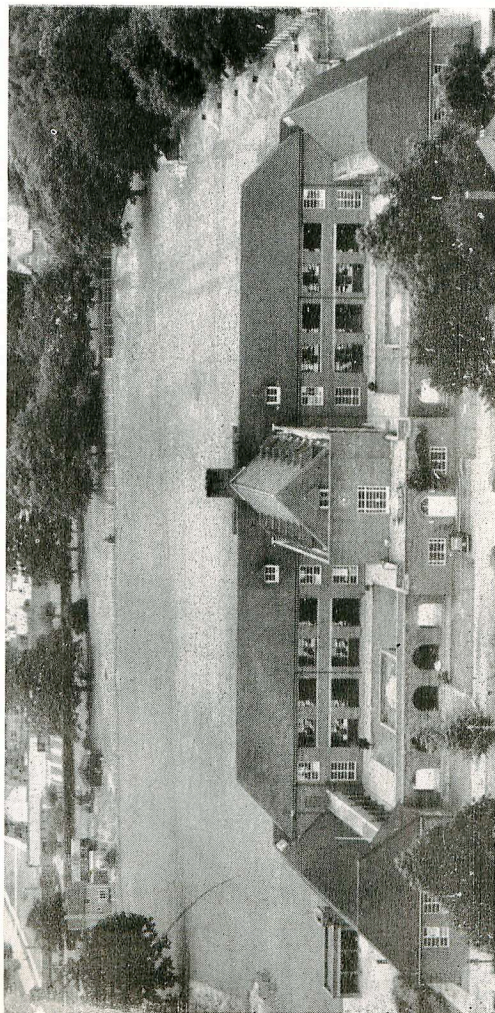




Modestia et Humanitas



Aerial view of the School in 1957

FARNBOROUGH
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

THE STORY
OF AL-FA

1936
21ST BIRTHDAY
1957

by

B. JOWETT, B.A.

PREFACE

IN trying to sketch the events and personalities in the life of this School and its predecessors in Aldershot and Farnborough, I am indebted to many staff and pupils of the three Schools for their faithful record in the School Magazines of life around them. Without their help this work would have been impossible.

The names of all who have further helped to produce this story are too numerous to mention individually, but I am especially grateful to Messrs. A. W. Richards, J. C. Miles, F. C. Mills, W. C. Bishop and T. G. Pascoe, colleagues who have contributed not only facts and memories extending over most of the time the three Schools have existed, but also much valuable comment on various chapters in manuscript. Mr. R. H. Smith's "Sense of Archives" and Dr. J. S. N. Sewell's criticism and proof-reading have also proved invaluable.

I would acknowledge, too, the permission given by the Editor of *The Aldershot News* to browse through files of old copies of the paper, and to quote from several of them.

All the illustrations except the frontispiece and the staff group are original photographs, or have been reproduced from prints, by boys in the School—G. S. P. Thomas and I. A. MacRae of the Sixth Form; R. K. B. Connor and R. J. Stevenson of the Fourth Form.

Finally, grateful thanks to Dr. Bourne for his enthusiasm for an idea which he has continued to help towards realisation in every possible way.

B. JOWETT.

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FOREWORD

By Dr. J. A. Bourne, M.A.

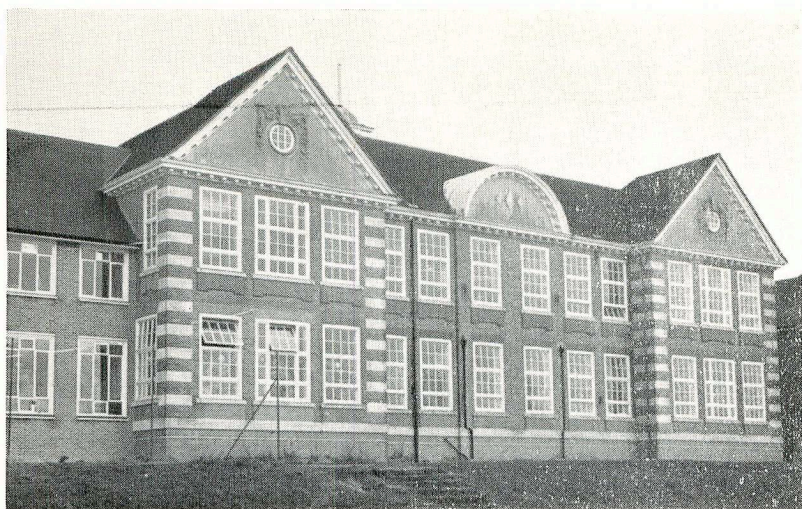
THIS history of our first twenty-one years is part of our celebrations. We are grateful to Mr. Jowett for his research into the formation and history of our School.

Those of the School staff mentioned in the following pages have all helped to make the School what it is to-day. Also in a more subtle way, all those who have sat at desks in the classrooms have had their influence. As John Donne said, we are all members one of another. "No man is an Iland intire of it selfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine; if a Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were; any mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde."

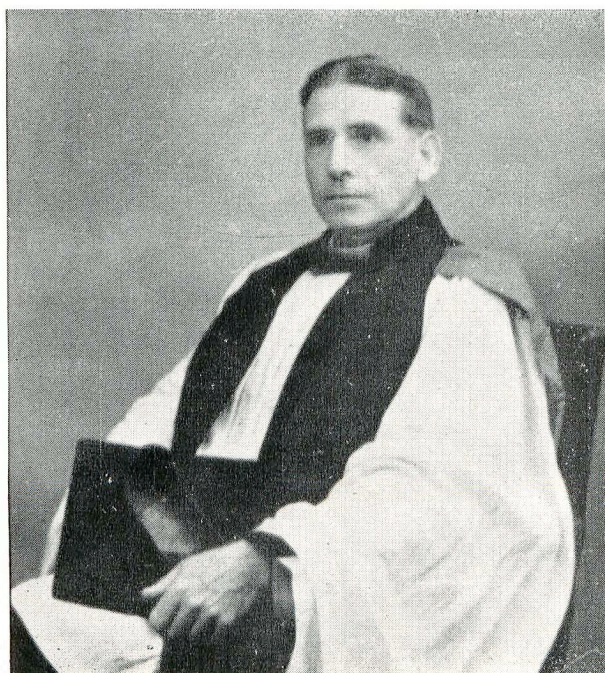
The past is more than a memory. It is the stuff from which we are made. Its influence has shaped what we are now. In the words of the prayer traditionally read at the end of each term, let us therefore give thanks for "the examples of those who have gone before and made tradition".

In our turn, we have the responsibility for the future. It will be as we make it now. I think the reader will deduce from the pages of this history that we have in the past made sound progress and that we are a community with a good spirit. Now that we have crossed the threshold of maturity let us look forward with confidence and may the future years bring us happiness and success in all we undertake.

J. A. BOURNE.



Aldershot County High School



Rev. A. E. Chapman, M.A.

CHAPTER I

ALDERSHOT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

THERE was little prospect of the County Authorities providing the people of Aldershot with the secondary school they wanted in the early 1900's. To such men as Mr. W. T. Robertson, Mr. E. G. H. North, Alderman Calvert and some of their fellow townsmen, the idea was more than a dream. Their initiative overcame apparently unsurmountable obstacles to build that school. Mr. (after, Sir William) Foster, Clerk to the Urban Council, learned one day that a very suitable piece of land for school-building was about to come on the market. Within the hour a deposit of a hundred pounds had secured for the Council, at a modest price, the site of Aldershot's secondary school.

The School, "that proud monument of civic enterprise", was established and constructed by an agreement signed on May 7th, 1909, between the Hampshire County Council and the Aldershot Urban Council, whereby the town built and financed the running of the establishment by means of a penny rate to repay the necessary loan, a grant from the Board of Education, and the fees charged for tuition.

Decisions made, negotiations over, building in hand, the most important matter now was to choose the right man as Headmaster. Mr. North, one of the original governors, a distinguished Oxford Scholar and internationally known athlete in his youth, described how the nudge of an elbow and a confidential "That's our man" decided Chapman's fate. His quiet "if-ness" compared to advantage with another applicant's "when-ness", and the "still, small voice" of Arthur E. Chapman, M.A., Queen's College, Oxford, was to be heard in the next twenty-seven years by thousands of Aldershot and Farnborough children. "I came here as a very young man," he said, "and when commercial travellers used to come they would look at me with a very scathing sort of glance and instruct me to find the headmaster." There could have been few such glances from other sources, for he was to prove many times over the wisdom of those who chose him to guide the development of secondary education in Aldershot.

The original Pupil Teachers' Centre formed the nucleus of Aldershot County Secondary School at its opening in September, 1912. From the former came Mr. F. G. Solloway, B.A., B.Sc., its Headmaster, to join the new School as second master, and work tremendously hard to assist in the successful launching of the venture.

The scene on that first morning was one of straggling lines of Aldershot, Farnborough, Fleet, Cove and Yateley children of

various ages, waiting in the School Hall to be arranged in forms. The younger ones spent the morning doing a general knowledge paper to see who should go into Form One and who leap forward into Form Two. The whole School could be comfortably housed in the ground floor classrooms.

There were the inevitable trials and tribulations of the first few weeks. The furniture failed to arrive in time. Hastily hired trestle-tables were apt, when jolted, to do distressing things with ink-pots, and sometimes failed to restrain the powerful lunges of adolescent legs getting their owners seated.

Mrs. Leaver, wife of the caretaker, would be waiting at 11 o'clock with hot milk, lemonade, buns and biscuits, and at dinner time she cooked for all the children from outlying districts. Both she and her husband had much to do with the good start the School had, despite the difficulties of those early days.

After the official opening by the Countess of Northbrook, there were two years of peace before the School, like its successor, Farnborough Grammar School, had to face the disruptions of war-time when scarcely in its stride. Throughout this period, with a depleted staff when even the youngest members of the School caught the general feeling of unrest, Chapman's leadership brought increased numbers, increased examination successes, an increasing reputation for himself and the School.

The end of the war meant the hard task of establishing standards and aims quite impossible under wartime conditions. New members of the Staff began to appear. Mr. Brinley Thomas, M.A., was appointed in September, 1919. Mr. A. W. Richards, M.A., B.Sc., joined the School in 1923, when there were only five assistant masters and ten mistresses, and many more girls than boys among the three hundred and seventy pupils. For a number of years after this, only men were appointed until there was a more evenly balanced Staff, but it was not until 1931 that boys outnumbered girls. Mr. A. G. D. Maunder, B.Sc., A.I.C., in 1924; Mr. J. C. Miles, B.A., in 1925; and Dr. G. H. Naish, M.A., in 1927, joined the Staff as the School grew in those post-war years to over four hundred in the middle 1920's.

Until 1922, the Oxford Senior Certificate was taken by those of the fifth forms capable of reaching the standard, and London Matriculation only by the exceptionally capable. In 1920, to take a sample year, there were twenty-five successful candidates from twenty-eight entered for the Oxford examination. Knowing that only a third of the candidates were successful as a rule in London Matriculation, the Headmaster promised a half-holiday if seven or eight passed of the twelve entered. Asked what he would do if ten got through, he laughingly promised a whole day's holiday. The School enjoyed a day of freedom some time later.

The curriculum was extended in 1921, and one form took the London General Schools Certificate in 1922, with results considerably above the average for the country. After 1925, two complete

forms were entered each year. Of the forty-four who took the examination that year, thirty-six passed, with nineteen exemptions from London Matriculation.

If the schoolboy of to-day is criticised for reading too little and enjoying too many distractions, it may be some consolation to know that his father and mother were similarly criticised in the 1920's as being "badly read".

"Many do not appear to have even a nodding acquaintance with the classics." And the attraction of the cinema was deplored. Youth does not alter very much—"I think it would be an excellent idea, in view of the present need for economy, to abolish homework, as in this way much paper and ink would be saved." "I am a boy of thirteen, so I think I may safely say I have seen a good deal of the world." "The best part of the cross-country is that cup of tea at the end of it."—if at all.

High School or Grammar School? The "Highs" won in the selection of a new title in 1923, and Aldershot County *High School* raised its fees.

"Forty Years On", borrowed from Harrow for the School Song, sufficed for the old "County", but now it was felt the School should have one of its own. Dedicated to the Headmaster, written by Mr. E. C. Cumberbatch, M.A., one of the original governors, and set to music by Dr. T. Hopkin-Evans, the Song first appeared in 1925, in much the same form as it is sung at Speech Days to-day at Farnborough Grammar School, amended only to suit an all-boys school:

Give me this land of Wessex,
A land of fir and pine,
Of ling and broom and rolling Down,
Of forest old as English Crown,
Give me this land for mine.

In our good land of Wessex,
Secure at Night we sleep,
For in our camp the bugles blow,
And off Spithead the warships go;
Good watch and ward they keep.

Let others boast their Founder-Kings,
Their storied meads and halls,
'Tis ours to prove that chivalry,
True fellowship and modesty,
Grow up within these walls.

When school days past we must away
To face life's sterner rule,
At home, abroad, on land or main,
Whate'er betide, let all maintain
The honour of our School.

Chorus:

O filii et filiae,
Let boys and girls sing heartily,
"Stet firma nostra sedes",
Through fair and foul, through weal and woe,
If loyalty to school we show,
Haec stabit semper aedes,
Haec stabit semper aedes.

The School established a record for the county in 1929, when, besides excellent results in the London General Schools Certificate, all eight candidates for the Higher Schools Certificate were successful. Although this was a particularly fine achievement, there was no lack of success before or after. In 1926, for example, five of the seven who passed the Higher Certificate were awarded County Senior Scholarships to universities, and one a State Scholarship.

"I must go down to the pool again, though London
General's nigh—
To the swimmer's way and the diver's way, for I've a new
stroke to try:
And all I ask is another month to make my work more
thorough,
And if I fail and wreck my life, why then I'll sue the
Borough."

Perhaps the Board of Education read this contribution to the School Magazine in 1930, and decided, despite the statistics of success, that they had better investigate this apparently casual approach to learning. Their inspectors found, not surprisingly, a vigorous, progressive, and very efficient School. One benefit was derived from the visit; the School was found to be understaffed, and another teacher was appointed.

If Aldershot County High School over the years built a reputation for academic success, its record on the sports field was no less brilliant. In Mr. Brinley Thomas they had a keen and capable athlete, who devoted so much time to coaching athletics that Aldershot's reputation was second to none in the county. The annual School Sports were contested by the four Houses, Sparta, Thebes, Corinth and Athens, not only to establish themselves as top House, but also for the honour of providing members for the School team in the County Sports at Winchester.

In 1922 the School won the Senior Shield, awarded for the greatest aggregate of points for the meeting, and also the Junior Bowl, only to be relieved of them by a few points the following year. But 1924, when the Shield was again paraded through the streets of Aldershot in triumph, marked the beginning of a spell of domination by the County High School unequalled in the competition. For six years the Shield hung in the School Hall to mark Aldershot's superiority over the thirteen or fourteen other secondary schools at the County Sports. It must have been with a feeling of

incompleteness that the School team returned from Winchester in 1930 with their usual collection of trophies, but minus the Shield. Peter Symonds' had at last achieved the success that had eluded them for so long—by half a point.

The name of W. C. Bishop was not unknown on school football fields and athletic tracks in the 1920's. As a boy at the County High School he was Secretary of football, and led the 1st XI during the latter part of the 1924-5 season, in which they were unbeaten. One reads of the Open Mile events won in School Sports, and of his final effort for the School at Winchester ". . . all the honours in this division went to Bishop who signalised his last Winchester day by running a spectacular mile, and only just failed to bring back the Peace Cup to Aldershot." Now another generation of footballers and milers benefit from his experience.

There seemed to be a tradition for long runs of being unbeaten at football. The team of 1922 had previously had the unenviable task of keeping the record intact of no defeat since Christmas, 1919.

The cry of the age was originality. One editor of the School Magazine, faithfully recording the inevitable good results in the summer examinations, the sporting achievements throughout the year, the successful School functions, was driven to observe—with tongue fairly in cheek—that one glorious year they would be able to break away from their fetters and announce that the examination results were appalling, the matches all losses, and Winchester fame melted into thin air.

The Headmaster commanded the first Cadet Company formed in the School during World War I. Mr. Sollaway acted as his Adjutant, and Mr. A. E. Clarke, B.Sc., as musketry officer. In the first flush of martial enthusiasm, the boys bought uniforms and presented a smart picture on parade (the uniforms were reasonably cheap). Time, however, dampened their enthusiasm, and economic conditions soon brought a less military looking air to the parades.

Mr. Thomas, fresh from service as an artillery officer in 1919, brought a renewal of interest when he took over command of the Company. A series of competitions, in physical drill, marching and musketry, with other companies in the battalion helped to keep that interest.

Throughout the 1920's numbers increased in this entirely voluntary activity. One inspecting officer, Major-General Sir John E. Capper, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., reported that the Aldershot Cadets were, "Much to be encouraged", and, "On no account should they be allowed to become defunct." Vast efforts were made after this to re-equip the Company with uniforms, so that two platoons paraded in full uniform for the 1929 inspection.

After seven years' break, forty cadets and their commanding officer went to camp at Marlborough in 1929, and celebrated by winning the Woodruffe trophy in an athletics match against representatives of more than fifty schools, secondary and public. Mr. Thomas clinched the victory by winning the officers' race.

News that the Government had decided to restore recognition to Cadet Units in 1931 meant the end of the most serious problem in keeping a unit in existence—money. Uniforms and equipment provided, the Company prospered, and was stated in yearly reports to be efficient and keen.

For general popularity, of course, social activities held first place; they were firmly established in School life, always supported by the Headmaster and his Staff. There were the social evenings, the concerts, the summer parties outdoors, the tennis tournaments, the dances, the cricket matches, planned and prepared with all the enthusiasm and vigour that marked this School in all it did.

A performance of *The Rivals* by the Staff Dramatic Society in 1927 helped provide better staging in the Hall and assisted various School funds. Their undoubted talent prompted visions of a swimming-bath, gymnasias, reading-rooms, and all the luxuries of school life if they could be persuaded to regular profitable activity (not that the School thought their more normal work unprofitable). Noel Coward's *I'll Leave it to You* did, at least, relieve the magazine of a long standing debt in 1929. I wonder how many who know them now would like to see Mr. A. W. Richards as Daniel Davis, the Uncle from abroad, and Dr. Naish as Griggs, the butler. *She Stoops to Conquer* resulted in subscriptions to the Aldershot Hospital and the Mayoress's Nursing Fund, as well as further help to the School.

Early in the 1930's the end of co-education at Aldershot County High School was in sight, and it came as a shock. For some years before the final split that old problem of too many pupils for too little space had proved difficult. Far away were the days when the form rooms were not occupied to capacity, and the old Army huts for junior forms an expedient to come. The experiment in co-education had been tried and not found wanting. Paradoxically, its success in both Aldershot and Farnborough was one cause of its downfall. If there had been less demand for it, there would have been no excuse for tampering with it, even for the all-powerful "they" who said that from September, 1936, all the secondary school boys would be educated at Farnborough, and all the girls at Aldershot.

The Headmaster expressed the general feeling when he said, "Whether we like it or not—and I have a shrewd feeling that the regrets will be greater than the rejoicings—we have got to make the most of a situation that was not of our seeking. Of one thing we cannot be robbed, and that is our united happy memory of Aldershot County High School as a mixed school for the long period of twenty-four years."

When he was appointed to the Headship of Farnborough Grammar School he was equally frank—"I am not going to say that I am delighted to pull up my roots from Aldershot and transplant them in Farnborough. When a man has been Headmaster of a school for twenty-four years he loves the place and everybody connected with it—staff, pupils, and all its interests and

activities. However, I am coming to Farnborough to put my back into it in an endeavour to make the new Farnborough Grammar School something of which Farnborough will be proud."

Chapman was sorry to leave Aldershot. Aldershot was sorrier to see him go. The farewell messages and expressions of esteem from the School, the Town, the Governors, were numerous and sincere. The best testimony to his stature as a Headmaster, however, was the School itself. Many believed when the reorganisation was forced on Aldershot that a blow had been struck at secondary education in this part of Hampshire from which it would take long to recover.

CHAPTER II

FARNBOROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOL

1922 was a critical year in the affairs of the nation. The post-war prosperity of 1918-20 had suddenly collapsed. The too familiar problem of unemployment was already beginning to loom large with distress. It was not a favourable time to open a new school, but the urgent need was felt in this area for a school to help boys into skilled jobs, and towards building a future for themselves as apprentices in engineering, building and allied trades.

When strict economy was the keynote everywhere, a new school building was out of the question. Farnborough Junior Technical School was opened on January 17th, 1922, and housed in what can only be called a wooden hut, which stood where the Royal Aircraft Establishment car park is to-day, at the North Gate in Farnborough Road.

On that Tuesday morning fifty-three boys assembled to hear their headmaster's first address in what he many years later affectionately called "an old wooden building that did not have a single quality that an ordinary building should have". Mr. R. H. May, B.Sc., had one assistant master, Mr. H. P. Smith, B.A., to provide a three year course of secondary school standard. Although it had a scientific bias, the course was by no means purely vocational. By far the greater part of the time-table was devoted to providing a general education.

Pupils were selected by examination and placed in two groups for lessons. They were, of course, all fee-payers—eight pounds a year—and in many cases it meant real self-sacrifice for parents to keep their children at school in those difficult times.

The value of such an institution was soon to make itself felt. A Junior Technical School Advisory Committee was set up in 1923 under the chairmanship of Mr. W. Sydney Smith, C.B., O.B.E. (Superintendent, R.A.E.), to help in placing the boys in

suitable skilled work. A random selection shows the type of jobs they went to on leaving the School: Boy mechanic, R.A.F.; apprentice to the building trade; articled pupil, *The Aldershot News*; trade lad, R.A.E.; articled pupil to a surveyor; apprentice to fitting and turning. Six boys were entered for the examination for trade lads held by the R.A.E. in 1923. All succeeded in passing when only ten places were offered for competition.

An increasing demand for places resulted when parents realised the advantages of the type of education offered. From the opening of the School to September, 1924, there were two hundred and fifty applicants for admission, of whom one hundred and sixty-nine passed the entrance examination. The greatest number on the roll at any time was one hundred and six—and the accommodation was strained to its utmost to take the ninety originally settled as a maximum.

The School was surrounded by gorse bushes blooming almost throughout the year up to its doors. It seemed almost an act of vandalism when they were cleared in the front of the hut to provide a few more inches of playing space. A recognised punishment for the loss of five House marks was for the offender to be tossed into the gorse by his more zealous companions. There were two Houses at first, Saxons and Danes. Numbers in 1923 justified a regrouping and two more were added, Celts and Normans. They competed each term in all branches of School activity for the right to pin their colours to the House trophy, a Zulu shield whose original owner was killed at Isandula in 1879. (The same shield reappeared for a time at Farnborough Grammar School as the House trophy some fifteen years later.)

School athletes used the Common for training for a time until the R.A.E. came to the rescue, as they were willingly to do so often in the future, with the offer of their running-track for training and sports meetings. Mr. May presented a silver cup to be held by the winning House at the first sports in July, 1922. The School team had managed to collect only one and a half points at the Hampshire Secondary School Sports at Winchester in May that year, but there was promise of better things, and certainly the boys were determined to put their School on the athletic map.

After long weeks of searching for a football ground the School was given the free use of a field by Mr. Oakey of Cove, until a more suitable place could be found. They eventually leased a ground in Lynchford Road. Now the drawback was that the pitch was under water for a good six weeks every season. One youthful player wrote the following for the guidance of visiting teams:

“He who grounds when tide’s aflood
Will soon be floated off the mud;
But should he during ebb-tide ground
He’ll stay there while the clock goes round.”

Appropriately, the first victory at football was over their neighbours and keen rivals in years to come, Aldershot County Secondary

School, though they had to wait until February, 1923, for this.

One of the main aims in the teaching was to relate work in school with life. There was ample opportunity to learn as the boys improved their surroundings and provided amenities where none existed. The list of jobs carried out by boys of thirteen or fourteen is astonishing. Two of the major projects were the building of extra lavatories and two large cycle sheds. Other very useful work which might never have been done officially included felling trees around the School and lining coal bunkers with their trunks, a coke shed complete with concrete footings, and almost all the routine maintenance work on doors, windows, and other fittings, which makes all the difference between reasonable comfort and a draughty existence.

As early as June, 1924, it was obvious that new premises would have to be found. The County Education Committee recognised the need and started negotiations to buy the part of the old Convent School opposite the present R.A.E. Technical College in Star Hill. The days of the Junior Technical School were nearly over, too, for shortly after the move to the new building it was decided that Farnborough should have a secondary school, and that it should be co-educational.

Of the three years in the wooden hut Mr. May said: "To start under such depressing physical conditions might easily have ended in failure." The reason it did not is clear from a later speech when he recalled the boys who comprised the School in those early days. "They gave, and gave abundantly; and we, on the staff, who remember the fine spirit that animated them, we who were their co-workers in a common cause can live over again in remembrance the many happy hours we spent with them."

Perhaps the School, in giving its members the responsibility for making a new venture successful, with no lack of discouragement and difficulty, also gave them a very valuable experience.

The reorganisation from Junior Technical School to mixed Secondary School came in September, 1925, bringing among its many changes an entirely new curriculum. Under the regulations for junior technical schools, for example, no foreign languages could be taught. Now there was to be a full academic course. Fees were raised to twelve pounds a year, except for those already in the School at the change-over. The response to the new facilities was gratifying to Headmaster and County Authority alike. Farnborough County Secondary School began with one hundred and eighty-one pupils, thirty-six of them girls.

Three women assistant teachers were appointed to augment the four men in the new School. One of our neighbours in Prospect Avenue to-day, Miss E. G. Kneen, M.A., became senior assistant mistress. For the founder member of the staff room it was to be a final year. Mr. H. P. Smith was appointed to a headship at Poole.

It soon became the habit to refer to "the Old Convent building", though it was just pre-World War I in age and had the

solidity and finished workmanship of those times. One of the most welcome features after the cramped quarters across the road was the hall, with its fine ceiling and stained glass windows. Even at this stage, however, it had to be used as a classroom and for mid-day meals.

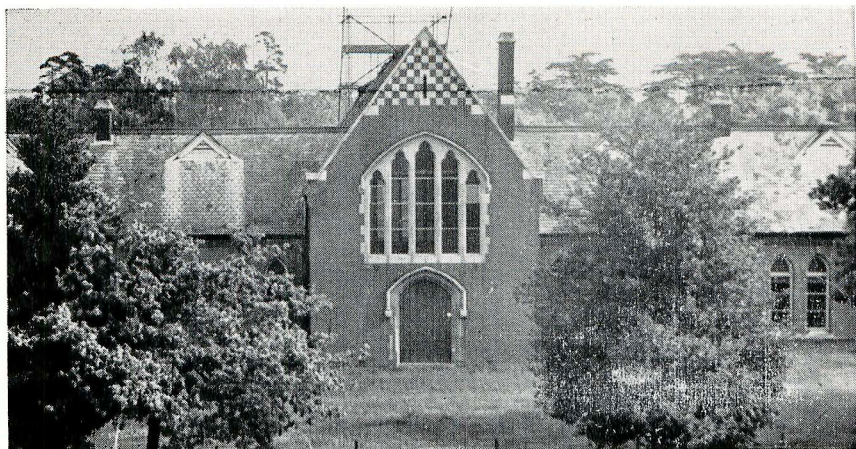
Asked why they appreciated the new building, some of the old hands replied: "It is easier to work in large and airy rooms. The masters move instead of the boys. I find the new building far more conducive to intelligent thought and self-interest in study. We have a new School through which the rain cannot leak. This massive structure built on ancient style, situated on land that was a possession of Saxon Alwin, makes me proud to belong to its community."

Still there was much to be done, even here. Once more the senior boys, under their woodwork master, Mr. B. F. Gibbs, set about the task of reorganisation. The biggest scheme was the transformation of the Old School into a science block for the New. This meant removing partitions to enlarge rooms, and building a new partition throughout the length of the building to form a corridor leading to all the classrooms. In the new School they built partitions to form a store room and a women's staff room, and partly furnished the latter. New bicycle sheds, extensions to the woodwork room, netball posts, notice boards — nothing seemed too big, or too small, for them to tackle. A score of sixty foot pine trees were felled in the grounds, with some fifty boys on the rope to topple them, paths and open spaces driven through the jungle of coarse grass, weeds and gorse, which had rampaged for six years untouched.

The first pupil to matriculate—to satisfy the examiners that he could reach university standards if he continued his academic work—did so in the face of unavoidable difficulties in the summer of 1926. In the following year, eight of the nine who comprised the top form passed the London General Schools Certificate, three of them gaining exemption from London Matriculation. Mr. May, in a letter to all parents, stressed the need for children to gain the certificate in an increasingly competitive world. It carried considerable weight with employers otherwise baffled by the varying standards of the schools.

In his report during the School's first Speech Day, in 1928, the Headmaster expressed the hope that parents would see the value of keeping their children at the School even after the normal four years, as facilities were then offered for further study leading to the Higher Schools Certificate, and to County and State Scholarships. That year, in fact, a boy won a County Senior Scholarship. The School had succeeded in preparing a pupil for university after only three years as a recognised secondary school.

The sixth form was becoming a significant, though small, body in the School. It had seven members in 1929, five studying Mathematics and Science, the other two a combination of English, French and History. The School was also a recognised pupil



Farnborough County Secondary School in 1957



Mr. R. H. May, B.Sc.

Headmaster of Farnborough County Secondary School, 1922-1936

teachers' centre and had four preparing for training colleges. Latin was introduced about this time in the third form with a view to strengthening the qualifications of those who might wish to study Arts subjects in the advanced course and subsequently satisfy entrance requirements at various universities.

Numbers were increasing rapidly year by year. The two hundred and seventeen on roll in 1929 made accommodation again a serious problem. An appreciable number of children were being entered between the ages of ten and eleven; which gave them an extra year to master the basic subjects of the normal four year course. They were eligible, along with children from other schools, to sit for a Junior County Scholarship before their twelfth birthday—of financial as well as academic value in the days of fees.

The successful work of the School can be gauged from the Schools Certificate results in 1929. All twenty of the fifth form were entered for the examination. Nineteen passed, eleven of them with exemption from London Matriculation. Meanwhile, there were successes, as in previous years, in competitive examinations for entry into the Armed Services, the R.A.E., and other branches of the Civil Service.

"Fully efficient" was the report after the whirlwind of a general inspection descended on the School in 1930. The inspectors formed a high opinion of the standard of work, of the tone and, above all, of the character they found there. Their criticism of the accommodation was, however, devastating. Despite increasing numbers, the School was to remain for the next six years in a building condemned by the Board of Education and the County Education Committee—and reach the peak of its achievements.

Though its uncharted depths may have assisted School teams to register victories now and then over visitors less sure in their navigation, the Lynchford Road sports ground could hardly be deemed worthy of the School. There was always the hope that sometime a better ground would be theirs, and it was realised in 1930 when the County Education Committee bought nine acres of land in Prospect Avenue, on which eventually they would build a new school. In the meantime, it was to be used exclusively by the Farnborough Secondary School as a playing field. With two football pitches, a hockey pitch, and ample room for additions, it was paradise by comparison. Mr. F. C. Mills, B.Sc., who came to the School in 1930, was in charge of games in addition to his Mathematics teaching, and tells how the cricket square was hewn out of the wilderness, again by volunteers. They were making little impression with their hand-operated cutting machine, so that a local farmer's offer of the loan of his horse to haul it was accepted willingly—by the boys. The horse, on the other hand, soon realised the extreme amateur status of its handlers, and declined most of their invitations to work. A motor-mower was fairly quickly on the scene. The new ground seemed to inspire the footballers, at least. They remained undefeated from October to the end of the season, 1930-31.

After an unpromising start in the Hampshire Secondary Schools Sports, Farnborough, on their third appearance at the Bar End ground at Winchester, came third in 1924. They had to wait until 1927 for one of the major trophies, the Junior Bowl, which was shared with Gosport. 1933 was Farnborough's year. The coveted County Challenge Shield, the Senior Bowl, the Portal Cup, the Gurney-Dixon Cup, and six medals left the rest of the county with little but hope for future meetings. Before the School ceased to exist, the Shield was seen once more hanging triumphantly in the hall. But this time, 1935, it had to be handed over after six months to the school with whom they had tied for first place—Peter Symonds'.

In numbers of pupils and staff the School had increased to more than five times its original form by the early 1930's, and there had been corresponding progress in all branches of its activities. It had an enviable reputation for dramatics, for instance. Plays were usually presented after the formalities of Speech Day to assembled parents and friends in the R.A.E. Concert Hall during the afternoon. 1930 marked the beginning of evening presentations and public performances. The plays that year were *Scenes from Macbeth*, *X=O*, and *Le Chat Botté*. The English plays were produced by Mr. F. W. James, B.A., who, since his joining the Staff as senior English master in 1926, had developed drama in the School, as well as playing many rôles with distinction in local dramatic and operatic productions.

The French plays were a tradition in the School. Produced by Mr. W. E. Gallimore, B.A., they reached a very high standard. To select a few from the ten years they were presented—1928, *Le Chevalier du Guet*; 1931, *Cendrillon*; 1934, *Jeanne d'Arc*; and in 1935 an attractive version of Gounod's opera, *Mireille*—will give some indication of the ambitious nature of the performances.

Of all the English plays, none before 1931 presented such a problem, or such a challenge, as the one chosen by Mr. James that year, Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*. With this Elizabethan portrayal of a soul in torment, the School's dramatic group scored its greatest success. There was a memorable performance, too, by Mr. James after he had taken over the part of Faustus at the very last moment, in one of those emergencies which beset all play productions at one time or another.

The Town Hall became the scene of productions in later years of *Julius Cæsar*, *The Tempest*, *The Gods of the Mountain* and *The House with the Twisty Windows*. Mention must be made of Mrs. A. Pascoe, who trained and supervised so much of the dancing, and Mrs. F. C. Mills, who worked just as hard with the singers for plays and entertainments. The name T. L. G. Pascoe often appeared on programmes, too, for his work behind the scenes and on the drums when he was a pupil at the School.

A junior branch of the League of Nations Union was strongly founded in the School. After 1926 there is continual reference to its activities, strongly backed by the Headmaster. He was against

teaching controversial subjects, but he sincerely believed in the work of the League and in the necessity for the growing generation to recognise the value of its aims. The School branch had recently been officially recognised when they held a Mock Assembly in 1928 before many visitors. The programme of the meeting was later sent to America as a model for similar "learning by doing" there. Subjects for the Debating Society were often taken from the League's affairs. One such motion, "That the Great Powers who are members of the League of Nations are Traitors to the League", was defeated heavily. About the same time German delegates were first attending the Assemblies.

Another public debate took the form of a model Parliamentary debate in the R.A.E. Concert Hall in 1929. A previous visit to Westminster enabled the scene to be set accurately and atmosphere and procedure absorbed. The programme included Question Time, a Private Member's Bill, and a debate on the Air Estimates that year.

Co-education meant that the social life of the School was alive and thriving. Accounts of the Christmas socials, the concerts, the charades, the suppers, all give the impression of a happy place, as indeed it was.

Returning to the academic side, we find that two Arts candidates were entered for the Higher Schools Certificate in 1930. By 1932 the sixth form had increased to sixteen, half on the Arts side, and the total numbers in the School were two hundred and sixty-six. The progress in examination successes, the yearly rise in numbers, the ever widening sphere of out of school activities continued to the end of the School's existence in 1936 against a background of overcrowded classrooms, a school building long since outgrown by a school.

Late spring, 1935, saw the opposition to certain plans of the County Education Committee frustrated and the foundations of the new Farnborough Grammar School laid. From September, 1936, the boys would go to the new School, the girls to Aldershot.

The final year was as eventful and vigorous as any other, despite the knowledge that at the end of it the School as so many had known it would fade out of existence. As may well be imagined, when the affairs of the School had to be wound up, and when the Headmaster was to leave for his appointment as Head of the new Brockenhurst County Secondary School in early July, it was also a very busy one.

Highlight of the final term was undoubtedly the remarkable enthusiasm shown by governors, pupils past and present, parents, staff and innumerable friends in the district when paying their public tribute to Mr. May.

The 1925 change of buildings gave Mr. May a hall big enough to talk to his School one morning each week on some topic, usually connected with life and its demands on the individual. Those talks struck home because it was readily recognised by all that his own life was the embodiment of his teaching.

Over three hundred and fifty people testified to his sincerity at the Town Hall on Thursday evening, 18th June, 1936. They shared in the tributes to him as a schoolmaster and as a man. They heard from the Chairman and other governors of his fine work outside the School—in the after-care scheme for children who had left the School, in his efforts to secure a library for Farnborough, for the local hospital, and the Safety-first Committee. They heard reiterated what they well knew, that his interest in school life was based on and permeated by a deep religious feeling. The example was there for all to see, his readiness to be of service, not only to his pupils, but also to the community.

In 1930 the inspectors had reported that he was "too good to lose". Now he was to be lost, to the gain of Brockenhurst. The inscription on the illuminated address presented to him that night, along with other gifts to himself and his wife, read:

"To Reginald Herbert May Esq., B.Sc., Headmaster, Farnborough County Secondary School. On the occasion of your leaving Farnborough we, your pupils present and past, parents, the members of your Staff and your other friends, wish to pay this tribute to you and to the splendid work you have accomplished during your fourteen years amongst us. We shall remember with gratitude your never-failing courtesy and kindness, and the inspiration of your high example. In the work to which you go we heartily wish you the success which your manifold good qualities deserve, and, with that success, happiness in full measure."

Later, at a supper and dance given by the Old Fernebergians, there were further gifts and a leather-bound book containing the names of all the subscribers. After the Governors had paid their own tribute in the form of a silver cigarette box engraved with their facsimile signatures, it remained for the Head Prefect, R. W. Goldsmith, to say farewell on behalf of the School after the last morning assembly taken by Mr. May, on July 3rd. In the evening, the staff accompanied Mr. May and his family to the station, and fourteen years' work for the School he had carefully and successfully reared from its birth was ended.

Two of his staff joined Mr. May at Brockenhurst, some of the women were appointed to the Aldershot County High School, and Messrs. James, Smith, Mills, Williams, Nurton, Openshaw and Lees were all appointed to the Staff of the new Farnborough Grammar School to join their colleagues from Aldershot.

For the School, there remained the clearing up, the closing down, the parting for the summer holidays. Perhaps the excitement and expectation was tinged with regret just for once as they left the old building to the weeds.

CHAPTER III

SECONDARY SCHOOL CONTROVERSY

THE dispute as to the form which the proposed reorganisation of secondary education in Aldershot and Farnborough should take became keen. In both towns the principle at stake was co-education.

The people of Aldershot, the Governors of Aldershot County High School, the Headmaster, the Staff, and the boys and girls all wanted to retain the system that had worked well for many years. Above all, they wanted to retain their School as they knew and loved it.

The County Education Committee wanted to change the system. They proposed to build a new school at Farnborough and transfer the boys from Farnborough County Secondary School, together with those from Aldershot County High School, to the new building. The girls from both schools were to form the future Aldershot County High School.

There were many objections from Farnborough people, and one suspects that most of those connected with the School would have preferred to see a new co-educational school built. The Governors, however, agreed with the Committee's proposals.

The situation in the schools, as we have seen, was that from 1930 onwards the Farnborough buildings were intolerably overcrowded, condemned by H.M. Inspectors, and unable to be extended further. Aldershot County High School was overcrowded, but not to anything like the same extent, and the buildings were in good condition, with room for extensions (in 1957 they were just being carried out).

A special committee, reporting to the County Education Committee on the development of secondary education in the county, suggested a policy of providing separate schools for boys and girls wherever possible. Aldershot and Farnborough were specially mentioned, and in 1930 came the definite recommendation for the new building and the reorganisation.

The Governors of Aldershot County High School, informed of the plan for the area by the County Education Officer, at once pointed out their objections to it. Briefly, they were that the school as it stood was a very successful one; the possible alteration in boundaries in the area might affect the plan (in effect, Aldershot might be extended to include Farnborough); a new school on the Hampshire/Surrey border at Frimley (Camberley Grammar School) might affect the numbers at Farnborough; and, finally, that the proposed Higher-Top School (equivalent to the present Secondary Modern School) in Aldershot might affect the numbers at the High School.

The County Education Committee duly reported to the County

Council that their proposals had met with agreement from the Governors of Farnborough County Secondary School, but that the Governors of Aldershot suggested postponement until the results of certain other developments in the district were known. The Committee were certain, however, that their proposals were justifiable. There was an urgent need for more suitable buildings at Farnborough, and they recommended that the new school for boys only should be provided forthwith.

There followed a financial crisis, so that the preliminary plans for the new school were not approved until May, 1933, and the forecast of expenditure in February, 1934. The final plans and estimates were approved by the County Council in November, 1934. Building began the following spring.

Such were the facts. The "ifs" and "buts" of the question were a little more involved.

Surprisingly, you would think, there were no real signs of opposition to this plan in Aldershot from the town itself until 1934, despite several references to it in *The Aldershot News*. But when opposition was awakened it was vigorous and strident. On June 18th a meeting of parents was called. The Mayor presided over the meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, and heard the parents object in no uncertain terms to sending their boys to Farnborough. One man said he had signed an agreement to send his boy to Aldershot County High School until he was sixteen, and he thought no judge in the country would enforce the agreement if the county did not keep their side of the contract. He certainly was not going to send his boy to Farnborough. Several parents pointed out the dangers of having four hundred boys and girls travelling the road daily between the two towns. Others stressed the extra strain of travel on growing children, especially as they thought many parents would be unable to meet the extra cost of bus fares and their children would have to cycle. The cost of a midday meal at school would also hit some families hard. One parent with three children at the County High School said he had sold his house in Fleet and moved to Aldershot to save expense. The economics of the situation understandably worried parents; but if they had been convinced that the change would be an improvement, they might have been more ready to bear the burden stoically. They were not convinced. They had a great deal of confidence in the system of education at it was. They saw no reason for a change when the School consistently produced good academic results; when it could hold its own with the best in the county in most things; when the moral tone was so high. They firmly believed that the building of a mixed school in Farnborough would solve all the problems, and that Aldershot was to be deprived of co-education "for the whim of a few who wanted education carried out in a certain way". The meeting unanimously voted against the County Education Committee's proposals. Signatures were collected for a petition.

The Borough Council organised a deputation to Winchester and invited Farnborough to join it. There was some discussion and

delay in Farnborough, so that when the Aldershot deputation was duly received in the first week of July, the absence of Farnborough members must have left a distinct impression that all was neatly settled in that town. The deputation made no headway. Winchester remained firm.

Farnborough Council met to discuss the protest to Winchester at about the same time as the Aldershot deputation was received. Major-General E. G. Browne, C.B., C.M.G., C.C., Chairman of Governors of the Farnborough County Secondary School, and a member of the committee which formed the plan for reorganisation, pointed out that the whole question had been thrashed out for a considerable time, and when the proposals came before the School Governors in 1932, they had unanimously approved them. The plans, he said, were ready, and the site in Farnborough for the new school had been bought long ago. Another councillor thought that too much protest from Farnborough might result in both schools going to Aldershot. And a new boys' secondary school would be a big attraction to parents looking for some pleasant place to live not too far from London. The Council decided by nine votes to five to support the protest.

The Farnborough Ratepayers' Association now took action—July, 1934—and decided to hold a protest meeting of their own. They took the line that though Aldershot and Farnborough people were friends, they preferred their children to be educated in their own towns. They thought it would be detrimental in many ways for their daughters to travel every day to Aldershot, and they demanded that two schools should be built to serve Aldershot and Farnborough separately.

The County Education Officer was present to put the official view. He reiterated the Committee's decision to discontinue co-education, and mentioned the practical reasons for this in staffing and organisation. The supervision of boys and girls was necessary by people of their own sex. Different discipline was necessary. Their needs and capacities varied considerably. Since there were only ninety-eight girls at the Farnborough School, he pointed out, there could be no new school built for them as an easy solution. Major-General Browne said that had it merely been to discuss the desirability or otherwise of co-education, he would not have been present—the Hadlow Report showed that segregation of the sexes between the ages of twelve and fourteen was absolutely essential.

The Ratepayers remained unimpressed. Their formal resolution demanding two co-educational schools contained the rather strange proviso that if the County insisted on their proposed course of action, they should meet the cost of meals and transport for the children who had to travel. This resolution met with the same fate as the deputation before it.

A certain fact came to light in Aldershot in January, 1935, that caused a storm of indignation, and confusion in all quarters connected with the campaign, still determined, to thwart the County.

In 1926, it was now discovered, an agreement had been signed

with the County Council, apparently waiving all rights that Aldershot had in the control of the School it had built and financed.

At the public meeting the previous year there had been some talk of a "Gentleman's Agreement" whereby Aldershot was relieved of a penny rate and the County took over financial control. But at the time, the meeting was told, the Town Clerk and the Clerk to the Governors went to Winchester and were given a promise that there would be no interference with the system of education in the School.

Now came the news that the agreement was nothing so casual, but one signed and sealed by the Borough Council in 1926, which handed over the School to the County "for the purpose of Secondary education, or for any other purpose deemed desirable".

Despite the natural hard feelings there were in Aldershot in 1935, it is extremely doubtful whether the handing over of the School made any real difference to the outcome of the whole affair once the County Education Committee had decided on its policy of single sex schools, and whether the 1926 agreement really altered the effect of that of 1909, except financially. The County Council was the statutory controlling body at all times. Even the programme for the official opening of the School puts the situation in a nutshell. It was headed "*Aldershot and County Secondary School*".

Perhaps if, in 1930 and after, the School had still been financed largely by the Borough, there would have been strong moral grounds for objecting to the interference, even legal, by the County. Now the objections were sentimental, practical and irate together, but not legally valid in any way.

The next move came in 1935 from the Governors of the School. They resolved "That the Governors are unanimously of the opinion that the Mayor and Corporation of Aldershot should arrange to send a deputation to the Board of Education, and that the Governors wish to be associated with the deputation."

Besides the difficulties created for the children by the travelling to and fro, the chief argument the Council decided to use when presenting their case was the expense of single sex schools as compared with co-education. They thought that would be a big factor in influencing the Board in the days of economy in local administration. The Mayor and three Councillors were to form a deputation, but the Board of Education saw no reason to disagree with the views of the County Education Authority, and thought no useful purpose would be served by their receiving such a body.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Wolmer, P.C., M.P., was asked to assist in putting Aldershot's case, but even he failed to achieve any change of opinion.

Despite feeling "that Aldershot has been extremely badly treated by the County and by the Board", the Council decided that further action would be virtually useless. As the residents of Prospect Avenue heard the clink of trowels and the thud of picks at work on the foundations of Farnborough Grammar School, Aldershot's defeat was finally accepted.



Mr. B. J. A. Neill, M.A., B.Sc.
Headmaster of Farnborough Grammar
School 1939-1949



Dr. J. A. Bourne, M.A.
Headmaster of Farnborough Grammar
School, 1950

CHAPTER IV

FARNBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

"KING EDWARD VIII'S Grammar School opened at Knellwood" might well have announced Farnborough's new secondary school. The original site, however, was rejected for the one in Prospect Avenue. The proposed name would have been unique.

Farnborough Grammar School was built by Messrs. Francis Brothers of Reading in the seventeen months before its opening in September, 1936.

The two hundred and fifty-five foot frontage and one hundred and seventy foot depth, the multi-coloured, hand-made bricks and hand-made red tiles made the School something of a show place in the area. The Manor Parks and Fernhills of school building, and their colossal cost, were still to come to dwarf it.

Sunday afternoon strollers in late 1935 and 1936 would wander round as the building rose. They probably noted its symmetry as the chief feature, for though some aspects are attractive, the School can scarcely lay claim to architectural beauty. The greater solidity of outline seen from the north presents a more imposing picture than the broken lines of the front, or southern, view.

Interested viewers saw that the three-storey main block, containing the assembly hall, the dining room and the administrative and staff rooms, was flanked by two storey classroom blocks, exactly balanced on each side. Single storey laboratories and cloakrooms formed the wings, again exactly alike on each side of the School. The cloisters and quadrangles added a touch of distinction. [When one has experienced the very transitory comfort of the building in summer, though, and suffered in the architect's wind-tunnel corridors and Siberian expanses of quadrangle for the other two terms, the only charitable conclusion to be drawn is that he wintered abroad. Any other must be libellous.]

The site in 1936 was really in the heart of the country, so much so that the Hunt was often seen across the fields where the Hawley Estate now stands. The School looked across fourteen acres of playing fields to rising woodland, with a glimpse of Farnborough Grange through the trees.

Farnborough Road was the only one nearby to bear any traffic. Prospect Avenue as we know it, a busy thoroughfare to the Hawley Lane Estate and Cove, was then a quiet country lane.

As September approached it was a race against the calendar for the builders to complete their contract. They succeeded, more or less, so that the School opened punctually. But with the quadrangles and front drive unfinished, and much to be done elsewhere in the way of finishing touches to fittings and decoration, it must have been one of the most hectic opening periods experienced by any school.

CHAPTER V

ENTRENCHMENT, 1936-1939

FARNBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL came to life on the 15th of September, 1936, when three hundred and fifty-six boys arrived to work and play amid its two thousand panes of glass.

The early days of the amalgamation were not without their difficulties, though they arose largely from the newness of the School as such, and not from any rivalry or feeling between the two elements that now comprised it. Largely owing to the character of Chapman, in fact, the fusion of these previous rivals gave the School a surer start than most new establishments can boast. He had "seen it coming", and carefully considered the possible snags well beforehand. Typical of the man was his decision to move to Farnborough from his old home in Aldershot. In Empress Avenue he was now of Farnborough and the School he had undertaken to make worthy of the town.

He was fortunate in being able to bring with him to the new School the men who had contributed to the success of Aldershot County High School. His friend and second master since 1912, F. G. C. Solloway, had "promised to see me through my first year". With him, too, came Messrs. Clarke, Thomas, Richards, Miles, Naish, Maunder, Hill, Moseley and Williams.

The smaller Farnborough group of Messrs. James, Smith, Mills, Nurton, Openshaw and Lees were not, despite their natural apprehensions, the odd men out.

The Aldershot flavour was strong on the staff, but Chapman paid particular attention to the feelings and wishes of the Farnborough men. So justly were they treated that the old Farnborough staff finally held their Headmaster in as much respect and affection as those who had known him before.

Mr. W. C. Bishop, B.A., from Reading; Mr. S. L. Whitby, M.Sc., from London; and Mr. E. J. Foster, Dip. Art, from Brockenhurst, completed the staff of 1936.

There were, in those days, many more Aldershot than Farnborough boys. One observer noted that the more virile types joined the School from Farnborough and the rather more subtle types from the south. He may have been biased, but the fact remains that they blended well. Old School loyalties there undoubtedly were, and the arguments as to respective merits must have been many, but they got on well together. Probably the realisation that the two staffs had become as one had something to do with it.

Although there were few "human" problems to be faced, there were many in the organisation and physical surroundings. An early discovery was that the buses bringing the Aldershot contingent to School were rather too wide for the gates. As there was no con-

venient Sand Hill for turning, the buses had to back from Farnborough Road as far as the post-box in Prospect Avenue to deliver their loads in the morning. The boys had to be marshalled at the same spot to return to Aldershot in the evenings. This went on for some weeks.

The neat brick cycle-shed on the west side of the School held about one-quarter of the cycles used on the first morning.

Over one hundred and fifty boys had to be fed by an inadequate kitchen staff struggling to overcome the difficulties of equally inadequate facilities and utensils. A dinner committee comprising the Headmaster's wife, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Bishop did much noble work. No boy actually went hungry despite the nightmare to teaching staff unused to grappling with such problems.

No stools or benches in the dining room meant that two hundred boys, including those bringing their own sandwiches, had to carry up chairs from their form rooms. The first dinner finished about three o'clock, so that teaching went on in the afternoon with few boys or few chairs, or few of either, in sight.

The cook was paid by the County, but the other costs had to be met by the School. The ninepenny meal was eaten with knives and forks hired from the kitchen at two shillings a term. There was much changing of suppliers to ensure that the meat and vegetables were delivered at competitive prices.

For a harassed staff there was no retreat to a comfortable sanctum. Although, unlike to-day, there must almost have been sufficient room for all of them to be present together in the staff room, the lack of any chairs for the first few weeks was against such gatherings. Situations like this tended to bring out the best in one of the junior masters, Lees, one of those comparatively rare people who can reduce the irritations and minor problems of school life to their perspective by spontaneous wit. Such a type is an invaluable member of any staff, and certainly Lees must be considered as one of the factors in the successful launching of the School.

Some of those early incidents must have been very annoying at the time, but with the passing years, and from a position of established routine, they sound comic rather in their retelling. The stools provided for the Physics laboratory were far too short, for instance, so that the order to sit down meant the virtual disappearance of the younger forms behind the benches. The Woodwork department provided "feet" for the stools, but hard wear brought the inevitable three-long-and-one-short-legged insecurity. One can imagine the delight afforded to the form clown by such a situation.

Newly-polished, the South American oak gymnasium floor attracted like a magnet. One wet dinner-hour it was rapidly becoming a skating rink until the wrath of Mr. Solloway descended on the over-eager and unofficial gymnasts. They were soon made to realise that any further attempt to "improve" the surface would be most unwise, and became the first members of the School to have

to get down on hands and knees to remove signs of their thoughtlessness.

Another unofficial activity was a fifth form club. Access to the club room proved to be through the rear of the Geography room, along the rafters of the west wing, to the "club" above the senior cloakroom. Unfortunately (for the members) a carelessly placed foot through the ceiling indicated their presence, and heralded the end, of this particular phase.

Mention of the Geography room leads us to the point that until numbers dictated otherwise, the specialist rooms were not used for general form periods. The form rooms were sufficient to take all such classes without overspill into the Geometrical Drawing Office, the Science Laboratories, or the Art Room. A happy state of affairs indeed.

What was not so happy was the appearance of large holes in the plaster on classroom walls after the first few weeks. Crashes would announce further disintegration as lessons went on. Boys were warned to keep desks and chairs well away from the plaster, but threats of punishment were of little use when some of the largest strips came from behind masters' desks. The County Architect's inspection brought the builders back in the Christmas holidays to strip and replaster (Sirapite) the lower part of the walls.

Once the preliminary difficulties were over, it was not long before the School was forging its new life. The House system is one way of creating unity of spirit and, at the same time, the competition necessary for progress. The first names allotted to the four Houses—Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta—soon gave way to the more inspiring ones associated with Hampshire — Beaufort, Dickens, Kingsley and Wykeham.

Their struggles began at once. Kingsley were undisputed champions that year. From success in the Senior and Junior football competition they went on to beat the Rest of the School XI. Five of the first six home in the cross-country race were Kingsley-ites. Every cricket match they played, Senior and Junior, they won. Honours showered on them from all branches of School activity.

In inter-School sport, as might be expected from a new School, fortunes were mixed. The 1st XI football team started with an eleven goals to one defeat at Woking. The 1st cricket XI were all out for twenty-four in their first game, also against the old enemy. But in the County Sports at Winchester the combined power of two old campaigners in the competition won the Challenge Shield outright for the School. It was fitting that R. W. Goldsmith, the School's most outstanding athlete, should score the necessary two points in the Senior Mile to thwart Andover Grammar School in a thrilling finish. Earlier in the year he had run a fine race at the White City in the Public Schools' Sports to gain second place in the 880 yards open championship—and went on during the season to beat the winner's time by almost two seconds.

The blaze of blue, white and gold at Winchester was new, but the spirit and skill was there in plenty, as of old. Trophies previously carried off to two schools now made an imposing show in the Farnborough Grammar School Hall. Much of the success was due to Mr. Brinley Thomas and Mr. W. C. Bishop—master and pupil of former years—who spent most of their Easter Holidays training the winning team.

Paper chases were very popular at this time. The hares and hounds covered an average distance of five miles, spurred on by Mr. Smith's amazing enthusiasm in joining them for most of their week-end runs. Many were the swamps in the Minley, Frimley, Pirbright and Cove areas where they found they could get legitimately dirty.

Clubs and Societies formed rapidly as the School felt its way forward. Mr. T. G. L. Pascoe joined the staff as a pupil teacher, and his Hobbies Club became one of the highlights of the work out of School. Their proudest moment, among the many of showing their work during Speech Days, came in the Forestry competition at Portsmouth, where the Club gained five prizes, including the first, for articles made from English timber. Activities beyond the workshop included visits to the Schoolboys' Exhibition, the Timber Research Exhibition, Southampton Docks, the Ford Motor Works, Eastleigh railway sheds and, nearer home, the control rooms of the Rex Cinema.

"That conscription should be introduced into this country" was the first motion to be debated in the School. It was no doubt coincidental that the second debate was on the theme of the failure of modern civilisation. In any case, the Debating Society was well launched. Impromptu debating was introduced in 1938 as a popular variation of the more formal meetings.

When so many boys stayed to dinner, the problem of keeping them occupied before afternoon lessons did not prove unduly difficult. The playing field was big enough to swallow even the most energetic groups. Table tennis, chess and the library were attractive alternatives.

The library, originally intended as the Art room until the inadequate natural lighting became obvious, was far better than anything the boys of Aldershot or Farnborough had known before. It was still not equipped as the School would have wished. A comfortably furnished room for recreational reading as well as study, with an adequate supply of newspapers and periodicals, and reading stands to hold them—well, it was a hope.

Commentators on the scene of new endeavours soon printed their musings. Mr. F. W. James first observed on the removal of a large oak tree which was "condemned for darkening a School laboratory":

"Long ere the builder came with busy toil
Or human architect had made his plans
To mar a greater Architect's than man's,

My earth-wed roots were seised of this soil.
Now in the name of Knowledge, chartered spoil.
Cold Science, for his readier service, bans
My canopy, so many mortal spans
To fiercest summer sun a grateful foil.
The axe once laid, will not one stand aloof,
Bereft, forlorn, and think with sudden pain,
Viewing a brutal, bare, red line of roof,
This spot long-visited will ne'er again
Vouchsafe unto his beauty-seeking eyes
My beauty under mid-October skies?"

A new terror, and another commentator on School life, appeared during 1937—the caricatures of Mr. E. J. Foster. Few of his colleagues escaped his pencil in that hectic opening year. A true humorist, he is not afraid to laugh at himself as well. The last cartoon he drew before joining the Forces in the early part of the war depicted himself and a colleague, Openshaw, at attention before the sort of sergeant-major recruits have nightmares about. "So you're schoolmasters, hey!" said the sergeant-major. "I knew a schoolmaster once who gave me a ——— good hiding." In wider fields, a poster he designed to advertise the Guildford Cathedral Appeal Fund brought him first prize in competition with artists all over the country. A sample of Mr. Foster's work elsewhere in these pages will show that he is still very much in touch with affairs.

It must have been with great thankfulness that the Headmaster was able to report the successful launching of the much criticised venture that was the School in his first Speech Day report in 1937. Successful it was without doubt. Whatever difficulties had to be faced at the opening, the work with the fifth and sixth forms had to go on without interruption. The results in the Schools and Higher Schools Certificate examinations proved that it had. Two complete forms and part of a third were entered for the London General Schools Certificate, with 70 per cent. successes. All six candidates for Higher Schools Certificate passed, five gaining exemption from Intermediate B.A. or B.Sc.

The only note of regret in the Headmaster's speech that day came when he had to announce the impending retirement of the man who had been his second master since 1912.

Mr. F. G. Solloway, B.A., B.Sc., retired at the age of sixty-three after devoting almost all his teaching life to the young of Aldershot and Farnborough, first as Headmaster of the Aldershot Pupils' Centre, then as second master of the Aldershot County High School, and, finally, as he had promised, in seeing Chapman well settled at Farnborough.

"Solly" was a character, a man of outstanding personality and commanding presence, who "did not suffer fools gladly". He hated shams and hypocrites. He had no time for the dodger or the plausible excuse. At the same time, he was held in warm affection by those who knew him best and had the respect of all.

A very successful teacher of Mathematics and Science, a keen sportsman and coach, throughout his career F. G. Solloway was the teacher who gave of his best to everything he did and to everybody he met.

Only once could anyone remember his being absent. Then he had to be restrained almost physically to keep a temperature at bay.

His departure from the School scene was marked by presentations both to him and to Mrs. Solloway. At an informal dinner in the library his colleagues made their own presentation and expressed their wishes for a happy retirement. Nobody felt the loss, to the School and himself more keenly than Chapman on the departure after twenty-five years of his friend and colleague, F. G. Solloway.

To fill the vacancy caused by this retirement came Mr. E. Bullock, B.Sc.

As everyone was contemplating the prospect of military conscription, as the country hovered on the verge of war, the first rumours that "the Cadets" were to be re-formed went through the School in 1938.

The rumour this time proved to be true; the first parade was held on October 14th that year. Membership was entirely voluntary. Even so, one hundred and seventeen boys were recruited within two days of the announcement of the re-formation. Major Brinley Thomas commanded the four platoons, with Lieutenant F. Nurton as his second-in-command. The Cadets were soon firmly established in the School and recognised as part of the 4th Hampshire Regiment.

Some of the incidents in those early years will long be remembered by those who were here then. The two School representatives at the Empire Youth Rally in 1937 heard the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin make to the rising generation his memorable last speech as Prime Minister. A party of Staff and boys at the Guildford Cathedral Pilgrimage of Youth heard Sir Cyril Norwood, late Headmaster of Harrow, say that their gathering disproved the saying that the days of faith, the days when people built cathedrals, were over.

Nearer home, they heard of Mr. A. W. Richard's Hiking Club; they saw their first edition of *Al-Fa*, the School magazine; they sometimes did not do all that was expected of them:

"There's the boy who couldn't do it,
And the boy who hadn't time,
And the boy who looks on working
As an extra special crime;
There's the boy who didn't mean to,
But he just—well, just forgot,
And the boy who didn't think you
Meant it—each at his own impot.
They sit along the benches
With a sulky sullen air,

And each one tries to make believe
He really doesn't care;
But yet they go on working
With an extra special speed,
Till at last, detention ended,
From their labours they are freed."

The examination results continued to satisfy. Thirty-four Schools Certificates in 1938, forty-one in 1939, and numerous R.A.E. apprenticeships and Civil Service entry examination successes showed that the standards were rising as the School grew. One satisfactory result of the policy of entering complete forms for Schools Certificate without previous selection was the numbers who stayed on for Higher Schools Certificate work. A sixth form of thirty-six in 1938 was a record in the history of both previous Schools.

In the spring term, 1939, it was learnt, with the deepest regret by all who knew him, that Chapman had made his decision to retire at the end of the School year. For some years his health had not been good. The major operation he underwent did not restore it to him.

This last year of peace was a good one for the School—good examination results; a triumphant march back from Farnborough Station after the County Sports; flourishing clubs and societies; extension of activities all round. The settling down process was just about complete. Summer, 1939, was the crest of the wave that broke finally and unhappily on the grim shores of war.

ARTHUR E. CHAPMAN, M.A.

After graduating in History at Queen's College, Oxford, Arthur E. Chapman first served as a supervisor for the Oxford Delegacy for the training of secondary school teachers. Later, when Master of Method at Chester Training College, he was an internal examiner in Education to the University of Liverpool.

He was still a young man, just married, when he went to Aldershot in 1912 to found the new School there. He helped to make it in the next twenty-four years a School with one of the proudest all-round records in the county.

The move to Farnborough in 1936 meant an upheaval in his life, and a break from the associations of the past. He faced it, as he faced all problems, coolly, cautiously, and with great common sense. Quietly but progressively he formed the tradition for work and solid achievement that had gained the respect and admiration of all who had known him in his Aldershot days.

"As I approach twelve noon on Wednesday, July 27th," he wrote, as his time to leave Farnborough approached, "a fear rises within me that unless I keep going and banish these thoughts of sadness at the prospect of my departure, I may become maudlin,

and a nuisance to myself as well as to those around me." Such thoughts were typical of the character of Arthur Chapman. He would sincerely not want to be any trouble to those who would be carrying on the work he was leaving.

Chapman was a man who shunned ostentation, who never attempted to appear clever. He was quiet and reserved in personality. Yet he was a fine Headmaster, loved and respected by staff and pupils alike. Humanity was undoubtedly his chief characteristic, and linked with that was a deep understanding of human nature. In some subtle way he "always succeeded in making people believe that it was a pleasure to work with him". His nature encouraged confidence, his evenness of temper never changed. Though he never spoke harshly, he had his own way of letting people know that he wanted things done differently. And always he would weigh and balance carefully any action, any solution to a problem. When he had made his decision there was no changing it. His scholarship was allied to profound common sense. Throughout his teaching career, his connection with the Church symbolised the deep spiritual values he had.

The many farewells began when he and Mrs. Chapman attended a supper and dance at the County High School, and were almost overwhelmed by the expressions of affection from many former pupils, among them Captain Harborne, one of the 1912 year.

Farnborough Parish Church lost willing and active workers in both Mr. and Mrs. Chapman when they left the district. At a farewell gathering in the Rectory garden there were many tributes to their influence on the moral and religious welfare of the School as well as their work for the Church.

End of term inevitably came, and there was the happy and sad leave-taking of the men he thought of as his colleagues rather than his staff, and the School he had founded as the second great venture of his career in this district.

After the presentation to him of a tier of bookcases and an album containing the signatures of all the boys in the School, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman left to the accompaniment of the war-cry that had been heard so often at Winchester on Sports Days. A thousand streamers covered their car as "the beloved Headmaster of two Schools passed out of the School for the last time".

To the man who took his place, to all those he left behind he said:

"I wish him, my old colleagues, boys and Old Boys, all that is good in what, I trust, is to be for my three year's old child a bright, happy and prosperous future. I stand aside, but I shall always be with you in spirit— On! Farnborough, On!"

So ended his career as Headmaster, but for Arthur Chapman there was no retirement to a peaceful backwater. He studied Theology at Cambridge for a year, was ordained, and became Honorary Curate at the Church of St. Nicholas and St. Mary at Leatherhead. In 1944 he returned to be Vicar of Wyke and Nor-

mandy, so near the scene of his earlier work.

He died, still working hard, on March 2nd, 1948, mourned wherever there were those who had the privilege of knowing Arthur E. Chapman.

"His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, *This was a man!*"

CHAPTER VI

WAR AND PEACE, 1939-1949

BEFORE the School could reopen for the autumn term in 1939 there was a great deal of work to be done. Unlike most of the work preparatory to a new School year this was very much "on stage"—and lasted until November. Meeting on the first day of term, the staff learned that until adequate air-raid shelters were available there would be no resumption of normal work. For some weeks they met only on Mondays to hear of any new developments. Arrangements were finally made to begin work on the shelters. The masters and senior boys who volunteered to help in the digging were pleased to end their enforced idleness, and even more pleased to find they were to be paid for their labours. Shelters built, floors laid and benches installed, the School reassembled.

To follow Chapman as Headmaster would have been a challenge to anybody in normal times. His successor had to face this in addition to the cares and responsibilities of war-time administration. Mr. B. J. A. Neill, M.A., B.Sc., had been appointed in the previous summer term, but had to face the fact, before he actually took over the School, that his task would be an abnormally hard one. For three years the task had been to put the School on its feet as a going concern, the spade work. Its traditions had yet to be established. In the face of inevitable changes, and for some years in the continually uneasy atmosphere of war-time, this was no easy job.

Transport for the boys from Aldershot was an early problem. The position at one time was so acute that there was talk of splitting the two Schools and again making them co-educational as a temporary measure. Buses continued to arrive, but their loads must have caused many headaches to the maintenance staff of their depot. Throughout the war all School buses had to be manned by a qualified A.R.P. warden, who materialised each time as a member of the School staff.

Frequent air-raid shelter drill proved popular with the boys as a break from lessons, but their gatherings in the shelters became less welcome after the fall of France. The sirens sounded too often, even for schoolboy enjoyment. Then, too, the indifference to

academic work was a reflection of the general air of expectancy, and awareness of a time of crisis for the nation.

Fire-watching every night was carried out by members of the staff in turn, with the assistance of senior boys. They were pleased to hand over their stirrup pump later in the war to a street group which took over the watch on the premises, much to the relief of the older men, already Home Guards and Wardens in their own districts. But war in its grimmer aspects left the building and, more important, its occupants, untouched. Its closest connection with an "incident" was when a delayed action bomb fell on the R.A.E., and for a few days the School laboratories were used by staff evacuated from the Establishment while the bomb was rendered harmless.

Food rationing soon made itself felt, especially when the irregularity of transport made it uncertain whether supplies would reach the kitchen in time for the midday meal. Mr. E. J. Armsworth, the caretaker, and his wife were in charge of the dining hall and provision of meals at this time. They unfailingly coped with every problem as it came at them; and the problems came. Under the supervision of Mr. Lees, the boys began digging for victory, or, rather, cabbages. Without trespassing on the football or cricket pitches, they managed to produce all the vegetables for School dinners. Lees also produced a thesis on *stellaria* (chickweed) for his M.Sc. degree.

The greatest problem, of course, was to try to replace the younger members of the staff who joined the Forces. First Mr. Bullock and Mr. Lees, then Mr. James—the gatherings in the Headmaster's study to say farewell to colleagues—Mr. Nurton, Mr. Hill, Mr. Mills, soon to be followed by Mr. Foster, Mr. Mosely and Mr. Openshaw. Their leaving left gaps that were practically impossible to fill. But the work of the School could not have been carried on at all without the help of the women who, as in all other occupations, helped out until normal times returned. The School owes a lot to Miss Andrews and Miss Donald of the County High School, to Mrs. King, Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Openshaw and Mrs. Phillips, all of whom taught here and took their share of the duties and problems of the time.

Help came, too, from refugees. Mr. Vermes, a Hungarian, and Dr. Richard, from Germany, joined the staff. Teaching was a new venture for Mr. Vermes. Previously he had worked at the family business of timber exporting. He gave his mind so completely to his new life, however, that the Mathematics degree he soon acquired at Birkbeck College was followed by the Ph.D. of London University. He now lectures at his old college and travels widely to address conventions of mathematicians.

The times inevitably meant the closing down of some activities. Mr. Smith's paper chases were now after a different kind of paper—money. His interest in the Savings movement intensified as successive appeals to save more were heard. Many visits and School journeys had to be cancelled owing to the ban on large numbers

gathering in likely places for air attack. Al-Fa was an early casualty. The issue in 1940 was produced only under great difficulties. First, its editor, Mr. James, was called up. Then the printers were bombed out in London. After 1941, the School magazine was not seen again until the summer of 1946.

There was, on the other hand, a widening of the spheres of activity as a result of the war. Mr. A. W. Richards formed the Border South Youth Club to cater for past and present members of this School and the County High School. Club nights continued here until 1950. Farming camps would have been unlikely events in more normal days, but they were thoroughly enjoyed in the war years.

The summer holidays in 1940, when invasion seemed imminent, were reduced to two weeks. For four weeks afterwards the School became a sort of austere holiday camp. Games, gardening, cinema shows—anything was tried to entertain the boys in their unusual August surroundings. The numbers to be entertained had shot up to around five hundred and fifty as military families moved into the area and the R.A.E. expanded to meet its war-time commitments.

It was not long before news of Old Boys began to arrive—"We record with pride the award of the Distinguished Flying Medal to H. A. G. Ferres. . . . Bradshaw is now in Canada as an instructor, having completed his operational flights. . . . Private M. G. (Tommy) Atkins, prisoner of war in Germany, would like to hear from Old Fernebergians. . . . Hearty congratulations to Hughes, who was awarded the Military Medal for his services in the retreat to Dunkirk. . . . It is with great regret that we record. . . ."

And so it went on throughout the war. There were the visitors from all branches of the Services, some last seen in blazer and School cap. News of promotions, interesting places visited, old friends met in odd places, sadness and joy. Through the experiences of its Old Boys, Farnborough Grammar School saw war in all its aspects.

The Cadets flourished in their function of training boys for enlistment in one of the three services. Uniforms in the classrooms were a common sight when parades were held several times in the week. New lecture rooms were acquired, maps and training diagrams accumulated, and even a sand-tray for planning tactical exercises was installed. Thanks to the kindness of the local Home Guard, many boys learned to shoot, some to shoot straight.

Mr. Brinley Thomas was asked early in the war to join the County Cadet Committee. Subsequently, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding the 25th Hampshire Army Cadet Force Battalion. The School contingent became No. 1 Company in the new battalion.

Camps were held at Penton Hook, Lock Island, Bordon, Dogmersfield and Stone Point, Lepe. During these years the Company won the London Cup, awarded to the best section in Hamp-

shire. There were numerous successes in county and battalion sports. General keenness and ability was evident in the number of parades they mounted for the savings weeks and other occasions in surrounding towns and villages.

Cadets from the Company attended courses in P.T., Signals, M.T., Engineering, Weapons, Methods of Instruction and Mountaineering. Many gained both parts of Certificate "A", and Certificate "T" before leaving School.

Several members of staff held commissions in the unit until they were called up. Capt. H. F. Derbyshire (1940-1942) and Capt. D. M. Daise (1942-1944) were adjutants for the greater part of the war.

In 1944, Lieut.-Col. B. Thomas was forced to resign owing to ill-health after twenty-five years as a Cadet officer. His place as Officer Commanding the School Company was taken by Major A. G. D. Maunder.

The value of this pre-service training, and the various certificates obtainable, was recognised by the Services. Basic training, for example, was reduced on call-up from six weeks to four for Certificate "A" holders. Many passed into O.C.T.U's to be commissioned in their Service units.

Activities of the Company continued to expand—small bore rifle shooting, two new huts on the West Field for the M.T. unit, a signals section organised by Mr. R. H. Smith—and successive inspecting officers gave favourable reports of the standards of efficiency and turn-out. Especially pleasing was the report after the visit of Lieut.-General Sir John Harding, G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command, in 1948.

During February, 1949, the Company, along with the battalion of which it was a member, became attached to the Parachute Regiment—and has worn its insignia ever since.

Schools Certificate results for 1940 showed 68.4 per cent. success—2 per cent. better than the national average. Throughout the war the standard of work continued high, despite the disruptions and inevitable changes. Sometimes forms had to be merged, the time-table almost completely rewritten as the term progressed, and often there was the possibility of some subjects disappearing, at least temporarily, from the curriculum. It says much for the loyalty and capability of the staff that so much that is essential to a good education was not lost.

Until the spring of 1945 there was a definite, and oft lamented, lack of any dramatic activity at all in the School. The first glimmerings were seen in the inclusion of some acts in the Carol Concert at Christmas, 1944. They received encouraging response on a stage equipped only with a piano.

The idea of developing the staging of concerts and plays seemed faced with unsurmountable problems at first. The man to overcome them proved to be Mr. T. W. G. Grosch, B.A., the driving force behind the formation of the School Dramatic Society.

Materials for stage equipment were, of course, extremely scarce. A search of six towns failed to produce any sort of curtain material, until, finally eighty yards of blackout cloth were discovered and bought in London. Timber had to be bought at the permitted maximum of one pound's worth a month, and beaver board in a similar way.

The School workshops produced the proscenium arch, ingeniously constructed in five sections, so that after each performance it could be dismantled and locked away. It was suspended from a stout curtain rod across the stage and fastened by door bolts at the base. Mr. T. G. Pascoe planned the work, which was the subject of an article by him in *Practical Education and School Crafts*. Curtains designed by Mr. Grosch were sewn by hand by the women members of the staff. Amplifiers, microphones and record players came largely from Mr. Grosch's collection. A local contractor supplied and wired the stage lighting. It all sounds easy. The wonder is it was ever achieved under conditions of the time.

A concert at Easter, 1945, was a prelude to the first real dramatic production in the following July, when *Allison's Lad* was presented, together with some sketches and musical items. The £70 from this first public performance was already earmarked for payment of some of the cost of the production. Arnold Ridley's *The Ghost Train* was not only a popular choice and remarkably well staged, but also left the Society with a small credit balance in cash in 1945. The three short plays planned for 1946 seemed fated to meet every possible snag before opening night. There were frequent changes in the cast for various reasons. Then, only three weeks before the performance, a leading player departed suddenly for, of all places, China. The problems of presenting that play were then too great, so Mr. Grosch sat down and wrote another for immediate rehearsal. Surely nothing else could go wrong? But it did. A leading lady finally had to be found at forty-eight hours' notice. Miss Lowe, of the County High School, took over the part most bravely to save yet another crisis. *Treasure Island* — "the production was a credit to all who participated in it" — *Emil and the Detectives*, evenings of one-act plays, inter-House drama competitions, followed as the Society again and again delighted the audiences of School, parents, friends, and, more often than not, the professional critics.

One of the contributions to the war effort by the School was its adoption in 1941 of H.M.S. *Shearwater*, a corvette escorting convoys through E-boat Alley, as the North Sea came to be known. The ship repaid the many gifts and kindness to its crew by sending a contingent of officers and men to head the opening parade of Farnborough's Warship Week. They afterwards visited the School and were entertained to dinner and a dance. Another contingent came to help the town's Navy Week in 1945, on behalf of King George VI's Fund for Sailors.

The most direct contribution to speed the end of the war, however small on a national scale, was by the School Savings

Group. The grand total of savings made through the group to March, 1946, was £10,960. Efforts for special weeks brought £500 for War Weapons Week; £1,300 for Warship Week; £2,700 for Salute the Soldier Week; £2,100 for Wings for Victory Week; and £850 for Thanksgiving Week. Mr. Smith's work for the movement was recognised by his invitation to a Royal Garden Party, and his marching with the Savings contingent in the Victory Parade in London in June, 1946.

"Perhaps we need a coat of paint in most places—so does almost everywhere else," said the Headmaster in his traditional letter in the magazine. "Many new developments are afoot in the educational world and, though we may all feel the reaction from six years of war, we must strain ourselves still further to maintain the traditions of the School and the rights of the nation for which many of our Old Boys have paid the supreme sacrifice."

Demobilisation and the return from the Forces of Mr. F. W. James (Hampshire Regt. and R.A.F. Regt.), Mr. W. C. Hill and Mr. F. C. Mills (R.A.F.), Mr. E. Bullock (R.N.) and Mr. E. J. Foster (R.A.C.), meant that the women who had so capably seen the School through its hard times, relinquished their temporary posts. Some former members of the staff found other posts on demobilisation, or were quickly promoted to higher spheres on returning.

There were other changes, and an influx of new blood, towards the end of, and just after, the war. Ill-health caused the retirement of Mr. A. E. Clarke, B.Sc., senior master after Mr. Solloway's retirement. Mr. Brinley Thomas became senior master. Mr. W. Cotgreave, B.Sc., Mr. T. W. Grosch, B.A., Mr. A. Sweet, B.A., Mr. F. H. Richards, Mr. J. Thomas, B.A., and Mr. E. Barrett, M.A., all arrived during this period.

The end of the war by no means meant the lifting of all restrictions. During the second year of peace there were even added restrictions on heating and lighting, and a winter as harsh as any in memory. Strict food rationing still teased the imaginations of those responsible for feeding a good proportion of the four hundred and ninety-seven boys in the School in 1947.

In other directions there was a re-awakening and a new feeling of freedom. The visit of a number of Dutch boys and girls to Farnborough was followed by plans for visits to France, Holland and Denmark under the auspices of the World Friendship Association. At home, many of the trips to places of interest again became popular alternatives to lessons in the classroom now that difficulties of travel were eased and the danger from flying bombs and rockets ended.

Al-Fa, the School magazine, saw its partner *And Omega* first appear in Aldershot in 1948—the ladies always getting the last word, as its editor pointed out. It seemed a far cry from the first magazine of 1937, when the title represented the two Schools so recently become one. A good school magazine always reflects the larger world as well as its immediate surroundings. How typical of the ideas of the late 1940's are these lines:

MEDITATIONS ON VIEWING SOME MODERN ART

Oh, what contortions of the mind are these?
'Tis beauty to the modern soul
And order in obscurity
But lacks that peace serene.
Some restless spirit, strange desire
Has seized upon our troubled world
And shaped such jangling art;
The joys of undetermined thought
Are unfulfilled.

D. TACKLEY.

More staff changes came in 1948 and 1949. The School welcomed successively Mr. L. K. Upton, B.A., Mr. E. E. H. Jones, M.A., Mr. D. Fletcher Thomas, and Mr. J. W. Stokoe, B.Sc. Farewells were said to Mr. Openshaw, who left for the administrative side of education and later became a Director of Education, and to Mr. W. C. Hill, appointed to the Headship of States Intermediate (Technical) Boys' School, Guernsey.

Inventors, radio celebrities, authors. The School was certainly not without talent. Mr. T. G. Pascoe's patented "Ming-Check Measure" for the high jump was bought by a well-known sports goods manufacturer and exhibited at the British Industries Fair. Senior prefect H. Morton was a member of the Hampshire team in an all-England spelling "bee" on the B.B.C. His career as a broadcaster was cut short, however, by his inability to spell "lillibulero". His prestige remained undamaged, since in the course of the same year he gathered a County Major Scholarship, a State Scholarship, and an Open Mathematics Scholarship to St. John's College, Cambridge. Mr. A. W. Richards broadcast in the programme "The Naturalist" on September 1st, 1948, and talked about dragonflies. His ambition then, still unfortunately thwarted, was to appear on television. His book, *Climatic and Weather Exercises*, was published shortly after his radio début. *Sixth Forum*, surviving three published numbers, headed the veritable spate of literary productions within the School. Aldershot and District Welsh Society's Eisteddfod in 1949 saw the sixth form English group in the toils of literary composition, but unsuccessfully; for when "Thucydides" was announced as the successful bard, it was discovered that Mr. Brinley Thomas had also been at work on "The Exile", the theme set for the competition.

Sport has always had a strong place in School life, never more so than just after the war. The 1945-1946 football season was one of the best in the history of the School. Under the leadership of A. Grenham, then D. Wood, the 1st XI won all but one of their games. The odd one was drawn. The cricket 1st XI, under C. Mortimore, with M. Spearman as his vice-captain, also had a very good season.

In 1948, the Under 14's football team won the Durrant Cup, with, as *The Aldershot News* put it, "... a team playing with

clockwork precision. . . ." The Under 15's won both league and cup in 1948, 1949 and 1950. A very useful side could be picked from the players in the 1949 cup-winning season: Marchbanks, Smith, Whitefoot, Standbrook, Brookes (capt.), Puckett, Taylor, Charlton, Blackall, Evans, Dowse, Savory, Mortimore, Rolph, Sorton and Thorne.

Extending the scope of School sport, Rugby, Hockey and Boxing all made their appearance on the sporting scene for a time. But Association football was always the chief, and most successful, winter game. The majority of athletic records set up in the three years before the war, and during war-time sports meetings, were broken in these early years of peace. I. Wood ran a very good Mile in 1946 to break the School record in 4 mins. 45 1/5th secs. The grass track and slope of the field should be remembered, too, in considering these records. A. Lindley's 24.5 secs. for the 220 yards stood for some time after 1946 under such conditions.

Clubs and Societies took on a new lease of life, and a new look, during this period. The Al-Fa Debating Society was formed in January, 1947, for joint debates with the County High School. The previous society was reconstituted, renamed—and given a secretary. Current affairs held its place as the most popular topic—Russian expansionist policy and Palestine were very much in our minds then. Less serious subjects, and their fine opportunities for irrelevance and irreverence, of course, took their time-honoured place on the programme.

The reopening of the dining hall after a long closure for re-fitting, and the consequent long trek for dinners at the British Restaurant near the Clock House, meant that there was again time for the after-dinner Hobbies Club. "Plastics" was the theme at the time. The easily worked material and brilliant colours attracted numbers quickly—until the price of plastic once costing 2/6d. a pound rose to between 10/- and 12/- as its uses extended. Old-fashioned wood regained its popularity.

Although never the strongest numerically, the Music Club continued to attract the constant few, appreciative of Mr. Miles' twice weekly efforts to satisfy all tastes. The still very popular visits to Sadler's Wells were started by Mr. Miles for Club members.

Road safety, especially when so many boys cycle to school, is a serious business. But, like many other subjects, its lighter side can teach a great deal. Competitions and quizzes are effective methods, fully exploited, of instilling the need for knowledge and care by all road users. The School led the district in the development of road safety by establishing a Road Safety Committee in November, 1947. The primary object was to ensure that every boy who cycled to School had an efficient bicycle. Weekly inspections and the need to obtain a permit to cycle to School fairly quickly achieved it. There were some "hard cases" who preferred to sit on three coiled springs rather than the more conventional leather saddle; or who thought a piece of sponge rubber lashed to the crossbar just as effective as any saddle. One senior boy

thought it rather silly to have a front mudguard as it impaired his braking system—his foot. Withdrawal of permits soon had the necessary maintenance work completed. The School's attention to accident prevention achieved its further object, too; the idea was taken up by other schools in the area.

Academically, 1947 was a high spot in the School's history. Twenty-seven Old Boys were at various universities, nine more at Sandhurst in 1947 and 1948. Six boys were granted interviews at Southampton for County Major Scholarships. A Scholarship for A. Fabel to London University, and Morton's hat trick of Scholarships presented a very satisfactory picture. In a successful Schools Certificate year, J. S. Attfield gained eight distinctions (over 75 per cent.) from nine subjects taken. 1948 was another good year. Twelve Higher Schools Certificates, a State Scholarship, and two County Major Scholarships were followed in December by G. R. Strickland's Open Scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge.

The establishment of a careers service within the School became a very necessary step in these years, when the manpower shortage brought the need home for the best use of brains and ability in the country.

Three events in 1949 affected the smooth working of School life. The chief one, and one which caused considerable regret, was the news that the Headmaster had decided to resign for reasons of ill health.

A complete interior redecoration in the Autumn and Easter terms meant forms taking it in turns, as their rooms were being painted, to base their activities on the hall balcony. One happy result of the turmoil, however, was that copies of paintings by famous artists were lent by the County for the newly decorated rooms.

Perhaps not quite so disruptive of the peace, and briefer than the painters' stay, was the visit of five of His Majesty's Inspectors during the Easter term to carry out their usual thorough investigation of School affairs.

Brian James Acheson Neill, M.A., B.Sc., was a native of Belfast. Educated at Rossall School, he joined the Army in 1914, and ended the war as a Captain-Observers in the Royal Flying Corps. He then went up to Lincoln College, Oxford, where, after graduating in Natural Sciences, he did Physico-Chemical research for two years to add the B.Sc. degree to his M.A.

From 1923 he served first as senior science master at Colchester Grammar School, then in a similar post at Wellington School, Somerset, before being appointed Headmaster of Soham Grammar School, Cambridgeshire, in 1930.

After his appointment to Farnborough Grammar School in 1939 he was faced with a most difficult situation—difficult enough for anyone already established in a school, doubly so when he had to feel his way through war-time conditions into a new School. It was a case of keeping a large school going in a specially difficult area.

Yet the war years saw an increased number of boys sitting both Schools and Higher Schools Certificate examinations. Three forms were entered instead of the previous two for the Schools Certificate. There were the successes in the major examinations for entry to the university.

Mr. Neill gave his support to anything he felt would help the development of the boys in his School. He interfered with the work of his staff as little as possible, and was the supreme hater of hypocrisy and "whitewash". Always he was respected as a man who said what he thought, and meant what he said. His intellect and his sincerity would have maintained that respect for him as Headmaster of this School for many more years if his health had not failed him.

CHAPTER VII

FORWARD MARCH, 1950-1957

UNTIL Mr. Neill's successor was appointed the post of acting Headmaster was undertaken by Mr. Brinley Thomas. Carrying on with his normal teaching throughout the autumn term, he saw to it that the smooth working of the School continued. It was a tribute to his work and personality that the new Headmaster inherited a happy, thriving community in January, 1950.

John Arthur Bourne was appointed to the Headship of the School from Dulwich College, where he was Head of the Modern Side. A scholar and research student of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he achieved a double first in modern languages, and was later awarded the Ph.D. degree of the University. His war-time career was as a major in the Intelligence Corps, during which time he was mentioned in despatches. At one time he served on the staff of the military mission to the Italian Army.

Dr. Bourne left little room for doubting what he wanted when he took over the School. "I want to say how keen I am to play my part with you in adding to the reputation of the School. I want everybody to be ambitious and impatient, not merely to equal the heights which have been reached in the past, but to improve on them. Records can be broken with more training. Examination results can be improved with harder work. We have a long way to go." The present standard of work in the School, the recent achievements of its athletes, and the healthy state of the clubs and societies show clearly that we have gone a long way in the last seven years. The life of the School has probably never been fuller or more vigorous than at the beginning of our twenty-second year.

Two early signs of Dr. Bourne's influence were in dress and in the extension of out of School activities. For many years, and for obvious reasons, there could be no insistence on uniformity in

School dress. Some "eccentricities" in taste made their appearance. The Headmaster began the process of changing the coats of many colours before him in morning assembly into ranks of School blazers or grey suits. The wearing of full School uniform, including House colours for games periods on the football field, is now an established custom.

Numerous new ventures began in 1950 and 1951. A small Adana press and some enthusiastic fifth formers in Mallan, Hughes, Riley, Alner and Minter saw the founding of the School Printing Club. Starting modestly with membership cards for various School societies, they went on to their first commercial venture, Christmas cards, in 1950. A larger and better press was their reward for launching the Club so well, and they went on to produce programmes for Open Day, for the District Schools' Football Association and the School calendar and fixture card. Watson, Egan, Gurney, Polkey and Ross gave a good lead to these expanding activities. Recently, Murgatroyd and Winterbourne were chiefly responsible for printing all the tickets and programmes for the School play.

The tuck shop, organised by the School Secretary, Mrs. Burroughs, and the Lower Sixth; the Stamp Club; the Astronomical Society, with a five inch refracting telescope; the Science Society; the Photographic Society, with a 35 mm. camera and ample equipment; a Chess Club with over eighty playing members—all became part of the life of the School during these two years. In the spring of 1951, too, came the very popular Film Society. The Headmaster bought for the School a Bell & Howell sound film projector—the tuck shop was running on sound business lines by this time—so that Mr. Mills, assisted by his squad of: Hill, Lamb, Watson, Oak and R. Mills, started the immediately successful Friday night shows. The Society had humble beginnings. Short films rather than full-length features were offered first. It was not long before there was a full evening's entertainment on several Fridays in the two winter terms, however, at a price considerably more favourable to the schoolboy pocket than J. A. Rank's. And the tuck shop provided ice cream!

A total of seven thousand books in the library in 1950 prompted a County librarian to comment that there were more books immediately available in the School library than in the Farnborough public library. About three thousand three hundred books were issued each term for home reading. Library prefects and library fines have helped Dr. Naish control the flow of humanity and literature through the busy scene presented throughout the day in this corner of the School. Sometimes as many as four hundred books have been added in a term, and for some years a special Sixth Form library and reading room has been built up, which is now beginning to reach a standard of real worth for background reading, and reading beyond the narrow lines of specialised studies.

An important innovation in 1950 was the establishing of the School Christian Union. Dinner-hour meetings have continued to

attract a steady number of both seniors and juniors to hear talks by local clergy and laymen, or to discuss their beliefs. Several Old Boys have been ordained in the last few years. Others are now under training.

Meanwhile, the old favourites—hobbies, debating and music—kept their enthusiasts. Table-tennis became a very fashionable dinner-hour occupation during 1951, after a very successful waste-paper campaign, and the tuck shop profits again, had provided five tables and equipment. A membership of over one hundred made this one of the most popular of School activities. It shared the Hall with the new Sixth form Badminton Club.

The School's first Open Day, in July, 1950, showed parents and other visitors many of these facets of School life in the form of exhibitions and displays. The thrilling sound of the Corps of Drums playing its own march, composed by their instructor, Mr. W. Baldwin, an ex-Drum-Major of the Grenadier Guards, was soon to become the established opening to the afternoon. Mr. Barrett's choir in the Hall and a display of physical training in the quadrangle under the direction of the Physical Education staff have usually attracted numbers of visitors. The displays of handicraft work; the paintings, models and sculpture; the exhibition by the Photographic Club; the mysteries of Mathematics and intricate Geometrical drawings, have all had admiring attention through the years.

The second Open Day included a film-strip taken in and around the School, entitled "A Day in the Life of a Grammar School Pupil". On future Open Days it is hoped we shall show an annual short documentary 16 mm. film of the major events in the School year, "shot" by the recently formed film unit, in which MacRae plays a leading part. Many people have been drawn to the classroom where a model railway has been laid down. Few boys under forty, except the operators, have had much chance of seeing it in action, however.

From the early 1950's has been a time of rapid change in the staff room. Not since the end of the war have there been so many new faces in the course of a very few years. First of the older members to leave was Mr. A. G. D. Maunder, who left the School, though not the premises, to become full-time Principal of the Farnborough Technical Evening College in 1952. There must be hundreds of people in this area who remember him with affection and respect for his work here during the evenings when the School changed its name, and an older generation sat at the desks, sometimes doing work very similar to that of the day-time occupants, sometimes absorbed in matters beyond our scope. Whatever they did, they could rely on the breezily efficient help of a man who never minced his words—but willed all his students to succeed. With the building of Farnborough's new college, Mr. Maunder's work ended. He retired reluctantly, one feels, for as a young man of well over sixty he loved his work even more than his garden.

1953 saw the end of another long and distinguished career in the School. From 1919 to his retirement, Mr. Brinley Thomas served successive generations of Aldershot County High School pupils and, after 1936, of this School. One of his old pupils joined him as a colleague here in 1936.

Some of his interests have been mentioned. There were few activities in which he did not take the lead at some time, and he had the honour, as well as the responsibility, during his time as senior master of the acting-Headship before Dr. Bourne's appointment.

"One rarely finds a man of such integrity, vigour and conscientious devotion to his duty as a schoolmaster both in and out of the classroom."

"Many generations of boys can pay tribute to his skill and enthusiasm."

"Though classrooms ring no longer to his voice
We'll heed it still, and grateful to him send
From English hearts an old Welsh wish—
'Hir Oes!'"

So read some of the tributes to Brinley Thomas as he left the School he had served so long and so well. His many friends in Aldershot and Farnborough heard with deep regret that the "long life" of that old Welsh wish had lasted for only just over four years of very active retirement. Mr. Thomas died suddenly at his home in Wales on 31st December, 1957.

Few who knew Mr. F. Wallis-James only towards the end of his teaching life would know, or suspect, that "Jimmy" was a near first-class cricketer, rugby player and athlete in his younger days. On the amateur stage he could hold an audience enthralled. In the classroom and the staffroom his talents continued to mark him as a man whose command of the language he truly loved was exceptional, and whose knowledge was both wide and deep.

Thirty years of Mr. James' life were spent as senior English master at Farnborough Secondary School and at this School. For many of those years he was careers master, as well as the "man behind the scenes" of the School magazine.

Commissioned in the first World War, he volunteered again for service in the second when well past the age that would have kept him in the safety and comfort of civilian life in he had so wished it.

F. Wallis-James was a sick man when he retired in 1955. Although he could rarely have felt fully fit in the previous few years, his gentlemanly bearing towards his colleagues and his pupils never changed. The best wishes of all who remember him will be with him throughout his retirement.

Increasing numbers in the School, new appointments to other areas and retirements have brought nine new members to the staff in the last four years. One of them, Dr. Sewell, was already author of a number of plays broadcast by the B.B.C. Since his arrival

here he has written several more. *His Saving Grace* was broadcast in November, 1956. Mr. D. Miles Booy's story of Tristan da Cunha, *Rock of Exile*, was published in May, 1957, by Dents. Mr. Foster's illustrations and cover design have played no little part in the appreciative reception of the book.

The once popular theory of Nature's fairness in distributing academic and physical powers has long since been exploded. With few exceptions, the best athletes in the School have also been in the upper half of their forms in classroom work. In both fields there have been some outstanding successes in the last few years.

For the fourth year in succession the Under fifteen football team won both league and cup in 1951 under the guidance of Mr. Mills. Of the team that year, Jackman gained County colours as a prelude to First Division professional football, and five others played for the Aldershot and Farnborough Schools' team. The first eleven was one of the best School teams ever: Fawn, Bade, Standbrook; Goddard, Bennett, Mortimore; Jones, Charlton, Evans, Blackall and Sewry. Their greatest disappointment in an otherwise excellent season was to lose, by two points to one, the semi-final of the Hampshire Grammar Schools' six-a-side tournament. Charlton and Mortimore gained youth international caps the following year, and John Mortimore went on to win a senior England cap, following his brother Charles, another Old Boy and local schoolmaster, into amateur international football. The former has since turned professional with Chelsea, and is enjoying a successful baptism in First Division football. Charlton also went to Chelsea, but a motor cycling accident cut short his potentially brilliant career in 1953. I. Jones went on to captain the Sandhurst XI.

Through good seasons and less fruitful ones, names stand out for consistently good performances, or numbers of goals scored: Williams' twenty-seven goals in 1953-54; the efficient captaincy of Tackley in 1954-55; Brooks' fine goal-keeping and his selection for the County side, to name but a few. But perhaps the most notable achievement was in 1955-56, when the School won, for the first time in the history of the competition, the six-a-side cup. The team that day was: Brooks, Lamb (captain), Snowden, Pearce, Stapleton and Gilbert.

There has been a strong athletics tradition in the School since its opening. Probably the source can be traced back to those resounding years of success by the Aldershot County High School teams, through Mr. Brinley Thomas's enthusiastic training, to his former pupil, Mr. W. C. Bishop, whose own enthusiasm and training to-day are largely responsible for the considerable successes gained by the School in local, county and national sports meetings. It would need considerably more space than can be given here to list all the names and all the achievements at such meetings in the past seven years. Again, the high-lights must serve to represent the energies of the many who have striven to win for the School.

In the District Schools' Sports of 1950 only three of the ten championships were not won for the School. As a result of the

Schools' County Championships colours were awarded to: Caulfield Barratt, McCrory, Morton, Green and Standbrook.

Undoubtedly the outstanding achievement of 1951 was the winning of the S.A.A. inter-County National 220 yards title by Ian Jones in 22.8 seconds. Every effort was being made to encourage boys to compete in the more searching tests beyond local events. This win must have encouraged many in whose imaginations the runner or jumper from beyond their town boundaries was endowed with unbelievable powers of speed or endurance.

The inter-House relay races, first run in 1952, have proved a popular addition to the annual Sports Day. The stress on teamwork provides an often thrilling and always interesting afternoon's competition.

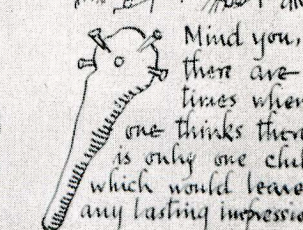
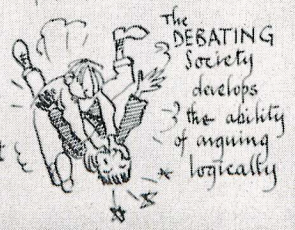
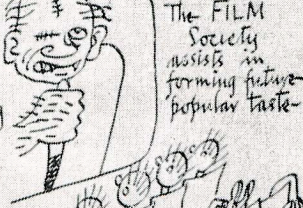
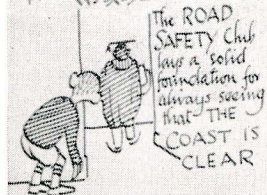
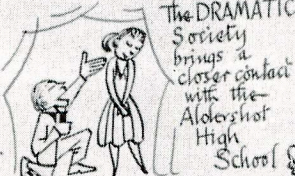
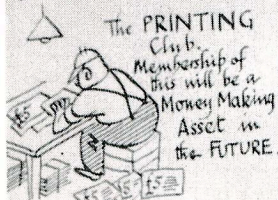
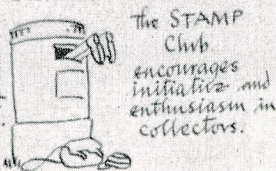
Resuming its interest in the Hampshire Youth Cross-Country Championships in 1953, the School did very well. The team gained fourth place, being the second school team to finish. Weate (fourth) and Snowden (seventh) were in good form. Both went on that year to win Southern Standard medals in the Hampshire A.A.A. 880 yards. Two fine records were set up in the 1954 District Sports. Proctor threw the javelin 127 feet and Broadley the discus 115 feet, to win their events. Although a less successful year than usual, 1955 saw Mills, Dailley, Marriot and Broadley all up to county standard. R. Mills, second in the Hampshire senior 440 yards, has recently gained his relay colours at Cambridge.

The Hampshire A.A.A. meeting of 1956 was an outstandingly good one for the School competitors. They won all three throwing events in the Youth competition. Cooper threw the discus 134ft. 10in.; Dailley put the shot 43ft. 2in.; and R. L. Jones threw the javelin 162ft. 4in. 1957 proved an equally good athletics year. A team entered for the District Sports gained thirteen firsts, thirteen seconds, and twelve thirds from thirty-four events. Jones repeated his success with the javelin at the A.A.A.'s Championships at Southampton. A strong team gained six first places in the Hampshire Schools' Championships: Letford (junior high jump), Willoughby (junior pole vault), Jones (intermediate javelin), Hutt (intermediate pole vault), Dailley (senior shot put) and Maskell (senior discus). Dailley, Hutt and Bennett that year gained places in the All-England Schools' Championships.

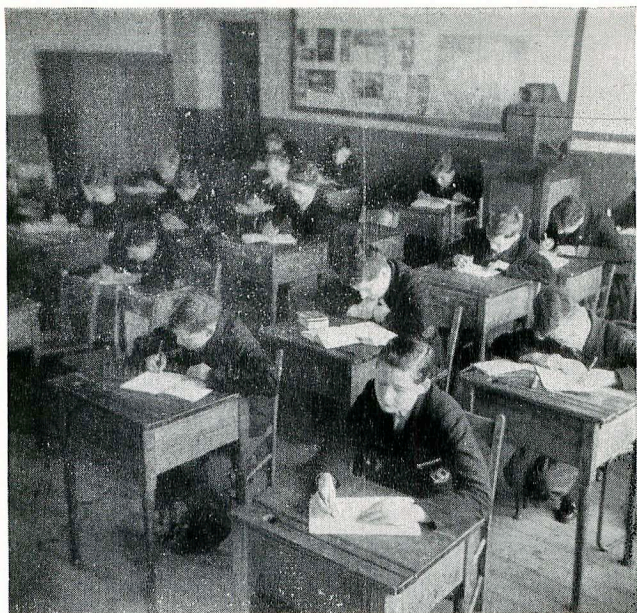
Distinction in some sport not usually carried on at School has come the way of some. The Brooks brothers in swimming to international standard and Thomson's recent national title in boxing. Littlewood's success in golf at Oxford, where he is this year's President, Mitchell's playing golf for London University, and Chandler's rowing at Cambridge are but a few instances of the talents and interests beyond our normal programme.

Many, many more names are worthy of mention in any history of the athletics of the School—for hard training and courageous efforts against top class opponents. Perhaps their names will never appear as record holders, but they have tried, and nobody could ask more. There have also been many more whose ability has never

The Value of Clubs and Societies at School.



"The Other Point of View" by Mr. E. J. Foster



One of the Form Rooms



Biology Laboratory. Constructed 1955

taken them beyond the preliminary stages of our own School sports, and who have known from the start that they could not hope to win. The School would have been a poorer place without them.

Cricket has never been the strongest of our School games, despite some excellent seasons and outstanding individual performers. Whatever the reasons may be, one of them is not any lack of enthusiasm or knowledge of the game in the man who has for many years coached the School XI's, Mr. E. Bullock.

The usually short summer term, into which so many events are sandwiched, the uneasy feelings associated with imminent examinations, and the general flurry of activities do not encourage that relaxed carelessness of the passage of time so necessary to cricket, and especially to learning and practising this most exacting game.

There is a lack here, as in most grammar schools, of good grass wickets, and plenty of them, for practice. Cost and time to provide and maintain such conditions prohibit the average school-boy cricketer from learning the crafts of the game on anything but a series of rough patches of grass.

There have been some very good cricketers in recent years, many still playing locally. One thinks of such names as: the Spearman brothers, the Mortimore brothers, Andrew, Charlton, P. Mills, Evans, Cunningham and, more recently: Lamb, Hill, Knowles, Burchell, Sims and Jones. An XI selected from these names alone would give most club sides in Hampshire something to think about.

After a lapse of years, the annual 1st XI v. Staff match was revived in 1956. A "sporting declaration" by the School in the first match gave the Staff a victory, but their win in 1957 was as exciting as it was well earned. A notable event in this game was the Headmaster's turning out to captain his side for the first time—and taking a very good catch at silly mid-off to show that his presence was no mere formality.

Throughout the cricket season a very familiar figure on and about the cricket square is Jack, as unrecognisable at this time without his mowing machine as without his hat. Mr. J. Armsworth, the School caretaker, now has the longest association with the School, and its predecessor in Aldershot, of anybody still here. He was appointed assistant caretaker and groundsman to Aldershot County Secondary School in 1920, and moved to his house beside the School here in 1936. The now much-admired beech hedge fronting the School was just eighteen inches high in those days, scarcely high enough to mask the roughly finished paths around the School and the litter of builders' equipment scattered haphazardly about it. Jack's "other job", looking after the needs of the evening school staff and students, started almost as soon as the School opened. At first, only six rooms would be in use. At the peak of its operations, before a large number of classes were transferred to the new college, almost every room in the School was used from Monday to Friday.

Many Old Boys will remember Mrs. Armsworth best for the excellent meals she prepared between 1936 and 1946, and the way she and her husband, as mentioned before, overcame war-time difficulties to produce School meals that might well never have appeared with less determined providers.

When Jack retires, as he will before many years have passed, the School will lose two people who have served it cheerfully, efficiently and for a considerably longer time than anybody else is likely to equal.

Major A. G. D. Maunder resigned from the Cadets in 1949, and Mr. B. Thomas, in his position of acting-Headmaster, asked Mr. J. Thomas to fill the position.

In the next year or two the unit expanded considerably, both in numbers and the scope of its activities. The Corps of Drums; the Signals section, with its new transmitter/receiver; the M.T. platoon, with a new 15 cwt. truck and a motor-cycle sent by the R.A.C. for driving lessons in conjunction with the Road Safety Committee; the continued sporting successes, all helped to win the Lucas Tooth Shield for the best all-round unit in Hampshire in 1952.

In October, 1952, the School contingent became members of the Combined Cadet Force, formed specifically for School units, and severed its long connection with the Army Cadet Force.

Field Days began in 1953, with a spirited mock battle between two platoons in the morning and a section demonstration of camouflage and concealment in the afternoon. The last three Field Days, held in the summer term on Hankley Common, have taken the form of inter-platoon competitions in map-reading, section in attack on an enemy held position, and an assault course. They have proved very popular as a day in the country, and useful training under more realistic conditions than the School grounds.

The Certificates "A" have been augmented by technical courses at the 13th Command Workshops, for which a Certificate "T" is granted on successful completion.

Since the war, many one-time members of the contingent have joined the Forces as a career, several through the R.M.A., Sandhurst, where one, J. D. Bastick, won the sword of honour as the best all-round cadet of his intake. He was the first grammar school boy to do so. The number of Old Boys at Sandhurst in 1951 prompted "The Times" to refer to us as "the leading grammar school".

As yet there has been no curtailing of cadet activities as a result of cuts in the Armed Services in general. In the future their form will change to bring them more in line with modern youth training and character formation, as is envisaged in the work for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

General Schools Certificate was replaced by the General Certificate of Education in 1951. This new certificate demanded a higher standard of achievement from the candidate for a pass at

Ordinary Level (the level taken by the Fifth forms). It was only just below the old Credit standard. Even one Pass, however, gained a certificate, whereas a combination of subjects was necessary for the Schools Certificate. In fact, the General Certificate of Education means little unless it shows passes in the basic subjects and those necessary for entry to a university or professional course of study.

The academic results have steadily improved throughout this period, culminating in 1957 with passes at both levels of the G.C.E. very considerably above the national average.

Taking 1956 as a sample year, we find that nine boys each gained eight passes in the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level). Thirty-six in all passed in four or more subjects. There were fifty passes at the Advanced Level (the level taken by the Sixth form). Ten boys were awarded County Major Scholarships. Ross and Polkey gained Open Awards at Cambridge and Bristol respectively.

In 1957, nine boys again gained eight passes at the Ordinary Level. Fifty-six in all passed in four or more subjects. At the Advanced Level there were sixty-one passes, with ten County Major awards. Silvester and Foley were awarded State Scholarships and Robson a R.A.F. university cadetship.

The steady increase in the size of the Sixth form has led to this considerable increase in the number of County Major awards. The policy of the County is to see that no able boy is deprived of a university education by not having the financial support that a scholarship brings.

1956-57 was notable chiefly for the celebration of the twenty-first birthday of the School. A Grand Draw early in the summer term ensured an appropriate present of over £400. The form this took was seen the following autumn by all who came to see the play and admired the new curtains, which, together with the reconstruction of the proscenium arch, gave an added touch of dignity and beauty to an excellently staged production. More than £100 was also spent on pictures for the School.

July 13th, 1957, was set aside for a special Fête and Open Day combined. The School field became for the day a place for all the fun of the fair. The stalls, competitions and sideshows were devised and run by the various forms, with plenty of urgent competition, commercial and inventive, to produce an interesting afternoon for the two thousand visitors, before rain intervened to send the crowds inside to see the usual, and some not so usual, displays of Open Day.

A concert, followed in the evening by a dance for which an Old Boy, Bob Potter, supplied the band, ended an enjoyable—and profitable—day in this important year.

Much nearer the real birthday came the 21st Anniversary Service, on Wednesday, 11th September, in the Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Aldershot. The whole School attended the service, conducted by three Old Boys—Rev. David Edwards (1937-44), Rev. John Rowsell (1936-43), and Brian Hibberd (1945-53).

The rest of the term in which the School attained its majority will always be remembered for two things, one very happy and successful, the other most miserable and disruptive of normal life. The second can be summed up simply—Asian 'flu.

A happier memory will be the revival, after a lapse of several years, of the Dramatic Society's full length productions. *A Fool and his Money* was presented on three nights in November to a crowded hall. Based on *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, by Molière, the play was written by Mr. L. K. Upton, and produced by Mr. D. M. Booy and Mr. N. H. Styles. The whole production impressed audiences and critics—one even said he had seen nothing better outside the West End—but the outstanding memory most people would carry away with them would be of the settings and scenery. Mr. Booy's labours were amply repaid. The effect was truly first class. Mr. Styles' work with the cast, among them girls from the County High School, must also have been arduous. Considering that most were appearing on a stage for the first time, they rewarded his efforts nobly in public.

The cast, in order of appearance, was:

Music Master	Graham Stevens
Music Pupil	Elsie Pilbeam
Dancing Master	Colin Butler
Monsieur Jourdain	Terence Turner
Fencing Master	Michael Wooderson
Philosophy Master	Paul Treble
Tailor	Robert Willoughby
Nicole	Joan Sandiforth
Madame Jourdain	Yvette Byrne
Count Dorante	Geoffrey Bennetts
Cleonte	Ulrich Schirmacher
Covielle	John Curtis
Lucile	Angela Wilson
Countess Dorimene	Carolyn Sawyer
Mufti	Ian MacRae

The number of boys on roll in September has increased in the last seven years as follows:

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
396	400	434	455	473	492	519	542

It is expected that in September, 1958, four forms of about thirty boys will be admitted. There is every likelihood that the School will continue to be a four-form entry one in succeeding years, with the "bulge" moving up the School. By 1962-63 there will be four forms at each level in the main part of the School.

An interesting sidelight is thrown on the development of Farnborough over the years by the fact that in 1956-57 there were 239 Farnborough boys in the School compared with 197 from Aldershot. When the School opened there were almost twice as many Aldershot as Farnborough boys. It is estimated, too, that over half the families of boys in the School at present have moved to the area since 1936.

The first building extensions since the School opened were carried out in 1955. The Handicrafts room was transferred from the main building to a temporary Medway hut at the west side of the School and the vacant room refitted as a Biology laboratory.

Further additions will appear in September, 1958, to meet the increased pressure on accommodation already strained to its limit. Two temporary classrooms on the West Field will serve until the building of permanent extensions can begin. Eventually there will be a new block, on the east side of the School, of four science laboratories. Adjoining this block, though at a later date, will be a new gymnasium and changing rooms, and a Handicraft and Metal-work room. The School Hall will then probably be used as a dining room, the present library as a kitchen, and the library will be housed in the present dining room.

What the future holds beyond these plans none of us knows. The School is growing, the Town is growing. Ideas on Education come and go. Comprehensive School? Grammar School with towards a thousand pupils? The situation of 1936 in reverse? A contributor to the Aldershot magazine of 1932 wondered what he would find if he visited his School in 1960—"On the next storey I saw that a room was numbered 164. There was no master within, but instead a screen was on the wall facing the class, and there was a weird figure on it, something like a picture. The boys were prevented from being inattentive by the steel caps fixed over their heads. . . ." We can be fairly certain he would be disappointed in 1960, but in 1988 . . .

CHAPTER VIII

THE OLD BOYS

AN Old Pupils' Association was first formed by former students of Farnborough Secondary School at a meeting in the Headmaster's study in January, 1927. The title, "Old Fernebergians", was adopted two years later by the ninety members who formed the vigorous and growing body.

By 1930 three hundred pupils had left the School, though fewer than half the original scholars of the old "Tec" were still in the district.

Social and sporting activities between past and present members of the School played a large part in building the Association in its early years. A tennis section was added to the football, athletics and cricketing activities in 1930, and it was proposed to design a blazer as an addition to the popular Old Students' ties—price half a crown as a matter of current economic interest.

Mention of economics reminds one that those were grim years for many. A number of Old Boys were out of work. Public wishes for better fortune were extended to the unlucky through Old Boys' letters in magazines. It was too common an occurrence to be squeamish about mentioning such things.

The financial affairs of the Association were in no danger, however, for in 1932 Mr. Smith was elected Hon. Treasurer, a position he has filled ever since.

Aldershot County High School Old Members' Association has had, of course, a much longer existence. Their formation dates back to 1916. After the first World War Major-General Sir Walter Campbell unveiled a memorial to the seven Old Boys killed. Then came the post-war new lease of life, with committees to further the aims and activities, and increased interest from the Town in the School and the O.M.A.'s efforts to raise money for various charities.

One of the chief means of raising funds was through "The Omaski Troupe", whose early variety performances at School functions extended to public performances as this group of former pupils gained experience and became more ambitious. *Tons of Money* at the Royal Engineers' Theatre saw a good performance by Giles (a gardener), played by one of the present governors of Farnborough Grammar School. *Rookery Nook* later brought record attendances for all performances.

The Rogues, originated by R. Derbyshire, was a dance band which soon became well-known locally in the early 1930's, and won many challenge cups. Again, it was composed of old pupils of the County High School. The band created something of a sensation, by the way, when they introduced a lady vocalist—and an even greater one when she gave a solo dance.

After the School's Twenty-first Birthday celebrations in 1933, in which the O.M.A. played their usual enthusiastic part, the 1934 reunion was dominated by one subject—the discontinuing of co-education at the County High School. An extraordinary general meeting of the O.M.A., with Mr. L. H. Hewens in the chair, heard Mr. H. F. Derbyshire move a resolution recording their concern at the anti-co-educational policy of the Hampshire County Council, and formally protesting against it. The Old Members also requested representation on the proposed deputation to the Board of Education.

As events turned out, and when some of the feeling had subsided, how did the former pupils of Farnborough and Aldershot accept the new grammar school? Typical, perhaps, was the attitude of W. J. Balchin, a distinguished former student at Aldershot, now Professor of Geography, Swansea University College. He wrote, "Although I never attended Farnborough Grammar School, I feel that from henceforth it must, in retrospect, be my spiritual school. An adoption of this character gives me considerable pleasure, for it is not always easy to explain how one has come to be an old boy of a girls' school!"

Shortly after the celebration of the Association's 21st Birthday in 1937—a Ball was held in the new Traction Hall—there came an important change in its affairs. After discussion between the two old pupils' organisations, a central council was set up in 1938 to co-ordinate the activities of the "Old Fernebergians" and the

"Aldershot County High School Old Members' Association". The dances, tennis, motor-picnics and other social events were now open to members of both. As the members of the schools had been brought together, so were the old students.

1938 and 1939 were years full of fun and activity despite the gathering war clouds. A series of motor-picnics in the summer—novelty sports and swimming—fifteen car-loads of past pupils to West Wittering—ALFA was a reality.

One of the last events before war broke out and took so many members to Active Service was a presentation to Mr. Chapman on his retirement. His old pupils presented him with a wireless set, an M.A. gown and hood, and an illuminated address with an album containing the signatures of three hundred and sixty-six subscribers.

The dance that closed the re-union day at School that year virtually ended for six years the affairs of the Old Students as they had flourished in those gay pre-war days of the late 1930's.

In 1946 the two associations officially parted company. The days were gone when there were leavers with active memories of two schools. The connection between the Old Fernebergians and the Aldershot County High School Old Members' Association was to be confined to a cordial invitation to each other's functions.

Early in 1946 an appeal was circulated to Old Fernebergians to subscribe to a memorial to Old Boys of the School who were killed between 1939 and 1945. The result was a bronze plaque designed by an Old Boy, Mr. F. W. Kerr, A.R.I.B.A., bearing their names. Many of their relatives were in the School Hall on September 24th, 1947, when Rev. A. E. Chapman conducted a short unveiling service. The remainder of the money subscribed provides for the annual award of the Old Fernebergians' Memorial Prize for Public Spirit.

Their president, Mr. Neill, and both former presidents, Mr. May and Rev. A. E. Chapman, were present at the dinner and ball in January, 1948, to mark the coming of age of the "Old Fernebergians".

1948 and 1949 were marked by some dropping off of support for the various functions. Again there appeared that post-war reaction of lethargy and apathy. National Service continued to take many younger members away from the district when their support would have been most active and welcome.

An Old Fernebergians' Football Club was re-formed in 1951. Two teams were fielded each week, one in the Aldershot Senior League, the other in the Junior League. They offered the opportunity of continuing their football to boys who had just left the School, and brought the new blood they wanted to the ranks of the Old Fernebergians.

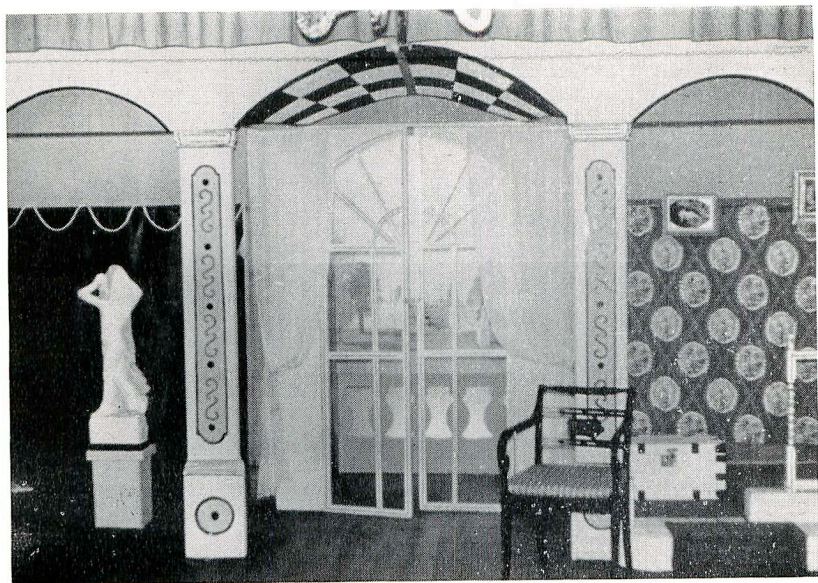
With Dr. Bourne's co-operation, badminton was started in the School Hall. The Old Boys' cricket match with the School 1st XI had become a feature of Open Day.

In 1954 the Old Fernebergians presented the School with a copy of the Royal Academy picture of the Battle of the Imjin River in the Korean campaign. Two of the five officers depicted, Lt. D. Allman and Lt. D. E. Whatmore, were Old Boys. Capt. G. T. Costello, though not in the picture, was awarded the Military Cross for his part in the action.

For the last few years the plea from the committee has been for more support from fellow members for tennis, badminton, social functions, for younger volunteers to serve on the committee. Above all, they want more leavers to join the "Old Fernebergians".

In an effort to find new attractions for members, the ever hard-working officials have turned once more to the County High School (The Omegans). Square dancing, joint formal dances, and even a mixed cricket match have been offered in the past year.

The Old Fernebergians' Association exists to further the comradeship and team spirit of school days, and to provide a means for continuing in later years the many friendships formed then. In many ways, too, the Old Boys, as a body, can often help the School that helped them. That link with what was for years their centre of widening interests and developing powers remains through the many contacts the Old Fernebergians have with the School. Their support and interest is always welcome. Farnborough Grammar School does not lose its interest in them when they leave its classrooms and playing fields.



Scene from "A Fool and His Money"
November, 1957



The Cadets on Parade



The School from the North



"Jack"

1939 ROLL OF HONOUR 1945

Kenneth Gordon Allardice
John Alexander Bairsto
Peter Charles Stuart Bird
Arthur Frederick Bowyer
Laurence Victor Chamberlin
Francis Albert Creighton
Leonard Frederick Charles Day
Dennis Bernard Dray
Aubrey Harold Edwards
William Henry Giles
Geoffrey Spencer Hensby
Robert Nockolds Hildred
Jock Hutchison
Basil Archibald Jacomb
Wilfred Harold Jacques
Russel George Denis Jaggard
Philip Michael Jordan
David Edmund Killelea
Percival George Leaver
Frank Mayes
Roy Patrick Walter McMahon
Vincent O'Mahony
Harry Michael Parsons
Frank Arnold Pearson
George Handley Pemberton
John Edward Plummer
Patrick John Quigley
Cecil Frederick Rivers
Hartley Derek Roper
Cyril Eric Sackley
John Seery
Walter Ray Smith
Cyril Leslie Sumpster
Ronald Sydney Wheble
Eric White

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

APPENDIX

HANDBOOK, 1958

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chairman: Lt.-Col. R. de B. Devereux.

Vice-Chairman: Cr. S. N. Chrismas.

MEMBERS OF THE DIVISIONAL EXECUTIVE

Cr. Mrs. G. D. Catton, B.Sc.

Ald. J. H. Drew, C.C.

F. G. Lough, Esq.

R. D. Peggs, Esq., O.B.E., M.A., M.I.Mech.E.

A. H. J. Stroud, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Brigadier G. C. Luck, O.B.E.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Rev. T. H. Dart, M.A.

Dr. G. W. H. Gardner, C.B., C.B.E.

Mrs. E. E. Hill, M.A.

Mrs. B. Sutton, B.A.

MEMBER NOMINATED BY THE FLEET U.D.C.

Admiral Sir C. Moody, K.C.B.

MEMBER NOMINATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF READING

T. B. Rymer, Esq., M.A., Ph.D.

THE STAFF

Headmaster: J. A. Bourne, M.A., Ph.D. (Cantab.). 1950.

Second Master: A. W. Richards, M.A. (Liverpool), B.Sc. (Sheffield).
1923. A.

English.

D. M. Booy, M.A. (Cantab.). 1955.

B. Jowett, B.A. (London). 1953.

N. H. Styles, B.A. (Bristol). 1957.

French.

J. C. Miles, B.A. (London). 1925. A.

L. K. Upton, B.A. (London). 1949.

A. Sweet, B.A. (Wales). 1944 (left Easter, 1958).

J. J. Henderson (R.A.E.C.). 1958 (Temporary).

K. V. Cole, B.A. (Southampton). September, 1958.

D. E. Ager, B.A. (London). September, 1958.

History.

W. C. Bishop, B.A. (London). 1936.

J. Thomas, B.A. (Wales). 1946.

G. A. Eversfield, B.A. (Cantab.). 1957.

Geography.

- A. W. Richards, M.A., B.Sc.
J. P. Attree, B.Sc. (London). 1955.
G. F. Mitchell, B.A. (London). September, 1958.

Latin.

- G. H. Naish, M.A., Ph.D. (London). 1927. A.
T. W. Grosch, B.A. (London). 1943.

German and Music.

- I. Barrett, M.A. (Liverpool). 1946.

Religious Instruction.

- F. H. Richards (London). 1946.

Mathematics.

- W. Cotgreave, B.Sc (Liverpool). 1945.
J. S. N. Sewell, M.A., Ph.D. (T.C.D.), B.ès L. (Sorbonne). 1955.
B. W. Raynor, B.Sc. (London). 1956.

Mechanics.

- F. C. Mills, B.Sc. (London). 1930. F.
E. Bullock, B.Sc. (London). 1938.

Physics.

- R. H. Smith, B.Sc. (London). 1928. F.
C. R. Wilson, B.A. (Oxon.). 1957.

Chemistry.

- D. M. G. Rodgers, B.Sc., A.R.I.C. (Glasgow). 1951.
R. B. Eltringham, B.Sc. (Bristol). 1957.

Biology.

- E. E. H. Jones, M.A. (Cantab.). 1947.

Handicraft.

- T. L. G. Pascoe, M.Coll.H. 1942.

Art.

- E. J. Foster, Dip.Art. (Reading). 1936.

Physical Education.

- W. C. Bishop, E. Bullock, J. Thomas, B. Jowett.

School Secretary: Mrs. D. V. Burroughs. 1951.

Laboratory Assistant: Mrs. J. D. Stallybrass. 1954.

Cook Supervisor: Mrs. D. Taylor. 1956.

School Caretaker: E. J. Armsworth. 1920.

The dates are those of joining the Staff and "A" and "F" denote Aldershot County High School or Farnborough County Secondary School.

Towards the end of the most devastating war in history there were people far-sighted enough in this country to pass a new Education Act, despite our being even poorer than in 1918, the year another great Education Act was passed.

The 1944 Education Act, unlike the earlier one, has not yet suffered the axe of economy, at least in the implementing of its main parts. Our secondary school system to-day is based on the Act's avowal that every child should be educated according to his "age, aptitude and ability".

When the child reaches the secondary stage of his education, usually between the ages of eleven and twelve, the decision is made that he shall continue his studies in one of the three types of secondary schools—Technical, Modern or Grammar.

Which offers the best education? The answer is, quite simply, the one which best provides for the child's level of intelligence, capabilities and interests. Much muddled thinking about education would be clarified if we would accept the truth that we are not all born equal.

A "Grammar" School was formerly a place where Latin grammar was taught. That it still is in every Grammar School indicates the type of education provided, an "academic education", learning acquired largely through books. To force a child to try to cope with a strenuous academic course for which he is not equipped by nature is as cruel as to deny a similar opportunity to one whose mind and abilities will develop under its discipline and challenge.

How are Grammar School pupils selected? The system used in this County is explained in a pamphlet—"Selection for Secondary Schools, 1958—A Letter to Parents"—which may help to remove some of the suspicions and misconceptions about the much abused Eleven Plus examination. At any rate, it gives a clearer picture of the selection procedure than the "Could *you* do this one?" alarmism of some sections of the Press, whose enthusiasm for a cause tends to outrun the facts.

The examination, the pamphlet points out, is in two parts. Part One consists of tests in English, Arithmetic and Verbal Reasoning. Only the Verbal Reasoning test is in any way different from the basic work done by the child at school, and he has a practice test some time before to show him the sort of simple problems he will be expected to reason out. Part One is used as a qualifying examination. Only those reaching a minimum standard are allowed to go on to Part Two. In the past, about one-third of the children taking the examination have reached this standard.

Part Two of the examination consists of more searching tests in English and Arithmetic.

When the results in all these papers are set beside school records and Head Teachers' assessments, three fairly clearly defined groups tend to emerge: those suitable for the Grammar School type of education; those not suitable for this type of education; and

those about whom there is a reasonable doubt. Each child in the last group is interviewed by an experienced panel of Head Teachers to decide which type of school will best suit him.

However careful and thorough the methods of selection, a few misfits will be found. There must be, as there is, the means for transfer among the various secondary schools throughout the child's school life. If it becomes apparent, for example, during the first year or two at a Secondary Modern School that a child would be most likely to succeed at a Grammar School, he will be interviewed by the local Grammar School Headmaster with a view to transfer. Boys from other schools are also admitted to sixth form courses in Arts and Sciences if they are suitably qualified. Four Ordinary Level passes is the usual qualification, though the Headmaster must be consulted about each case. Sometimes there is transfer from the Grammar School to the Secondary Modern School if it is found that a child is out of his academic depth, though many factors other than academic ability can affect his chances of success.

The policy of the County is to offer places in Grammar Schools to all children who reach the required standard in any year. The actual percentage who do so varies from year to year, but the average between 1950 and 1957 was 16.48 per cent. Numbers of children eligible to sit the examination in 1958 were some two thousand more than ever before. There will be no change in the standard of the examination. Increased numbers will be accommodated by the Grammar Schools extending their premises.

From the general to the particular—Farnborough Grammar School.

ACADEMIC

The boys who enter this School in September, 1958, will remain here for the duration of their course leading to the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) of the University of London. About two-thirds of them will, if present trends continue, eventually seek posts in science or engineering.

A majority will continue in the Sixth Form and take the Advanced Level G.C.E. two years later after more specialised study. Possible for them will be County Major Scholarships to the universities, or apprenticeships which will lead to university or equivalent qualifications in industry.

For the exceptionally academically gifted few there may be Open Scholarships or Exhibitions.

Throughout their School career all boys' efforts and industry are observed in a twice termly report to the Headmaster by their subject teachers. A terminal report to parents at Christmas, Easter and the end of the School year in July indicates the progress, and sometimes failure to progress, in each subject taken.

The reasons for unsatisfactory work can often be found from among: failure to appreciate the need for steady application to work, especially homework; distractions, such as too much time

given to television viewing, or excessive time spent in paid employment; occasionally, the influence of friends whose education does not demand so much from them; inability to master particular subjects—the “non-favourite” ones we all have, though any boy with the general ability necessary for entry to a Grammar School should be capable of reaching the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) standard in the subjects he is taught for five years.

The following list gives some indication of the organisation of forms and subjects in the main part of the School.

Form Two (A, B and R). The second forms on entry are grouped for the first term according to age. After the Christmas examinations they are regrouped according to ability and progress shown. Forms 2A and 2B then take Latin in addition to the general course taken by all three forms. Starting in September, 1958, there will be certain alterations to these arrangements to deal with the expected additional second form.

Form Three (A, B and R). These three forms follow the general course in both Arts and Science subjects. A number of boys enter one of them each September from Secondary Modern Schools at the age of twelve plus. They are grouped with others of their form for concentrated work in French, English and Mathematics in addition to the normal time-table. Another third form begins an accelerated course towards the G.C.E., to be taken four years after entering the School. 3A and 3B continue with Latin.

Form Four (A, S and G). 4A is, generally speaking, the Arts form, though they continue with Physics and Chemistry. 4S begins extra work in Science and Mathematics. Both continue with general subjects. 4G (General) has a less arduous course in both branches. There is grouping from all three forms in French and Mathematics, so that the pace of the work can be adjusted to suit the ability of the group. In addition to the general subjects, groups from all three forms are taught German, Biology, Geometrical Drawing, Art, Handicraft and Mechanics.

Form Lower Fifth (A, S and G). Grouping in French and Mathematics continues in this most important year of consolidation before the G.C.E. year.

Form Upper Fifth (A, S and G). A preliminary full-scale examination is held in February each year, from which some indication of performance in the G.C.E. is expected. Serious consideration is given to the entry of boys for the various subjects at this time, and the examination must be regarded as a form of qualifying test. The three forms are still grouped for French and Mathematics. Members of the S and G forms must decide to study one of: English Literature, History or Geography for the year.

Form Six. Boys normally enter the Sixth Form with a good G.C.E. “O” Level result behind them. They begin a specialised course in Arts or Science, and take the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) after two years, usually in three, sometimes in four, subjects. The majority then leave for the University, the Civil Service or Industry, with good prospects in the last two of gaining professional quali-

fications and promotion by reason of their Advanced Level work. The University, of course, remains the goal of most boys who enter the Sixth Form, and continues, without much doubt, to provide the finest education for, and the broadest road to, one of the professions. A third year in the Sixth Form is not uncommon, especially for boys aiming at State Scholarships and Open Scholarships or Exhibitions.

ACADEMIC HONOURS, 1947-1957

Open Scholarships and Exhibitions.

- 1947 H. K. Morton. Open Scholarship. St. John's College, Cambridge.
- 1948 G. R. Strickland. Open Scholarship. Downing College, Cambridge.
- 1949 A. H. Fabel. Open Scholarship. Imperial College of Science, University of London.
- 1950 J. S. Attfield. Open Scholarship. Oriel College, Oxford.
- 1951 M. J. Whelan. Open Exhibition. Caius College, Cambridge.
- A. M. Runnalls. Open Exhibition. Caius College, Cambridge.
- 1952 D. J. Ayre. Open Scholarship. Trinity College, Cambridge.
- 1957 J. F. Ross. Open Exhibition. Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge.
- C. E. Polkey. Open Scholarship. University of Bristol.

State Scholarships.

- 1947 H. K. Morton.
- 1949 J. S. Attfield, S. F. Butler.
- 1951 D. J. Ayre.
- 1952 P. Blackall, F. W. Sherman, D. I. Phillips.
- 1953 T. L. Price, F. H. Richards, D. B. Edgoose (Reserve).
- 1955 R. C. Mills, D. B. Sellen, D. H. B. Williamson, D. J. LeGrys (Reserve).
- 1956 J. F. Ross.
- 1957 P. E. Foley, P. J. Silvester.

County Major Scholarships.

- 1947 H. K. Morton.
- 1948 S. F. Butler, P. E. Burry.
- 1949 S. J. Edgoose, A. M. Runnalls, P. A. Shaw, D. K. Tackley.
- 1950 M. J. Whelan.
- 1951 R. A. Bentley, P. Blackall, G. V. Fowler, P. F. Mills, J. D. Southon, D. J. Ayre.
- 1952 D. B. Edgoose, D. G. Evans, R. B. Davies, M. H. Chandler.

- 1953 B. J. Hibberd, J. N. Littlewood, M. Sergeant, R. Kay,
R. A. Orrin, T. L. Price, F. H. Richards.
- 1954 E. C. Cole, R. E. Finch, D. J. LeGrys, B. J. Alner.
- 1955 P. R. J. Burroughs, M. Dudzinski, R. C. Mills, D. B.
Sellen, D. C. Tackley, D. H. B. Williamson, R. C.
Davis.
- 1956 B. W. L. Egan, B. A. Ellis, P. E. Foley, J. R. Goy,
D. F. C. Lamb, J. F. Ross, C. J. Panton, J. P.
Russell, P. J. Silvester, D. C. Stapleton.
- 1957 J. E. Aitken, A. E. Davis, A. E. L. Fisher, P. Judson,
A. R. Mosses, B. P. Sheehan, K. J. Sutton, M. G.
Wooderson, M. J. F. Young, B. R. Spence.

CAREERS

The Headmaster concerns himself with boys' careers and is available by appointment to discuss them with parents. The careers adviser of the Ministry of Labour visits the School to talk to the Fifth Forms in the autumn term, and later interviews any boys wishing to enquire about prospects and conditions in various trades and professions.

ADMINISTRATION

Telephone: Farnborough 539.

School Hours: 9 a.m.—12.30 p.m.; 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Address: The Grammar School, Prospect Avenue, Farnborough.

Holidays: As laid down by the Divisional Executive, and in accordance with Ministry of Education Regulations—with half term breaks of two or three days in addition to the three main holidays.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHOOL RULES:

1. *General.*

"No leave of absence is granted except for medical or educational reasons.

School engagements have first claim on boys during term time.

In the case of absence through illness, the parent must send a letter of explanation by the second day.

Boys staying at School for mid-day break must take either the School dinner, or their own sandwiches in the cold dinner room.

No boy, except in the Sixth Form, is allowed to leave the School precincts during the lunch hour unless he goes home for lunch.

Loss of property should be reported to the master in charge of the boy as soon as the loss is discovered. The Second Master has charge of lost property. He will in due course dispose of unclaimed items.

2. *Discipline.*

Detention from 4 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. is the normal punishment for minor misdemeanors. Corporal punishment is not administered.

Boys marked late will report to the master on duty at 4 p.m.

Breakages or damage to School property must be reported at once. Boys are liable for the cost of repairing windows, desks or chairs damaged owing to their negligence or in the disobedience of School rules.

No catapults, air-guns, knives—other than small pen-knives—or other objects likely to cause injury may be brought to School.

All boys must be properly dressed—including the wearing of School blazer, tie and cap—coming to and returning from School.

3. *Physical Education.*

The proper dress, clearly marked with the owner's name, must be worn for P.T. and Games. Towels used for the compulsory shower after physical education lessons should also be marked.

Articles of value should not be left in the dressing-room. The master in charge will arrange for their safe keeping.

No boy is excused physical education lessons unless he has a note from his parents stating their reason for not wishing him to take part, or, in the case of extended absence from the lessons, from his doctor.

4. *Travel.*

Boys living beyond three miles from School are entitled to free transport. Those from Aldershot, Fleet and places *en route* travel to and from School on special buses. Details of arrangements are given at the beginning of each School year.

Boys living more than one mile from the School may cycle if they obtain a permit to do so from the School. The permit will be withdrawn if the bicycle is not kept in a roadworthy condition.

5. *Fire.*

Warning of fire will be given by repeated ringing of the bell. All classes will move with their master and assemble in front of the School, where the roll will be taken."

SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE SCHOOL YEAR

Christmas Term: School Play, Carol Service, Christmas Dinner, Junior Party, Senior Social.

Spring Term: Speech Day, Cross-Country Races.

Summer Term: Sports Day, Open Day, Cadets' General Inspection and Field Day, Parents', Staff, Old Boys' Cricket Matches, G.C.E. Examinations.

CADETS

Officer Commanding: Major J. Thomas.

Adjutant: Capt. E. H. Jones.

Equipment: Capt. L. K. Upton.

Training: Capt. E. J. Foster, Lieut. B. Jowett, 2nd Lieut. J. P. Attree.

Signals: Lieut. C. R. Wilson.

M.T.: 2nd Lieut. F. H. Richards, Mr. T. G. Pascoe.

Corps of Drums: Mr. W. Baldwin.

Administrative Assistant: Mr. R. C. Hadland.

Membership is for all boys in Form Three and upwards. A grant is paid to the unit to provide equipment for all boys over fourteen years of age. Their training is designed to develop initiative, self-reliance and powers of leadership. Much of the instruction is organised by the boys themselves. The unit is well equipped with wireless and M/T, and other subjects taught include first-aid, surveying and meteorology. Attendance at camps is encouraged.

Cadet period: Friday, 2.40 p.m.—4 p.m. Special periods for annual inspection and field day.

Cadets may obtain:

Certificate "A" (Parts I and II).

Certificate "T" (Technical).

Signals Classification.

Driving Licence (Groups A and G).

There will be changes in the future in Certificate "A", Part II, with the accent more on skills and knowledge which will be valuable to a boy beyond any calls of military service.

Members of the Corps of Drums reach a high degree of competence under their instructor, Mr. W. Baldwin, an ex-Drum-Major of the Guards.

Promotion in all branches is by merit up to the rank of Under-Officer.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The Headmaster is President of all School Clubs and Societies.

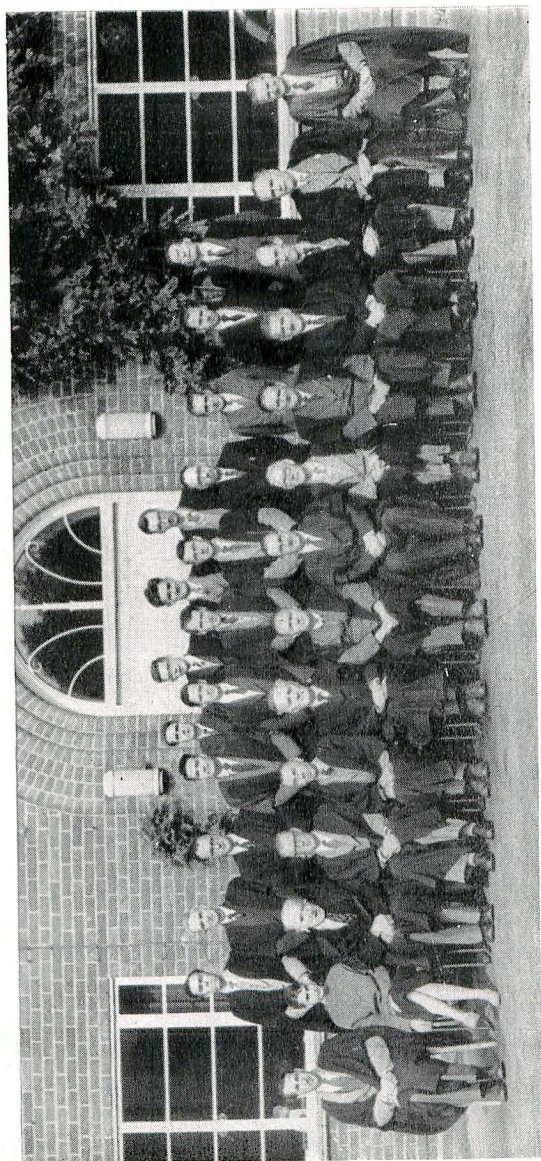
DEBATING SOCIETY. *Chairman:* Mr. D. M. Booy.

The Society holds regular debates in conjunction with the County High School. Its affairs are governed by a written constitution. A joint committee organises the meetings.

A junior branch meets fortnightly in the two winter terms under the chairmanship of Mr. B. Jowett.

CHOIRS.

Senior and junior choirs under Mr. B. W. Raynor and Mr. C. R. Wilson give recitals at School concerts and carol services.



The Staff, September, 1957

ORCHESTRA.

With about fifteen regular members, the Orchestra has shown great improvement in the last year or two. They were third in the Aldershot Music Festival in 1956, second in 1957. Many other boys are taking violin lessons which are arranged by the County and are free.

MUSIC CLUB. *Chairman:* Mr. J. C. Miles.

Weekly meetings of the Club are held for gramophone recitals. Visits to Sadler's Wells Opera are popular with the members.

ART CLUB. *Chairman:* Mr. E. J. Foster.

The Club meets on Monday and Friday lunch-times, chiefly for those boys not taking Art as part of their curriculum. The art room is equipped with potter's wheels and a kiln for those interested in pottery. Others may interest themselves in making and printing lino-cuts, book-binding, and sketching and painting.

FILM SOCIETY. *Chairman:* Mr. F. C. Mills.

Films ranging from *Hamlet* and *The Red Shoes* to *The Marx Brothers at the Circus* and *Jour de Fête* have been shown at the Friday evening performances given by the Society. One of the most popular societies, it has monthly meetings in the autumn and winter terms. Many other films are screened during the year in connection with Scientific, Geographical, Athletic and Cadet topics.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB.

Six tables provide enthusiasts with lunch-hour activity. Senior and junior House Championships are organised in addition to an Open Competition.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB. *Chairman:* Mr. R. B. Eltringham.

The School has a fully equipped dark room and some excellent equipment, including a 35 mm. camera and a 16 mm. cine-camera. The Club photographs School events and a display of their work may be seen on Open Day.

PRINTING CLUB. *Chairman:* Dr. J. S. N. Sewell.

School calendars, programmes and Christmas cards are among the many products of the Club. Boys wishing to learn the skilled and intricate work involved in printing are welcomed and instructed.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY. *Chairman:* Mr. D. M. Booy.

Recently revived interest brought the first major production for some years in the autumn term, 1957. For some time previously the Society had been busy building scenery and stage equipment. The School now possesses one of the best equipped school stages in the County. It is expected that the tradition of a School play will continue as an annual event.

CHESS CLUB. *Chairman:* Dr. J. S. N. Sewell.

With no shortage of players, the senior and junior teams have performed creditably in inter-school matches. There is a good attendance at the lunch-hour meetings, to which beginners are invited. School colours are awarded to outstanding members.

SCIENCE SOCIETY. *Chairman:* Mr. R. H. Smith.

Rheology, Atomic Radiation, Bees, Plastics—all are subjects of lectures to the Society by experts over the last year or so. All aspects of Science, practical and theoretical, interests this Society.

BADMINTON CLUB.

A popular Sixth Form activity, with a first class court laid down in the Hall, badminton could yet become an official competitive School sport.

STAMP CLUB.

Fascinated as ever, the philatelists pore over their catalogues, borrow from the Club library and negotiate their swaps. New swappers are very welcome.

CHRISTIAN UNION. *Chairman:* Mr. F. H. Richards.

Thursday lunch-hour meetings take the form of talks and discussions, with invited speakers, laymen and clergy. Seniors are in the majority, though there is a junior branch and joint meetings during the year for films and some of the talks.

HISTORY SOCIETY. *Chairman:* Mr. G. A. Eversfield.

Visits, discussions, films and lectures give the third and fourth forms the wider view of History beyond the confines of a syllabus.

ROAD SAFETY CLUB. *Chairman:* Mr. T. G. Pascoe.

Mr. Pascoe organises the inspection of bicycles and the propaganda for road safety. The Club has quizzes and meetings to spread knowledge of the Highway Code and increase awareness of its very necessary application.

SPORT

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

<i>Team</i>			<i>Master in Charge</i>
1st XI	...	...	Mr. W. C. Bishop
2nd XI			
Under 15 XI	...	...	Mr. J. P. Attree
Under 14 XI	...	...	Mr. C. R. Wilson
Under 13 XI	...	...	Mr. G. A. Eversfield

The 1st XI and 2nd XI play friendly matches with schools, colleges, and occasionally club sides, in Hampshire and Surrey. The Under 15 XI plays in the Aldershot and Farnborough Schools' League and enters for the Durrant Cup. The Under 14 XI and the Under 13 XI also play teams from Aldershot and Farnborough Secondary Schools. A House Competition is also arranged during the season.

CRICKET.

<i>Team</i>			<i>Master in Charge</i>
1st XI	...	...	Mr. E. Bullock
2nd XI			
Junior XI	...	...	Mr. B. Jowett

Friendly matches are played with Hampshire and Surrey Grammar Schools and local Secondary Schools. House matches are played during lunch-hours and after School. Coaching is provided in the winter term and at the nets during the season.

ATHLETICS. *Master in Charge:* Mr. W. C. Bishop.

Training and competition in School Sports Day (House Competition), Relay Races (House Competition), District Sports, and (for outstanding performers) County and All-England Schools meetings.

SCHOOL ATHLETIC RECORDS

Minor events (U.13).

- 80 Yards. D. J. Harmon, 1951, 11 secs.
- 100 Yards. R. J. Letford, 1955, 12.4 secs.
P. Sweet, 1958, 12.4 secs.
- 220 Yards. B. Dailley, 1952, 27.9 secs.
- 880 Yards. J. P. Roumaine, 1957, 2 mins. 36.2 secs.
- 50 Yards Hurdles. M. S. Brown, 1955, 8.4 secs.
- Walk (440). U. O. Schirmmacher, 1956, 2 mins. 10 secs.
- High Jump. R. J. Letford, 1955, 4ft. 7in.
- Javelin. R. D. Hunter, 1957, 86ft. 2in.

Junior events (U.15).

- 100 Yards. M. M. Chapman, 1947, 11.4 secs.
R. J. Letford, 1957, 11.4 secs.
- 220 Yards. E. G. Marriott, 1952, 25.4 secs.
- 440 Yards. B. Dailley 1954, 58.5 secs.
- 880 Yards. K. V. Hazeltine, 1951, 2 mins. 13.6 secs.
- 80 Yards Hurdles. K. N. Cruden, 1948, 11.6 secs.
- Walk (440 yards). J. Penrith, 1958, 1 min. 57.8 secs.
- High Jump. R. J. Letford, 1957, 5ft. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.
- Javelin. R. J. Letford, 1957, 150ft.

Intermediate events (U.17).

- 100 Yards. I. Jones, 1951, 10.6 secs.
- 220 Yards. I. Jones, 1951, 24 secs.
- 440 Yards. C. Jackman, 1952, 56 secs.
M. D. Green, 1958, 56 secs.
- 880 Yards. B. Gilbert, 1954, 2 mins. 10.2 secs.
- Javelin. R. L. Jones, 1957, 157ft. 5in.
- Discus. E. G. Marriott, 1955, 135ft.

Senior events (over 17).

- 100 Yards. I Jones, 1951, 10.6 secs.
- 220 Yards. R. C. Mills, 1956, 23.8 secs.
- 440 Yards. R. C. Mills, 1956, 53.1 secs.
- 880 Yards. B. Gilbert, 1956, 2 mins. 7 secs.
- 1 Mile. R. Weate, 1954, 4 mins. 39.2 secs.
- 110 Yards Hurdles. J. H. Turner, 1952, 15 secs.
- 880 Yards Walk. A. A. Williams, 1954, 3 mins. 55.2 secs.

High Jump. J. B. Morley, 1947, 5ft. 5½in.
Pole Vault. R. I. Bennett, 1958, 10ft. 4in.
Javelin. N. Pascoe, 1950, 179ft. 3in.
Discus. G. B. Morton, 1950, 115ft. 9in.
Long Jump. J. S. Bennett, 1951, 20ft. 5in.
Weight. B. Dailley, 1957, 47ft. 2in.

CROSS-COUNTRY. *Master in Charge:* Mr. B. W. Raynor.

Annual School Cross-Country Races. Teams are also gradually acquiring competitive practice in a series of matches with other schools. Regular practice runs are held during the two winter terms.

FINIS

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