"Perseverance."

"Lives of great men all remind us,
    We can make our lives sublime;
And departing, leave behind us,
    Footprints on the sands of time."

Longfellow.

Norwich High School
For Boys
MAGAZINE.

AUTUMN TERM, 1916.

J. G. Chapman,
Principal.

T. W. Arnold, B.A.,
Editor.
ONE can scarcely realize that it is six years ago since the Norwich High School for Boys was opened; but such is really the case, and this Autumn Term marks the beginning of the seventh year. It would be interesting to trace the progress of the School year by year, but both time and space forbid such a survey, although it would consist of one continuous enumeration of successes, not that the road has been altogether smooth. We have had much to rejoice over, but we have also, and recently especially, touched the lowest depths of sadness, as some of our dearest friends, both old and young, have been called to higher service in the Great Beyond. As will be seen in this issue of our Magazine, several more of our brave boys have joined the Great Majority, and of them it may well be said

"Their deaths, engirt with loveliness
Of simple service done in England's name,
Shall shine like beacon-stars of sacrifice."

To their sorrowing relatives we tender the sincerest sympathy that loving hearts can feel.

As I have often said before, this is the busiest, perhaps the most important, of all the terms, as it is the longest, because at its end the boys are all tested on their year's work, both by Public and School Examinations. We have two fairly large teams entered for the Public Examinations—thirty-eight for the Cambridge Locals, and forty for the College of Preceptors—and I trust, when the results are published towards the end of January, there will be found ample reward for the hard and persistent work of boys and masters alike.

After the publication of these examination results, about the middle of next term, I shall again venture to appeal to the unfailing generosity of parents and friends to assist in providing prizes, as rewards, for those boys whose efforts prove the most praiseworthy, as well as for those who take the foremost places in the examinations.

Early in the Term, J. L. Clements successfully passed the Examination for Boy Artificers in the Navy. The syllabus was a wide one, embracing the main principles of Experimental Mechanics, Heat, and Chemistry, besides English, Geography, History, Drawing, Mensuration, Algebra, Arithmetic, and Geometry; hence Clements is to be congratulated on his success, especially as he took the first place among the Norwich candidates.
The health of the School has been exceedingly good for an Autumn Term, with a minimum of coughs and colds, and very few cases of a more troublesome nature.

Quite at the beginning of the Summer Vacation a very happy contingent of our Cadets, under their very keen and popular officers, Captain E. J. Tench and Lieutenant and Quartermaster E. T. W. Ferris, proceeded to Marlborough Downs, and had a fortnight’s splendid experience of camp life with some 1,300 Cadets from the Public Secondary Schools. To my personal knowledge, several parents who had not permitted their boys to go to camp regretted their decision when they heard what an excellent and beneficial time fell to the lot of the Cadets.

I am very pleased to find that our Cadet Corps is growing, and I sincerely trust the time is not far distant when every boy of eligible age will be a member of the corps. The Cadets are very keen and proud of their corps, and I think if parents would look in at the Drill Hall or Chapel Field Gardens on a convenient Saturday, between 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m., they would be both surprised and delighted at the soldierly and extremely smart manner in which the boys go through their evolutions on parade.

In the Lucas-Tooth Competition for general efficiency, open to all the Cadet Corps in the country, our Corps won words of high commendation from the Examining Board of Officers, and, although only a young Corps, took the second place among the competing Norfolk units.

Unfortunately, owing to the war, we have not yet been able to arm the Corps with rifles. Had it been otherwise, our chance of being first in the county would have been much enhanced.

A further considerable sum of money has been spent on our Rifle Range in improvements, and the Musketry Officer of the 2/7th Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, who are using it daily, says it is one of the best ranges he has seen.

The School Rifle Club is about to apply for affiliation to the National Rifle Association. To secure this, it is necessary to have a president, vice-presidents, and a committee, &c. We are very fortunate in having secured the consent of Lord Suffield to be our President, and The Honourable John Cator, M.P., and Lieut.-Col. C. W. J. Unthank to be two of our Vice-Presidents, so I hope soon to have everything in order for making the application.

We shall, of course, have a Boys’ Section, and I should be very pleased to form an Adult Section, if a sufficient number of gentlemen desire to join. I should be glad to hear as soon as possible from any parents and friends who would like to be members, at any rate before applying to the N.R.A. early in the coming year.

Our Football Team has had a very successful term, as it has only suffered one defeat, although a good number of matches have been played with other clubs. The House matches, too, have been fought out with great keenness.
Norwich High School Magazine.

We have also an excellent Gymnastic Class, under the skilful instruction of Sergeant J. H. Rowell.

It is to be hoped that many more parents will see that their boys take advantage of both the above admirable means of helping their physical development.

When this number of our Magazine is in the hands of its readers the year will be very near its close—a year that will leave its mark, in many cases a very sad and heavy mark, on our lives. It was in the autumn of last year that my greatest trouble came. Since then many of you, my friends, have had to share a similar one, and to such I would commend the following lines of an unknown writer, as they have been a source of comfort to me on more than one occasion during the year:—

"You are not dead, for in my heart you're living,
And all my joy of life was of your giving.
The sun will shine, and sometimes o'er again
I'll hear your voice, half laughter and half pain.
You are not dead. He died for all our sinning,
Yet never died. Your life is but beginning.
Oft in the silence of the night, so long,
I lie awake and listen for your song.
Beloved, the joy of life was in your keeping,
Rest in my heart; and rest—is only sleeping."

With all the suffering, and sorrow, and death around us, I cannot wish you all a merry Christmas; but I do hope that an abiding happiness, and a firm resolve to help those around you to share it, may take possession of your souls, and bring forth such a sacred spirit of devotion and unwavering determination as shall make the New Year for you and yours the brightest, and best, and most successful that you have ever experienced.

Public examinations.

LIST OF ENTRANTS.

As in former years, boys from all the classes above the Lower III. have been subjected to the test of a Public Examination, either that conducted by the Cambridge University Local Syndicate or of the College of Preceptors, in some cases of both. Altogether, 65 pupils, i.e., about 40 per cent, of the whole school, sat for at least one of the examinations conducted by these public bodies.

The names of the candidates are given below:—

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LOCAL.


Junior.—H. A. Alderson, S. G. Edwards.


COLLEGE OF PRECEPTORS.


Half-Term Reports.

At the Half-Term the usual Reports were issued, giving the Class Conduct, and Home Lesson marks gained during the first half of the Term. We give below, in order of merit, the first six in each Form:

**FORM VI.**
- Everett, L. W.
- Edwards, S. G.
- Turner, R. B.
- Sennitt, S. E.
- Alderson, H. A.
- Robins, J.

**FORM IV.**
- Sennitt, L. C.
- Smith, R. H.
- Long, E. W.
- Sharkey, O. T. B.
- Randeli, R. J.
- Sinclair, A. E.

**FORM II.**
- Culley, G. W.
- Clarke, Aubrey
- Gossling, C. G.
- Burroughes, G. P.
- Harcourt, E. G.
- Hipperson, F. C.

**FORM I. (UPPER).**
- Witton, E.
- Miller, C. C.
- Aldiss, E. B.
- Bean, G. F.
- Rackham, R. F.
- Anderson, H. L.

**FORM I. (LOWER).**
- Thomson, M. D.
- Redgment, E. D.
- Chadd. P.
- Little, J. E.
- Hubbard, G.
- Smith, D. F.

**UPPER V. FORM.**
- Smith, F. S.
- Clare, R. A.
- Thurston, C. W. R.
- Plumstead, F. E.
- Coleman, C. G.
- Osborne, J.

**UPPER III.**
- Crotch, W. J. B.
- Newham, L. F.
- Minns, J. A.
- Holmes, J. B.
- Ramsay, E.
- Wade, H. L.

**LOWER V. FORM.**
- Eastick, H.
- Wilkins, H. R.
- Church, J. A.
- Cresswell, T. A.
- Woods, R. W.
- Thorpe, C. H.

**LOWER III.**
- Starling, H. J.
- Smith, R.
- Andrews, C. A.
- Stockings, M. W.
- Clarke, W. G.
- Millns, A. E.
- Redgment, J.

Our Cadet Corps.

The Autumn Term has seen considerable improvement and increase in our Cadet Corps. Non-commissioned officers and Cadets have entered whole-heartedly into the work of the Corps, and have, by their efforts, added to the efficiency and smartness of the unit.

Much good work has been done by the Signal Section. Signalling has been taken up keenly by certain Cadets, and we have now a section of seven Signallers and a Section Leader.

The majority of these lads are very keen, and regularly attend the two parades called every week. The Section Leader, T. G. Knights, has done much to improve the section, and it is due to him that the following names appeared in orders as worthy of the 2nd class flags:

No. 52 Cadet R. T. Sexton.
No. 31 " W. J. R. Whellum.

Corporal D. A. J. Hewitson also qualified for the 2nd class flags.

Nor has such progress been confined to the Signal Section only. The Band and the Recruit Squad have both improved wonderfully; the former under the able control of Corporal-Drummer Robins, assisted by Private Donald Chasteney, of the VI. Norfolks; whilst the latter has made great strides...
under the close supervision of Sergeant-Major Daniels, assisted by the other N.C.O.’s of the Corps.

The Hand now numbers eleven in all: eight buglers, two drummers, and one bass drummer. The buglers are making good progress, and if they all become as proficient as Bugler Randeli, we shall have a band to be proud of. The drummers leave nothing to be desired in the way of improvement, and we have in Drummer Cobb a most promising bass drummer, whose knowledge of music makes him an invaluable asset to the band in such a capacity.

The Recruit Squad has increased greatly in numbers as well as in proficiency, and at the present moment we have two full companies of thirty Cadets, and sixty-one on the roll all told, while the Recruit Squad is seventeen strong.

This increase in our numbers made it necessary to appoint more N.C.O.’s, and
accordingly the following promotions and appointments appeared in orders under date October 26th, 1916:

- Sergeant P. F. Daniels to be Sergeant-Major (Company).
- Corpl. S. E. Sennitt to be Sergeant.
- Lce.-Corpl. D. A. J. Hewitson to be Corporal.
- Lce.-Corpl. H. G. Arnold to be Corporal.

The Recruits themselves deserve a word of commendation. Many of them attend most regularly, and show such a keen interest in their work that they quickly become fit to be promoted from the squad.

I should like to mention one senior boy who has just joined up, and who rightly did not consider it at all debasing to have to undergo a course of instruction in the squad, and who, moreover, worked so well that at the end of his eighth drill his name appeared in orders for promotion from the squad. This was Drummer Cobb.

Cadet Houghton's name also appeared in orders for promotion after eleven drills.

In connection with the Recruit Squad I cannot speak too highly of the Company Sergeant-Major, Mr. P. F. Daniels, and the N.C.O.'s who have

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THE N.C.O.'S TENT, MARLBOROUGH CAMP.

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Lce.-Corpl. J. A. Robins to be Corporal Drummer.
No. 8 Cadet J. Fisher to be Lance-Corporal.
No. 32 Cadet N. E. Bell to be Lance-Corporal.
No. 33 Cadet R. Anderson to be Lance-Corporal.
No. 13 Cadet T. G. Knights to be Section Leader (Signal).
No. 29 Cadet C. W. Thurston to be Drummer.
rendered him valuable assistance in instructing the members of the squad during the past term.

Just before the Half-Term it was decided that we should enter the competition organized by the Lucas-Tooth Fund. We only had a bare ten days to prepare for this event, but by dint of hard work and parades held every day, our contingent consisted of twenty-four Cadets; Sergeant Crotch, of the 4th Norfolks, Instructor of the Corps; Private Chasteney, of the 6th Norfolks, our Instructor of Bugling; Captain Tench, and myself; and, I think, speaking for all, we never had a more enjoyable holiday.

The situation of the camp was ideal—

**MARLBOROUGH CAMP.**

*In the morning, oh! so early.*

we made such progress that the corps took second place in the Eastern Counties, a feat of which we may well be proud. The Cadets certainly deserved the warm praise meted out to them by the Examining Board, and the result was very gratifying to all concerned.

I suppose the event of the year was the camp on Marlborough Downs.

on a well-drained site high up in the hills, surrounded by most magnificent scenery, and with every sanitary convenience; only five minutes from the beautiful old town of Marlborough, and ten minutes from the station. Could anything better be desired? I think not, especially when we consider the advantage of having the playing fields,
rifle range, and swimming baths of the famous old College placed at our disposal.

Our journeys to and from Marlborough were quite uneventful, and nothing untoward occurred. The Cadets enjoyed the novel sensation of travelling in carriages reserved for them; but that was incomparable with their journey from Paddington to Marlborough in the "troop train."

The sanitary arrangements of the camp, the food, and the sleeping accommodation were all that could be desired. The lads were well up to their drills, and took good places in the games and sports, considering the fellows they were pitted against. I still have visions of our Corporal Hewitson, Captain of the First Eleven, charging down the field and scattering Cadets in all directions in the match between C Company and A Company, as he rushed the ball into goal. We are often proud of Hewitson, and we were very proud of him that day, when he scored our only goal and won the match for C Company.

In the sports we did quite well. In the 100 yards' flat (under 16), Corporal Sennitt came in second. In the half-mile flat, Sergeant-Major Daniels came in third, and in swimming. Sergeant Shorten was first in the plunge, the distance being 37 feet. It is to be regretted that Cadet Thorpe sprained his right wrist during field operations a few days before the swimming sports, as he is one of our best swimmers, and could undoubtedly have secured another place for us.

Several humorous incidents occurred, and one heard many secrets, whispered rather loudly, of Johnny's pyjamas, "which got mixed up with the jam," and Tommy's mug, which a ruthless sergeant-major used for shaving purposes and returned in a rather dirty condition, as Tommy found out when he tried to drink his morning coffee out...
of it. But all these add to the enjoyment and novelty of camp life.

There was great regret amongst the Cadets, and also in the officers’ mess, when our Captain Tench had to obey duty’s stern call at the end of the first week and leave us. Never before had the boys realized what he was and what he really could be. and I felt very helpless and incapable of filling the great gap which he left behind.

The officers’ cricket match was a never-to-be-forgotten event. A short time after the game had begun we were conscious of the fact that many men had bravely volunteered to play who had laid the willow aside many years before. However, it caused much merriment, especially when one officer, a great favourite with our contingent, though not one of us, tried to stop a ball travelling with the velocity of a cannon ball, dropped it as if it had been a flaming hot coal, and hopped about for quite two minutes wringing his hands.

Then on the field day of August 10th, when C and half D Companies were to attack a position strongly held by the rest of the 2nd Battalion, we had the exciting experience of being under a direct fire of blank.

The officers had, de facto, been given independent command of their units, but when we were about to try an enveloping movement on the enemy’s left flank, the order came down for us to charge. Of course, we fell nobly doing our duty. The 2nd Battalion Commander, who was in command of the attacking party, came in for a fire of jests and somewhat caustic comments in the mess succeeding this unfortunate blunder.

The whole camp was an unqualified success, and all who participated in it from our Corps are unanimous in declaring their fixed intention of going again next year if the camp is held.

We were rather unfortunate over our drill instructors in the early part of the Term, and up to the Half-Term Captain Tench, the N.C.O.’s, and I had to

***Lance-Corporal J. Robins.***

The Drummer of Battalion II., Marlborough Camp.
manage, so that we are proud to take
the credit of the performance of the
Norwich High School Corps in the
Lucas-Tooth Fund Competition our­selves.

Since the Half-Term, however,
through the untiring efforts of Captain
Tench, who has used his influence on
our behalf, we have had two instructors,
most excellent fellows, for whom the
Cadets have conceived a great liking,
and who have worked hard to add to
the efficiency of the Corps. Our first,
Sergeant Cruden, of the Gordons, had
to leave for Bisley after being with us
for two weeks; but we now have
Company Sergeant-Major Petelloe, of
the Gordons, and under his able super­
vision the boys are making splendid
progress.

We have paraded with the Cadet
Norfolk Artillery twice for Church
parade during the Term, and have
appreciated to the full their excellent
band and the organisation of that
splendid Corps in general.

I cannot conclude without a word of
thanks to our worthy Captain and Hon.
Commandant. Although his position is
an honorary one, he by no means is
an honorary member of our Corps in the
accepted sense of the term. I and the
Corps are indebted to him for many
things more than I have space to
enumerate; and to the fact that he
displays such an active interest in our
progress and welfare is due that splendid
spirit of esprit de corps which permeates
our unit from those in authority down
to the youngest recruit.

Edward T. W. Ferris,
Lieutenant and Quartermaster.

Football Club.

DURING the first half of this
season our 1st XI. have been
singly successful. We have
remedied the defect in the forward line
by bringing Sennitt into it, from right
back; and the fact that in nine matches
we have scored no fewer than sixty
goals, shows that our boys know where
the net is.

We have only suffered one defeat,
that at the hands of the C.N.A., when
their superior weight was a big factor
in their success. Among our victims
are: New City, Rovers, St. Matthew's,
St. John's, Y.M.C.A., and Bracondale.

Most of our victories have been over­
whelming, with the exception of the
New City, who were only defeated by
the odd goal in seven at each meeting.
The Rovers succumbed to the tune of
8-0 and 9-0, St. Matthew's 5-1, St. John's
14-1, Y.M.C.A. 5-0, and Bracondale 9-1.

Bracondale, our most important fix­
ture might be described in detail. Owing
to indisposition Arnold, left back, had to
play in goal, hence our XI. was somewhat
disarranged. Winning the toss we were
assisted by the slope and the wind. Our
outstanding players were Howard at
centre-half, who was always seen to
advantage, his tackling and passing were
quite prominent features of the game;
Rix, at outside right, who did the hat
trick, and Smith, at left-half, who was
very rarely beaten by his wing man and
his partner.

Leading by only three to one at half­
time as a result of beautiful combined
play, we faced the strong wind with
rather a stiff proposition before us,
but the unexpected happened and instead of losing ground we improved our position. All our goals were the outcome of smart rushes, and we hit the target on six more occasions.

The reason of our successes must be attributed to the fine display of unselfishness throughout the XI. and it is that spirit of playing for the team and not for self-glory that has brought its reward in the best record the School has ever had.

**RECORD**—Played 9, Won 8, Lost 1, Drawn 0; Goals—for 60, against 15; Points 16.

**SCORERS**—Rix 7, Sennitt 5, Chapman 1, Howard 1, Smith 1, Clements 1, Fisher 1, Opponent 1, Hewitson 42.

**Players.**

**Sennitt**, Sub-Captain, equally at home at back or forward, possesses a strong kick, robust and yet sure, passes accurately and shoots well.

**Howard, C.**, at centre-half, our general utility man, a fine tackier, uses his head, and passes excellently, one of the best boys in his position in the city.

**Rix, E.**, at outside-right, has been instrumental in the scoring of many goals; a good shot, the best dribbler in the XI., whose only fault is that he should centre more often.

**Smith, F.**, at outside-left, centres precisely, uses his head well, and it is sufficient to say that he favourably impressed a well-known county man who watched his play recently.

**Arnold, H.**, at left-back, has greatly improved, tackles fearlessly and clears smartly, is under the misfortune of not finding a suitable partner.

**Dicketts, D.**, in goal, is undoubtedly this year's find! He makes excellent use of his ample proportions, his 'forte' is the high shot, but is perhaps a trifle slow in clearing.

**Fisher, J.**, at inside-left, passes as well as ever, but his shooting lacks sting, always a trier, he is invaluable in his position.

**Robins, J.**, plays a very useful game at right-half, is rarely beaten, and feeds his forwards judiciously.

**Clements, J.**, at left-half, makes good use of his long legs, although a trifle clumsy, he marks his man well and tackles "like a man."

**Thirtle, A. C.**, at inside-right, has won his place by dogged perseverance, one of the hardest workers in the XI., fits in well with his partner, but parts with the ball too soon.

**New Colours.**—Dicketts, Robins, Clements, Thirtle.
Round the houses.

Cheltenham.

We must consider ourselves somewhat fortunate to head the league for the half-season. Our eleven is generally recognised as the weakest in the competition, but they make up for their lack of skill by perseverance.

Thirtle is the mainstay of the XI., whilst Smith, R., Fisher, G., De Coen, and Alderson, H., are invaluable in their respective positions.

Our first encounter was v. Winchester, when we shared a dozen goals equally, although the result somewhat flattered us. Meeting Marlborough we defeated them by 7 goals to 1, Thirtle and De Coen each claiming one. Harrow were in their turn defeated by 3 goals to 1. Thirtle played a sterling game at back and was mainly responsible for our success.

Record.—Played 3, Won 2, Lost 0, Drawn 1; Goals—for 16, against 8; Points 5.

Scorers.—Thirtle 1, De Coen 1, and Hewitson 14.

D. Hewitson, Captain.

Harrow opened the football season with a match against Marlborough. This game was played on Nov. 9th, at Eaton Park, in delightful weather. Our opponents proved rather too strong for us. We were defeated 5 goals to 1. A. G. Chapman secured our only point by breasting the ball into the net from a corner-kick E. J. Cobb made his first appearance for Harrow and played very well. W. V. Aldiss, our young goal-keeper, saved several very hot shots and could not be blamed for allowing the ball to pass him on five occasions. We have in L. C. Sennitt, a very promising young player, who shows signs of turning out as good a footballer as his brothers.

Harrow's second match proved as disastrous as the first. We met Winchester, at Lakenham, on Nov. 23rd. Soon after the commencement Harrow opened the scoring. C. W. Howard shot a good goal after running the length of the field. Winchester then gradually got the upper hand of us. Shortly before half-time C. W. Howard again scored. Winchester's fourth and fifth goals were decidedly lucky. During this game we lacked the services of L. C. Sennitt.

The last match of the season was played at Eaton Park against Cheltenham. Our opponents were rather lucky to win, for many fine chances of scoring were missed by Harrow. C. W. Howard had hard luck with several well aimed shots. L. C. Sennitt played a brilliant game at back. He cleared finely on several occasions when hard pressed.

C. W. Howard, L. C. Sennitt, C. W. R. Thurston, P. Smith, W. V. Aldiss, and E. J. Cobb have played very well throughout the term.

F. S. Smith.

Marlborough.

During this term Marlborough again maintained its well-earned reputation, although on no occasion had we a full team to represent us.
The first match, played against Harrow, was not very fast, but we managed to beat them 5 — 1. Perowne, a new member of the Marlborough team, played very well.

The next match was against Cheltenham, Marlborough being represented by a very weak team.

The last match was against Winchester and was exceedingly exciting. At half-time the score was 3 — 1 for us. A quarter of an hour before full time, the score was 6 — 3 for us. During this time the game was very hard. Our opponents scored two more goals before full time, but we did not allow them to get their third. The result of this game was that Marlborough won 6 — 5. This was a brilliant victory, for Winchester had a much stronger team.

Perowne, Ramsay, and Arnold must be especially mentioned. Arnold plays a rattling good game at right-back. Ramsay, as our goalie, and Perowne, as a half-back, are two very promising players.

Our Captain, as usual, has done magnificent work for the house, and our victories over Harrow and Winchester are almost entirely due to his fine play. Our collapse to Cheltenham was but natural, as our genial Captain was hors de combat. Arnold has done well, and is developing a very powerful “kick.” Several of our number are in for the public exams; may we have another First in the United Kingdom.

S. Sennitt.

Winchester.

We started the football season with very bright prospects, but from various causes the term has not been so successful as was anticipated. The cause of failure does not lie with the team, which, though light, has acquitted itself very creditably in every match, but in the fact that Dame Fortune has not been very kind to us. The younger members of the team especially have distinguished themselves.

In our first match against Cheltenham, we drew 6 — 6, although at a quarter of an hour before the end we were leading 6 goals to 1. But owing to the fine single-handed efforts of Hewitson, the Cheltenham centre-forward, the final result was disappointing to us. The scorers for us in this match were Rix 2, Fisher 2, Everett 1, and Opponent 1.

The second match against Harrow resulted in a win for us, the score being 5 goals against 2. Both our opponents’ goals were scored by Howard, the Harrow sub-captain, who played a very fine game. It was a well-fought game, and the final score by no means flattered us. The Harrow centre-forward missed a penalty, which was finely saved by Euren, who in every match has given a good display of goal keeping.

Marlborough was the House which we played in our third and last match. It was a close contest and the issue was always doubtful. Sennitt scored all Marlborough’s goals, and we lost by the odd goal in eleven. In the last quarter of an hour we pressed heavily and scored three goals in the short period of
five minutes. The scorers for us in this match were Fisher 2, Rix, Robins, and Everett I each.

All the House matches played by us this term have been very good games and we look forward to next term to enjoy some more of these matches, which are so full of healthy rivalry.

G. W. RIX,
House Captain.

Boarders’ House Prizes.

In this Term's Senior House Prize Competition for good conduct and attention to duty, three boys were equal in merit, namely, L. W. Everett, C. W. R. Thurston, and R. F. EUREN, each having lost only three marks during the Term, so each secured a prize. Several others are worthy of special mention—H. E. Smith, A. H. D. Houghton, D. H. Sharpen, John Fisher, Percy Smith, Edwin Cobb, and George Fisher in particular.

The Junior House Prize was well and worthily won by W. R. WILLER, who went quite through the Term without losing a single mark. Other Juniors deserving special mention are Norman B. Howard and Peter Myhill.

Three of the Senior Boys—D. A. J. Hewitson, H. G. Arnold, and G. W. Rix—are School and House Prefects, and, consequently, do not take part in this competition.

The Headmaster, however, on the “Breaking-up Night” acknowledged in a tangible form the good influence exercised by them over the younger boys, each receiving a suitable book as a reward for duty well and cheerfully performed, as House Prefects, during the year.

The House Music Prize, given to the boy who is most punctual and conscientious in his music practices, was awarded to R. F. Euren. Other boys who deserve special mention are George Huggins, H. G. Arnold, and W. G. Clarke.

New Boys.

Below will be found the names of the boys who have been received into the School during the Autumn Term:

George Edwin Rudd.
Arthur Edward Sinclair.
William Frederick George Allen.
Ronald William Havers.
Colin Hector Cooper Peart.
Frederick Sidney Youngs.
Percy Howard.
David Wade.
Edwin James Cobb.

Spring Term.

The Spring Term will commence on Tuesday, January 23rd, at 10 a.m., and, owing to Easter falling somewhat early, will be continued after that season to about the usual time in April.
OLD BOYS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

*2nd Air Mechanic W. A. Ramsay, Royal Flying Corps.  
Private R. Leeder, 3/4th Norfolks.  
*Private S. W. Fisher, 8th Norfolk, Killed in France.  
*2nd-Lieut. C. P. Cooke, 4th Battalion Norfolk Regt.  
*Private S. H. Beckett, ,, ,, ,,  
*2nd-Lieut. W. B. Ling, 3/4th,  
*Private G. P. Cranmer, Machine Gun Corps.  
Gunner B. Galpin, R.G.A., India.  
Driver R. J. M. Williams, Royal Red Cross.  
Corporal J. A. P. Curson, ,, ,, ,,  
Corporal J. A. L. Stackard, ,, ,, ,,  
Corporal F. S. Clark, ,, ,, ,,  
Private P. S. Gibbs, 10th Bedfords.  
*Corporal M. W. C. Tann, Norfolk Imperial Yeomanry.  
2nd-Lieut. H. M. S. Pillow, 27th R. Squadron R.F.C.  
*Private J. Ewing, 6th Battalion Norfolk Regiment.  
Private J. Standley, ,, ,, ,,  
Private G. E. Watson, ,, ,, ,,  
Private W. H. Barrett, 40th Batt. Canadian E.F.  
*2nd-Lieut. H. N. Paull, ,, ,, ,,  
*Corporal G. Dunster, 2nd Canadian Contingent.  
*2nd-Lieut. Percy W. Riches, 10th Norfolks.  
*Private Douglas Dunham, Rifle Brigade, Killed in France.  

Corporal F. A. Constable, Glamorganshire Yeomanry.

Trooper F. T. H. Wharton, Essex Yeomanry.

Officer-Cadet Eric Ladell, 8th Batt. Norfolk Regiment.

Private P. W. Fox, 8th


Staff-Officer C. F. Page, 6th Batt. Norfolk Regiment.

Sergeant J. L. Goulder, 3rd Battalion.

Lieut. C. A. Galpin, Ceylon Light Infantry.

Corporal Cuthbert H. Poll, Motor Despatch Rider.

Engine-room Artificer Ernest Grehan, R.N., H.M.S. "Vanguard."

Lieut. Frank Newhouse, R.N., H.M.S. Cornwallis.

Captain C. W. Waite, 13th Hatt. East Yorks.

Private W. J. Rudderham, 2nd East Anglian Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.


Engine-room Artificer Hugh Grehan, R.N., Went down with the Destroyer "Turbulent."

Engine-room Artificer Ernest Grehan, R.N., I.M. Super-Dreadnought "Vanguard."

William Reid Walker, 9th Royal Scots.

Driver Pierce Atthill, Motor Transport A.C.S.

Captain C. W. Waite, 13th Hatt. East Yorks.

Lieut. C. J. Smith, 10th Norfolks.

Lieut. R. J. Read, 17th Cavalry.

Lieut. G. N. Waite, 2/4th East Yorks.

2nd-Lieut. Sidney Durrant, 10th Norfolks. Warrant Officer E. Builen, Royal Naval Air Service.

Lieut. F. A. Constable, Glamorganshire Yeomanry.

2nd-Lieut. Bernard Durrant, 10th Norfolks. Corporal F. W. Bowden, Serving with the Colours.

Lieut. G. L. Clark, R.N. Reserve.

*Corporal Rex P. Beaver, 3rd Canadian Contingent.

Corporal W. A. Reeve, 1/1st Norfolk Yeomanry.

Corporal W. A. Reeve, 1/1st Norfolk Yeomanry.

Sergeant-Major Ernest Fenn, Royal Engineers.


Lance-Corp. Clare H. Goulder, Norfolk Regiment, Died of Typhoid.

Private Leonard Bullen, 8th Batt. Norfolk Regiment.

Private A. A. L. C. Thompson, Norfolk Regiment, Killed in Mesopotamia.

Private W. P. Starmer, Biltish Red Cross Society.


Private G. G. G. Chapman, Canadian R.E.

Private S. S.-M. T. R. Bacon, Royal Norfolk Yeomanry.


Private W. P. Cannell, 10th Bedfordshire Regiment.


Lieut. R. J. Read, 17th Cavalry.

Lieut. E. Johnson, R.A.M.C.

 subsection Leader W. P. Starmer, Biltish Red Cross Society.

Lieut. R. J. Read, 17th Cavalry.

Private F. W. Bowden, Serving with the Colours.


Corporal Clive C. Browne, Motor Despatch Rider, Royal Engineers.

Private Leonard Bullen, 8th Batt. Norfolk Regiment.

2nd-Lieut. C. F. Page, 6th, " " 2nd-Lieut. Sidney Durrant, 10th, " " Warrant Officer E. Builen, Royal Naval Air Service.

Lieut. F. A. Constable, Glamorganshire Yeomanry.


Lieut. C. A. Galpin, Ceylon Light Infantry.

Trooper Jerome Galpin, Norfolk Imperial Yeomanry.

2nd-Lieut. Cyril Johnson, 4th Norfolk Regiment.

Private R. V. Haddow, 2nd East Anglian Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.

Lieut.-Col. R. C. O. Crosskill, Commanding Cadet Norfolk Regiment.

Private Keith Brown, Army Service Corps.

Captain C. W. Waite, 13th Hatt. East Yorks.

Engine-room Artificer Hugh Grehan, R.N., Went down in H.M.S. "Natal."

Lieut.-Col. R. C. O. Crosskill, Commanding Cadet Norfolk Regiment.

Private Samuel Reid Walker, 9th Royal Scots.

Private G. W. Bowden, Serving with the Colours.

Private W. P. Starmer, Biltish Red Cross Society.

Lieut. E. Johnson, R.A.M.C.

Lieut. R. J. Read, 17th Cavalry.

Private F. W. Bowden, Serving with the Colours.


Corporal Clive C. Browne, Motor Despatch Rider, Royal Engineers.

Private Leonard Bullen, 8th Batt. Norfolk Regiment.

2nd-Lieut. C. F. Page, 6th, " " 2nd-Lieut. Sidney Durrant, 10th, " " Warrant Officer E. Builen, Royal Naval Air Service.

Lieut. F. A. Constable, Glamorganshire Yeomanry.


Lieut. C. A. Galpin, Ceylon Light Infantry.

Trooper Jerome Galpin, Norfolk Imperial Yeomanry.

2nd-Lieut. Cyril Johnson, 4th Norfolk Regiment.

Private R. V. Haddow, 2nd East Anglian Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.

Lieut.-Col. R. C. O. Crosskill, Commanding Cadet Norfolk Regiment.

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Lieut.-Col. R. C. O. Crosskill, Commanding Cadet Norfolk Regiment.

Private Samuel Reid Walker, 9th Royal Scots.

Private G. W. Bowden, Serving with the Colours.

Private W. P. Starmer, Biltish Red Cross Society.

Lieut. E. Johnson, R.A.M.C.


Private S. W. Weyer, 4th Bedfords.

*, N. King, Motor Transport, A.S.C.

2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Browne, 8th Norfolks.

Private Colin C. N. King, Motor Transport, A.S.C.

2nd Lieut. R. H. Pitts, Water Transport, A.S.C.

Private F. L. Coleman, East Anglian R.A.M.C.

Flight Sub-Lieut. J. O. Galpin, R.N.A.S.

Private Geo. W. Utting, 3/1 Sussex Yeomanry.

Herbert H. Goose, City of Norwich Volunteer Special Constable.

• At the “Front.”

f Died of wounds in France.

f Died of wounds in Dardanelles.

| Died of Pneumonia at Colchester, Dec. 6th, 1915.

ft Died of wounds, April 27th, 1915. — Died from Motor Accident.

The Head Master will be glad to hear of any other Old Boys who have joined, as he fears many names have not come under his notice. Corrections, such as change of rank, etc., or any other information, will be welcomed.

Old Bops’ Union.

During the War, when the Old Boys are located in all parts of the world, the chief duty of those at home, responsible for the arrangements of the Old Boys’ Union, is to collect as much information as possible respecting its members, and to re-produce it in the Magazine, so that we may all know of the whereabouts and the doings of each other, as far as can be given in our limited space devoted to “Personalia.”

But a difficulty has been facing us for some time now, and every Term it becomes harder to meet, and that is the ever-increasing cost of production of our Magazine. Including the cost of the blocks, each copy now costs us about 1od., and we have been supplying it to the Old Boys’ Union at 6d. If the full cost, including postage, were charged, the present annual subscription of 2s. 6d. to the Union would not cover this one item alone. The time has now come when a higher charge must be made, or the Magazine must be discontinued, and that, I feel sure, would be a great disappointment to a large number of our members, and especially to those at a distance from home on the sea and at the various battle fronts. At the same time, some of the members whose army pay is inadequate might not feel justified in paying an increased subscription. The matter has been considered by a few members of the Committee, who feel that the subscription should now be at least 3s. 6d. a year. We do not, however, wish to lose any of our members on this account, and are prepared to receive the old subscription from those who cannot spare more. It was, however, suggested that, doubtless, a considerable number of the Old Boys could and would pay a subscription even higher than 3s. 6d., which would meet the deficiency caused by those who could not. It is to be hoped that a good number will carry out this suggestion, and thus relieve the minds of the Committee of any further anxiety in the matter.

While writing on this subject, I beg to advise members that the subscriptions for the ensuing year are due on January 1st next, and will be gladly received by the Acting Treasurer,

Mr. Herbert H. Goose, 26, Neville Street, Norwich.
NEW MEMBERS.

Private S. W. S. Weyer, 131, Rosary Road, Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich.
2nd-Lieutenant W. T. Redgrave, 18, Oakcroft Road, Blackheath, London, S.E.
Lance-Corporal Geoffrey E. Shead, 4, Bicester Road, Aylesbury.
John Goodwyn, Parbury House, Eagle Street, Brisbane, Queensland.

December, 1916.

My dear Old Boys,

Since I wrote you in July last, I have received letters from a good many of you, and it is a matter of deep regret that I have only been able to reply to very few of them, so I venture again to address you en masse.

Some of you I have been delighted to see in the meantime, to hear of your thrilling experiences, and to receive affectionate messages from friends left behind in the trenches or on the sea.

Many changes have taken place in these intervening months. Some of you have received well-merited promotions, some have been decorated for signal acts of bravery, and for devotion in performing difficult and dangerous duties, and it has given me extreme pleasure to hear of these honours so well and boldly won. English decorations are not so lavishly distributed as are the “iron crosses” of the enemy, but that enhances their value when they are won. Many deeds worthy of this distinction, I am told, have been overlooked, and in war, I fear, this is inevitable. You all, I am sure, are ready to do your duty at all times, dangerous and difficult though it may be, without any hope or expectation of reward, except that of an easy and approving conscience when the right thing has been done. That is, indeed, the most satisfactory reward to be won—that of an approving conscience.

Try on, dear boys! A burden willingly and bravely borne grows lighter in the bearing. The harder it is to do the right, makes the doing all the sweeter when successfully accomplished.

In the performance of these sacred duties some of our schoolmates who, possibly, read my last letter have made the supreme sacrifice; and because they did their utmost, and gave their utmost, their names will be cherished and revered by us as long as memory lasts, engraved in letters of gold in the tablets of our hearts.

During the past months event after event has had a very black and ugly look for us, and some have feared that the splendid patriotism and noble sacrifices of our boys would be in vain; but I have never doubted. As the darkest hour is often that just before the dawn, so I hope and believe that now our beloved country is fully alive to its dangers, and have got men of courage, action, and foresight to direct it, the glorious sun of final victory will ere long shed its beneficent beams above the distant horizon, which has so long been enshrouded in impenetrable gloom.

So, dear boys,
Hope on, hope ever;
Fight on and never
Lose heart; but endeavour
The weak to deliver
From the thrall of the strong.
Destroy the dread tyrant.
And right the wrong /
What a hard and exacting master war is—far harder and more exacting than you ever thought me! How the monster alters our lives and shatters our customs! We shall not so often hear the cheery "Merry Christmas" this year, for it would be indecent to be merry when so many we love are either mourning their lost, or suffering from wounds or sickness, or are enduring the hardships of a winter campaign. But we are not downhearted. We are not without hope. We are happy in the knowledge that our brave boys are fighting on the side of Righteousness, Justice, and Humanity. We should, indeed, be unhappy were it not so. To you all, then, my brave boys and truest friends, "A Happy Christmas and Victory in the New Year!"

With the kindest regards and the heartiest of good wishes to every one of you,

Believe me always,

Affectionately yours,

J. Geo. Chapman.

Personalia.

Pte. S. H. Beckett, of the 2/4th Norfolks, and now attached to the Northumberland Fusiliers, is suffering from a poisoned foot at Fov House, Leigh Wood, Bristol, but I am glad to hear he is making good progress.

2nd-Lieut. Ralph Empson has just recovered from shrapnel wounds in the face. He called on me with the scars of battle still visible, but has since recovered sufficiently to rejoin his regiment.

2nd-Lieut. Wilfrid Redgrave recently called on me. He was blown up by a mine at La Bassée, and partially lost his memory through the shock. He has since recovered and been given a commission.

Captain C. Aris, of the 16th Lancers, has been rather badly wounded in the muscles of his leg, but I am glad to hear the wound is healing now better than at first. This is the second time the gallant Captain has been wounded.

Captain D. E. Jessop was badly wounded in the Somme "push," and very unfortunately had his foot amputated at the heel. He has sufficiently recovered to enable him shortly to leave the Nursing Home. He always was a-plucky fellow, and he has the best wishes of us all in his misfortune.

2nd-Lieut. Noel Paul has been invalided home from the French front, and is rather slowly recovering from a serious operation. His brother, Lieut. G. G. Paul, has just been home on short leave, and is to be congratulated on being given his second pip.

Pte. R. F. Spanton has had a very narrow escape. Whilst driving officers in France, his car was destroyed by a shell. He became unconscious for a long time, indeed, till in hospital at Boulogne. He lost his memory for some weeks, and had not fully recovered when he called on me. He was evidently still suffering from shell shock, and was limping badly.

2nd-Lieut. A. J. R. F. Johnson is to be congratulated on the double event of having passed the Sandhurst examination for admission to the
Regular Army and of being given a commission in the R.N.A.S.

Lieut. T. B. Dunster has joined the noble army of "Benedicts," having been married in London last September. May every happiness attend his wedded life!

2nd-Lieut. H. S. Ling has been invalided home with a poisoned arm, but has now been able to rejoin. His brother, 2nd-Lieut. W. S. Ling has been in an isolation hospital with scarlet fever.

2nd-Lieut. Geoffrey B. Johnson is to be congratulated on securing a fine appointment by being transferred to the 1st King's African Rifles, as Signalling Officer to Nyassaland. His brother, 2nd-Lieut. Cyril B. Johnson, has also been fortunate in getting a commission.

Two of our Old Boys have been greatly honoured on the field. 2nd-Lieut. Charles Frederick Page, Norfolk Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross "For conspicuous gallantry in action. After heavy casualties among the officers, by his pluck and utter disregard of danger, he brought on the waves of both leading companies to their final objective." He is now a Staff Officer, being Acting-Adjutant to his battalion.

Information has been received that Sergeant Sidney G. Lock, of the New Zealand Contingent, has been awarded the Military Medal for distinguished services in the field. Unfortunately, notice has also been received that one of his brothers, Pte. Edward Lock, of the Norfolk Regt., is missing.

Lieut. E. J. Chapman has just arrived in Egypt, where he has been drafted to the 1st Norfolks. His brother, Sapper George G. G. Chapman, of the Canadian R.E., is just home from the front on short leave, and looks very fit and well. His cousin, 2nd-Lieut. J H Chapman, is on the French front with the 1st Norfolks.

Corporal Rex P. Beaver is in Egypt, and the latest news of him is that he is learning to ride and manage a camel. His brother Pte. Heslop Beaver, is in the Salonica Army, and has been in hospital with malaria. I am glad to say he is just into khaki again. The youngest of the three brothers, Corporal Leslie A. Beaver, is in the 2/7th Worcester Regiment at the front, and I am expecting to hear he has been given a commission.

2nd-Lieut. H. M. S. Pillow came well through the Officers’ Cadet School at Oxford, and is fortunate to have obtained a commission in the R.F.C. He expects to go to Egypt shortly, I believe.

C. J. W. Meszent, who left school at the end of the Summer Term, has been articled to Mr. A. Collins, the City Engineer.

George T. Willis has joined the British School of Telegraphy, to prepare for a position as a wireless operator.

I am told 2nd-Lieut. H. R. T. Prior is getting on very well in Egypt. I believe he has a staff appointment, and is Acting-Adjutant to his battalion.

Kingston Rudd, the King's Assistant Agent at Sandringham, has joined Captain Tench's staff on special Royal
Engineers’ work, and in all probability will soon be given a commission.

Captain and Hon. Major E. Felce has been transferred to the 18th Batt. Queen’s Royal West Surrey Regiment, with whom he hopes to have an opportunity of going to the front.

Interesting letters have also been received from our Vice-President (Major A. W. M. Atthill, M.V.O.), Lieut. R. C. Larking (Egypt), Corpi. F. Constable (France), Corpi. W. A. Reeve (Egypt), Gunner B. Galpin (India), 2nd-Lieut. H. H. Collis (France), Leo Townsend (France), G. B. Springall, Jack Jessop (France), Pte. N. V. Boulton, Squadron-Sergt.-Major T. R. Bacon, Cadet F. H. Gosling, T. J. B. Arnold, T. H. Carter, Lieut. E. J. Chapman (Egypt), 2nd-Lieut. J. H. Chapman (France), H. A. Osborne, Pte. G. P. Cranmer (France), Pte. W. H. Powell (France), J. Goodwyn (Brisbane), G. T. Willis, Pte. S. W. Weyer.

Obituary.

“Britons have ever fought well for their country, and their country’s cause is the high cause of freedom and honour. We can, therefore, be happy in our sorrows, happy even in the death of our beloved who fall in the fight, for they die nobly, heroes and saints die, with hearts and hands unstained by hatred or wrong.”

Death has been all too active recently among my Old Boys.

The Goulder family has suffered most grievous losses—three of the brothers having fallen in the war.

Sergeant John Goulder was the first of the three, having met with his death in Gallipoli. It was a strange coincidence that on the same day that Lce.-Corpl. Robert Christopher Goulder was killed, his youngest brother, Corpl. Clare Horsley Gouldkr was fatally wounded. All three brothers were under my tuition in the years gone by, the eldest brother being a boarder.

Pte. Kenneth Robert Hamilton, another boarder, showed great keenness in joining the 3/6th Norfolk Cyclists when only just 18. He was afterwards drafted to the 2/6th at Bridlington, and went to France, where he, unfortunately, contracted typhoid, and died in hospital on November 20th.

Corporal Alex. T. Lewthwaite.

Accidently shot at Parkeston, October 27th, 1916.
Still another boarder has fallen, PTE. DOUGLAS ALFRED DUNHAM, of the Rifle Brigade, being killed in France on August 18th. No particulars are given, except that he had been at the Front from the very commencement of the war. Many will remember the twin brothers Gaze. CAPTAIN GEOFFREY GAZE is reported killed in France, but no other details have come under my notice.

News has also been received from the War Office that 2ND-LIEUTENANT ALEC BEEBEE was killed in action on September 30th. He joined the Norfolk Regiment soon after the outbreak of the war, but on receiving his commission was transferred to the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He celebrated his twenty-first birthday in the trenches in April last.

CORPL.; ALEXANDER T. LEWTHWAITE, the younger of the two brothers, accidentally met his death on October 27th, while it was training with the 10th Norfolk Battalion at Parkeston. He was acting as Musketry Instructor to the 25th Training Reserves at the time, and was fatally shot through the head.

PTE. SIDNEY W. FISHER, of the 8th Norfolk Regiment, and at one time a very popular Junior Master in our School, is the first member of our teaching staff who has fallen. He was acting the most dangerous part of sniper to a bombing party on October 6th, and had just made the remark, “That’s five of them” (shot by him), when he himself was shot through the head whilst re-loading, and expired immediately without uttering a single word. In referring to the sad event, his Section-Officer said of him, “I can only say that he died as he had lived, a gallant, fearless soldier, who could be relied on to do his duty to the end. He was an asset to the section in many ways, for he was a cheerful, unselfish comrade and a good sportsman, and had latterly been Captain of our football team.”

I must now make belated reference to the death of a dear Old Boy who had escaped my notice. HUGH R PRIMROSE was so eager to do his bit that voluntarily and very nobly he gave up a good appointment and many privileges which he might have secured by waiting till his Bank would release him. He joined the Royal Naval Reserve, and in May, 1915, got his commission. He was first lent to H.M.S. Terrible for a short time, but was soon appointed as Assistant-Paymaster to H.M S. Natal, which was blown up on the 30th of December, 1915, when he, with many hundreds of others, lost his life, at the age of 26.
Although not a pupil in the School, as his young brother is, 2ND-LIEUTENANT HUMPHREY THORN, of the 7th Norfolk Regiment, came to the School for special coaching under Mr. Arnold, and I know his parents would like to feel we took an interest in his doings, as they are aware of our deep sympathy in their loss. This capable young officer, who was held in high esteem by his superior officers, was mortally wounded on October 12th while “gallantly leading his platoon,” and died in the Casualty Clearing Station the following night.

I cannot close this long list without referring to one other dear young friend, PTE. DOUGLAS THEOBALD, of the 8th Norfolk Regiment, who was killed in France on July 19th, after performing a most heroic act of self-sacrifice—that of dislodging a band of enemy snipers who had been causing heavy losses. His youngest brother, Hugh, is a popular member of our Cadet Corps, and the dear little fellow received the sad news while in the camp on Marlborough Common, where he had the deepest sympathy of the whole Corps as well as of every boy and master in the School.  

J.G.C.

Correspondence.

LIEUTENANT R. W. EMPSION,  
5th Durham L.I. (Res. Batt.)  

18th November. 
At the time I wrote last (October, 1915), I was attached to the R.E. at A--------on mining work. Shortly after that letter was penned, our Division moved from that quiet spot for a month’s special training near B---------. This was of the usual description—billets in very dirty farm-houses with the pigs and poultry: work in muddy fields, either bombing, practising infantry attacks, musketry, or the thousand and one things that make up our stock-in-trade. Five days before Christmas we moved by a very slow train to P--------,- and marched to the muddiest spot I have ever seen. The whole Division had to move along the apologies for roads in single file, and it was practically daybreak before we got ourselves and our belongings really there. On Christmas Eve, as nearly

Hugh R. Primrose, R.N.R.  
Assistant-Paymaster H.M.S. Natal.  

Lost his life through the blowing up of H.M.S. Natal, 30th December, 1915.
everyone was preparing to make the best of a decidedly damp and uncomfortable Christmas Day, I had the rotten luck to be picked to take over some trenches not a thousand miles from that well-known Hill 60. I spent the four most horrible days in my life from that moment. It took up seven solid hours getting to the front line. Several men had to be literally pulled out that soup-like mire of Flanders, and we were very lucky to arrive there at all. On New Year’s Eve I was told off with 120 men to report to the Divisional Co., R.E., and straightway attached myself to the nearest mining company, with its headquarters at A---. After three fairly uneventful journeys to A--- Wood, I got that most delightful holiday in the world—one's first leave from the Front. And as it was nearly six months since I crossed the Straits, I managed to get a few day’s special leave in addition. The joy of washing, bathing, and shaving with hot water, sleeping between cool sheets, and with no flies and rats to worry one can only be appreciated by those who have spent a winter in Flanders. On getting back again I found the camp had been shelled more than usual, so it was decided to shift it further back, as it was almost safer in the trenches than at headquarters. February was a most nerve-racking month in The Salient. Playful Fritz managed to capture a stretch of trench known as the B----, about 200 yards to the right of the one I was working in, and we had a most uncomfortable time till they were persuaded to leave it again. The night we lost it I was at Z----, burying some of our sappers who had been unlucky enough to have caught the full force of one of the Huns’ explosions underground (one brave fellow was coming to England the following week to receive his D.C.M. for a previous act of gallantry). Shall never forget that night. For four hours our support trenches were subjected to a very heavy bombardment, and there we were, seven in number, perhaps a mile back with three men to bury. Every few minutes we had to stop digging and make ourselves scarce. In the middle of the Army funeral service a salvo of shrapnel caught us and got one man in the leg; but we finished the job somehow.

On going back we saw something unusual had happened, for trenches were completely blown in, wounded coming down and cries of, “The Germans are attacking,” were heard. The wounded one of our lot went to the first-aid post near by, and the rest of us managed to get back to our trench, although every minute we had to lie flat. It took us six-and-a-half hours to do the double journey.

The Hun in his mining was very active about this time, and we had fourteen explosions in one week—nine of theirs and five of ours. We were sometimes seventy-two hours on continuous duty, and although we were handicapped by elementary mining impedimenta, the Boche never managed to get under our trench. On 7th March the enemy exploded a camouflet within five yards of me as I was making my usual tour along the galleries, and I am afraid I must have had concussion pretty badly, for when I came to I found I had swallowed more than a whiff of gas from the explosion. To cut the matter short, I was in hospital three weeks, and had a month’s leave salmon fishing on the Spey. After a few weeks’ light duty I went to France again early in July, and went to C------, where my battalion was. After a fairly quiet time in the trenches, “Minnies” being our chief trouble, we trekked down to the Somme, “bivvying” in woods at night. After three weeks’ very stiff training for the “Push,” and subsequent reconnaissances over the ground one intended taking, we moved up to B------ on September 14th, and all that night were putting the finishing touches on our preparations for the attack. We moved up before daylight to narrow trenches we had previously dug three days before (in front of our barbed wire), and at 6.20 our Division, with the G----- and the L------ T------ went “over the top” in four waves. Needless to say, our artillery had previously plastered every
square inch where the Boche was, with the excellent help of our aircraft. I was lucky. It was two-and-a-half hours before I got in the way of some Hun high explosives, and in the meantime we had taken three lines of German trenches along about seven miles of front. Our casualties were very light, considering the nature of our job. The G--------- had much more of a mopping up than our Division. Two of their waves were practically mown down by machine guns.

Four hours later I was in a C.C.S., and two days afterwards at the base, nothing much the matter with me, but unable to eat for a week or so owing to a chunk of iron getting wedged in the angle of the jaw. Four days after this was removed I was on my way back to dear old “Blighty,” once more to taste the joys of convalescence. The attack was quite successful, and we held every inch of ground we took, capturing several thousand prisoners, besides quite a lot of war material.

Ralph H. W. Empson.

SAPPER GEO. ANDERSON, 85604,
No. 3 Section, 209 Field Company, Koval Engineers,
B.E.F. France.

Saturday, 5/8/16.

My dear Mr. Chapman,

When the postman came along last evening I spied a green magazine amongst his pile of letters and papers. Straightway I demanded it, and the next minute I was full length on the parapet deeply absorbed in its contents. Guess I can recognise the School “Mag.” under any circumstances, and it just acted like a tonic to get news about my old comrades and the School. Needless to say, before I troubled about anything else I just read it right through from School Topics to my old favourite news.

I was particularly interested in Frank Nunn’s experiences, as they are only too real. At the present time we are living in the old German trenches. My home is a disused trench, with tarpaulin on top, a nice scooped out funk hole for my head, and a smaller one for my feet. I have a table to write on—an old cable drum. Fritz’s crowd left us no end of useful things, such as splendid dug-outs, beds, implements of all kinds. Unfortunately, the dug-outs want considerable cleaning and strong disinfectants, so we prefer the trench, and it is a very healthy life.

Before the great advance I was very busy preparing plans and tracings for the event, and a very interesting task it was, too. I think Beach Thomas’ despatches in the Daily Mail give a very accurate and graphic account of every detail of those awful days. We were in it, and the 1st of July I experienced the hottest time I ever had. Our artillery have done and are doing magnificent work, but when the Boche found our boys were coming over he put up directly a most terrible barrage fire. The machine-gun fire sounded like a terrific hail storm, and as soon as one was out of one bay of a trench into another, the former was blown in. And the Allemand has such a beautiful variety. He gave us coal-boxes (those nice black high explosives), shrapnels of every colour, gas shells, tear shells (my particular bugbears), liquid-fire shells, and whizz-bangs galore.

Our Division was magnificent. There was no stopping our brave lads when they started, and the task they had before them was a difficult and terrible one.

Our work was and is mostly trenching, making good old ones, or cutting new ones. Last night’s task was a typical one. We left our camp at dusk in a long sinuous file—Indian file—and wended our way over trenches, through shell-torn woods, up hill and down hill, some four miles to the new defences on our left.

There we met our working party, one sapper to some score men, and then we got to work fixing up the new communication trench to our front line. No time was lost in getting down in cover. Some of my men had only just come out from England, and a pick and shovel are very awkward after being used to a pen, but they went ahead...
and did their best. Now and then a machine-gun traversed round our direction, and the motto then was, "Heads low and keep your spirits high." Of course, our guns were bombarding, and poor old Fritz's nerves are so bad. He never knows when those "devils" of Englishmen are coming over with those pretty little bombs of theirs, so he keeps peppering us with shrapnel all the time. His favourites last night burst on percussion, and the pieces moaned through the air like so many cats on a midnight prowl.

Then he varied the programme with a gas-shell, and so yours truly sits down with his gas helmet on, looking like some masked inquisitioner of Spanish times. Half-an-hour of this made me wish Fritz in another climate. Then we resumed work. It is a tiresome job. Platoons rushing down to the line, rifles catching everything as they go by; wounded coming out; and it is necessary to keep the trench narrow. All night long is just one great firework display. The yellow flashes of our great guns, the red bursting shrapnel, and the Very lights—reds, greens, whites, and beautiful clusters of golden rain. Brock's benefit isn't in it. The Boches' different combination of rockets for signalling for their artillery or reinforcements are very effective.

Our steel helmets are a great benefit. As I was going out at daybreak a fragment of iron rations made a small dint in it, which would have meant "Blighty" in the ordinary way. We got home as the sun began to show himself, safe and sound, and after "Billee" had served the "brekker" we got between the blankets.

P.S.—Please remember me to all my old chums of the House. I have found Mr. Wright's French most useful, and now wish I had paid more attention to it; but I have no difficulty in obtaining things and holding a general conversation with the French.

Private F. M. Nunn, son of Mr. Moye Nunn, St. Giles', Norwich, and an Old Boy of Norwich High School, in a letter home says:

"Just a few lines to say that I am in England suffering from shell shock, having been completely buried in a dug-out owing to the explosion of a high explosive shell. We attacked the Germans to capture a village, and we were using the 'tanks' for the first time. The Germans were terrified at them, and gave themselves up in large numbers. We captured the village. I had many hair-breadth escapes, and it is a wonder I am alive to tell the tale. The machine-gun fire in some places was awful. We stopped just outside the village in trenches for two days, and then we were relieved for a fortnight's 'rest.' 'Rest' is merely a name, for we had to do three parades a day, and perhaps one at night; but, still, one could be sure of a night's sleep.

"After the fortnight's rest back again we went into the firing line. We arrived there at night, and next day were going to attack the Germans. After we had been in the front line for about an hour the Germans gave us a bombardment. After a time the bombardment lulled, and I crawled into a dug-out to try and get a little sleep, as I knew I should not be able to get any on the following days. I was soon asleep. The next thing I remember was to find myself completely buried with about six square inches of breathing room. I shouted for help about six times, but of course nobody heard me. The next thing I remember was being dragged out, and the Captain said to me, 'You are a lucky fellow.' At first I did not see much luck about it, as I was feeling very weak, and I was shaking terribly, but I saw his meaning afterwards. The shell had only burst about two yards away. Luckily for me it was just over the parapet. Two yards the other way, I should have been blown to atoms. As it was I was buried for over a quarter of an hour, and I had five feet of earth on me."
Personal Experiences of the Somme Battle.

By 2nd-Lieut. HAROLD LING.

The country between the Ancre and the Somme is quite open and rolling, with small compact villages and woods scattered about. The soil is in most parts chalk, and the trenches look like big white serpents winding in and out over the hills. These trenches are in many cases completely blown in, with shell holes of every size round and about them. Villages are only villages in name, as there is generally no village left at all—simply a mass of debris. The woods, too, are sometimes only a few broken stumps.

In Reserve.

We were bivouacked in reserve some four miles behind the line, and had just nicely settled down for the night under our waterproof sheets when our Sergeant-Major came round with a message from the C.O. to pack up and be ready to move off in ten minutes. It was about midnight then, so you can guess the confusion. All animals had to be harnessed and all kits packed up, as nobody knew where we were going. Eventually the brigade moved off just before 1 o'clock, we, the Machine Gun Company, bringing up the rear. When we got to within about a mile of the firing line the infantry occupied some trenches we had captured, and we had to dig emplacements near some old German gun-pits to command various valleys in front of us, and to protect some batteries of our 18-pounders which were within a couple of hundred yards. The situation was then explained to us.................We finished digging our emplacements about noon, but about an hour before, the enemy’s bombardment, which had been somewhat dilatory, increased until it became very intense. They were trying to find our batteries, and as they had the exact range of their old pits, we got it pretty hot. Our batteries replied vigorously, and some which were just on the other side of a little valley were plainly visible to us, and we could see our gunners working like mad. Limbers were bringing up more shells, and had some marvellous escapes. Just as a limber had left the part containing the shells behind, and was returning with an empty one, a high explosive shell dropped right on top of it, causing all the drivers to become casualties, and killing most of the horses. Stretcher bearers were soon on the scene, and I saw two stretcher bearers, who were carrying a wounded man, blown clean over by a big shell. The\textsuperscript{1} picked up the stretcher again, however, and doubled with it to cover. That same afternoon a shell knocked a wheel off a gun, but, as far as I could see, did not hurt it any further.

As night came on the shelling got worse, and we had several casualties, one emplacement of mine being blown in. Our artillery, however, must have given the enemy an awful time, as outfield guns fired without ceasing, their peculiar note being discernible from the noise of our heavier batteries. In the distance, on the right, the French 75’s fired almost like machine guns, and the whole air seemed alive with shells. We heard next day that the enemy had attacked in large numbers, but had been repulsed, our artillery assisting materially, catching him in the open as he advanced.

It was between twelve and one that night when a doctor burst into our pit shouting that the one next door had been blown in. We found that ten men were inside, so started to dig as hard as we could. After about an hour’s digging we made a hole between some joists and shouted down. An arm immediately appeared, and we dragged a man out. He said that the others were unhurt,
and at last we got them all out after squeezing each man one at a time through the hole. How they escaped seems a mystery, as no one had a scratch and were only a little shaken, a drop of "O.O." soon bucking them up.

The next evening another brigade was sent to relieve us, and we were not long in getting back to our bivouacs, where we turned in and had a good long sleep.

**AN ATTACK.**

Our C.O. came back from a conference looking very pleased with himself. He had heard the latest official opinions and was very cheerful. I found that my battalion was to support some attacking troops. The night came, and we took up our position in their rear. Shelling was very intense during the night, and we had several casualties. I lost one of my best men killed. It seemed hard luck, too, before we had got to grips. We got a lot of gas shells over, and sat most of the night with our gas helmets on. Just about 3 o'clock I took my guns up to the front line. About half-past four our first waves jumped up on to the parapet, and went away towards the German lines. It was not a rush. When we attack now it is usually a slow double. It is important that breath should not be wasted. It was not long before we met several prisoners coming back, some of them with their hands still up, looking absolutely scared. Some of them were looking very happy, and seemed glad to be out of it all, but a great many of their smiles changed as they had to pass through their own barrage before they could get to the rear, and several were wounded by their own shells, in fact, quite a lot were killed by their own shells bursting among them. It was hard fighting in front, and we could get no further, so emplacements were dug out and our machine guns mounted to repel the counter-attack which always comes sooner or later. Now as the Germans had the exact range of their old trenches, they were able to give us a pretty warm time, and evidently meant to shell us well before they counter-attacked. Our guns, however, must have given them more than they gave us, as their firing was tremendous. The French 75's seemed to be joining in, and I don't think that Fritz had a very comfortable time. That evening the shelling got worse than ever, and they started a counter-attack. They did not reach that part of the line where I was, as our guns simply stopped them, but further on our left they had a harder job to stop them. They were stopped, though, and must have lost very heavily. It was very hot in the line, and as nearly all our water, which was in petrol tins, had been blown up, we got very thirsty. Some of the men after a time managed to get some from a dump, but it only ran to about half-a-pint apiece. To make sure they all had a fair share, I personally gave each man his allowance out of the petrol tin into his mug or water-bottle. It seems rather amusing when I think of it now, but it wasn't amusing then. Imagine their faces, mine was quite as bad, covered with dirt from bursting shells, clotted and streaked with their sweat from digging, and over which they had occasionally passed an exceedingly grimy hand. Still they were wonderfully cheerful, and all kept asking one another if Fritz was able to get up any water at all, to which the answer was, "I don't think." During that night I seemed to see our shells passing red hot through the air. It must have been imagination, but at the time I could swear that I could see them. Early the next morning we were relieved, and we marched back for a few days' rest. That evening an impromptu concert could be heard in full swing from the men's quarters—some quite good songs, too, and good voices. We get all sorts of talent in the Army now-a-days.