



The School Magazine

OF THE

MAIDSTONE

COMMERCIAL

SCHOOL.

Vol. XI. No. 32.

May. 1941.

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# MAIDSTONE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

Vol. XI. No. 32.

May, 1941.

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

*"Hands across the sea,  
Feet on English ground  
The old blood is bold blood the wide world round."  
—Byron Webber.*

## SCHOOL HISTORY.

The School Calendar is as follows:—

- Thurs. 1st May. Term begins.
- Tues. 27th May. R.A.F. entrance examination.
- Mon. 2nd June. Whit Monday.
- Tues. 10th June. Concert and Prize giving.
- Mon. 23rd June. Half-term begins.
- Tues. 24th June. O.B.A. Meeting.
- Mon. 30th June. College of Preceptors examinations.
- Mon. 14th July. School examinations begin.
- Wed. 16th July. Sports Day.
- Wed. 30th July. End of term.
- Wed. 17th Sept. Christmas term begins.
- Wed. 17th Dec. Term ends.

## SALVETE.

- No. 317. P. B. Bolas, Prep. St. Peter's.
- No. 318. P. M. Bolas, Prep. St. Peter's.
- No. 319. B. Gray, Prep. School.
- No. 320. A. A. Wicken, Prep. St. Peter's.
- No. 321. P. E. Sands, VI. St. Augustine's.
- No. 322. V. A. Sands, Prep. St. Augustine's.
- No. 323. B. M. Fletcher, V. St. Augustine's.
- No. 324. M. J. Suttaby, IVa. School.
- No. 325. P. Wilcox, IVa. St. Augustine's.



## VALETE.

H. N. B. Pullen, 4 years at School, has obtained a clerical appointment at the County Police Headquarters, Sutton Road. A popular captain of St. Peter's House, and a good athlete. College of Preceptors Junior Honours Certificate (1940) 9 subjects. School Librarian.

J. P. Pearson, who first joined the school in 1934, has accepted a post with Messrs. Hall & Co., Accountants. He was a useful member of St. Augustine's.

J. E. Mayger, 5 years, has entered the offices of the Hollingbourne Rural District Council. A loyal member of St. Peter's house.

W. S. Hamilton has returned to Scotland. He has only had 2 terms with us in St. Augustine's house. We deeply regret to learn of his father's sudden illness and death.

Owing to war conditions the spring and autumn examinations for school scholarships were amalgamated and the test took place on Saturday, 29th March. F. Skinner obtained first place and R. Sloman second place.

We much regret the difficulty in obtaining caps, ties and stockings in the correct school colours. Parents will readily realise that the fault is not ours. Text-books and stationery are also both dearer and rarer.

The National Savings movement is in a healthy condition. £59/12/4 in stamps and £14/5/0 in certificates was the total for the term. Our aim is to save £5 a week. We exceeded this figure on 6 occasions last term.

Owing to the difficulty in booking the Corn Exchange and 'black-out' restrictions, we have deemed it advisable to defer the Annual School Concert until June 10th. A full programme will be arranged and we hope to have the usual crowded 'house.'

Despite war conditions the Spring term just concluded has been one of the most successful in the history of the School. Numbers continue to be satisfactory. Much hard work has been put in, and we have had some triumphs at Football—thanks to Tubb's enthusiasm. We shall have several candidates for public examinations this term and wish them all success.

It may come as a shock to some of our old friends when they know that we now have several girls in the School. Owing to the closing of Schools and other difficulties we were approached, and so far the experiment has worked well, and we believe all concerned are quite happy.

In addition to our continued efforts for National Savings we have maintained our collections for local hospitals.

During the term Mr. Williams gave us a lecture on the Neurath method of Pictorial Statistics which was much appreciated. The Lecture was illustrated with a unique collection of lantern slides.

Services were held at the beginning and end of term. The Rev. Watkins conducted the first, and the Vicar of St. Peter's the Rev. Cooper the latter. We much enjoyed the helpful addresses on both occasions.

Copies of the Football XI photograph taken by the Kent Messenger are available.

All gas masks were inspected by the Borough officials, and the School was congratulated upon the excellent condition of the great majority of masks. Remember always take your mask,

The cricket XI this year should be a strong one with such stalwarts as Tubb and Walker. Some practice has been put in and the Secretary, R. Knight, has arranged some interesting fixtures. We hope to play an Old Boys XI and repeat last year's School Victory. Several members of the 4th form should get their places.

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Once more we broadcast the notice about swimming. We shall have a special period at the Baths, and the School will pay for all boys who wish to take lessons, and will award a badge to all who pass the simple test at the end of term. The ability to swim may save your life, and, in any case, it is a splendid sport.

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If circumstances permit, we intend to hold the Annual Sports. Full details will be announced later.

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Several boys are taking typewriting with Miss L. Filmer, and we hope to increase their number. For those intending an office career we strongly advise a course.

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Lastly we must again thank our loyal advertisers. Their co-operation helps to make this issue possible, and we urge all our readers to support them.

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### UPPER SCHOOL NOTES.

Three Mottoes were selected during the term.

"A drop of ink may make a million think." J. Gibson.

"Don't wait for opportunity, make it." J. Gibson.

"A small leak will sink a big ship." P. King.

As French text this term we have been reading the newspaper of the Free French Forces "France." Besides showing the real connection between grammar and the ability to translate, the actual news and views are interesting, and the innovation has proved popular.

The English literature for the year is as follows:—Julius Cæsar, Stevenson's "An Inland Voyage." Southey's "Life of Nelson." and Dicken's "Oliver Twist."

J. Gibson has shown much skill in carving small models of ships from fire wood.

Excellent work has been done in connection with Special Study Books and we hope Mrs. Piper will again undertake the onerous task of judging.

The Forms' thanks are due to Lederer for carefully keeping mark records, to Barham for his work in arranging debates, to Fernig for attending to all Footballs, to Howard for looking after cricket gear, to Walker, Chess Secretary, to Gibson, Motto Secretary, and to P. King for many useful services.

### FOOTBALL.

This term we have played many practice games which were well attended by the keen boys.

St. Peter's v. St. Augustine's, 13th February. St. Peter's won 5—1 goals. Fernig and Swan attacked well for St. Augustine's. Pullen and Lederer defended, with Shelden, Veitch and Gibson. Sykes scored for St. Augustine's.

20th February, School v. St. Peter's. Extremely fast game, but St. Peter's were stronger than School and won 9—1 goals. Tubb scored for School. St. Peter's scorers:—Sheldon 5, Veitch 2, Budge 2.

22nd February. 1st XI v. British Legion Village. We won easily by 5—0 goals. We were hard-pressed in the first half. With the wind behind us we scored all our goals in the second half. Scorers:— Veitch 2, Tubb 2, Shelden 1.



15th March. Ditton v. 1st XI. An exciting game. Ditton were winning 2—0 goals at the end of the 1st half. In the second half, with a combination of Shelden, Veitch, Swan and Viner, Shelden evened the scores.

13th March. School v. St. Augustine's. School won 4—3 goals. It was a very fast game. Fernig, Wilcox, Swan and Viner played well for St. Augustine's attackers. St. Augustine's scorers:— Fernig, Swan, Wilcox.

Tubb scored 4 for School.

25th March, 1st XI v. West Borough. A most exciting game. West Borough were a good 'passing' team. They were leading 2—0 goals at end of 1st half. Shelden evened the scores in the second half with two brilliant shots.

T. Tubb.

## INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHY.

### "A VISIT TO LYLES MINERAL WATERS."

On the afternoon of Monday, April 7th, a party of boys accompanied by Mr. Williams visited "Lyles Mineral Waters" factory.

Before showing us round Mr. Lyle gave us a brief outline of the history of the firm.

It was established in 1870, in Earl Street. From there it moved to the "Bell," Church Street, and then to its present building in King Street.

The first machine visited was the bottle-washer. First the bottles are placed in warm water. Then put on revolving brushes also removing the labels at the same time. Next they are twice rinsed by cold water jets.

From there we moved over to the machine that mixes the gas with water, at a pressure of 130 lbs per sq. inch.

Three filling machines were seen in action. The first was filling lemonade bottles at the rate of 80 to 120 dozen an hour. The other machine was filling small bottles with "Ritzo." Beside this machine was another which put crown caps on the bottles. It is hydraulic and controlled by the foot. "Still" lemons were seen being filled by hand at the rate of 40 dozen an hour.

The Research room was next visited. Here the essences (60 different kinds) are made into a syrup by mixing sugar, water and OTHER THINGS with the essences.

After the research room we had a pleasant surprise in the shape of a bottle of "Ritzo" each. To some this was not the interesting part of the visit!!!

One very intriguing factor was the rapidity by which the labels were attached to the bottles.

To conclude Mr. Lyle took us over the old factory and store rooms where cigarettes, tobacco, biscuits, vinegar and glasses are kept.

We are exceedingly grateful to Mr. Lyle for the interesting visit and the clarity with which he explained the details.

R. J. Knight.

The two Upper School girls distinguished themselves by 'knocking' back their "Ritzos" with surprising ease and rapidity.

## CHESS.

### CHESS CHALLENGE CUP.

The Chess Tournament in the Upper School was held as usual this year. The results were as follows:—In the first round, Pearson beat Fernig, Walker beat King, Tubb beat Gibbons, Knight beat Howard, Davis beat Gibson, Finn beat Cheeseman, Barham drew Magyer, in first game, Barham beat Magyer second game, Lederer Bye.

Second round: Knight beat Finn, Lederer beat Tubb, Davis beat Walker, Pearson beat Barham.

Third round, (Semi-final). Davis beat Knight, Lederer beat Pearson.

In the Fourth round (Final) Davis beat Lederer (2 games). A very keen contest. Well done Davis.

CHESS HOUSE CUP.

The results are as follows:—St. Peter's 60 points, St. Augustine's 20 points, School 10 points.

The result was a fore-gone conclusion as the three best players, Knight, Pullen, Lederer are in St. Peter's.

A new Chess board was bought with money collected by the Club.

A keen interest has been shown throughout the term.

L. Walker, Chess Secretary.

## KNITTING WOOLS.

In spite of severe Government restriction of supply, LODER and PAYNES continue to offer adequate amounts of knitting wool at their usual competitive prices.

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## WORD PICTURES.

### MINESWEEPERS.

Dusk is coming, the clouds in the west are blood-red, while in the east they are a dark blue. Between these colours there are all shades of pink and mauve. The sea is a grey colour and covered with short choppy waves. On these rides a lonely minesweeper. It is a converted trawler and its shabby and battered sides show that it has been at sea for a long time. On the foredeck a 4-inch gun is mounted, which equally can be used as Anti-Aircraft gun, or against submarines. Two of the crew stand beside it, while others stand along the railing with rifles at the ready. They are waiting for any mines that may bob up before the sweeping wire. The latter is fastened at the bow of the trawler and goes to a paravane, the steering arrangement of which keeps it always at the same distance from the ship. It is torpedo shaped and has a flag on top to show its position. The wire lies some distance below the surface, ready to cut the mooring cables of any mine in its path. Its front edge is specially sharpened and strengthened for this purpose.

Black smoke is pouring from the trawler's funnel as it ploughs through the water, leaving a long line of foam behind it. In the distance a long white line on the water denotes the cliffs of England. High in the sky three small spots may be British fighters or German bombers. The skipper has his binoculars at his eyes, keeping a steady lookout for enemy planes and submarines. Now and again he looks at the three distant planes trying to identify them. But the dusk is gathering quickly and visibility is reduced until darkness has fallen and the trawler vanishes in the night.

T. F. Lederer.

### EVENSONG.

In the dim interior of the village church evensong is in progress.

The rays of the setting sun scintillate on everything within reach, the stained glass making the radiant sunbeams even more magnificent.

The choir, consisting of six boys and 10 men are arrayed in white apparel. The hymns are being sung with an air of reverence. The huge candles are glimmering and showing a pale yellow glow which is cast upon the gloriously embroidered Altar cloth. The Gold Cross in the middle is reflecting the rays of candles which even penetrate to the enormous stained oak beams. The congregation is varied. All the village folk turn up in best dress. The village butcher is there, ruddy of countenance with his new black suit. The village schoolmistress is also present in a high hat with numerous feathers thereupon arrayed. At the back, in his private pew the verger is waiting with the bags for collection. In the pulpit the vicar stands, a sincere and much loved man. All these quaint folk are here, they have sat so on Sundays for years.

This is the scene in this small village repeated every week and will continue to do so as long as these village folk remain.

E. A. Barham.

### MARKET DAY.

Hoarse shouts of auctioneers intermingle with the shrill cries of bidders and attendants. Grunts from pigs and old fogies clash with the ceaseless cackling and quacking of poultry, neighing horses combine with bellowing bulls, lowing cows, and bleating sheep in building up the usual atmosphere of a market. Cheap-jacks scream out the particular virtues of their own individual wares and the vices of their opponents wares. Fruit and vegetable vendors hold up bunches of bananas, and grapes, and knock off a banana or grape, as the case may be, every time they lower the price. Fish, meat, clothing, crockery and many other commodities are sold at cut rates. The proprietors of these stalls soon selling out.

Ironmongery, saddlery, harness and farm implements of all types, from a tractor and plough, to a garden trowel, from a

dog's to a horse's collar, and from a billhook to a reaper and binder, are on sale at big markets. Representatives of seed firms, corn and coal merchants, implement makers, and brewers, can always be found in their regular haunts. Cattle and sheep conveyors range alongside private lorries, cars with trailers, and motor bikes, in the car park. Small-holders brush shoulders with farmers and mighty landowners in the Refreshment Bar. So a market represents one of the noisiest and busiest places in the world.

R. J. Knight.

### LIBRARY.

The library has been quite well supported this term.

Twenty six boys joined, a large proportion from the third form. Books this term have been presented by G. Cheeseman, W. Gibbons, B. Fernig.

B. Fernig, T. Tubb.

### DEBATES.

Some interesting debates took place this term. The first debate resulted in an overwhelming majority for the opposition. The subject was "Should we have a Gestapo in this country?" which was defeated by 15 to 2 votes.

The next was very popular and more evenly balanced. "Should Games be Compulsory?" during which several excellent ideas were revealed. Voting showed that the motion was lost by 9 votes to 7. Then followed a revival of the old subject Swing v. Classics, which showed a majority for the former. 11-7. This was followed by "Should Prefects be allowed to Punish?" This motion resulted in a draw.

A topical feature was "That modern industrial advance is spoiling the beauty of the countryside." The result proved that it was, by 12 votes to 5. On the whole the debates were very popular and the form was indebted to P. King for his staunch support. Also to Mr. Williams for acting as chairman.

(E. A. Barham.)

### OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

The following are additions to the list of Old Boys serving in the Forces:—63, Ewart Haywood; 64, Alan Sturt, R.A.P.C.; 65, Harold Bradfield; 66, F. Large, Army; 67, W. Spurgeon, Army; 68, D. Noakes, R.A.F.; 69, R. S. Brett, R.A.F.; 70, E. J. Wood, Army; 71, E. G. Hughes, R.A.F.; 72, G. Goodman, R.A.F.; 73 C. Larkin, R.A.F.; 74 N. Stevenson, Navy; 75, K. Mace, Army; 76, G. K. Reynolds, R.A.F.; 77, G. H. Goodchild, R.S.; 78, H. W. W. Parker, Life Guards. We shall be glad to hear news of other Old Boys serving in the Forces, and hope to maintain contact with them.

Although a raid took place during the evening we maintained the holding of the Annual Dinner, and a most enjoyable time ensued. We thought of our absent friends, especially those in the Services and look forward to the time when we shall all celebrate at the Peace Dinner. The following account is from the "Kent Messenger."

"A good gathering, especially of younger members, attended the Commercial School O.B.A. annual dinner at the Royal Star Hotel, on Wednesday last week. Mr. Alan J. Wood presided and in welcoming the company said as there were nearly 80 members in H.M. Forces, the attendance was very good. Mr. V. F. S. Brett, a vice-president, proposed "Old Boys in the Forces and Absent Friends." Mr. Brett thanked the Association for electing him a vice-president, a position he was proud to accept. The O.B.A., said Mr. Brett, had given boys to the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force, both in this war and in 1914-18. Old boys of the school were to be found all over the world, in all the Services, and the Association was proud of them. Mr. Rand, hon. Treasurer, proposed "The School." He, personally, felt they owed so much to Mr. Piper, who had planned their education, and he believed that they could not have had a better master than Mr. Williams in the Upper School. Mr. Piper,



principal, who responded, said they were proud of their old boys. The rising generation had the same ambitions and hopes and the same spirit of occasional mischief. He believed they were the only school in Maidstone area to have worked full time since the beginning of the war. They had better examination results, getting two honour certificates this year. They had collected £4 to £5 in War Savings, each week. Mr. D. P. Martin, vice-president, proposed "The Old Boys" Association and younger members." Mr. Williams, hon. secretary, in reply, said the Association had traced more than 700 names of old boys and they hoped to have them all at the peace dinner. More than 100 members had joined in the last four years. He referred to many humorous incidents in the history of the Association. Mr. Westbrook, O.B.A. Football XI. Captain suitably replied. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Rand, (piano), Mr. Sachree (accordian), and Messrs. Williams, Westbrook and E. Knott (humorous sketch)."

The Annual Meeting took place on Tuesday, 28th January. All the officers were re-elected with the following additions:— Mr. D. P. Martin, Vice-Chairman, E. Knott, Assistant Sec., F. Adley, Assistant Treasurer; Sports Secretary, T. W. Westbrook.

We are very glad that Mr. Wood continues to be our Chairman.

The Football Section of the Old Boys continues. We are pleased to publish the following report from W. Westbrook, Captain:—

#### OLD McCABIANS F.C.

This season has not been to us, I am afraid, an epoch of victory. It may sadly disappoint our armchair fans to hear that we did not win one League match, but, to console their unhappy hearts, it may be mentioned that besides two draws we had some very close games as the season ended. This result

is not so surprising when one considers this is our maiden appearance in the under-eighteen League, and too, that when a team adopts the unfortunate and sometimes consistent habit of playing ten men the goal-scale is apt to unbalance.

But no more excuses, it is undoubtedly our own fault and, as time progresses, matters will rearrange themselves accordingly. More momentous news is the loss of our best ball. This was expeditiously removed at Ditton on March 15th by unknown forces.

Friendlies were played against Boughton, Fremilns, Army Eleven from Sandling and Ditton Barracks. In the last two matches against Ditton Barracks we joined forces with Ditton and with ten men (five from each of our teams) we beat them 6—3. Our triumph was shortlived. At the return match they had their revenge.

I hear it reported from semi-official quarters that we occur at the bottom of the League, but do not be disheartened, co-fans, co-players, co-optimists, WE ARE NOT DEFEATED.

R. W. Westbrook, (Sports Sec.)

Westbrook is also trying to organise a Tennis Tournament for our younger members. This is excellent news. We hope to keep all our activities going so that after the war we can go forward with great success.

We have been very pleased to see the following during the term:—

E. Shaw (R.A.F.) on leave; D. Bradley (R.N) off to Africa; D. Smith, waiting to join R.A.F.; J. Piper (R.A.) looking very fit and who has finished all his special training. N. Stevenson, (R.N.) from H.M.S. Hood. F. Tolput, (R.A.P.C.) on leave; J. Birchall (R.A.) on leave; H. Parker, now in Life Guards; H. Hooker, (A.A.) on leave. W. Tucker, W. Ashton, and J. Thirkell also called to see us.

We should like to offer our congratulations to S. Reynolds who was married in Yorkshire on February 15th. Further details not yet to hand.

We hear that C. Jessup is in Iceland and that A. Harrison is flying a bomber. We send them the best of luck!

We shall be glad to have details of the activities of any Old Boy for inclusion in this magazine.

A.M.W., E.K.

*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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