

HORRIS HILL - 2016



Old Boys' Newsletter

Welcome to the 2016 Horris Hill OB newsletter. It is with sadness that we record the death of Jimmy Stow who passed away this year. In this edition we also remember those OB who died during 1916 in France, Turkey and East Africa.

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Jimmy Stow 1920-2016



2016 for the benefit of the wider school community. About 150 OB attended a service in the chapel led by the Reverend **Andrew Lenox-Conyngham (53-57)**. The organist was **Robert Law (66-71)**. The choir sang *Ave Verum Corpus*. Speakers at the Service were William Stow and **Simon Barber (78-83)**. The Service ended with the Founders Prayer read by **Ian Maclure (42-47)**.

The Service was followed by a reception on the Headmaster's lawn. Many OB renewed their acquaintances and took the opportunity to look round the school with the boarding houses being open to visit. The Maclure Room was also a popular venue where there was a special exhibition of memorabilia from Jimmy's life and times at Horris Hill.

Jimmy Stow sadly passed away in his sleep at the Sutton Scotney nursing home on 30 April 2016. A family service was held at Newtown Parish Church on 14 May 2016 and the Horris Hill School choir sang *Ave Verum Corpus*. The lesson readers were Anne Stow, Jimmy's sister-in-law, and **John Hodgkinson (51-56)**. Speakers at the Service were William Stow, nephew of Jimmy, who recalled aspects of family life and **Patrick Maclure (47-52)** who spoke of Jimmy's wartime exploits.

It was quickly agreed with Mary Stow that there would be a Service of Thanksgiving for Jimmy's life at Horris Hill School on Saturday 24 September



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Remembering Horris Hill OB – 1916

The war during 1916 was dominated by the Battle of the Somme. Horris Hill Old Boys also saw action at sea off Jutland, on the battlefields in Turkey, Iraq

and in East and West Africa, and in the air over France. Twenty six Horris Hill OB perished during 1916.

Alfred William Waterhouse (1898-1903) went on to Charterhouse. His brother was the architect for the New Hall (chapel) built in 1938. Alfred was a Captain in the 1st (Royal) Dragoons and was awarded the MC. He was killed in action on 12th January 1916 and is buried at Vermelles British Cemetery in grave reference III. B. 4.

John Alexander Thynne (Viscount Weymouth) (1905-1909) went on to Winchester. He was the eldest son and heir of Thomas Henry Thynne, KG, CB, PC, fifth Marquess of Bath and Violet Thynne, nee Mordaunt, daughter of Sir Charles Mordaunt.



Viscount Weymouth obtained a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry in December 1914, and went on to serve in 2nd Dragoons (The Royal Scots Greys), arriving at the front in the late autumn of 1915. He fell in action on 13th February 1916 near

Hulluck, while engaged with his squadron in strengthening a recently captured position. He died of his wounds the same day. He had only been at the front four months and had been due to go on leave. He lies in grave II.C.I of the Vermelles British Cemetery.

Caradoc Trevor David Berrington (1894-1896) was a Captain in the 15th Lancers (Cureton's Multanis) and was attached to C Bty 86th Brigade Royal Field Artillery. He was killed in action on 10th March 1916 and is buried at La Gorgue Communal Cemetery in grave reference II. B. 11.

Hugh Guy Daniel Clutterbuck (1903-1906) joined the Ceylon Rifles in 1913 and was later a 2nd Lieutenant in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers attached to 2nd Battalion 7th Gurkha Rifles. He fought in Egypt in the attack on Suez Canal and in Mesopotamia at the battles of Shaba-Rasiviyah, the advance up the Tigris, Sannaiyat, and the attempted relief of Kut. He was severely wounded on the Tigris on 22nd February 1916. He rejoined his battalion, with a bullet in his leg, on 7th April and was killed in action at the Battle of Beit Ayesha on 17th April 1916. His burial place is unknown, in a

trench at Beit Ayesha. He is commemorated on Panels 43 and 65 on the Basra Memorial.

(Ed. note: The Basra Memorial commemorates more than 40,500 members of the Commonwealth forces who died in the operations in Mesopotamia from the autumn of 1914 to the end of August 1921 and whose graves are not known. Until 1997 the Basra Memorial was located on the main quay of the naval dockyard at Maqil, on the west bank of the Shatt-al-Arab, about 8 kilometres north of Basra. Because of the sensitivity of the site, the Memorial was moved by presidential decree. The move, carried out by the authorities in Iraq, involved a considerable amount of manpower, transport costs and sheer engineering on their part, and the Memorial has been re-erected in its entirety. The Basra Memorial is now located 32 kilometres along the road to Nasiriyah, in the middle of what was a major battleground during the first Gulf War).

John Archibald Kemp (1900-1903) was commissioned as a Lieutenant into the Royal Navy and was serving on HMS Tipperary when it was sunk on 1st June 1916 by 5.9-inch (150 mm) fire from the secondary battery of the German dreadnought SMS *Westfalen* with the loss of 185 hands from her crew of 197 during the Battle of Jutland. The official history recounts: "Captain Wintour and the leading boats of his solitary flotilla were aware of a shadowy line of ships to starboard



on a converging course. Whether they were friend or foe it was impossible to tell, and he held on for some minutes with all torpedo tubes trained to starboard. Still they made no sign, and at last, as they were evidently drawing ahead of him and had closed to less than 1,000 yards, he ventured to give the challenge. Salvoes, accurate and rapid, at point blank followed instantaneously, and in a minute the

Tipperary burst into flames, almost lost to sight in brilliantly illuminated splashes. Yet she fired both her torpedoes. The four boats of her division did the same, and so did the *Broke*. Explosions were plainly seen; there were gaps in the line of staring searchlights. How many hits were made is uncertain, but one at least of the cruisers received her death blow. All that man could do Captain Wintour had done, but he was now no more. The first salvo had swept away the *Tipperary's* bridge, on which he stood, and she was left a mass of burning wreckage". He is commemorated on Panel 11 on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Sir Edward Harry Macnaghten (1906-1908)

went on to Eton College. He was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) attached to the 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916, at the Battle of Albert on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He is commemorated on Pier and Face 10A on the Thiepval Memorial.

Arthur Basil Kembell Cook (1896-1898) went on to Winchester where he won the Warden and Fellows' Prize for English Verse, and in 1904 went up to New College, Oxford, with a Classical Scholarship, graduating in 1908. He decided on a career in architecture, working for a time in the office of Mr. William Douglas Caroe, and was awarded the Architectural Association's medal for



an essay on "Colour in Architecture". He was determined to seek military service, and in February 1915 obtained a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London), reaching the front in the following October. He fell at Ovillers on 7th July

1916, during the Battle of the Somme. It is not entirely clear what happened but it would seem that he was either the victim of machine gun fire or his trench took a direct hit from a shell. His body was never found. He is commemorated on Pier and Face 8C, 9A and 16A on the Thiepval Memorial.

Anthony Dawson (1905-1910) went on to Winchester. He left in December 1914 and obtained a commission with 5th Battalion, Rifle



Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) and was attached to the 2nd Battalion when he was killed by a shell which landed near Vermelles Church on 13th July 1916. He is buried in grave reference IV. G. 31. in the Vermelles British Cemetery.

Robert Colin Boyd (1902-1907) went on to Harrow School. He was a Captain in the 8th Battalion Devonshire Regiment and was killed in action on 14th July 1916 at the Battle of Bazentin Ridge. He is buried at the Flatiron Copse cemetery at Mametz in grave reference XI. H. 9.

Geoffrey Hugh Alington (1898-1903) was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. He was killed in action on 9th August 1916 during the Battle of Pozieres. He is buried at the Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension in grave reference II. F. 8.

George Futvoye Marsden-Smedley (1906-1911) went on to Harrow School and Trinity College



Cambridge. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own). He went to the Front in July 1916 just before his 19th birthday, and 25 days later on 18th August 1916 he was killed in action. He led his platoon in the attack on Guillemont Station.

Having been themselves heavily shelled all day, three companies went forward under a creeping barrage crossing no-man's-land with little loss until they met stiff resistance from the strong point around the Station. "The enemy's garrison was determined and courageous and there was a fierce hand-to-hand fight..." Marsden-Smedley reportedly charged a machine gun which was holding up the Company and "After shooting one of the men he

was shot by a German Officer and fell on the parapet of the German trench." Despite having a newly displayed identification disc his body was never found. His father, J B Marsden-Smedley made strenuous efforts to trace George's body but to no avail. However, he pinpointed the spot where George was last seen and purchased a small piece of land upon which a memorial was erected within a small walled garden covering some 10 square metres, which is now in the midst of a cornfield.

(Ed. Note. John Smedley Ltd very kindly sent the school a copy of the book 'Dear Mr Marsden-Smedley – A tribute to The Men of Lea Mills, the Smedley Family and the Family Estate who served in the Great War 1914-1918').

James Yuill Scott (1891-1894) went on to Haileybury. He was a Lieutenant in the 10th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) and was killed in action on 3rd September 1916 during the Battle of Pozieres. He is commemorated on Pier and Face 16 B and 16 C of the Thiepval Memorial.

John Fitzhardinge Paul Butler (1898-1901) went on to Wellington. He was a Captain in the 2nd Battalion Kings Rifle Corps attached to the Gold Coast Regiment W.A.F.F when he won his Victoria Cross. An extract from "The London Gazette dated



23rd Aug., 1915, records the following: "For most conspicuous bravery in the Cameroons, West Africa. On 17th November 1914, with a party of 13 men, he went into the thick bush and at once attacked the enemy, in

strength about 100, including several Europeans, defeated them, and captured their machine gun and many loads of ammunition. On 27th December 1914, when on patrol duty with a few men, he swam the Ekam River, which was held by the enemy, and in the face of a brisk fire, completed his reconnaissance on the further bank, and returned in safety. Two of his men were wounded while he was actually in the water". In 1916 the Gold Coast Regiment sailed from Accra, Ghana for Dar-Es-Salaam in Tanganyika (now Tanzania). He won his DSO in the Regiment's first action in East Africa near the Matombo Mission. He died of his wounds on 5th September 1916 and is buried in the

Morogoro Cemetery (195 km west of Dar-Es-Salaam) in grave reference III. C. 3, his remains having been moved there in 1924 from the Matombo Mission.

Charles Herbert Hills (1904-1907) was a 2nd Lieutenant in 3rd Battalion, The Manchester Regiment. He died of wounds on 5th September 1916 and is buried in the Dartmoor Cemetery at Becordel-Becourt in grave reference 1. A. 27.

Archibald William Robertson Don (1900-1904)

While at Horris Hill and during a holiday in Switzerland in 1903 he "strained his heart" and as a result was forbidden to play games or take part in any violent exercise. He went on to Winchester and then to Trinity College, Cambridge in 1909 reading natural sciences and specialising in geology. In 1912 he became a Fellow of the Geological Society.



He decided on a career in medicine and was about to start work at St. Bartholomew's Hospital when the war broke out. The Red Cross were urgently recruiting surgical dressers to serve in France and Don volunteered immediately, going to France with a Red

Cross Motor Ambulance. He found the work unsatisfying, so in December 1914 he applied for a commission and was gazetted into the 10th Battalion Black Watch, in which his brother also served. In 1914 he had joined the Union of Democratic Control (a pacifist society) which had 300,000 members by 1915. As a serving officer he was criticised for this and eventually resigned his membership. Don's Battalion was posted to Salonika at the end of 1915 where he took the opportunity in quiet moments to further his study of geology and archaeology. On 16th July 1916 he fell ill with malaria and was sent to hospital at Salonika but was largely better after a few days and by September felt fully recovered. However on 11th September he died of a sudden reoccurrence of the illness and was buried in grave O.12 of the Lembet Road Military Cemetery, Salonika.

Charles Blair-Wilson (1904-1907) went on to Winchester. In May 1914 aged 19, he went to



Canada to work in a chartered accountant's office, probably in Montreal, and when war broke out immediately joined the Canadian 5th Royal Highlanders at Montreal as a Lieutenant. They were quickly absorbed into 42nd (Royal

Highlanders of Canada) Battalion and Blair-Wilson was assigned to D Company. They were ordered to England on 10th June 1915, landing at Plymouth on 19th June and travelling to Shorncliffe, near Folkestone where they spent the next two and a half months refining their skills and using the Hythe ranges for firing practice. On 2nd September 1915 they were inspected by the King. Arriving in France in October, he attended a machine gun training school and then acted for a period as battalion machine gun officer. The Battalion saw major action in June 1916 in the Ypres Salient. He was promoted to Captain in June 1916 and to Major in July 1916, and by now was in command of B Company. He was greatly admired by his men, and a fellow officer wrote of him: "From the day he joined he took hold of his work in a serious way, and as the months went by we learned more and more how capable he was and absolutely reliable. During the last months he has had a great deal of very responsible work, which he always undertook and carried out well and quietly. 'Blair' had a wonderful quiet, cool courage with the power of doing the right thing at the right time and set always a splendid example to all." By September 1916 the Battalion had been moved to the Somme, and were allocated to attack at Flers-Courcelette on 15th September where tanks were to be used for the first time on the battlefield. His Company were digging in along "Monquet Road" under heavy fire when he was killed instantly by shell fire, although in a letter written to his mother by 13 NCOs of his company they state that he was killed by machine gun fire, not a shell. The same letter says that to describe him as "A hero of the Somme is no flattery". Despite having suffered the loss of almost half their number, his men brought his body back with them for burial. His funeral took place at 8.30 in the morning of 18th

September and is described in the Battalion History thus: "At 8:30 in the morning of 18th September the Battalion paraded to attend the funeral of Captain Charles Blair-Wilson whose body had been reverently carried out of the line by the surviving members of his company. Captain Blair-Wilson was a debonair young officer whose life was full of promise and his loss was very keenly felt by all ranks. His funeral service at the cemetery in Albert, conducted by Captain Kilpatrick in the pouring rain while trucks, limbers, ambulances and the endless traffic of war moved unceasingly along the nearby road, was deeply impressive. As the pipes swelled with the mournful strain of the Lament and as the notes of the Last Post rang out, the little company of survivors sorrowed not only for the gallant officer then being buried, but also for the others of their comrades who had given up their lives during the preceding days." He lies in grave I.M.2 of the Albert Communal Cemetery Extension. He was not the only Wykehamist to die that day on the Somme: ten others were killed or mortally wounded.

Sir Arthur Douglas Macnaghten (1906-1909) went on to Wellington College and trinity College, Cambridge. He was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own). He was killed in action on 15th September 1916. He is buried in grave reference V. B. 1. in the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery at Longueval.

Philip Ryland Pinsent (1907-1911) went on to Winchester and on leaving school went to the Daimler Works in Coventry, to take a three months'



course in aeronautic engineering, to qualify himself for the Royal Flying Corps. He was the fifth and youngest son of Sir Richard Alfred Pinsent CBE., DSO, Legion of Honour and President of the Law Society and Laura Pinsent, nee Ryland. He obtained a commission as

a 2nd Lieutenant in March 1916 and in the following July flew to France to join 34th Squadron, where he made a reputation as a skilful pilot and director of artillery fire. He was mortally wounded while flying on 23rd September 1916: his machine was suddenly attacked by an enemy aeroplane, which dived at it silently with the engine shut off. He died of his

wounds at Allonville the next day – the eve of his nineteenth birthday – and is buried in the Allonville Communal Cemetery in grave reference A. 16..

Thomas Manbourg Douglas Bailie (1897-1899)

was a Major in the 1st Battalion Irish Guards. He was killed in action on 25th September 1916 at the capture of Lesboeufs during the Battle of Morval, and is buried the Citadel New Military Cemetery at Fricourt in grave reference II. A. 13.

James Robert Dundas McEwen (1903-1906)

was a Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers. He was killed in action on 12th October 1916. He is remembered on Pier and Face 3 C on the Thiepval Memorial.

Geoffrey George Gunnis (1905-1909)

went on to Eton College and was a Captain in the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards. He was awarded a MC during the Battle of Loos in 1915. His citation read “For conspicuous gallantry, initiative and ability at Big Willie on 8th October 1915. He led his men with great dash. Attacked the Germans in flank and rear, drove them into the open, inflicting heavy casualties amongst them, and recaptured the remainder of a lost trench.” At the battle of Morval, zero hour for the attack was 6.20am. The men had taken position at 3am and, according to the battalion war diary “The men slept therefore from 3 – 5.45 a.m. when they were given sandwiches and an issue of rum.” A creeping barrage signified the start of the action and the Germans countered with their own artillery. The British troops advanced and were immediately cut down by enemy machine guns; many officers and men fell as they left their positions. Tanks were supposed to be in support, but they failed to materialise. Their left flank was “in the air” and the right flank was “completely exposed”. At the end of the day, after suffering great casualties, the battalion “held a small frontage on the right of its first objective.” The enemy persisted in counter-attacking during the night, but these were all repulsed. It is not stated when, but sometime during the day’s action, Captain Gunnis received a bullet in his chest, which penetrated his lungs at Lesboeufs and he was withdrawn from the battlefield. He was evacuated, eventually to the hospital in Rouen, where he died of wounds on 13th October 1916. He is buried in the St Sever Cemetery in Rouen at grave reference Officers B. 1. 34.

Vere Duncombe Loxley (1892-1895)



went on to Radley. He was a Captain (T/Major) in the 1st Battalion Royal Marine Light Infantry. He was killed in action on 13th November 1916 at Beaumont Hamel in France and is buried in the Knightsbridge Cemetery at Mesnil-Martinsart in grave reference E. 1.

Leicester Frederick Struben (1903-1907)

went on to Eton College. He was commissioned in December 1914 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 7th (Princess Royal’s) Dragoon Guards. On April 1916 he was seconded to 70 Squadron Royal Flying Corps based at Fienvillers near Calais. On the afternoon of 16th November 1916, Sopwith One and Half Strutter, registered number A3432, took off from Fienvillers Airfield to fly south of Bancourt,



near Bapaume, to observe troop displacements of the German Forces. At approximately the same time Oberleutnant Stefan Kirmaier of the Jasta 2 squadron the German Air Service took off from the German Air Services airfield at Lagnicourt in an Albatross D1 or D2. Oberleutnant Kirmaier spotted the Strutter (A3432), on this occasion being flown by one of the youngest and earliest Serjeant-pilots of the Royal Flying Corps Robert Stovell Evans (from Herne Bay in Kent) aged only 18. Leicester Frederick Struben was flying as observer on this mission. Kirmaier succeeded in shooting down the Strutter near Bancourt killing both occupants. He is buried at the Bancourt British Cemetery in grave reference II. G. 11. (6 days later Kirmaier was shot down and killed in aerial combat with the Royal Flying Corps).

Philip Algernon Tillard (1892-1895) went on to Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford. He took his degree in 1904 and the following year entered



the Army and the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers. In 1912 he retired from the service and joined the Shropshire Yeomanry. When war broke out he was a Land Agent. He first served with the Indian cavalry in 1915 in France but then transferred to the East Surrey Regiment

which had taken heavy losses early in the Somme battles. By mid-November 1916 they were in the front line near Courcellette and early in the morning of 19th November formed up for an assault on Desire Trench, in the final attack of the Somme offensive of 1916. Casualties were heavy. At some point Tillard was killed. As a captain, it is likely that he was in charge of B Company that day. He is remembered on Pier and Face 1 A on the Thiepval Memorial.

Thomas Atkinson Tillard (1894-1897) went on to Eton and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the 2/1st Norfolk Yeomanry. He was attached to 1

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Around the School

Parents of boys who left Horris Hill between 2013 and 2015 kindly donated sufficient funds for the school to be able to acquire a new cricket pavilion which was opened in April 2016 on the day of the whole school sponsored walk. The new pavilion provides an ideal venue for parents to enjoy tea during the summer term while watching the action on the 1st team pitch – and avoiding inclement weather!



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Obituaries

We are sorry to report the loss of the following OB listed in order of their dates at Horris Hill:

Montague James Lindsay Stow (28-29) who went on to Twyford and Winchester died on 30 April 2016. He was a master at HH from 1939-1989 and Headmaster from 1965-1978.

Squadron, the Royal Flying Corps and was killed in action over France on 6th December 1916. He is buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Extension Nord, in grave reference III. A. 207.

Charles Ferdinand Reiss Hanbury-Williams (1901-1903) was the son of Maj Gen Sir John Hanbury-Williams GCVO, KCB, KCVO, CB, CMG who lived at Henry III Tower, Windsor Castle. Charles was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He died on 19th December 1916 and is buried at in the churchyard at Llanfoist Fawr, Monmouthshire.

(All the information in this section on the Great War has been uncovered through open source material including, ancestry.com, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and regimental histories. I would also like to thank Winchester College for their permission to use information and photographs. Dates are tied into the battles in which the battalions and regiments fought. Accuracy is important, so any corrections to the information presented here or further information on any OB would be gratefully received. Ed.)

Peter Michell Luttmann-Johnson (29-32) who went on to Winchester died on 1 October 2016 while on holiday in Spain. The week before he had attended the service at Horris Hill in thanksgiving

for Jimmy Stow's life and was the most senior OB present.

Richard George Adams (29-33) who went on to Bradfield and Worcester College, Oxford, died on 24 December 2016. With the war interrupting his studies, he joined the Civil Service in 1948 rising to Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Environment by the time he left in 1974. By then he had published *Watership Down* in 1970, which won the Carnegie Medal in 1972 and stands comparison with *The Wind in the Willows* and the *Just So Stories* in terms of its literary style. He was President of the RSPCA from 1980-82 and was a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Guy Lumley Lyster (34-38) died on 3 December 2016.

John Martin Southern (39-43) who went on to Winchester died on 12 January 2016 in Tuscany.

Charles William Heathcoat Amory (54-59) died on 20 November 2016.

David Digby Rendel (57-61) died on 16 May 2016. An Eton scholar, he went on to Magdalen College Oxford after a year spent volunteering in Cameroon and Uganda. He read physics and in 1974 earned his Blue in the university boat race. He worked in the oil industry before becoming the MP for Newbury in 1993. A Liberal Democrat, he captured the seat from the Conservatives at the third attempt with a substantial majority of 22,055. He was a prominent supporter of the Newbury bypass. The Conservatives regained the seat in

2005 with **Richard Benyon (69-73)** being elected as the MP.

Moray Charles Livingstone Macpherson (68-72) who went on to Winchester died on 5 February 2016.

George Philip Humphreys (72-77) died on 5 May 2016.

Edward John George Mackenzie (84-89) who went on to Milton Abbey, died in Feb 2016. He had worked in Africa for 20 years and was running a trucking company in Dar es Salaam.

Finally, **Maxwell Woosnam (1903-05)** who died in 1965 was placed 88th in the 2016 Daily Telegraph Sporting Icons listing. Max was an all-rounder amateur sportsman who is sometimes referred to as the 'Greatest British sportsman'. He went on to Winchester and while at Cambridge he represented the university at cricket, lawn tennis and real tennis as well as captaining the association football team and played scratch golf! He later played soccer for Chelsea as a centre half and was on tour in Brazil with Corinthian Casuals when the First World War broke out. After the war – he was at Gallipoli – he played soccer for Manchester City, as an amateur, and won Olympic medals at the Antwerp Games in 1920 – gold in the men's doubles tennis and silver in the mixed doubles. He later captained Britain's Davis Cup team. In 1922 Max became one of the few amateurs to gain an England cap for the national soccer team. He captained England in the match against Wales.

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Reminiscences

John Rawson (39-43) provides a fascinating insight into aspects of life at Horris Hill during the Second World War, part of which is reproduced below.

"I joined Horris Hill School at the age of eight and a half years, and in 1938 the Headmaster was J. L Stow and then H. T. Liddell. Liddell had served in the trenches in the 1914-1918 war, and he suffered from what is known as 'shell-shock'. The effect was to make him tremble violently whenever he stood up to address the school, and then rotate fingers rapidly in both of his ears. Another teacher, called Graham, a very likeable man, also often shook when

speaking and he was known as 'Jigger Graham'. None of the boys, however, laughed or smiled at these symptoms, knowing that they were probably the results of much suffering or great courage.

During each morning break from lessons a game called 'Prisoners Base' was played. Those who were 'imprisoned' had to stand in a row attached to a tree which grew to the left of the school's rear entrance. I understand that this game is still being played; so there is no need for me to describe it. Another very popular game, played during fine afternoons, was called 'Convoys', and it reflected the circumstances of real-life convoys crossing the

Atlantic to bring supplies to Britain, despite the danger from German submarines; and escorted by ships called 'Destroyers'. This game was played on a large area of bracken-covered heathland to the right of a tree-lined lane leading to the right of the school's rear entrance. It involved a lot of energetic running and was much enjoyed by participants. I will describe it briefly in case it has been forgotten.

Pupils were assembled in a group, each of them representing a merchant vessel. This 'convoy' was guarded by several boys wearing arm-bands to signify that they were destroyers guarding the convoy. The convoy had to sail (run) as fast as possible through vegetation to reach a distant tree (the home port) without being caught by a 'submarine', namely another boy wearing a different arm-band. The destroyers had to chase after the submarines and 'sink' them by touching them. 'Merchant vessels' caught (touched) by a submarine were in their turn sunk and had to abandon the game. A convoy which suffered the fewest losses was the winner.

Some foods, including red meat, were rationed by the government during those war-time years. But rabbit stew was often provided for lunch. The rabbit meat was far more tasty than that from commercially reared rabbits sometimes obtainable at butchery counters. This was probably because it came from wild rabbits shot in the surrounding countryside. It was also darker in colour. Those stews were always enjoyable, their only flaw being

a large number of small bones which needed to be removed.

The phrase 'Dig for Britain' was promoted by the government to persuade owners of gardens or allotments to plant vegetables. Reflecting this, a small patch of unused land to the left of Horris Hill's main back entrance was given to pupils to allow them to plant vegetables such as carrots or mustard or cress. But few pupils showed interest in this. Instead some of them arranged the soil into valleys and hills, the hills having caves made of empty tin containers. Beetles and spiders were placed in these, to make what was called 'The Bug Garden'.

There were two large 'sports fields' during those days, divided by a tree-lined lane. Some of those trees were suitable for pupils to learn tree-climbing skills, despite disapproval of a practice more suitable for our ape brethren. There was one huge coniferous tree with thick, porous bark. This bark could be pulled off and carved into the shape of boats. Aeroplanes would often fly over those fields, towing a glider. Behind the glider another plane would fly, firing dummy machine-gun bullets at the glider. The consequence was that a shower of empty machine-gun bullet cases, and their clips, would sometimes land on those playing fields. Pupils collected these and fastened them together in belts. No-one seemed to worry about perhaps being hit on the head by a clip or case falling from the sky. The aircraft were said to come from White Waltham aerodrome".

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Current OB News

The 2012 leavers returned to school with their parents for a reunion on 9 October 2016.



Those attending were: **Charlie Brown (07-12), Tom Carter (07-12), Bertie Cole-Fontayn (07-12), Archie Denison-Smith (07-12), William Gracia (10-12), Jensen Hill (10-12), Paddy Mannion (08-12), Angus Mayes (07-12), Elliot Michael (08-12), Toby Sallitt (07-12), Rollo Sutcliffe (07-12), Charlie Thornton (07-12), Archie Watt (07-12) and Jacobo Zamora (08-12).**

After refreshments in the Headmaster's House and lunch in the dining room, there was time for a tour of the school and the Maclure Room to look through the archives before changing for a football match on Lower Field followed by a match tea.

We are always pleased to receive more OB news covering life at senior school, while on your Gap year and at university, career moves and of course family

events. If you would like to make a contribution to the 2017 edition in words and/or photographs please send the information to bursar@horrishill.com.

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Our Newest OB

See below for the details of our most recent OB who left Horris Hill for senior public schools in the UK in July 2016. We hope they will stay in touch with HH during their time in further education and in later life, and we wish them well in their new schools:

Sultan Aben (14-16) - Harrow

Devlin Mannion (10-16) - Bedales

Gabriel Ashton (10-16) - Bryanston

Aaron de Menezes (14-16) - Winchester

Scipio Attwater (13-16) - Winchester

Daniel Min (13-16) - Winchester

Edward Calder (11-16) - Cheltenham

Chidi Olinma (14-16) - Winchester

Titus Clark (12-16) - Dauntsey's

Bruno Parker (13-16) - Winchester

Stampfie Collis (11-16) - Radley

George Patrikios (10-16) - Abingdon

Theo Collis (11-16) - Radley

Finn Pigott (11-16) - Marlborough

George Curling (11-16) - Radley

Thomas Scannell (10-16) - Repton

Giles Hocking (10-16) - Marlborough

William Stubbs (10-16) - Radley

Arthur House (11-16) - Resurrection (USA)

Casper Tubbs (12-16) - Marlborough

Omawale Kuye (14-16) - Winchester

Thomas Wilson (12-16) - Radley

Jack Leaf (12-16) - Sherborne

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Keeping in Touch through 2017

We hope you enjoyed reading this annual newsletter to help keep you in touch with your school. We continue to build up our OB community and many now receive the newsletter electronically. If you are in touch with your circle of school chums and know of some who are not in contact with the school, do please pass on this newsletter and encourage them to keep in touch with us.

There are other ways of keeping in touch:

Website. The school website www.horrishill.com contains a section relating to OB which contains this newsletter and recent back copies.

Facebook. The school has a Facebook group (Horris Hill Old Boys) which you may join if you wish. Felix Beardmore-Gray administers this group which currently has 30-40 members.

Twitter. You can also follow the school on Twitter <https://twitter.com/Horrishill>

Finally, may we wish you all a peaceful, healthy and successful 2017.