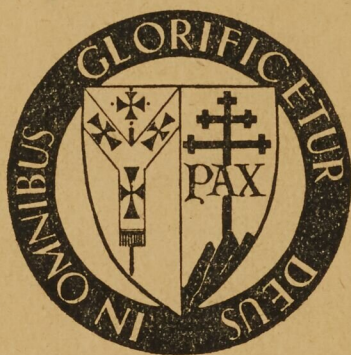
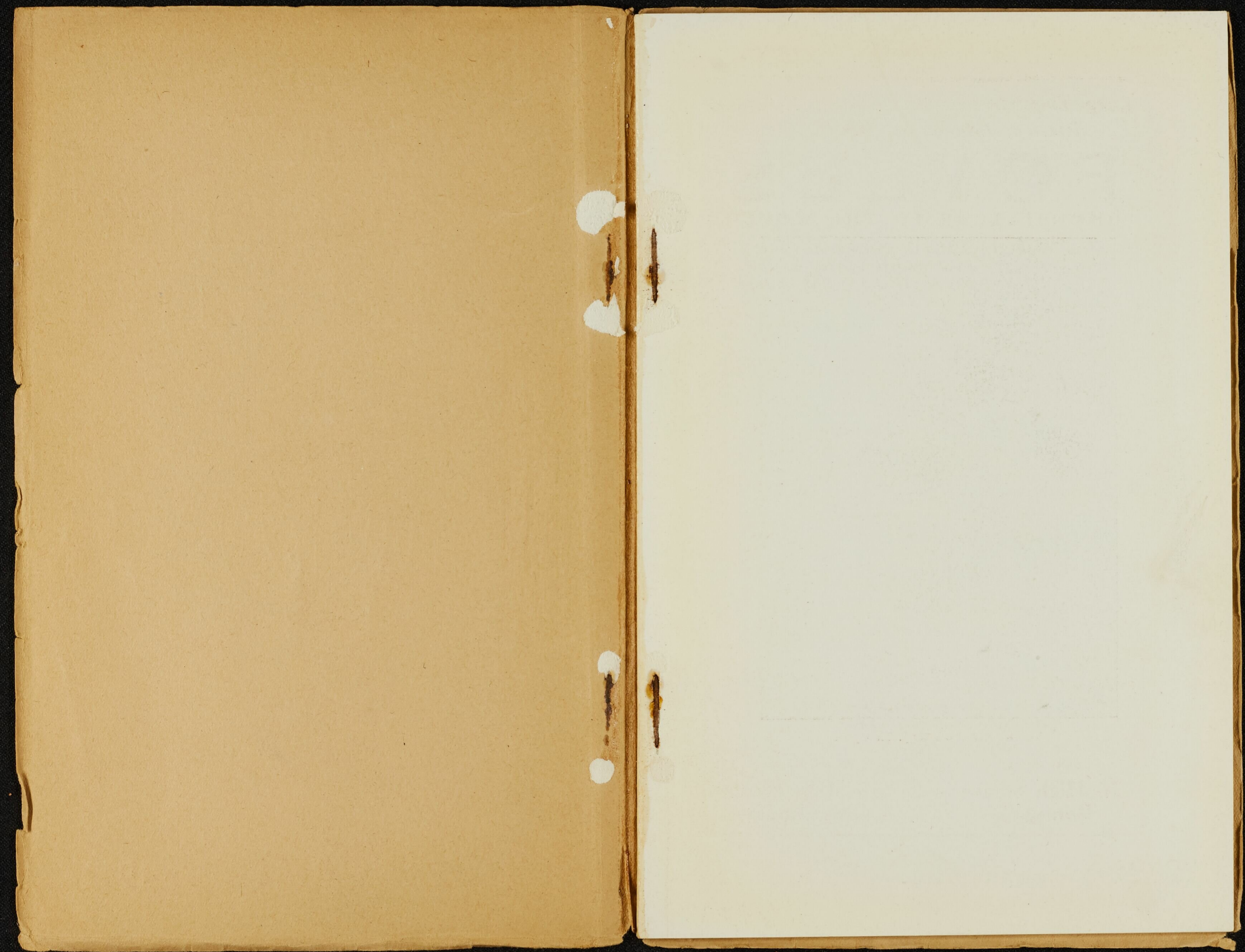


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The Rt Rev. Dom H. J. Thompson

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THE ABBEY SCHOOL RAMSGATE
AT HEMINGFORD GREY HUNTS

NOTES

IN the fourth year of the war most engagement books are somewhat blank. And so we find that our term, although a long and busy one, presents little to chronicle. In this the fourth year of the School's life at Hemingford Grey it may truly be said that our difficulties of adaptation lie behind us, and we are settled down to a war routine almost as if we had never known anything else.

When the term reopened on September 21st we had a good number of new boys, namely: D. G. H. Airey, A. B. Caruana, W. E. W. Charlton, E. R. L. Fox, M. A. C. Hodgetts, P. J. Hodgson, P. J. R. Paris, J. Primett, L. A. Ray, R. B. Reeve. The proportion of O.A. connexions was high, L. Ray being the son of Laurence Ray, Charlton the nephew of Oswald Charleton, Hodgetts the nephew of S. Chubb, all at the School in the nineteen-twenties, and Airey is the nephew of the Davies brothers who were at St Augustine's in the 'nineties. Of the fifty-nine boys who made up the School only twelve dated from our Ramsgate days; time, as the commentator says, marches on.

We were so unfortunate as to lose the services of Mr Kent, who has left us after nearly four years during which he served the School in one of the most trying periods of its existence. He will be—or rather he has been—much missed by all, staff and boys alike. We offer him our congratulations on his marriage to Miss Mary Dunlop, and our best wishes in his new post, which is at Oxford. His place on the staff was taken by Mr J. F. B. Ryan, to whom we offer a hearty welcome.

The term, as we have said, offers few salient points for comment. St Placid's Day was celebrated as a

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whole holiday, and the feast of the Immaculate Conception as a half-holiday. On this latter day M. A. Hodgetts, E. R. L. Fox and L. A. Ray made their first Holy Communions.

Potato-harvesting seems to have established itself as part of our war-time routine, and this year we set about it with the benefit of the experience acquired by last year's initiation and kindlier weather, with the result that we got it done much more quickly than last year.

Difficulties of travel and the constant reminders to consider whether our journeys are really necessary led to our having very few visitors last term. Among our Old Boys who came back to see us have been (in the summer holidays) D. and J. Sulman, B. V. Parry, P. B. Lemaitre and R. B. Macaulay. It was a great shock to learn of the death of David Sulman so soon after; we offer his parents and brother our sincerest condolences.

Friends of St Augustine's will be interested to learn that Father Raymund James has become an R.A.F. chaplain, and is already, we doubt not, giving to the full of his energies in that wide field of apostolic ministry.

During the last three years we have enjoyed the use of our neighbour Colonel Watt's field for our games, and we owe a debt of gratitude to him for putting it at our disposal. Now alas! the ravages of a gravel company, which have extended from field to field at the back of the School in the direction of Hemingford meadows, have driven us off that, and we have been compelled to go farther afield in search of a ground. Fortunately we have found what we wanted and the Rugby season was kept up as usual, although the initial work of ground conditioning had to be gone through all

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over again. We were able to effect an improvement in our arrangements for boxing, as, through the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. Mr Bodley, we now hold it in the parish hall, which gives more space than any of our rooms.

Breaking-up day was to have been the 21st of December, but the Ministry of War Transport thought otherwise, and the latest day schools were allowed to travel was the 18th. This accordingly became the date of a journey of quite unquestionable necessity. The previous day, according to a tradition now of many years standing, there took place the Christmas party, minus crackers and other embellishments this year, but nevertheless still the Christmas party so beloved by generations of our boys. It is the function of the Christmas party to conclude the winter term: it is its climax and apogee. After that there remaineth only to go home and await the inevitable report. But these things are like those of which it is asked "are they not written in the book of the words of the days of the Kings of Israel?" At any rate, they shall not be written here.

On another page we print an article on the Benedictines in Huntingdonshire, kindly contributed at the Head Master's request by Mr Archdale A. King. The Editor apologizes to author and readers alike for the necessity of rudely rending the essay in twain, but is confident that even in its mutilated condition it will be of interest to all for the light it throws on our mediæval predecessors in this part of the country, in no county of which are Benedictines strangers.

The Editor acknowledges the following exchanges, with apologies for any omissions: The Ampleforth Journal, Cottonian, Douai Magazine, The Log, Mayfield Review, Oratory School Magazine, The Raven.

BENEDICTINES OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE

BY ARCHDALE A. KING

THE little county of Huntingdonshire, measuring 30 miles in length and 23 in breadth, was the proud possessor of a mitred abbey, which ranked eleventh in the kingdom, in addition to two Benedictine priories and a nunnery. Huntingdon and Stonely were houses of Austin Canons, and Sawtry was Cistercian, so their history is beyond the scope of the present article.

Ramsey was founded, in 969, by Ailwine, a Saxon noble, with the active encouragement of St Oswald of York, who advised him that where men have renounced the world "the air becomes salubrious, the fruits of the earth are gathered in abundance, famines and pestilence disappear, the State is duly governed, prisons are opened, and captives set free, those wrecked at sea are relieved, the sick are healed and the weak find means for their convalescence."¹ The chronicler of the house has given a threefold derivation of the name—(1) ram's island (*insula arietis*); (2) a thickly wooded isle (*insulam ramorum*); (3) the island of Rameses, the "thunder" or holy voices (*Ramesses quoque "Commotio vel Tonitruum" interpretatur*).² In Saxon times, Ramsey was the largest and finest of the islands of a great marsh formed by the waters of the river Ouse. It was later connected with the mainland by a causeway constructed by the monks. Here, Aednoth, the nephew of Ailwine, was commissioned by St Oswald to build a wooden church and monastery. When all was ready, the saint sent 12 monks from his monastery of Westbury (Worcester) to take possession. The wooden minster was dedicated by St Oswald and St Dunstan in honour of St Mary, all Holy Virgins and St Benedict. Soon, a fine church with towers was erected, which, in 972, was consecrated. This, in its turn, was replaced by a larger building, dedicated, in 991, by St Oswald, assisted by Aescwio, Bishop of Dorchester. A very human story is told by the Ramsey chronicler³ (c. 980) of four young oblates of noble birth, who, relieving "the labours and tedium of regular observance with play and boyish runnings hither and thither," pulled one of the bell ropes in the tower so violently that it cracked a bell. The culprits hastened to confess their misfortune to the abbot,⁴ who, in spite of the thrashing promised by some of the monks, forgave them with a kindly admonition. The spirit of the pardon, however, was rather spoilt by St Oswald

¹ *Hist. Rames.* (R.S. 83), pp. 34-35. ² *Ibid.*, pp. 9-11. ³ *Ibid.*, pp. 112-114.
⁴ It would seem that St Oswald acted as abbot until his death.

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reminding the community that four boys of such noble birth would probably in manhood repay a hundredfold the pecuniary damage they had done. In 992, on the death of the joint founders, the monastery, governed till then by priors (Germanus and Aednoth), was permitted to elect an abbot. Aednoth, whom the Catholic Encyclopædia¹ styles the son of the prior of that name, was the first to hold the office. Ailwine handsomely endowed his foundation with lands, and presented the new church with an altar-frontal (*tabula in fronte eminentioris altaris*) of wood, covered with silver plates and many-coloured jewels. A flourishing school of culture, which outlasted the Conquest, existed at Ramsey owing to the stimulus afforded by St Abbo of Fleury, who was a guest at the abbey (c. 986-988). The monastery was, in fact, regarded as a model house, and, on the foundation of Worcester, Winsige was sent to Ramsey for his training.² Many of the pupils of Abbo became priests outside the community³ and, later (1149) we read of the case of a boy accepted at Ramsey to be educated for a period of seven years.⁴ The house, also, appears to have been famed for its illuminating and metal work, and an interesting description of the music at the consecration of the church (991) is to be found in the *Vita Sancti Oswaldi* of Byrhtferth.⁵ After the departure of Abbo, relations were maintained with Fleury, and a Ramsey Benedictinal, about the year 1010 (1020), was given to the French house. Aednoth, the first abbot, and Wulsig, his successor, both fell at the battle of Ashingdon (Essex), in 1016, fighting against the Danes; while Abbot Aelfwine had been a trusted ambassador of St Edward the Confessor, and had been to Denmark on the king's business. At the time of the Conquest, Ramsey was among the half dozen richest monasteries, with an income of £658. Danes from Ely stole the body of St Oswald from Peterborough, and the relics came to be lodged at Ramsey, where the monks declared their intention of retaining them. Turol, however, the warrior Norman abbot of Peterborough, obtained their restoration by threatening to burn the monastery unless they were returned immediately.⁶ Unions of confraternity were established soon after the Conquest between Ramsey and the abbeys of Worcester and Peterborough. The extensive franchises of Ramsey were said to have originated with King Athelstan (924-939), and, in 1065, by ancient royal grants, the monastery had extensive civil and ecclesiastical franchises, and, beyond other immunities, the rights later associated with the *banleuca*, which, besides its other liberties, implied the suspension, within a restricted area, of the bishop's power of interdicting and

¹ Art. Ramsey Abbey.

² Knowles, *Monastic Order in England*. Chaps. III, IV. p. 51.

³ *Hist. Rames.*, 42. ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 268. ⁵ *Hist. York*, I, 464. ⁶ *Hug. Can.* 51.

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excommunicating. Ramsey, however, was never exempt, so the control over the privileged territory, which covered several islands, never became complete.¹ Aielsinus, the last Saxon abbot (1080-1087), probably introduced the feast of the Conception of our Lady from Canterbury, but tradition asserts that the idea was revealed to him as he was travelling on the sea.² Immediately before the Conquest and for about fifty years afterwards, the "holy isle" of Ramsey was an important place of pilgrimage. In 1087, the first Norman abbot ruled the house in the person of Herbert Losinga, a monk of Fécamp, who subsequently (1191) became Bishop of Thetford (Norwich). The chronicler writes in glowing terms of the richness of the soil around Ramsey, despite its position on the edge of the fens, comparatively bare of trees and very flat. The monks appear to have taken care that the labourers did their work efficiently, for we read that a foreman was appointed to hold a rod over the reapers at their work.³ This fenland house was the centre of operations of Geoffrey de Mandeville (1143-1144) in the troublous times of Stephen, when the Earl, seizing the island of Ramsey, ejected the monks, and used the buildings of the monastery as barracks. The incursion was made easier by the state of chaos existing in the abbey, where Abbot Walter had recently abdicated in favour of an unworthy monk, Daniel, who had previously been his right-hand man. On the death of Geoffrey, no more than a single plough team was found on the monastic demesne and the house was burdened with debts,⁴ yet prosperity returned sufficiently before the death of Stephen for the abbot to build the great tower, and, in the early days of Henry II, to add to the structure of the abbey.⁵ Misfortune, however, did not succeed in quenching Benedictine hospitality and charity, for Abbot Walter not only provided for the entertainment of one hundred poor guests, but he also gave a tenth of all his money to relieve the starving peasants.⁶ About 1150, the church of Warboys was granted to the almonry of Ramsey, and the donation was confirmed by Robert, Bishop of Lincoln (1148-1160).⁷ The advowson, also, of Hemingford Abbots (*Hemingforde Orientalem*) was owned by the monastery, and land in the parish was given by Ailwine, the founder, and, later, by King Hardicanute (1041-42). It would appear that an abbot of Ramsey died while on a visit to the church, as a much defaced sepulchral slab to his memory is found on the south side of the chancel.

¹ Knowles. Chap. XXXIII. pp. 578, 580, 604.

² Dugdale. *Monast. Ang.* I, Part I, p. 241.

³ Coulton. *Cent. of Relig.* Vol. II, Chap. V. p. 70.

⁴ *Hist. Rames.*, pp. 333-334. ⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 336-337.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 335. ⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 301-303.

[To be concluded]

RUGBY FOOTBALL

THE key-note of this season's Rugger has been: promise. We knew we had a young school and a young team this year, and we were prepared for a quiet run of moderate successes which would give the experience needed for a powerful traditional season next year. This hope remains bright; but until now disappointing results show that promise, undoubtedly present, is still promise and nothing more.

The team does, in fact, shape well. A tight pack secured the ball, and after the usual difficulties of the first weeks pushed it back smartly to halves who got it away to threes who made more than an attempt to stand deep and take their passes on the run. Defence strategy was good, and what with marking by opposite numbers and spoiling by outside forwards opposing halves and threes did not once succeed in producing orthodox movements. Tactically, however, defence has been very weak. A few have shaped well in their tackles, but even these have failed to connect, or have been too easily handed-off. The result has been unjustifiable break-throughs by opposing forwards and outsides. Tackling improved slightly towards the end of term, but other tactical weaknesses remained. We were, individually, not so fast, not so quick on the ball, not so ready for the unforeseen as our opponents. It has also been suggested from independent sources that we were not so heavy.

The team has always given its opponents a hard game, but the factors detailed above yielded the following results: played 4, lost 4. We have great hopes of redeeming this situation in the four fixtures which have been made for the first half of next term.

One feature which deserves mention is the kicking. This has been very good. Punts have been used extensively for attack as well as defence, and an unusual number of boys are dead shots with places and stationary drop-kicks.

CAMBRIDGE AND COUNTY SCHOOL UNDER 14

November 7th Away Lost 23—3

In the first half the School forwards got the ball in every tight scrum, but the threes failed to make headway. Our opponents secured three tries by individual break-throughs. Colpoys kicked a

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beautiful penalty goal by a place-kick from near the touch-line. In the second half the opposing forwards began to force our pack back and to make wheeling rushes which the halves failed to stop by falling. Our scrummaging remained good, if somewhat unimaginative, but our marking in the line-out was deficient, and Cambridge was able to break through to score four more tries in scrambles for the ball. We saw some good passing from our halves, and Denvir swerved right through his markers on one occasion, and only ended a forty-yard run by tripping.

THE PERSE SCHOOL UNDER 14

November 14th Home *Lost 16—9*

There was a great deal of fly-kicking in this game, but unfortunately our threes did not seem able to take advantage of it. This made the game rather loose, and it was pleasant to see, after some aimless soccer-like kicking about, that our three-line got on the move several times, Ennis on the wing only being stopped at the last moment. Lack of alertness brought the visitors a try (by kicking along the ground and following up) early on. Then Huston broke away from the line-out and scored from their twenty-five. At half-time a good swerving run had brought our opponents another try, which they converted. In the second half, Keane forced himself over from a loose scrum near the line, and Colpoys dropped a penalty goal, but faulty tackling and loss of speed allowed a fast man on the other side to dodge through for two more tries, one of which was converted.

CAMBRIDGE AND COUNTY SCHOOL UNDER 14

December 5th Home *Lost 18—0*

This was an excellent game, and a breath of more vigorous determination seemed to inspire the School team. Handling was limited to desperate dashes by Denvir at outside-half for the School, and by individual threes for the visitors. Mostly it was good, tight forward play. Sheahan and Huston worked even harder than usual, and the School pack dribbled well. Our opponents gave us a very good show of football, for their pack was even better. Our marking in the line-out had improved vastly, and there were no break-aways this time. The game was now under one goal, now under the other, but Cambridge managed to finish the job better than we did, and scored three tries in the first, three in the second half. At full-back Staples began to tackle pluckily.

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THE PERSE SCHOOL UNDER 14

December 12th Away *Lost 18—6*

Again tackling showed a marked improvement. Staples distinguished himself as a safe and hard tackler, and as in the last game, Barry-Ryan did much excellent kicking for touch and some good tackling. We had a great deal of the ball, and it was a pity that our threes, who really can pass on the run, should have crept up to nearly level instead of standing deep, so that they either knocked their passes on or fell an easy prey to their opposite numbers who were on top of them at once. Our forwards were most aggressive, and in the second half began to sling the ball about among themselves with success. The Perse had two excellent tacklers behind the scrum, and when we broke away we were again and again brought down. Their attacks were more successful, and hand and foot brought them four tries in the first half, and, in spite of our pressing, two in the second half. Meanwhile Colpoys gave a display of drop-kicking, kicking two penalties in the first half, and two near misses from the half-way line in the second.

THE HOUSE MATCHES

The Whites

The season is to be continued in the Easter term, so it has been decided to make the House Cup depend on the best of five matches. The first and second of these have been won by the Whites. On December 2nd a light Black pack failed to prevent the White outsides (who constitute the School line) from getting the ball a large number of times. The result was 45—0. On December 9th the Black pack, still the lighter of the two, showed enormous determination, and rushed their heavier opponents up and down the field. Sheahan at scrum-half did valiant things, marking two strong opponents and helping in the scrum too. His complete lack of outsides allowed the Whites to send Barry-Ryan through three times and England once in the first half. Colpoys of course kicked a penalty goal. In the second half the Black forwards pressed savagely, after the manner of House matches, but only broke through once, when Colpoys scored a try. The Whites scored two more by Barry-Ryan, who also kicked a penalty goal (34—6).

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THE CHOIR MATCH

November 25th

The Choir

For the first time the Choir fielded fifteen men, and a Rucker match between them and the Rest was possible. It came up to our expectations, in fact it surpassed the expectations of the Rest forwards. The Choir outsides were the stronger, but it was their forwards who won them the match. They played not only with the awaited determination, but with an outstanding coherence which we have learnt to expect from a Choir side. The Rest, with a good pack, played hard but disjointedly, and were just frustrated in time as they pressed and pressed in the first half. Meanwhile the Choir outsides looked more and more dangerous, and their forwards began first to hold, then to outplay the Rest in heeling. When the second half was two-thirds through without a score, a fine football feeling was attained, and to the satisfaction (ultimately) of both sides, Sheahan got in a beautiful pass from the base of the scrum to his outside half, Denvir, who ran through in great style to score between the posts for the Choir, converting himself. After this Denvir actually scored again, and the Rest did not catch up in the time remaining, thus losing (8—0) what all agreed was an eventful and enjoyable game.

W.MCL.

THE CHOIR

THE singing, if somewhat thin, has been distinctly good and extremely accurate. Perhaps, in our present circumstances, it would be unreasonable to expect more of a choir of ten boys averaging 11 years of age. O'Leary has proved himself well worthy of his position as First Cantor. A little more confidence in himself would work wonders. It would improve his own singing—of no mean quality as it is—and steady the less reliable ones who look to him for guidance.

The outstanding characteristic of this year's Choir is its keenness and initiative. When the choir-master turns up for practice, the choristers have usually been slogging away for some ten minutes at the Introit or Gradual, with McLaughlin at the piano and O'Leary conducting. He thus finds that most of the ground-work—the least interesting—has already been done, with the result that more time can be given to an explanation of the text and interpretation of the chant. Preparation of the Mass supersedes practice or drill.

The Choir on their own unaided initiative provided good entertainment at the Christmas party, in the form of songs and carols. Their rendering of the "Three Little Sisters" was particularly popular. Only the initiated, I fear, can fully appreciate what that implies. Suffice it to say that most eyes were dim with tears, the tears of uncontrolled laughter.

It would perhaps be unwise to gloat over the defeat we inflicted on the School, who swore they would never be defeated by a Choir, in the first rucker match. The games-master, who is impartial, will no doubt tell the true story, painful though it be.

We have learnt a few motets and Tantum Ergos which have been much appreciated. Our thanks are due to Father Cuthbert for sending us a copy of the Compline tones in use at Ramsgate.

Two new members have joined us: S. O'Connell and M. Kelly. There are also in the background four probationers who are very promising. J. Staples, at his own request, is now on the Old Age Pensioners list. He devotes his spare time to "Higher Studies." It is whispered that he is frequently seen with a list of Greek irregular verbs in one hand and a detective story in the other: Ancient and Modern Culture!

The following are the members of the Choir: A. O'Leary (Precentor), R. McLaughlin (Succentor), M. Keane, P. England, P. Sheahan, P. Denvir, C. Ennis, G. Caruana, S. O'Connell, M. Kelly.

H.A.S.

O.A. NEWS

ROLL OF HONOUR

KILLED, PRESUMED KILLED, OR DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Pilot-Officer *Trevor Anthony Peeler*, R.A.F.
Chief Officer *Massy William Vincent-Townend*, Merchant Service.
Sergeant-Observer *Wilfrid Longstaff*, R.A.F.V.R.
Flying-Officer *Herbert Joseph Madden*, D.F.C., R.A.F.V.R.
Sergeant-Pilot *Patrick John Brady*, R.A.F.V.R.
Flying-Officer *Anthony F. McManemy*, R.A.F.V.R.
Second Lieutenant *John Coleman Williams*, Royal Corps of Signals.
Second Lieutenant *Patrick Milne Carroll*, Royal Tank Regiment.
Second Lieutenant *David Patrick Sulman*, Royal Berkshire Regt.
Captain *Peter J. Wells*, Royal Artillery, attached A.O.P.

WOUNDED

Second Lieutenant *R. A. J. Cheffins*, M.C., Middlesex Regiment.
Lieutenant *C. J. Bonington*, Air Service Brigade.
Lieutenant *E. P. L. Sturdee*, R.A.
Captain *D. K. Wells*, R.H.A.

PRISONERS OF WAR

Flight-Lieutenant *P. P. C. Barthropp*, D.F.C., R.A.F.
Lieutenant *C. J. Bonington*, Air Service Brigade.
Lieutenant *F. M. Clavier*, M.C., Royal Tank Regiment.
Captain *L. G. Constable*, Welch Regiment.
Captain *A. H. R. Coombes*, R.A.M.C.
Sergeant *G. F. Lonsdale*, West Middlesex Yeomanry.
Captain *B. H. J. A. O'Reilly*, R.A.S.C.
Second Lieutenant *M. H. Williams*, King's Own Royal Regiment.

MISSING

Sergeant Air-Gunner *R. A. Kelly*, R.A.F.V.R.

HONOURS

M.C. Second Lieutenant *F. M. Clavier*, Royal Tank Corps.
Second Lieutenant *R. A. J. Cheffins*, Middlesex Regiment.
Squadron-Leader *M. P. Casano*, R.A.F.O.
D.F.C. Flying-Officer *H. J. Madden*, R.A.F.V.R.
Acting Flight-Lieutenant *P. P. C. Barthropp*, R.A.F.
Flying-Officer *H. St J. Coghlan*, A.A.F.R.O.
D.S.C. Lieutenant *D. McEwen*, R.N.
MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES. Squadron-Leader *D. J. Devitt*,
R.A.F.

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The above list is complete up-to-date so far as we know. To save space we again omit the list of O.A.'s in the Forces, which we have some reason to fear would still be incomplete if we printed it now. May we once more ask O.A.'s and their families to keep us up-to-date with news of their activities.

Even in wartime, pride of place in these notes must be given to the death, on October 17th, of one of the most distinguished of O.A.'s, Bishop *Thompson* (1889-90). An obituary notice appears on another page.

We have to record the death of two more young O.A.'s. Second Lieutenant *David Patrick Sulman* (1931-6) met with a fatal accident on active service at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, in October. We have no details but it appears that the accident occurred in a minefield near the coast. Sulman had only just received his commission in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and had written telling us of this and of his going to Suffolk only about a week before. On leaving St Augustine's Sulman went on to Beaumont, and was then able to fit in a year at Wadham College, Oxford, before joining the army. We offer his brother, also an O.A., and his parents our sincere sympathy in their great loss.

Captain *Peter Wells*, R.A. (1929-33) was killed in action with the First Army in North Africa in December. We have no further particulars beyond that Peter was attached to the Air O.P. and, as his brother put it in a recent letter, wore wings as well as three pips. He may therefore have been killed in the air operations which would seem to have been the most perilous part of the Algerian campaign. Peter leaves a very living memory at St Augustine's where he was as proficient at studies as he was in all branches of sport. From us he went to Ampleforth where he again did very well. At Oxford, where he was a notable 100 yards sprinter, he was awarded his full blue for athletics in the spring of 1939 and was captain of the Centipedes. Early in the war he joined the R.A.

Abbot Taylor writes:—

When Peter Wells came to the Abbey School at the age of ten his was not one of those vivid personalities which impress themselves at once on others. He was shy and nervous and not at all eager to be conspicuous. But it did not take long for his masters to discover that he had three very valuable assets, namely, brains, an aptitude for manly sports and a deep sense of religion. It did not therefore surprise them when, four years later, he ended his career at St Augustine's as an Ampleforth scholar, captain of the cricket eleven and one of the two captains of the School.

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My own contact with Peter Wells during his earlier days at St Augustine's was mainly in connexion with his handwriting. His writing, always performed with the left hand, was almost illegible to the unpractised eye, and it was my job to improve it. Unlike most modern educationists, I held—and hold—that left-handed boys, instead of being allowed to remain so, should be trained to become ambidextrous, their sense of abnormality being thus converted into a consciousness of superiority over their fellows: but with this important proviso, that such training should be carried out by kindness. I spent many strenuous hours bribing and coaxing Peter to produce with his right hand a script that could be read, and I had considerable success. Whether he lapsed again into left-handed penmanship after he left us I do not know, but I like to think that the experiment had some effect on the development of his character.

During Peter's last year with us I taught him daily and could see his character building itself up rapidly. His earlier timorousness was fast disappearing; responsibility was giving him balance and self-confidence. His desire to excel at all he did was very marked. I felt that we were sending to Ampleforth one of our outstanding successes. I saw very little of Peter after he left, but what I saw was enough to show me that not only had his studies and athletics fulfilled their early promise, but that this was even more true of his inner life. His serenity of manner, his modesty and self-possession, were the outward signs of a stable Christian character.

My last meeting with Peter Wells occurred under rather curious circumstances. It was on May 3rd, 1939. I was travelling to Prinknash, and my train stopped for a few minutes at Oxford. Peter, quite by chance, happened to be on the platform. Unfortunately, I was in a saloon carriage and the large window was not made to open. By hammering on it I attracted his attention and he came up to speak to me, but, owing to the thickness of the plate-glass, we could not make our voices heard. Our conversation, which lasted about five minutes, was carried on by signs, nods and gesticulations. Then the train drew slowly out. Peter raised his hand in a smiling farewell and sauntered away. I little suspected then that at that moment he was walking out of my life. Now that I know it I recognize that the loss is overwhelmingly mine.

We have already briefly reported the death in action in Libya in July of Second Lieutenant *Patrick Milne Carroll*, R.A.C. (Yeomanry), (1927-33). He was the son of C. M. Carroll (1894-9) and nephew of E. J. Carroll (1891-6) and his two brothers were also at St Augustine's, M. J. Carroll (1927-31) and G. D. Carroll (1929-35). *The Times* has already quoted tributes to the fineness of character and the skill as a bowler which he developed here, and the *Ampleforth Journal* speaks of him as one of the "many boys of solid worth" who have gone to Ampleforth from St Augustine's. He took his B.A. in Law at Cambridge in 1940.

His uncle writes:—

Pat Carroll, who came to St Augustine's with his elder brother Michael in 1927, was the second son of Charles and Luisa Carroll, of Lima, one of the second generation of a family that has been continuously represented at Ramsgate since the Nineties of last century.



Captain P. J. Wells, R.A.

Killed in Action, December, 1942

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Well endowed mentally, with all the true Augustinian's addiction to cricket as well, he passed creditably through the school and in due course went on to Ampleforth, where again he did well. Originally destined for accountancy, he went up to Cambridge, but there decided for the Colonial Service, and read law as well as economics, took his degree at St John's, and immediately enlisted in the family Regiment (Royal Artillery). After a period of training in gunnery, he transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps, and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Sherwood Rangers (Notts Yeomanry) in 1941. He left for Africa early in 1942, and was killed in action in Libya in July of this year. No other details are yet to hand, but as his brother Michael writes: "I am sure he died nobly," and so am I. At the early age of 22 he gave for England one of those promising young lives which the country can ill spare, without thought of anything but his duty.

Those who follow the national game, for which St Augustine's has ever been a fruitful nursery, will recall his able performances with the ball on many a wicket when playing for the Old Augustinians C.C. But more than for his prowess on the field, he will be missed for his kindly sunny character which endeared him to all who knew him.

We have also recorded that Sergeant Pilot *Patrick John Brady*, R.A.F.V.R. (1928-34) is presumed killed in action over Germany. He too had two O.A. brothers, T. J. Brady (1927-32) and M. Brady (1931-6). By kind permission of the Editor we are able to quote here the following appreciation from the *Ampleforth Journal*, which admirably expresses what we here recall of his character, and as well describes its later development:—

"He was a remarkable mixture in that his exterior was that of a fighter, being short, thick-set, heavy-jawed, with fearless deep-set eyes, and his soul that of a philosopher and scholar. Naturally, at first, the dare-devil predominated, but before long ideas and books that gave them came more and more to grip him. For instance he came to know T. E. Lawrence and his *Seven Pillars* intimately, he would cut out all Churchill's speeches from *The Times* at a period when most were scoffing at these "scaremongering effusions." Some evenings he would be found in the ring, boxing with a fearlessness that cannot be forgotten. All the years he was at Ampleforth he boxed in the School team, he captained his House and was given his School Colours, and later boxed at Cambridge. There was skill as well as force in his punches, as those who received them knew. At the University he read History and obtained a Third in first part of the Tripos.

Those are two sides of him. But there are others, and not least his piety. It was not an unusual thing to find him on his knees at his private devotions in his room of an evening if one had occasion to go there. While at school he daily received Our Lord in Holy Communion. If God took him early he did not take him unprepared"

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Ralph Kelly (1934-6) has been posted missing from flying operations over Flensburg one night in September. This was the twenty-third raid over Germany in which he had taken part, beginning with the mass raid on Cologne on the 1st June. Kelly was Sergeant Air Gunner in a Halifax. No news has yet been received of the plane or any of the crew. He joined the R.A.F. in June, 1940, at the age of seventeen, which he represented as eighteen for the purpose.

We read in the *Ampleforth Journal* that Flight-Lieutenant *P. P. C. Barthropp*, D.F.C., R.A.F. (1928-31) is a prisoner of war, but we have no details.

We are glad to hear that before Christmas news was received that Captain *B. H. J. A. O'Reilly*, R.A.S.C. (1930-4), missing since the fall of Singapore, is a prisoner of war.

Lieutenant *F. M. Clavier*, M.C., R.A.C., is a prisoner of war in Italy. He went to the Middle East in April, arriving there early in July. By the end of the month he was reported missing, believed killed, on a date four days after his arrival! Happily better news soon followed. Rather tardily we record the birth of a son to Clavier in April, 1940. His address is:—

Lieutenant Forbes Moreton Clavier, M.C.,
British Prisoner of War,
Campo P.G. 75,
Posta Militare 3450,
Italy.

The name of Lieutenant *E. P. L. Sturdee*, R.A. (1924-9) was among those of a list of wounded in *The Times* on September 2nd.

Captain *Denis Wells*, R.A. (1928-31) has also been wounded in Libya. He writes: "I came out here this summer just in time for the party at Alamein. We had a good trip and spent a couple of riotous days in S. Africa. Things looked very ominous as we approached Egypt and I was not surprised to find myself up in the blue very soon after we arrived. Our opening gambit was not very successful and when supporting a tank attack as F.O.O. I came off second best with a German anti-tank gun. I was very lucky to escape with a few small splinters in my legs and managed to evade the clutches of the R.A.M.C. for a few weeks. Then the desert got the better of me and some of the scratches began to give trouble and I was whisked into hospital. I regret to say I

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have been there ever since [written in November]. I will not describe life in the hospitals in the M.E. I have been to three and they are all first-rate in every respect and we get looked after far too well. At the moment I am in Palestine which I like as much as I hate Egypt. The latter is all dust, smell and flies, but up here the trees and cleanliness and fresh air are a wonderful tonic. Possibly the orange season has something to do with my feelings . . . I have spent one day in Jerusalem, but did not do a great deal of sightseeing—enough to make me want to do a lot more. I am hoping to have some convalescent leave there soon. We have a Benedictine padre here from Downside attached to the hospital and he has met quite a number of O.A.'s out here, though I fear some of them were casualties in the summer battles."

Captain *A. M. J. Littledale*, Essex Regiment (1921-2) also wrote recently from the Middle East. He writes that in September, 1939, he was seconded to the R.A.O.C. and mobilized at Didcot with the Advanced Ordnance Depot, going the same month to France, where he served in various places before joining the game of catch-as-catch-can which was prevalent at the time, finally slipping out of St Nazaire in June, 1940. After a period in England he sailed in August, 1940, for the Middle East, had "five of the best days of my life in Capetown" and reached Suez in September, joining No. 1 Base Ammunition Depot the same month. From October, 1940, to April, 1941, he was D.A.D.O.S. and Inspecting Ordnance Officer of the Canal area. Then he was flown to Greece, whence "I was evacuated in some haste to Crete the same month. Here I lived the simple life. In the evening I would go to bed, that is to say, I would put on my greatcoat, lay my blankets in a ditch and get into them. Rising in the morning consisted in standing up and taking off my greatcoat, after which I would walk a considerable distance to an icy cold mountain stream, and therein gingerly wash. The remainder of the day was spent sitting under a tree." Returning to Egypt in May, he was posted to Haifa in June and until February, 1942, was D.A.D.O.S. of N Line of Communications District in Palestine. He then joined No. 2 Base Ordnance Depot where he remained until November, when he ceased to be seconded to the R.A.O.C. At the time of writing he was enjoying a period of complete idleness in Cairo waiting for a new job.

When last heard of *Dennis Carroll* (1929-35) was still undergoing R.A.F. training in the more peaceable parts of Africa

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where he has met Father Edward Hull. He had an enjoyable week's leave in the Northern Transvaal where he did some shooting, and was also able to see the native Africans living in their simple traditional manner. Cricket and rugger under African conditions he finds not very enjoyable, but the climate is ideal for tennis. We were pleased to hear, from Dennis, that Pat Carroll had met J. Bisgood in Cairo and had spent a pleasant day watching cricket with him and reminiscing about past O.A. games. *M. J. Carroll* (1927-31) has also gone overseas.

In civilian life at Durban is *A. G. Sutcliffe* (1923-4) who, unable to join the Forces, has taken a partnership in a preparatory school there. Major *W. G. Sutcliffe* R.A.M.C. (1921-6), whom we congratulate on the birth of his second daughter, is now in India. A bed has been endowed at Margate Hospital in memory of their father, Mr *W. G. Sutcliffe*, and was recently blessed by Father Augustine Keniry.

Lieutenant *O. Charleton*, R.A. (1928-30) also is in India. He says that since he last wrote "we have had a crack at the Germans, Italians and Japs and are once more almost back to peace-time conditions." He has turned down the idea of becoming a Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu, and has found a Catholic church in every town at which he has stayed, from Cyrenaica to Burma. Second Lieutenant *D. P. Maguire* (1929-34) too, is in India where he is attached to the I.A. He has been learning "the language" and also "the art of offending the King's enemies," and "watching, rather than supervising, the training of recruits, in mileage and everything else farther from the war than ever before." His brother *Patrick* (1928-34), is in Ulster with the R.E., having a good time, especially on leaves spent south of the border. *Dennis O'Leary* (1935-8) has sailed for India as a cadet for the I.A. *M. Coombes* (1930-5), also there, has been promoted to Flight-Lieutenant.

There is a good deal of naval news. *Alan Devoud* (1926-31) was in H.M.S. *Edinburgh* when she was torpedoed and he subsequently spent some months in North Russia. Lieutenant *J. Morgan* (1919-25) is still at Gibraltar, whither *M. Brady* (1931-6), now Sub-Lieutenant R.N.V.R., has also gone. Morgan finds that the only good thing about Gib. is the absence of rationing: "one can still walk into a restaurant and order 'steak and onions' and get it!" From all that he has seen of it on visits, Spain, on the other hand, appears to be a land of hunger and

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poverty and generally unsatisfactory. It seems that Morgan took part in the North African affair, but we have no news beyond that he came through safely. Lieutenant *D. McEwen*, D.S.C., R.N. (1924-9), must also have had an exciting time of late, for he is Navigating Officer of H.M.S. *Aurora*, whose wonderful exploits in the Mediterranean were recently the subject of a long article in *The Times*. Paymaster-Lieutenant *André Boyd* (1929-34) has now got a most interesting shore job as assistant secretary to the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, and his wife and he have taken a flat in Westminster near his work. Previous to that he was captain's secretary in the fine new cruiser — which saw most exciting and varied active service, including two convoy trips to Russia and three in the Mediterranean. She lay in an enemy harbour for twelve hours of daylight during the raid on Vaagsö, sunk a number of enemy supply ships and U-boats, etc. After his last nerve-racking convoy to Malta Boyd left the ship, having already served over his time. Looking back over his experiences he can hardly think of anything more physically uncomfortable than a Russian convoy, where ice forms inside the office and cabin, or more terrifying than a Malta convoy of the recent variety. This last is an undesirable experience. Boyd mentions that the — picked up three survivors of a sunk merchantman in the Atlantic on an upturned boat, and the photograph of them which appeared in most English and American newspapers was taken by him. Midshipman *Louis Lee-Dillon*, R.N. (1934-8), who is now on H.M.S. —, has been in action and travelled thousands of miles. *Basil Kelly* (1934-9) has left the Nautical College, Pangbourne, and gone as Midshipman, R.N.R., for training at Greenwich. *W. D. Waterhouse* (1933-6) has left school, having passed the Cambridge School Certificate and the J.T.C. Certificate "A." He has been learning farming and is a H.G., but is joining the Navy through the "Y" entry scheme, beginning his training in January. *A. F. L. Adams* (1924-30), whom we congratulate on the birth of a daughter, is still in the Merchant Navy.

Mgr *F. K. McClement* (1897-1904) was at St Augustine's during the period when our Shakespearian tradition was being firmly established. We feel, therefore, particularly proud of the derivative tradition (as we feel sure he would allow us to call it) at St Edward's College, Malta, the vigour of which was demonstrated when the College managed to produce *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on June 23rd, the Governor of the island, Field Marshal Lord Gort, being present at one of the performances. *The Times*

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of Malta devoted a leading article to this production, commenting that: "Dramatic considerations apart, this production is one to be noted and remembered, for the very reason that it took place here in 1942, here in Malta, an island regarded by the world as a beleaguered fortress, suffering siege conditions." This certainly was notable among Mgr McClement's contributions to the maintenance of Malta's morale. One O.A. at least was among the island's active defenders during its worst ordeal. *C. Zimmermann-Barbaro St George* (1935-9) obtained his School Certificate, with eight credits, in 1941 and left St Edward's College to enlist in the Royal Malta Artillery. He was "on the Bofors" for four months, and was then posted to an O.C.T.U. He hopes to obtain an R.A. commission, and to be signed on as a regular officer after the war. Though regretting that the war has prevented his going on to Beaumont, Charles says he would not have missed the Malta experience for anything and is justly proud of the Malta gunners.

There is a certain modicum of civilian O.A. news. *Sir Cecil Dormer*, K.C.M.G., M.V.O. (1894-1900), is soon to relinquish his post as H.M. Ambassador to the Polish Government. *A. Mackenzie* (1895-8) has left much bombed Teignmouth for Birmingham, where he is joining a firm of solicitors in partnership. Father *E. G. Fooks* (1923-7), lent for the purpose by the Bishop of Southwark, and Father *B. Westbrook* (1922-5), to whom and his family we offer our sincere condolences on the death of his father, have joined the staff of St Edmund's College, Ware. We congratulate and offer our best wishes to the Rev. *C. Spender* (1929-32), who was ordained deacon at Wonersh on September 19th, and Dom *A. Stickland* (1929-34), who made his solemn profession at Douai on September 25th. *Hugh Parks* (1930-4), of whom we have had no news for some time, served the Requiem Mass for Pat Carroll, whose contemporary he was at Ramsgate and Ampleforth, in the chapel of the American School, Santa Maria, Lima. *E. J. Carroll* (1891-6) has presented to the Bergh Memorial Library at the Abbey a 1672 edition of the collected works of Ben Jonson, a splendid tribute to the memory of Abbot Bergh. *Desmond O'Callaghan* (1929-32) has recently published in the *British Journal of Surgery* an article on non-penetrating injuries of the abdomen with reports on two cases, in which he makes a definitely original contribution to the study of a subject which has become increasingly important through the development of mechanical transport and, in war-time, through injury due to blast.

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A few further items concerning O.A.'s in the Forces are that *E. Doyle* (1928-30) is among the R.A.S.C. personnel transferred to the R.A.O.C. under a recent reorganization. Quite by chance he found himself in the course of work speaking on the telephone to Lieutenant *G. H. Northey*, K.R.R.C. *V. G. Baker* (1930-7) is we hear a cadet at Sandhurst. *Wilfrid Hamilton* (1923-7), of whom we had not heard for some time, is in the R.A. and stationed in Scotland—so much we gather from his Christmas card. *J. Coombes* (1932-7) has completed his R.A.F. short course at Oxford and has embarked on flying training. *M. Wetz* (1931-6) was one of the R.A.F. team who introduced cricket to Florida in an exhibition match on the baseball stadium at Pensacola.

BIRTHS

To *A. F. L. Adams* a daughter.

To Major *W. G. Sutcliffe*, R.A.M.C., a daughter.

MARRIAGE

Squadron Leader *H. St J. Coghlan*, D.F.C., A.A.F.R.O., to Marie Lacoste.

DEATH

Mr *A. F. Jones Westbrook*, father of *A. G.*, the Rev. *B. and P. A. Westbrook*.

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JUNIOR O.A.'S

At Ampleforth: We have not received our correspondent's usual admirable bulletin of news for the term. We can only record that in the summer M. J. McNulty obtained the Higher Certificate (Group III) and R. Langford-Rae, P. E. McNulty (five credits and three very goods), J. Odone and I. F. Sutherland School Certificates. P. A. Slattery won a sixth form mathematics, and a history and religious knowledge prize. P. McNulty won his form prizes for Latin and Greek, R. Sutherland a French and J. Bunting a Spanish prize.

At Beaumont: J. Sulman passed the S.C. with seven credits and is now studying for the H.C. in mathematics and science.

At Douai: J. Shaw was captain of the 1st XV; an injury prevented his playing in three matches. He passed Proficiency Part I and is a Sergeant A.T.C. He played for the Catholic Public Schools v. The Rest on January 6th at Richmond. L. Antelme played Louise Allington in *Tons of Money*. M. Stokes and M. Burke-Gaffney have already obtained their places in the 2nd as well as the Junior XV. M. Sandys, Stokes and P. Faller and others were afflicted with measles early in the term. D. A. Peacock passed the H.C. in the summer. Faller and Antelme won Middle School prizes for languages.

At Downside: R. Sheehan was a school prefect and an under officer in the J.T.C. He was in the 1st XV, as was J. R. Warner who won his colours. Warner was a house prefect and Sergeant J.T.C. L. Thwaytes also won his 1st XV colours and he is a corporal in the Corps, as is D. Starkie who played for the 3rd XV. E. R. McAreyve played for the Colts, P. A. Kelly for the junior Colts. M. Knibbs, A. Sankey and L. Thwaytes all passed the S.C. in July.

At Stonyhurst: Of J. Kienel we hear that he was a member of the school boxing team and has attained the higher line.

OBITUARY

THE RIGHT REVEREND H. G. THOMPSON, O.S.B.

BY the death on October 27th of the Right Reverend Dom HENRY GREGORY THOMPSON, titular Bishop of Thermopylæ and formerly Bishop of Gibraltar, St Augustine's Abbey has been bereaved of the oldest member of the community, and the Abbey School of one of the most distinguished of its alumni.

Born in 1871, Bishop Thompson was the youngest son of Edward Thompson, J.P., of Mold, Flintshire. He came to St Augustine's from St Mary's, Oscott, when that venerable college was converted into an ecclesiastical seminary, and in 1889-90 he was editor of this *Magazine* and winner of the Southwell medal, one of those early recipients who were privileged to have it pinned on by the hands of Vicountess Southwell herself. After a few years spent abroad Henry Thompson returned to Ramsgate and made his profession as a member of the community in 1896. After his ordination in 1902 he joined the College staff where he filled various offices including the responsible rôles of prefect of studies and prefect of discipline, in which he won the affection and respect of boys and staff alike. Undoubtedly he would have played a great part in the history of the School had he not been removed to a distant sphere, when he was appointed first Bishop of Gibraltar in 1910. After sixteen years of generous and devoted labour, for which his name is still held in grateful remembrance at the Rock, he resigned his onerous office and returned to Ramsgate. There he again became a familiar figure to the boys of St Augustine's as a member of the community, and to many parents who saw and heard him when he presided on prize day. He leaves the memory of a zealous pastor, a humble, courteous and charitable Christian gentleman of whom the School and the Abbey may be proud. May he rest in peace.

SCHOOL LIST

Upper Fourth

O'Leary Staples	Grove Brophy	Colpoys
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Lower Fourth

Barry-Ryan Sheahan De Valencé England, <i>ma</i>	McLaughlin Laver Bicknell Ennis	Keane Denvir Astle
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Upper Third

Ware Paterson Kelly Benten Huston, <i>ma</i>	O'Connell Shorter, <i>ma</i> Wilnot Haslett Russell, <i>ma</i>	Caruana, <i>ma</i> Duffett Burke-Gaffney Airey
--	--	---

Lower Third

Morton Hodgetts, <i>ma</i> Hartley England, <i>mi</i> Flannery	Russell, <i>mi</i> Cobbold Shorter, <i>mi</i> de Groot, <i>ma</i> Huston, <i>mi</i>	Stevenson, <i>ma</i> de Groot, <i>mi</i> Barrow
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Form II

Tabori Skinner	Primett, <i>ma</i> Reeve	Charlton Caruana, <i>mi</i>
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Form I

Stevenson, <i>mi</i> Rose Heath	Primett, <i>mi</i> Hodgetts, <i>mi</i> Ray	Hodgson Fox Paris
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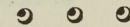
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