese-making process which included, according to her, 'putting my husband in the press and taking off his clothes'. From the farm we continued to Volendam, where we had a momentary glimpse of the Zuider Zee and the Dutch national costumes which are still worn in this ancient village. Returning to our hotel we dashed in and changed just in time for dinner.

The next day dawned fine, and we spent another morning in Noordwijk. By now we had developed in our party several Coca-Cola addicts, and after breakfast each morning a regular procession of small boys clutching coca-cola bottles could be seen travelling to and from the hotel. Another section of the party had developed a passion for midget golf and were now enthusiastically practising for a forth-coming match against Mr. Malcolm and Mr. and Mrs. Hall. Mr. Malcolm of course is an expert, having played on some of the best midget golf courses in Europe. After lunch we went to the Hague, where first we visited the Palace of International Justice. The Palace is truly international; for contributions towards its design, decoration, and furnishing have come from all parts of the world. We duly paid homage to the founder, Andrew Carnegie, and were very reluctant to leave what must be the most beautiful building in Holland.

The next place of visit, the model town of Madurodam, was just as fascinating. Originally the brain child of a native of the Hague, it was built by the parents of a war hero, George Maduro. It covers an area of 2—3 acres and contains exact replicas of many of Holland's most striking features. The visitor views the city as a whole from a circular road running round the perimeter and may also explore more closely using roads which actually run through it. The town is maintained with the help of a council of school children, the burgomaster of the town being Princess Beatrix. We returned to the hotel for dinner, after which several golf fanatics insisted on playing even though it was almost dark and a strong wind with some rain was blowing in from the sea; personally I was glad to get to bed.

Our next day was a very full one. In the morning we first visited the flower market at Aalsmeer. On entering the market we were greeted by a magnificent variety of colour from almost every conceivable flower. Our

guide explained to us how the marketing system here works and enables fresh flowers to be transported all over the world. Many of the party were sufficiently inspired by the floral display to buy Dutch bulbs in great numbers, to try to reproduce this awe inspiring display at home. We next visited a clog 'factory' consisting of a single workshop. Here we saw how machines had superseded the craftsman's skill in this trade, which is still flourishing, especially in winter, when two-thirds of the Dutch people wear clogs. We went on to Amsterdam, the greatest city of Holland. After an interesting tour of the canals by motor launch, we spent an hour or so exploring the city on foot. Then we went to Amsterdam airport where we spent a wet and windy, but nevertheless interesting, couple of hours. Back at the hotel, we finished our dinner in time to see a firework display on the beach.

Our last full day in Holland was a stormy one. After a bathe in a very rough sea, our golfing friends managed to defeat Mr. Malcolm's team despite difficult conditions. The afternoon was spent shopping in Amsterdam. After dinner we packed reluctantly and retired early.

Our departure in the morning was hurried, as was the journey back to Belgium through Rotterdam, Breda, the frontier post, Antwerp, Ghent, and Bruges, and finally we reached our hotel at Blankenberg in torrential rain. The next day, loaded with bulbs, cheeses and clogs, we departed for Ostend and home.

Our holiday had been perfect, and both accommodation and food had been typically Dutch and thus excellent. Perhaps the only drawback was our complete ignorance of the Dutch language, but such is the character of the Dutch people that it was impossible not to be understood, especially as so many of them spoke English.

Finally, on behalf of the whole party, I should like to thank Mr. Malcolm and Mr. Hall for making the holiday so enjoyable for us all.

M. J. DONAHUE.

Coronation Cup 1959-60.

Events.	House Positions.			
	Atkin	Stitt	Tate	Westminster
Athletics	3rd	2nd	4th	1st
Chess	3rd	1st	4th	2nd
Cricket	4th	1st	2nd	2nd
Cross Country	3rd	4th	2nd	1st
Christmas Examinations ..	4th	3rd	2nd	1st
Summer Examinations	4th	3rd	2nd	1st
Rugby	4th	2nd	3rd	1st
Final Position				Total No. of Pts.
Westminster	1st			18½
Stitt	2nd			12
Tate	3rd			8½
Atkin	4th			3



A PHOTOGRAPHIC competition was held in the summer holidays in connection with the School tour of Belgium and Holland. Prizes were awarded to J. M. Mattingley of the Upper Sixth, D. H. Millardship of 4A, and B. Goldsmith of 3B. Early this term a crowded meeting was shown colour slides of the tour, the slides having been prepared by Mr. J. D. Hall and Millardship.

* * *

At the end of the summer term the Cricket Captain and the Sports Committee awarded cricket colours to D. Docherty and A. McIntosh. On the last day of the term J. T. Bartlett, Esq., an Old Instonian who has played Rugby Football for Waterloo, Cheshire, and England, came along to present the Old Boys' Sports Prizes on behalf of the Old Instonians' Association. These were awarded to A. Harding of Stitt, R. Povall of Tate, and F. Hadfield of Westminster. It was considered that there was no one in Atkin of sufficient merit to warrant an award being made.

* * *





Wreaths were laid on the two memorials in the entrance hall by the Old Instonians' Association on Remembrance Day;

* * *

The Old Boys' War Memorial Prize for the year 1959-1960 has been awarded by the Trustees to C. M. Lee.

* * *

A party from the School has been to the continent during the summer holidays for the last eight years. Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Holland having been visited. Next year it is hoped that a group will go to Brunnen, a small town on a bend of the Lake of Lucerne, in Switzerland. Arrangements are being made for excursions to Stoos (4,245 ft.), a winter sports centre, by coach and funicular, Lucerne, by lake steamer, and the Rigi (5,906 ft.), one of the famous view-points of the world, by lake steamer and mountain railway.

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

ATKIN.

THIS term has been a disappointing one for Atkin, and it is to be hoped that the House will improve in the near future.

The details of activities are not very encouraging, because not one victory has been recorded. In the three Junior rugby House matches Atkin was beaten in each match, twice heavily and once narrowly, in losing to Stitt by only three points. The results were even more disastrous in the Senior House matches. Atkin being beaten by Stitt by fifty-one points to nil.

There was also disaster in the Senior chess House matches, in which Atkin lost to Stitt by seven games to nil.

It can only be hoped that in the next two terms the House can regain a little of its former glory.

STITT.

THIS term the House lost one of its valued members, namely Mr. Townsend. The House wishes to thank him for his long and faithful service, during which he has always had the interest of the House at heart. His position as Housemaster has been filled by Mr. Jones, who, if he puts as much energy and enthusiasm into House activities as he does into his rugby, will do well in his new role.

So far this term the House activities have been restricted to rugby and chess. The Senior performances show great promise. They won both the rugby and chess matches in a convincing style, 51-3 and 7-0, respectively. Unfortunately the Juniors have failed to emulate the Seniors and have won only one rugby match against Atkin, losing the others to Tate and Westminster. As yet they have not played any chess matches. If the Juniors make a greater effort, and provided the Seniors maintain their present standard, the House will be in a favourable position to challenge the present holders of the Coronation Cup, Westminster. It only remains for me to hope that the good work has been maintained in the Christmas examinations, and to close by anticipating with confidence success in the coming year.

R.V.B.

TATE.

THIS year, Tate suffer the great disadvantage of not having very strong teams in either rugby or chess, etc. In the Junior House matches Tate won two games against Stitt and Atkin by 6-3 and 15-3 respectively, and lost against Westminster Bantams by 15-5.

In the one Senior House match, the Westminster 1st XV gained a decisive victory, winning by 57-0. Tate was very much the weaker side, having many fourth form members to make up the side.

In the only Senior chess match which has been played this term, Tate lost to Westminster by 5 games to 2.

It seems a great pity that in the Senior School and also in the Junior, there is always a one-sidedness in House potential and very rarely is there any keen opposition from all the Houses in any particular event.

WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, after winning the Coronation Cup last year by a decisive margin, have once again begun the competition in fine style. All three Junior rugby matches have been played, and the Westminster team put up a fine show, winning all their games with a show of indisputable superiority. Mention should here be made of Brown and McNulty, both of whom played throughout in an exemplary manner.

Only one Senior rugby match has been played to date, and that also resulted in a win for the House. A Westminster Senior team, which contained nine members of the School 1st XV (six of these in the pack), "annihilated" Tate by 57 points to nil.

Also, one Senior chess match has been played, and this too resulted in a comfortable victory, Tate being beaten by 5 games to 2.

Thus, this term has been one of success for the House in everything undertaken. The tradition, established in late years, that Westminster is the superlative House is, at the moment, being maintained and strengthened. But members must not allow themselves to be lured into a sense of false security or over-confidence, and all must continue to pull together with a combination of pride, determination, and a little self-sacrifice. There would be nobody able to offer resistance to any Westminster team which had these qualities, inspired and encouraged by the hard work and ability of our House Master, Mr. Hughes.

W.R.P.

First XV.

TO date the 1st XV has played nine games, winning four, losing four, and drawing one. Competition for places has been keen, and the team has played good open football whenever possible. There has been much more attacking back play this season, inspired by the hard and tireless work of Boyd, the captain. Docherty has led the pack with fearless determination, and even against much heavier opposition they regularly hold their own. There have been some unfortunate injuries which have necessitated a changing team, but even so the reserves have usually played well above themselves and have been adequate replacements. The season promises well, and with continued good attendance at training sessions we can look forward to a reasonable share of success

J.D.H.

Sept. 17—Helsby G.S.	Away	Won	22-9
Sept. 24—Old Instonians	Home	Lost	8-16
Sept. 28—Wirral G.S.	Away	Lost	0-14
Oct. 1—Grove Park G.S.	Home	Won	25-5
Oct. 8—Helsby G.S.	Home	Won	16-9
Oct. 12—St. Anselm's College	Away	Lost	3-16
Oct. 29—Holt High School	Home	Won	58-0
Nov. 2—Park High School	Away	Draw	3-3
Nov. 9—St. Edward's College	Away	Lost	3-17
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Won 4; Lost 4; Drawn 1. Point For 138; Points Against 89. </div>			

Second XV.

THE 2nd XV have not had a very successful season so far. I think we have the nucleus of a fairly good side, but the team has not settled down together yet. Injuries in the 1st XV weakened our backs in early matches, and we have lost two scrum halves, Cotgrave and Capstick, to the 1st XV, but Oldham's play at scrum half, which is a new position to him, promises well for the rest of the season. Wise, who has recently joined the School, has filled the vacancy left by Oldham at stand-off and has so far played very well. The new jerseys have vastly improved the appearance of the team, and all players should make an effort to have black shorts and yellow and black socks.

Results so far:—

Helsby G. S.	Home	Lost	0-14
Wirral G.S.	Home	Lost	0-33
Grove Park G.S.	Away	Lost	3-15
St. Anselm's College	Home	Won	11-3
Park High School	Away	Lost	0-9
Quarry Bank High School 1st XV	Home	Won	9-3

Colts XV.

D. RATCLIFFE was elected Captain for the 1960-1961 season, and Dunne Vice-Captain. After a bad start to the season at Helsby Grammar School, the side have shown some improvement and have won four out of their seven matches to date, including a reversal of the Helsby result in a return match. This game represented the Colts' brightest display amid some rather erratic performances.

Bantam XV.

THE Bantam XV have performed well this season. They have played with great determination and displayed a good knowledge of the game. In spite of this, finishing thrust has been lacking after good approach play. In a number of games which were lost the play was much closer than the scores suggest. The side has been capably led by McNulty. J.W.A.

Second Year XV.

BEGINNING the season handicapped by injuries to Caplin and Shaw, the team lost to All Hallows and Woodchurch. A revival started with a draw against Grange in which Howarth kicked well, and the forwards, particularly Aspinall and Cotgrave, played better.

Against St. George's a draw resulted, although we should have won. Parry had a fine run from which he should have scored, but he dropped the ball to everyone's surprise. In this game the play of Scarisbrick, A. Woods, Howarth, Renshaw, and Parry was outstanding.

With more teamwork, a more ruthless pack, tactical variation in play, and swifter running from the backs, it seems evident the improvement will be maintained.

Praise should be given to the captain, Howarth, Callister, a hard-working centre, and forwards Scarisbrick, L. Brown, Robinson, and McDonnell. The team has been selected from Renshaw, Parry, Elliott, Caplin, Callister, Nethercott, Howarth (Capt.), A. Woods, Robinson, Shaw, McDonnell, L. Brown, Cotgrave, Aspinall (Pack Leader), Burgin, D. Woods, Scarisbrick, and Hayman.

Chess.

THE School Chess Team has so far played three matches in the Wright Shield Competition. The first, against the present holders, Calday G.S., was easily lost 7-0, but the second, against Blue Coat School, Liverpool, was closely contested and lost only by the odd game 4-3. The third match was against Rock Ferry High School, which was drawn 3½-3½.

The first round of the Senior House Matches has also been played and resulted in wins for Stitt and Westminster against Atkin and Tate respectively.

A competition for the First Forms has also progressed well and has now reached the third round. Great keenness has been shown by Juniors, especially in the dinner-hours, but Seniors generally devote far too little time to practice to ensure success in School Matches, and attendance on Club nights after school has been very poor. Senior players, especially members of School teams, should make a greater effort to give a lead in this respect to improve the standard of play in the School.

The Geographic Society.

IT is with great pleasure that we welcome Mr. Taylor to the School. Not only will the School now have a permanent geography master—he is the fourth in three years—but also by inaugurating the Geographic Society Mr. Taylor has laid the foundation stone of something which in the past has had a rather uncertain existence. Whereas in recent years geographic expeditions have been organised, meetings of the participants have been non-existent.

The inaugural meeting took place on Thursday, 3rd November, in the physics lab., and the attendance was so good that many boys were compelled to stand. Before showing us some most interesting colour slides of Greece, Mr. Taylor expressed his desire to see as many boys as possible contributing to future meetings, since, if he had to be the sole speaker every time, the Society would become more like a lesson.

Perhaps this fact might induce more boys to contribute, because, although we do not doubt Mr. Taylor's teaching ability, I am sure that none of us want an extra lesson after four o'clock.

During the meeting one suggestion put forward was that those boys sufficiently interested should do a study in mineralogy, and before leaving a list of names was compiled of these boys. Many boys seemed to be interested in this proposition, and so in the near future we may expect an interesting talk on their research.

The Society is in its infancy as yet, but already details are being sought about the possibility of doing some field work next year. Suggestions of where we might visit have ranged from Anglesey and Snowdonia to the Peak District.

It seems evident that the members of the newly-formed Geographic Society are extremely keen, and it can only be hoped that the interest is maintained as the weeks pass.

The Old Instonians'

Reunion Dinner.

A MEMORABLE meeting of the Old Instonians' Association, which took the form of a dinner, was held at the Masonic Hall, Clifton Road, Birkenhead, on Saturday, 22nd October. Approximately 80 members were present. They ranged from Mr. Stanton Campbell, who left the School in 1894, to a few who were at School two years ago and several who are still at it. Members of the pre-1914 generation included Mr. P. N. Williams, M.Sc., who since giving up an important post at Levers occupies his leisure in editing chemical journals, and Mr. J. E. Jones, B.A., a retired headmaster. Greetings were sent from a number of Old Instonians. Of these we should like to mention Mr. George Baker, of B.B.C. fame, who left the Institute in the 90's. and hopes to be present on another occasion, Mr. Gordon Bowen, C.M.G., Mr. Ivor Bowen, C.M.G., and the ever-faithful Mr. C. R. Lockyer.

Mr. L. T. Malcolm, who most ably officiated as Chairman, expressed his pleasure at the presence, as guests, of His Worship the Mayor, of two Old Instonians, Councillor G. F. Davies and Councillor C. S. McDonald, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Governors respectively, Alderman John Furness, Mr. H. Glyn Wilkinson, Director of Education of Birkenhead, and Mr. A. O. Jones.

Dr. R. C. Gubbins, Medical Officer of Health for Willenhall, proposed a toast to the B.I. Staff, past and present. He regaled us with many reminiscences of the School personalities he knew before 1917, notably Mr. James Smallpage (and war-time nightshirt), Mr. Gerald Dowse (and his prowess as a pianist), Mr. H. P. Wood, who taught Mathematics and Latin with equal ease, and Mr. W. H. Watts, whose scientific erudition seemed unfathomable.

The Headmaster replied suitably. He gave some amusing details about present day school life, and considered that the relationship between Staff and boys was now less formal than it was. He noted that the Institute had had over 200 members of Staff since 1889, and thought that the wide age range existing on the Staff at any given time was a great advantage, as it linked effectively past, present, and future.

Mr. W. L. Cottier, C.B.E., formerly Senior Staff Inspector, Ministry of Education, proposing the health of the Association, told of the great pleasure it had been to him to learn of the flourishing nature of the Association and of its home in Elmswood Road. He was particularly pleased to see Mr. I. A. Galloway, nephew of "Uncle Bob" and a member of a family which had made such a mark in Institute history. He told a number of excellent stories, that about Partridge being particularly well received. He urged all present, particularly the older and more affluent and influential, to make the Association the really successful organisation it deserved to be.

Mr. C. D. Gracey, J.P., in reply, gave a delightfully humorous history of the Association between the wars: its triumphs before the footlights, notably at the Old Vic in London, where it achieved national fame with its play "The Road of Poplars" and on the playing field, where it carried off the Merseyside Old Boys' Soccer Trophy; and its wrestlings with various Janitorial suppers, prepared by the fair hands of the incomparable Russell. His string of sallies in mock heroics ("our Charley and ten passengers" for example) kept his audience bubbling with merriment. Yet they appreciated also his more serious references to the enduring value of the Old Instonians' Association.

The evening passed most happily. Everyone had a chance to meet everyone else without formality. Contemporaries who had not met for many years were able to renew old friendships; the older generation learned that the Institute still flourishes; the younger heard distinguished men acknowledge their debt to the School, as they wished it well. J.E.A.

Old Instonians A.F.C.

THE commencement of the 1960-1 season has been a most promising one. The transitional period when the flow of new recruits from the School has been steadily progressing to our senior side appears to be having its effect, and at this stage in the season it is most pleasant to record that the 1st XI are second in their division, whilst the 3rd XI are top in theirs. The 2nd XI have an early season dearth of fixtures, so that no placings are available for them. However, the most gratifying aspect of all is the high standard of football that is being achieved by all three teams. It has been stated that our football has been the most attractive seen in Old Boys' League soccer to date this season.

With a fine membership of nearly 50 players, we are well placed to make a strong bid for honours this season. It is particularly pleasing to note the splendid performances being given by such young players as Geoff Greaves, Paul Lomax, and Brian Riley for the first team, whilst Alan Harding and George Edwards are making their mark in the second team. In addition there are several more of the younger players making a strong challenge. We are further strengthened by the excellent team spirit throughout the whole Club. Young and old (well, older shall we say) alike blend well both on the field of play and socially, and this team spirit is reflected in all our undertakings.

We have progressed through the first round of the Senior Trophy at the expense of Old Wallaseyans, whom we defeated by 5 goals to 1 at Wallasey after an excellent game which was particularly notable for two things: Dave Lee got a 'Hat trick', and Frank Stalker broke the Wallasey goalkeeper's wrist with one tremendous shot! Both these players—our first team's inside forwards—are being talked of as possibilities for the League eleven later this season.

The Soccer Club's game with the Rugby Club, which was so successful last season, is scheduled to take place once again on Sunday, November 13th. It is a pity these notes will not be in time to give due notice; for this should be a game well worth seeing, with the Rugby Club all out to avenge their previous defeat. A report of the game will be given in next term's notes.

In closing these notes it would be fitting to extend, on behalf of all members of the Soccer Club, most sincere good wishes to Mr. W. E. Williams on his retirement from the School.

Finally, best wishes for a very happy Christmas to the Headmaster, Staff, and all boys. May the Festive Season prove a joyous one to you all,

J. Kernaghan (Hon. Secretary).

Cross Country Running.

AFTER spending the first part of the season in training, the team began its fixtures soon after the half-term holiday and has done well to date. Three matches have been held, and all three have been won. Park High School was defeated by 53 points to 92 points, Rock Ferry High School was defeated by 64 points to 72 points, and Oldershaw Grammar School was defeated by 33 points to 94 points.

Park High School, Home:— 1, P.H.; 2, Fraser; 3, Woodworth; 4, P.H.; 5, Waring; 6, Saunders; 7, Gurden; 8, Tooley; 9, Swindells; 10, P.H.; 11, P.H.; 12, P.H.; 13, Davies; 14, Edbrooke; 15, Bonney; 16, Moorby; 17, P.H.; 18, P.H.; 19, P.H.; 20, P.H.; 21, P.H.; 22, Aspey; 23, P.H.; 24, P.H.—WIN.

Rock Ferry High School, Away:— 1, Fraser; 2, Davies; 3, R.F.; 4, Woodworth; 5, R.F.; 6, Waring; 7, R.F.; 8, R.F.; 9, R.F.; 10, R.F.; 11, Saunders; 12, Gurden; 13, Tooley; 14, R.F.; 15, Aspey; 16, R.F.; 17, Swindells; 18, R.F.; 19, R.F.; 20, Edbrooke; 21, Bonney; 22, R.F.; 23, Moorby; 24, R.F.—WIN.

Oldershaw Grammar School, Home:— 1, Fraser; 2, Woodworth; 3, O.; 4, Saunders; 5, Aspey; 6, Tooley; 7, Swindells; 8, Gurden; 9, O.; 10, O.; 11, Moorby; 12, Graham; 13, Bonney; 14, Edbrooke; 15, Webster; 16, O.; 17, O.; 18, O.; 19, Brown; 20, Hillhouse; 21, O.; 22, O.; 23, O.; 24, Dodd—WIN.

Old Boys' Successes.

IT is with great pleasure and pride that the School congratulates J. Gallagher, M.A., on his recent appointment as Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge.

* * * *

Further to the announcement in the July edition of **Visor** that H. W. Peers had obtained 1st Class Honours in Mathematics at the University of Leeds and had been awarded the Brodetsky Prize, we now record his appointment as Lecturer in Mathematics in that University. We wish him well in his post.

Visor also congratulates E. Mitchell on the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Liverpool.

Old Instonians R.U.F.C.

THE club made a disappointing start to the season, the 1st XV losing their games by small margins. However, they improved in time to prevent Old Anselmians, who have never beaten the Old Instonians, from achieving victory despite the fact that they had been having a run of success. The playing record continued to improve, partly because of the excellent attendance at the weekly gymnasium sessions organised by the captain, Ken Jones. Two players, Frank Hadfield and David Wylie, well-known to those still at School, are regular members of the team, and prove that it is possible for school leavers to make the 1st XV in a short period of time.

The annual match against the School was very keenly contested, and it looked at one stage as if the School would triumph. The Old Boys had to make a great effort to prove victorious, and this they did but only in the dying moments of the second half. The club looks forward to welcoming such worthy opponents into its ranks in the near future.

The 2nd XV and the 3rd XV, under the captaincies of Ron Harris and Norman Little, have played regularly each week, and as with the 1st XV, their playing records have improved as the season has progressed.

The club has held two most enjoyable social functions, a car rally and a dance at the R.A.F.A. club. On December 17th, there is to be a Christmas Dance at the Technical College.

At last, a secure ground has been obtained adjoining Woodchurch Road by the round-about on the way to Arrowe Park. This should prove a most convenient site, and, when the new pavilion has been built, there will be increased opportunity for both rugby and social activities.

H.G.S.

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