



The School Magazine  
OF THE  
MAIDSTONE  
COMMERCIAL  
SCHOOL.

Vol. X. No. 28.  
January — 1940.

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# MAIDSTONE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

Vol. X. No. 28.

January, 1940.

*Second number of the School Magazine published during the war.*

*"They conquer who believe they can." Virgil.*

## SCHOOL HISTORY.

The School Calendar is as follows:

Tues., 16th Jan. Term begins.  
Thurs. 18th Jan. Football coaching.  
Tues., 30th Jan. Old Boys' Annual General Meeting.  
Thurs., 1st Feb. Football coaching.  
Tues., 6th Feb. Old Boys' Dinner.  
Thurs. 15th Feb. Football coaching.  
Mon. 26th Feb. Half-term.  
Tues., 27th Feb. Old Boys' Meeting.  
Wed., 6th Mar. School Concert and Prize-Giving.  
Fri., 22nd Mar. Easter Recess until 26th.  
Fri., 12th Apr. Term ends.  
Wed., 1st May. Summer Term begins.  
Wed., 31st July. Term ends.  
Wed., 18th Sept. Christmas term begins.

## SALVETE.

No. 266. M. E. Bishop, 4a, School.  
No. 267. I. J. C. Usher, 3a, St. Augustine's.  
No. 268. R. E. Green, 3a, St. Augustine's.  
No. 269. T. F. Lederer, 5, St. Peter's.  
No. 270. M. T. Merritt, 3a, School.  
No. 271. M. G. C. Smith, 3a, School.  
No. 272. J. M. Still, 4b, St. Peter's.  
No. 273. A. R. Baker, Prep., St. Peter's.  
No. 274. A. T. Sharp, 3a, St. Peter's.  
No. 275. J. P. Pearson, 4a, St. Augustine's.  
No. 276. K. A. Herring, 3a, St. Peter's.  
No. 277. I. Ray, 4b, St. Augustine's.  
No. 278. A. T. Martin, Prep., School.  
No. 279. J. H. Ware, Prep., School.

- No. 280. M. Ware, Prep., School.  
No. 281. P. M. Herring, Prep., St. Peter's.  
No. 282. E. R. Herring, Prep., St. Peter's.  
No. 283. B. J. Aslett, 3b, School.  
No. 284. O. Burrows, 3b, St. Peter's.  
No. 285. E. S. Halcomb, 4b, St. Augustine's.  
No. 286. R. Clarke, Prep., St. Augustine's.

#### VALETE.

E. G. Knott has left this term to take a position with the Cornhill Insurance Co., after 7 years in the school. A very popular boy and a staunch member of St. Peter's House. Three boys who have spent 6 years with us are N. L. W. Hartridge, J. LeFeaver and E. K. Leeves. The first two have gone farming and Leeves has gone into Reed's Paper Mills. All three were good athletes and won several of the school cups. Leeves was captain of School House and had passed many public examinations.

D. B. Smith after 5 years in the school has gone into Messrs. Arkcoll's Wholesale Grocery business. He was a prominent cricketer and held the Victor Ludorum cup in 1938. N. C. R. Hogg, 4½ years, has gone into Messrs. Week's Engineering Works and E. A. Tomsett, 4 years, entered the Corporation Rate Office. D. L. Gosling, 4 years, has a post with the Hollingbourne Rural District Council. J. A. Mills, 2½ years, has gone into his father's stationery and newspaper business. W. C. P. Thomas, 2 years, is now learning the watchmaking trade with Messrs. Cornell's. R. A. Rawlins, 1½ years, has obtained a post in Messrs. Rootes' office.

We wish every success and prosperity to these boys in their future careers.

#### EXAMINATION RESULTS.

Out of 15 candidates for the C.O.P. and L.C.C. examinations we have to congratulate 12 on their successes. They are:—

College of Preceptors.—Senior Certificates: H. H. Mungham, 7 subjects; R. W. Westbrook, 7 subjects; E. K. Leeves, 6 subjects. Junior Certificates: F. J. Adley, 7 subjects, distinction in English; A. V. Smith, 5 subjects. Preliminary Certificate: J. P. Thirkell, 5 subjects.

London Chamber of Commerce.—Certificate Stage, Handwriting Certificates: E. K. Leeves; G. K. Reynolds; A. V. Smith. Elementary Stage, Handwriting Certificates: A. E. Barham; C. J. Beale.

Pitman's Typewriting Certificates.—Intermediate Stage:  
G. K. Reynolds, 3rd class.

The Model Exhibition on the last day of term was a great success and was attended by a large number of visitors in spite of "early closing" due to the black-out. The standard was quite up to that of previous years but entries in some classes were slightly smaller. We are indebted to Mr. Basden, of Messrs. Drake and Fletcher's for his kindness in judging the exhibits.

The results were:—Senior Models: Mungham, Knight, Barham. Junior Models: P. Stearn, Halcomb, Solly and J. King (tie). Aeroplanes: Howard, Westbrook. Senior Drawing: A. Smith, Beale, Thirkell. Junior Drawing: Gibson, Solly, Martin and N. Walker (tie). Senior Maps: Knight, Leeves, Beale. Junior Maps: J. Stearn, Herring, Martin. Stamps: P. King, Gibbs and Leeves (tie).

The Winter Term commenced, as announced, on September 16th, and work has proceeded quite normally during the term—a somewhat unusual feature among schools generally. Certain modifications have been found necessary. School hours now finish at 3.45 p.m. to enable boys to leave before the black-out, and a quarter of an hour has been added to morning school to replace the time lost; we now leave at 12.30 p.m. instead of 12.15 p.m.

The Military Authorities have been using the Athletic Ground on Wednesdays so we have our Sports Afternoon on Thursday—a change which has been found quite acceptable. During the Summer holidays a member of the Surveyor's Department of the Town Council inspected the school shelters and certified them as adequate for A.R.P. purposes. The protection is considerably greater than the arrangements in ordinary dwellings.

The last, and from the boys' point of view the most popular change, has been the suspension of Saturday morning school. This was decided upon for a number of reasons including the difficulties of transport. Whether this innovation is retained depends upon the work done on the remaining five days! We do not often congratulate ourselves, but we can feel pleased that while many schools have had but one day's instruction per week, we have been able to fulfil all the normal school routine including the preparation of more candidates than ever before for Public Examinations.

On October 17th, at 1.50 p.m. we experienced our first Air-Raid warning. Some boys were on the way to school and took refuge in the Public Shelters, but others continued. Each form proceeded to its allocated place. Mr. Bettle read to the 3rd Form and the Preparatory were specially looked after. The older boys were allowed on the terrace after a time. At 3.10 the All Clear was sounded and work resumed. We hope we shall have no worse experience. Mr. Williams is a trained Warden, and A. Clarke and C. Beale have both passed the test.

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We should like to offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Watts to whom a baby daughter has been born.

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Two interesting lantern lectures were given during the term by Mr. Martin, late of the R.A.F. The first on "weather" was illustrated by slides of exceptional interest and much useful information was given. The second, just before the end of term, was on Canada and contained, besides some beautiful slides, some of the lecturer's experiences and adventures while travelling from Vancouver to Winnipeg.

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A sum of one guinea was collected by Mrs. Piper for the Mayor's Thetis fund. All the usual collections have been maintained; 17/- was collected for the Haig Poppy Fund and 7/8 for the Waifs and Strays' Society.

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E. Leeves and R. Westbrook have acted as librarians and overhauled the books. Many boys have joined but there are plenty of books for a larger number of readers. Thanks are due to R. Westbrook, A. Smith and C. Pantony for the donation of books.

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During the term we have made regular use of suitable "Broadcasts." The weekly talks for seniors "On the Geography of the War" have been much appreciated.

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A special appeal was made for more members of the National Savings' Movement, particularly in view of the Savings Campaign. We now have 54 members, and 13 have joined last term. Mr. Bettle, the Honorary Secretary would like to enrol every boy. Even if the contribution is only a penny a week it

"all counts." We understand that parents and Old Boys can join our branch if they so desire. Since January, 1937, we have saved £83 16s. 4d. Please join and save.

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An amusing story comes from the Preparatory. One of the little ones had entered a lesson in the wrong book. It was returned with the comment, "N.B. Wrong book." Presently Mrs. Piper noticed the owner crying. "What is the matter?" she said. The youngster replied, "Please, you have put N.B. naughty boy."

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We have been pleased with the way in which the Magazine has been praised in the local Press, and thank them for their courtesy. We have just received congratulations from Cadbury Brothers on the account of the school's visit to Bourneville. The circulation of the Magazine is steadily rising, and, in normal times, several copies go abroad—one regularly to S. America.

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We intend to hold our Concert and Prize-giving in spite of Hitler. Details will be announced as soon as completed. We hope the event will be as successful as ever.

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Finally, may we thank our advertisers who continue to support us in these difficult times. Their help is now doubly appreciated. We hope our readers will in turn support them and so help the Magazine.

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## UPPER SCHOOL NOTES.

Monthly mottoes selected this term are as follows:—

"We spread our wings and fly," F. J. Adley.

"A little forethought is worth a lot of afterthought" J. R. Knight.

"Politeness is a good investment," C. J. Beale.

During the term much hard work has been done for the public examinations. Chess has been rather neglected. Next term with the Tournament and House Matches will see a revival.

Several boys have also become remarkably proficient at darts. One player has reached such a high standard that he recently produced and "flighted" a dart in the class room. His aim was so exact that he was able to pierce a thickness of plaster and a lead-covered cable and thereby cause a short-circuit. Enough said.

## FOOTBALL.

Changing the sports afternoon from Wednesday to Thursday has been most unlucky, for there were five Thursday afternoons pouring with rain while the preceding Wednesdays had been fine. However, many matches have been played.

While some boys have exhibited a growing keenness others have shown just the opposite. Many colds seem to develop with a good cinema programme. A very strange coincidence!

Talent is certainly not lacking in the Fourth Form. Marshall should develop into a useful goalkeeper, Swan, Murray, Sheldon, Barkaway and several more have good ideas of the game.

The First XI has not yet appeared in full strength. Contrary to Summer Term forecasts a fairly strong team has been formed.

Though no First XI matches were played several Second XI fixtures were obtained. The Second XI comprises largely of younger members though a few First XI players are usually picked to keep up the weight.

### SECOND XI MATCHES.

Oct. 14th.—Aylesford School (home), won 6—3 (Knott 3, Barkaway 1, A. Smith 1, Leeves 1). Nov. 25th.—West Malling School (away), won, 3—0. Dec. 9th.—Ditton School (away), won 7—1 (Knott 3, Baker 2, Brooker 2).

### HOUSE MATCHES.

Oct. 10th.—St. Augustine's House versus School House, St. Augustine's won 6—3. Dec. 14th.—St. Peter's House versus St. Augustine's House, St. Peter's won 2—1. Dec. 16th.—St. Peter's House versus School House, St. Peter's won 9—1.

St. Peter's House, therefore, is the 1939 winner of the Football Cup.

The best practice matches were:

1. "Probables" versus "Possibles," in which the "Possibles" won 2—1, a close game. 2. "Country" versus "Town." Though the Town team seemed to have a slight advantage they had a hard fight to win 5—2.

NOTE.—With the strain of examinations over we hope to arrange more matches next term.

R. Westbrook (Captain).

A. Smith (Vice-captain).

### CRITICISMS OF THE TEAM.

R. Fenner, goalkeeper, has a good clearance kick; saves and collects slippery balls extremely well.

F. Adley, right-back, uses his weight to good advantage and has a strong, hefty kick. Should sometimes act more quickly.

J. Thirkell, left-back, makes up his smallness by clever tackling; this and his long passes have stood him in good stead.

C. Beale, right-half, makes good use of both feet for shooting and tackling. With his speed and shoulder charge he is an excellent half-back.

E. Leeves, left-half, possesses quick ball control. The forward line benefit much from his long touchline throws and fast passes.

R. Westbrook (Captain), centre-half, is a good tackler and shoots with both feet. Feeds and co-operates with his forwards as much as possible. Always sets an encouraging example to his men.

A. Smith (Vice-captain), right-wing, has a smashing force behind his low shots and more than often they find the net. His centres, cornerkicks and footwork are excellent.

E. Knott, inside-right, like his wing-man, he too possesses a powerful shot. Has lately developed combination methods and good ball control make him an ideal forward.

A. Baker, centre-forward, is speedy and has a strong shot with both feet, also has fast ball control and shoots well from a running ball. Is very keen.

D. Gosling, inside-left, has played well in his position and though few goals are to his credit he is an asset to the team.

D. Brooker, outside-left, uses his head as well as his feet, has a strong centre kick and is a fast tackler. Should develop very well.



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## VIENNA.

Vienna is a very old city. The Romans had a camp on the place which is now the centre of the town. It was for a long time the capital of the East-Border country, which had to protect Germany from the invasion of Huns and Asiatic people. For a time it was the capital of the whole of Germany. In the year 1683 it had to withstand the great siege of the Turks who pressed across Europe to this point unchallenged. Much of the city was destroyed.

Later, as capital of the Austrian Empire it grew rapidly and had soon two million people.

Vienna today consists mainly of two parts; the city and the remains of the former suburbs. The first has narrow, winding streets and many old houses. The latter was built later. There are not many modern houses in Vienna and these have been built in the last ten years. The city is not like English towns, with the offices in the centre and residences round. Offices and flats are generally in the same building. No one lives in a little house by himself; everybody lives in big blocks of flats as they do everywhere on the Continent. Vienna is built in rings, with the city as the centre and the rest in two big rings round it. The main roads are always broad and have usually a tramline. Most of the roads have this, for it is the main transport. Buses are not much in use.

Vienna has many old buildings. One of the nicest is Schönbrunn, the former summer residence of the Austrian Emperor, which is surrounded by beautiful parks. There are many monuments in the town. They are often situated in the parks. The biggest park is the Prater which is a piece of country in the middle of the town. People go there riding and hunting or for long walks. In one corner of it are all the amusements you can imagine. It is like three seashores together! Vienna also has a few well known theatres and an Opera which is often visited by foreign artists. A special feature is the many Cafés, in which you can stay as long as you like and read your paper.

Vienna has many nice things and many people came to see them, but since the Nazis took control it has lost much of its beauty and all its comfort.

Tom Lederer (formerly a resident of Vienna; now seeking refuge in England and attending the School).

## ROCHESTER CASTLE.

(An Appreciation).

Dark and sombre, straight and tall,  
Rises up her mighty wall,  
Mighty once, but now subdued  
'Neath the ravages of time,  
Cruel was he whose mind construed  
To commit such harmful crime,  
As removing all the floors  
For so commonplace a cause.

Now the sunlight, rain and snow,  
Rambling down her portals go  
To the dungeons far below,  
Whose grey mortar, dusty stone,  
Hold a story of their own,  
And whispering through the undertone  
One can hear a Saxon's moan,  
See a Norman torturer's tool  
Make his splashing blood-drops fall  
In an ever widening pool.

And from turrets old and staid,  
Blazoned banners danced and splayed  
Gleaming in the moat,  
And above the castle's crust,  
Winging through the battle's dust,  
Pigeons, on the breeze's gust,  
Cooed in mournful note.

While one listens to the past,  
Upward to the arches cast  
A deep inquiring gaze,  
See those pond'rous columns scarred,  
See their outlines black and hard,  
Against the sky's grey haze.

Once around those cloistered piles,  
Once upon their burnished tiles,  
Ladies robes swept o'er;  
Where the Conquerer's armour rung,  
Where his shining longsword swung,  
Rasping on the floor.

Where the modern tourists stand,  
Gazing t'ward the distant land  
Below the wooded hills,  
Looking where the timbered ground  
Lies with winter's glory crowned  
Amongst the smoky mills.

Now in peace and solitude  
Ivy coats the turrets nude  
Quivering in the wind,  
Even in the stairways drear,  
Age has marked her every year,  
Musk and moisture's dripping tear  
Paint the spiralled strand.

Hov'ring high above the flow  
Of the Medway, swirling slow,  
Hangs the towered keep;  
On the changing rippling tide,  
Always does its shadow glide,  
Always does it pensive slide,  
Through the yellowed deep.

R. Westbrook.

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## THE BARTHOLDI STATUE OF LIBERTY.

NEW YORK HARBOUR.

M. Bartholdi's figure of Liberty stands without reckoning the diadem, 105 feet high, but the extreme height from the feet to the upper end of the torch held by the outstretched hand is 137 feet 9 inches.

The statue is placed on a pedestal of granite, which is 83 feet high. To those who like to be told, the letters "Tu es Petrus," running round the interior of the drum of the dome of St. Peter's at Rome, are as tall as a Life Guardsman; and the pen held by the Apostle St. Luke in one of the spandrills of the dome is 11ft. long. It is interesting to note that a person six feet in height, standing on the lips of M. Bartholdi's head of Liberty, can only just reach the eyebrow; that people can jump with ease in and out of the tip of the nose; and that the eyes measure from corner to corner, six feet.

F. J. Adley.

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## FINLAND.

We owe at least one debt to the Dictators—they have made us Geography conscious. In our island splendour few of us troubled about Addis Ababa, Almeria or Petsamo, until trouble overtook them. Finland is the latest country to be so revealed. What of its history? Since 1157 when the country was conquered by Sweden, the story of Finland has been written in the

blood of its people. Peter the Great reconquered the country in 1710—then it was divided between Russia and Sweden—and finally ceded by Sweden to the Tsarist Empire. Through this stormy period the Finns remained a united people ever-ready to fight for their liberty.

Though primitive in many ways, politically Finland was moving and so we find in 1916, after 50 years of Russification, that the Finnish Diet had a progressive Government. In 1918 the Bolshevik Government recognised Finnish independence. But Finland's troubles had hardly begun, for a White Army was formed by General Mannerheim, a Tsarist officer who gained his experience in the Russo-Japanese war, Germany lent some 12,000 troops, and there followed a period of reprisal, loot and slaughter, during which some 70,000 Finns were imprisoned and 15,000 killed.

In 1919 new elections were held, Mannerheim became Regent and the Moderate Socialists secured 80 seats out of 200 in the Diet. Russia signed a Peace Treaty in 1920 and ceded Petsamo to the Finns—their only ice-free port in the Arctic. Since then the country has progressed and yearly become more democratic and prosperous. The Fascists, strongly Nazi, were decisively defeated in the election of this year. Finland is remarkable in having single-chamber Government; though the President has a "time limited" veto. Everyone over 24 years of age can vote.

Finland is twice the size of Great Britain but has only 3¼ million inhabitants, mostly in agriculture and timbering. Of the population 11 per cent. are Swedes, who are mostly wealthy. In 1937 Finland sent us £22 million of timber, paper and provisions; we sent them £6 million in coal, machinery and textiles. Helsinki is a fine city, but one of the most important towns is Imatra on the west coast; which has a huge hydro-electric station and many iron furnaces. Finland has 50,000 lakes and it used to be a most pleasant summer holiday to watch their beauty from a deck chair on the numerous steamers available. In addition there are 17,000 miles of canals. Of recent years industrial conditions have been brought more into line with Sweden and Denmark, and an eight hour day is universal (but not in agriculture).

These are some of the features of Finland. Will they survive? Is Finland the cats-paw in the game of power politics? Has Russia a case? At this juncture we can only speculate, but we can say that this colourful country with its friendly people will leave us all poorer should it disappear.

A. M. W.



## OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

(SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT.)

In common with other organisations we were uncertain how we should continue when we met in September. Mr. Williams moved a resolution that every effort should be made to keep in being all useful activities of the Association; and expressing the view that the organisation would be of even greater use in maintaining relations between Old Boys during war. This resolution was unanimously adopted, and we have "carried on." One of our first duties was to keep a register of all Old Boys serving with the Forces, and every effort will be made to keep in touch with them. Special Christmas Greetings were sent to all our serving members.

It is with very great regret that we have to announce the death of our first Old Boy killed in the war, Mr. C. L. Waters, aged 24 years. To his parents we extend our deepest sympathy. Mr. Waters met his death a few days after war started in September while on active service with the Navy. He was a keen sportsman, playing in the winning team of the King's Cup Competition in 1937 and 1938. He scored the only 2 goals in the first match. He played for Aylesford Paper Mills and occasionally for Tovil. He held the best bowling and cricket averages for the Postley Works cricket team.

We append here a list of Old Boys with the Forces. Those with asterisk have sent their service addresses to the Hon. Secretary, who will gladly give details to any who care to write. Letters are much appreciated under the circumstances.

1, \*W. J. Beale, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves. 2, B. Finn, Sergeant, R.A.F. 3, P. Hinton, R.A.F., Egypt. 4, \*P. Randall, Royal Navy. 5, \*K. Morgan, Army, R.A. 6, K. Froud, Civil Air Guard, expected to train as a pilot. 7, A. Berry, R.A.F. 8, D. Black, R.A.F. 9, A. Harrison, R.A.F. 10, L. Codling, Royal Navy. 11, D. Fraser, Mercantile Marine. 12, \*R. Young, Mercantile Marine. 13, H. Hogg, R.A.F. (Leading Aircraftman). 14, I. Thorpe, Army, R.A.M.C. 15, \*R. Rickard, Army, R.A.S.C. 16, E. Rowcroft, Army. 17, H. Cox, Army, R.A.C.S. 18, A. H. Wallace, Army. 19, \*R. Ashby, Army, R.A. 20, L. Beale, Army, R.A.M.S. 21, M. Langly, R.A.F. (Civil Air Guard). 22, W. Jones, Army, Egypt. 23, \*R. Yuill, Royal Navy. 25, \*L. Noakes, Army. 26, R. J. Harle, Army. 27, F. Wiffen, Army. 28, C. Jessup, Army. 29, S. Beale, R.A.F., Pilot. 30, G. Ashby, R.A.F.

This list is probably incomplete as difficulty is experienced in tracing some cases. The Gen. Secretary would be glad to have further particulars about any Old Boy. Fresh names will be added in each issue of the Magazine.

Members will be pleased to learn that J. Stockbridge is now rapidly recovering from his serious cycling accident.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. D. Potts last September. Congratulations. They are living at Nottingham.

Wedding Bells. The fashion of marriages started last August seems to continue. We are pleased to record the following weddings:—On 18th November, at St. Luke's Church, Mr. H. Cox; at Royston, Mr. Finn and Miss Lilly; recently Mr. Bodium at Boxley. To all we send our congratulations and very best wishes for future happiness. We only regret that we have not received more complete details.

We are also pleased to announce that E. Tomsett has been awarded a year's scholarship at the Art School. Well done.

Old Boys sporting activities have been somewhat curtailed but we are pleased to publish this report from Mr. Hughes who is now Sports' Secretary in place of Mr. E. Bowler, who is engaged upon war work. We should like to thank Mr. Bowler for his excellent services to the Football Section.

### OLD McCABIANS FOOTBALL CLUB.

"We have only been able to play two games for the first part of the season, (1) against Tilling-Stevens F.C., which we lost 7—0, and (2) against the Air Cadets' Corps, which was a draw 2—2. Some of our players have been called up, and others have joined League Teams, but we have been able to turn out quite a representative team with the help of several of our younger members. We have suffered since our League did not function this year. We hope for better times, and shall certainly keep going. We have arranged for the following matches during the next half:—v. Loose Vale, v. Tilling-Stevens, v. Boughton. Any reader who can help us to fix further games would be serving us greatly."

E. Hughes.

Chess activities continue and Mr. P. G. Anderson is a hard working Secretary. The Chess Section meets in the Royal Star Hotel on Monday and Thursday evening by the courtesy of the Maidstone Chess Club. New members will be cordially welcome. To many Chess affords a great relief during time of stress.

Once more we must thank Miss Filmer for all her great help in duplicating the Association's letters. There has been much of this work recently, and we are extremely grateful.

We have received many requests that the Annual Re-union should take place as usual. Accordingly this event will be at the Royal Star Hotel on Tuesday, February 6th. We hope everyone will make this function its customary success. Owing to the kindness of the Manager the price will remain at 3/-. Please book February 6th at the Royal Star Hotel. The Association invites all Old Boys serving with the Forces to be their guests.

LATE NOTE.—As we go to Press we have just heard the following reports:—R. Rickard is considered the best shot in his section. D. Fraser is acting as gunner and while at sea hopes to account for an enemy submarine. B. Finn has been on a number of important flying duties.

A. M. W. H. H.

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*Every effort will be made to maintain the Magazine in its present form during the war. We hope we shall be supported by all O.B's and friends of the School. Subscription 2/6, with O.B. membership 3/6. New subscribers welcomed.*

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