

A M D G



BEAUMONT UNION REVIEW AUTUMN 2019



Hatches, Matches and Dispatches: we spend a great deal of time marking anniversaries. Each day calls for remembrance in some form or another. These may be personal or collective and understandably within the BU we tend to be in groups whether it be by Years or sporting occasions such as Henley where parties

gather year in year out. It is not often there is a Lords re-union but this year marked 60 years since the '59 victory over The Oratory and it was most magnanimous of the defeated side to organise the get-together, renew old acquaintances and even make new ones. The Veterans that took part in the Normandy campaign 75 years ago are no longer with us: (although we still have those who were fighting in Italy at the time). I could not let that pass without due consideration. Sonnie Hale died 60 years ago: a name that means little today but for the between the Wars generation he was a mega-star and his wives even more so. 50 years since the first moon landing and for once I cannot come up with a Beaumont connection – “one step too far”.

NOTICES

THE BU LUNCH

As previously announced will take place at the Caledonian Club, Halkin Street, Monday 7th October. The Bar will open at Noon, Lunch at 1pm. Dress: Suits.

May I remind you:-

'A man who tires of Club Events tires of life ' (to paraphrase Johnson)

This year's Chairman is Oliver Hawkins (61).



Oliver studied at the West Sussex College of Art and St John's College Cambridge. Among many things he is a talented contemporary artist (un eboueur), one of the driving forces behind the Friends of Arundel Cathedral and, to add a bit of spice, an expert on D H Lawrence.

The Application Form is attached to the Email and also under The **Events Dropdown**.

Please note that the price remains at £50 and this year will include the pre-Lunch drinks.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER.

Advance notice of Mass at the War Memorial at 1145am 10th November. This year we may be joined by members of the Stonyhurst Association who have their Dinner at Beaumont the evening before.

OBITUARIES.



I have just heard of the sudden death in June of **Chris Cafferata (55)** Captain of the School, Rugby and Boxing. Founder of Cafferata & Co, lawyers in the Bahamas and a loyal friend of the Beaumont Union and **Martin Patmore (60)** from cancer: he was a founder of the Beaumont Snuff Society.

I'm sorry to inform you of the death of **John Francis Somerville Thomas (41)** both Royal and civil Engineer. I also heard that Fr Peter Hackett SJ who taught for a year at Beaumont in the 1950s died at Boscombe in July 2018 and **Jean-Francois Duc de Castries (55)** son of the French Academician.

Also sad news from St John's that Colin Ballantyne, a much loved and valued member of staff at St John's Beaumont, passed away on 12th August after a short but brave battle against cancer. Colin joined St John's in 1973 and during his 43 years of service at the School, taught numerous generations of boys who still, years later, remember 'Bally' with the most tremendous fondness. As well as teaching geography and games, Colin was during his later years at St John's, the Senior Master. Colin Captained the BUCS Golf side and a photo of him receiving the Tolhurst Trophy is to be found later in the REVIEW.

Robin Mulcahy's (57) Obituary is to be found in the Obituary "dropdown"

MEMORIAL

John Wolff writes:

Robin Mulcahy's funeral was a secular do, so a few ex Jesuit and Beaumont contemporaries felt it would be nice to have a Mass said for him sometime.

One person who was keen to do this is Robin's friend in the J's Fr David Harold-Barry who has been in Zimbabwe for many years. He happens to be in the UK in September in connection with the Cause of John Bradburne.

Fr. David has arranged to say Mass for Robin on **Wednesday 18th September at Farm Street at 11.30 at Farm St.** I will arrange a lunch somewhere nearby after once I know numbers. It might have been easier to have had it before the BU lunch but Fr David will be back in Zimbabwe then.

Please let john know if you are attending and would also like lunch.

John Wolff <jpawolff@talktalk.net>

DOWN BUT NOT OUT.



Mark Marshall, one of our staunchest supporters suffered a stroke in London 7th August; he is currently in the Charing Cross Hospital. All of us know that this can be life changing but it is not the end of life and Mark is currently making excellent progress. His friends in the BU hope and pray that he will be back with us again before too long.

WEBSITE.

In the last REVIEW I warned you that we were having problems with our Cine Collection concerning copyright with Youtube: I'm glad to tell you that thanks to our website manager (Richard Follett) the matter was resolved and you can enjoy some nostalgia again.

IN THE NEWS

The Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire

Edmund Anderson or Ed as he is usually known is the first OB since WW2 to be appointed a Lord-Lieutenant and the second with Beaumont connections as

Jenny Tolhurst wife of Philip (67) is, as previously reported, Lord-Lieutenant for Essex.



Ed left Beaumont because of the impending closure in 1966 to do A levels at Stonyhurst. His father used to say that he was the 15th member of our wider family - including Andersons, Sextons, Nobles, Swards & Girkins - to go to Beaumont. His father (Dick) was Captain of the School in 1937 and had colours for Cricket and Rugby. He won the Maths prize at Woolwich and hoped to go up to Cambridge but the War intervened. During that conflict, He was awarded an MC and later MID in Malaya and an OBE. He died in 2010. Ed's brother Philip was at St Johns and all set to go up to Beaumont when it closed so had to go to Stonyhurst instead.

After a nomadic early life, Ed went to Leeds in 1969, and gained a London University external degree in Economics at what is now Leeds Beckett University.

Ed had a twin-track executive career in local government and airport management. He worked for Bradford Council and then West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, qualifying as an accountant in 1977. His last job in local government came in 1990 to 1997 when he was a member of the senior management team at Leeds City Council with responsibility for five departments.

He was assistant airport director at Leeds Bradford Airport in the early 1980s and deputy managing director at East Midlands Airport in the late 1980s. His final executive role was as chief executive of Leeds Bradford Airport for ten years until 2007. During this time, the airport nearly trebled in size and the new low cost airline, jet2.com, established its first base at Leeds Bradford. Since 2008 he has chaired the Airport Operators Association, the trade body for all UK commercial airports.

Ed has sat on numerous boards as a non-executive director, most notably chairing the board of the Yorkshire Building Society for eight years, through the financial crisis, until 2015. He is a former Chairman of Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and is currently Chairman of National Savings & Investments (NS&I).

In the field of higher education, Ed chaired the governing body of Leeds Trinity University during the time that it gained its degree awarding powers and went on to become a University; he is currently its Pro Chancellor.



Ed is also the Pro-Chancellor of Leeds Trinity University

His contribution to Leeds Trinity was recognised by the Pope in 2012 when he was made a **Knight of St Gregory**. He has served on the Council of the University of Leeds since 2007 and has chaired its Audit & Risk Committee since 2013.

Ed has been involved with a number of local charities over the years, including being a trustee of St Gemma's Hospice for 11 years.

Outside work and family, Ed's interests revolve around his very wide musical tastes, encompassing virtually all genres. He serves on the boards of Opera North, the Leeds International Piano Competition and the Ryedale Festival; but is equally at

home at a Bruce Springsteen or Bob Dylan concert. His other love is sport and especially cricket. He has supported Yorkshire CCC ever since arriving in the county.

He is a former President, and Chairman, of Leeds Chamber of Commerce and was **High Sheriff of West Yorkshire in 2015-16. He became a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire in 2016 and was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire on 1st September 2018.**

Ed has been a keen advocate for all aspects of West Yorkshire life since settling in the county in 1969. His aims for the Lieutenancy are for it to be inclusive, reaching out to communities throughout the county; and professional in all aspects of the way it conducts its activities.

He lives near Wetherby with his wife Heather who is a District Judge on the North Eastern Circuit. They have four adult children.

Ed's current positions held with local charities include: Patron, Bradford Courts Chaplaincy Service. President, Community Foundation for Calderdale. Patron, Huddersfield Choral Society .Patron, Leeds PHAB 40th Anniversary Patron, St Gemma's Hospice. County President, St John Ambulance.

For those wishing to know what the role involves:-

Lord-lieutenants are the monarch's representatives in their respective lieutenancies. It is their foremost duty to uphold the dignity of the Crown, and in so doing they seek to promote a spirit of co-operation and good atmosphere through the time they give to voluntary and benevolent organisations and through the interest they take in the business and social life of their counties.

The modern responsibilities of lords-lieutenant include:

- Arranging visits of members of the royal family and escorting royal visitors;
- Presenting medals and awards on behalf of the sovereign, and advising on honours nominations;
- Participating in civic, voluntary and social activities within the lieutenancy;
- Acting as liaison with local units of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Royal Air Force and their associated cadet forces;
- Leading the local magistracy as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace; and

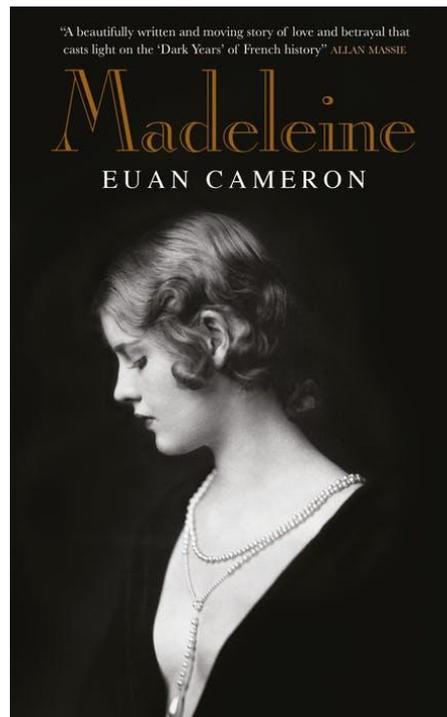
Chairing the local Advisory Committee for the Appointment of the General Commissioners of Income Tax, a tribunal which hears appeals against decisions.

NEW NOVEL

Some of you will recall that **Gerry Ford (59)** informed us some 6 months ago that **Euan Cameron (59)** was about to publish his first novel. Appropriately, as the French say “et voilà”



Euan Cameron is an editor and translator. *Madeleine* is his first novel. He worked in book publishing and as a literary journalist for many years before becoming a translator from French. His translations include works by Julien Green, Paul Morand, Simone de Beauvoir, Patrick Modiano and Philippe Claudel, as well as biographies of Marcel Proust and Irene Nemirovsky. He was appointed Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2011.



A young musician uncovers a painful family history and must confront the realities of collaboration and betrayal in Vichy France

Praise for Madeleine

ALLAN MASSIE

A disclaimer is necessary. Long ago I decided that I would review a book written by a friend only if it was good and gave me pleasure. Otherwise, like the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan, I would pass by on the other side. Euan Cameron is not only one of my closest friends, he was also my publisher and editor of my first five or six novels. Since leaving publishing he has become well-known as a translator of French fiction and biography.

Now, in his eighth decade, he has written his own first novel. Further disclaimer: I read it in manuscript and proof, and am now quoted on the front cover, calling it “A beautifully written and moving story of love and betrayal that casts light on the Dark Years of French history”.

The Dark Years were 1940-44, the years of defeat and the Vichy regime with its “National Revolution”, of the German Occupation and Collaboration, of the Resistance and the “Epuración”, the bloody purge of those who had collaborated with the Germans that followed the Liberation. It is a fascinating period, also bleak and disturbing because of the questions it invites.

Madeleine is a quest novel. The narrator, Will Latymer, an English violinist, gets a letter from a French cousin, Ghislaine, of whom he knows nothing. She tells him that

her mother, Madeleine, has received a package of papers from her first husband, Henry Latymer, an English painter and Will's grandfather, who has just died in Argentina.

Will knows nothing of his grandfather, either – he was never mentioned in the family – but he accepts the invitation.

Henry came to Paris before the war, fell in love with the city – he was already a Francophile – and found more interest in his work there than he had in London. Politically right-wing, even extremely so, he thought the war unnecessary and resisted his father's urging that he do his duty and return home to enlist.

Instead, having made a friend who owned a gallery in Vichy, he moved there. Despite the dreadful war news it is an idyllic time for him. His exhibition is a success and he falls in love with his friend's sister, Chantal. It doesn't concern him then that she is Jewish. It is in Vichy, too, that Henry will meet Madeleine, whose father is a senior civil servant. Madeleine, now living in Brittany in the modern part of the novel, may have been the love of his life; but her story, like his, is as mysterious as it is sad.

It would be wrong to recount the plot. Enough to say that Henry and Madeleine's family find themselves on the wrong side of History. There is a splendidly evocative chapter set in Sigmaringen, a little town on the Danube, where the remnant of Vichy, now known as "la France allemande", dragged out its last wretched days.

Throughout the novel, as it moves back and forward in time, we are confronted by the enigma of Henry. Is he a good man who does some bad things? Perhaps; he is certainly guilty of one despicable, yet all too understandable act of cowardice. The question is whether he can atone for it. Not until Will and Ghislaine go to Argentina to investigate his later years will we get an answer.

That they should fall in love offers both a parallel to the story of Henry and Madeleine, and a sharp contrast: a reminder of how fortunate the generations of Europeans born since the war have been.

Madeleine is a beautifully constructed and well-paced novel, written from a Catholic viewpoint, with an awareness of sin and the possibility of redemption that is rare today. Euan Cameron has respect and sympathy for his characters. The novel is redolent of a love of France – especially of a France which survives only in the memory of those of us old enough to have known it. His descriptions of Paris in its varying moods, of Brittany and the Midi, will give a purring pleasure to all Francophiles. At the same time he is fully aware that much of that old Catholic France was narrow, intolerant and unpleasantly anti-Semitic.

This is a novel which has matured a long time in the author's imagination; it will surely stay in the reader's. - **Allan Massie**

Ed; I would recommend Allan Massie's "Bordeaux Series" set in War time France as both thrilling and convincing.

BUGS



To quote Saint Basil *"Many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away the hunger"* I don't know about hunger but it certainly didn't help the "drive up the fairways" for the Society's annual meeting at Westerham. The BUGS have normally put on an impressive showing in inclement weather but found the conditions on the 29th May particularly challenging.



Two men in a bunker: Marshall and Wells making sandcastles

Indeed Vice Captain **Mark Marshall's** play might have improved with “wipers” fitted to his glasses (on second thoughts – probably not) Apart from members playing for the Bedford Claret Jug we were also taking on the youngsters –the Old St John's Boys (BUCS) for the Desmond Tolhurst Trophy. Our Hon Secretary **Nigel Courtney** had cajoled a reasonable turnout considering age and injury attrition. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Nigel for his hard work and enthusiasm for “keeping the show on the road”.



Of the non-players, **William Henry** (who plays at the rather smart Tandridge up the road) arrived at the clubhouse to inform me that he understood “his milkman was a member here”. **John Flood** took on the role of “drinks wallah” – a part for which he seems admirably suited.

Report from the 19th by **Nigel Courtney**:-

“This is the 3rd year of your ‘new look’ BU Golf Society, the BUGS, and we started our 2019 season with a flourish – not least because we had the pleasure of the company of **William Henry**, the former and long-time organiser of BU golfing.

This year no fewer than 12 BU OBs turned out at Westerham on 29th May and we were delighted to host six St Johns-Beaumont players - the BU Casuals, aka the BUCS. The weather was slightly damp but this did not prevent our players and non-playing supporters from thoroughly enjoying the day. And we were joined in spirit by several BU stalwarts whose intentions to play had been frustrated. Altogether an extraordinary level of support by a group whose common history was so significantly modified over 50 years ago.

Once again we played two competitions: nine BU golfers competed for the craved-for Mike Bedford Trophy and a BUGS team contested the coveted Desmond Tolhurst Cup with the BUCS. John Flood reprised his role as the indispensable dispenser of iced drinks during the games. Our non-playing captain, Robert Wilkinson, turned up slightly late and offered the rather lame excuse that he had had to dine the night before with the Queen and members of the Royal Family. But he was soon out in a buggy, giving a demonstration of carriage racing.

For the BUGS v- BUCS competition **David Collingwood** and **Nigel Courtney** took on Joe Bowman and Colin Ballantyne.; then **Clive Fisher** and **Chris Tailby** played Dan Freeman and Duncan Ballantyne; and **Rupert Lescher** and **Kevin McArdle** engaged with Justin Bowman and Giles Delaney.

At the same time these six BU players had to throw their hats into the ring with **Mark Marshall, Martin Wells and Patrick Solomon** to contend for the **Mike Bedford Trophy**.



Looks good: Rupert putts under the eye of Giles, Justin and Kevin

As usual, the BUGS v- BUCS match was very close – but this time the BUCS scooped the cup by winning 2 to 1. The result for the Bedford trophy was more decisive - **Kevin McArdle** romped home with the best score of the day and was awarded the trophy. **Nigel Courtney** was runner-up, hotly pursued by **Chris Tailby**. All received BU golf balls to mark their achievements. Medallions went to Duncan Ballantyne who was Nearest the Pin on the 11th and to Justin Bowman for the Longest Drive on the 3rd.



“Fisher makes a grab for the trophy but McArdle gets it”



Parting with the family silver Nigel BUGS presents it to Colin BUCS

But the prize-giving did not end there. In fact, in some unaccountable way, everyone present went home with a prize of some sort. Golf balls marked with the exhortation: “play your Provisional ball first” were widely earned. For examples: Joe was awarded one for thrice playing down the wrong fairway; Justin for going into the lake on the 18th; Chris for leaving early to race his car at the Castle Coombe circuit.



Patrick for sporting an umbrella with Oratory colours (Ed: and what about that MANBAG); David for donning a BU tie that is so old that it has become fossilised and finally John Flood received a special award for managing to tip the drinks icebox off his buggy no fewer than three times.” (when he was sober!)



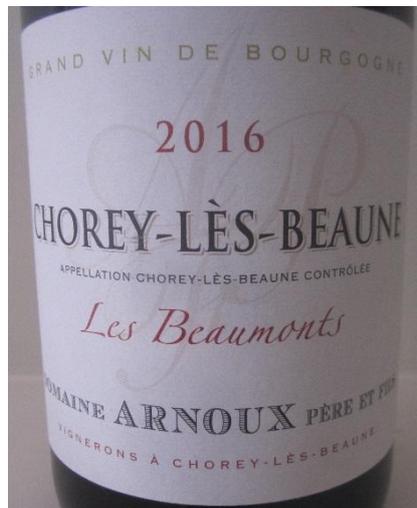
“Rumour has it that Collingwood found his tie together with a discarded jock strap at the bottom of his sock draw”.

Gentlemen, our next meeting will be at Denham on 10th September to play the OGGS. Unfortunately the match v- Worth OBs had to be cancelled but by popular acclaim the Mike Bedford Trophy and the Tolhurst Cup will next be played for on **Wednesday 27th May 2020, once more at Westerham Golf Club.** Please put this date in your diary right away.

If you would like to participate, as a player or non-playing supporter, please contact Robert or me [nigel@courtney.net] as soon as convenient.

A final thought from the Editor as we departed Westerham: *“Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add colour to my sunset sky”.*

Ed & non playing Captain: It was a very pleasant surprise to be presented with a very acceptable bottle of Burgundy especially in view of its “signature”.-Les Beaumonts.



“Lovely, sexy dark fruit. Perky - pinging zip. Morello cherry - but energetic - and nice weight. Some dark glossy berries. Concentrated. Quite polished, but not too ripe. Nice, a tension here a tautness - explains the zing somewhat.

Naturally I can understand why Nigel thought it was apt for my good self!

Class of 60 Dinner

John Flood writes:-

After last year's Year dinner, as there had been limited notice for this and a number of our year could not make it and encouraged us to give them another opportunity, we held a further dinner on the 17th May, again at the Rag, but this time in the private and very suitable Nelson room. Our numbers were 3 up on 2018. Those attending were:-

Ian Bangham, Arthur Cope, David Danson, Romain de Cock, John Devaux, Michael Dickens, John Flood, Henry Hayward, Christopher Newling-Ward, Michael Newton, Terence O'Brien, Michael Penruddock, Paul Reynier, Patrick Solomon and Michael Wortley.

One had travelled from the USA and two from Ireland.



Ed: Hayward with stuffed acquaintance.

Henry as a Rag member kindly facilitated the event at this venue and there appeared to be unanimous approval of its suitability and that the Asparagus, Venison and Apple Strudel and wines had all been excellent.



Ed: *“By the apprehensive looks someone said Ravioli was on the menu”*



We gathered as from 6.30 in the Roof terrace bar, although this time the weather was not as kind as last year, so we were inside. This gave an hour and a half for chatting before going to the Nelson room for dinner where we ate at a single dining table and could all join in the same conversation for part of the evening.



Deep and meaningful conversations

This was the 6th Class of 60 dinner, previous dinners being held in 1985 and 2000 at the Basil Street Hotel, 2007 at the Rag, 2010 at Beaumont and 2018 again at the Rag. The first of these marked 25 years since our arrival at Beaumont, the second 40 years and the fourth 50 years. So next year will be 60 years – there appeared to be full support to mark this with another dinner, especially as there were again many who had planned to be with us this year, but for a variety of reasons could not make it, many blaming their wives for making other arrangements! If any of the Class of 60 have dates they want us to avoid between May and September, it would be very helpful if they would let me know very soon so that a date can be fixed before long. Please just email john.flood@westhylands.co.uk, both to indicate your interest and your pre-existing commitments.



The next day many of those who attended the dinner came to West Hylands with their wives for a garden lunch and were joined by our two sons, **Andrew Flood (Hon)** & **Christopher Flood (StJ 93)** and daughters-in-law and subjected to the noise of 5 of our 6 young grandchildren!



Ed: *I notice that **Potter** goes for the bottle, **Reynier** the fodder and **Newton** the conversation.*

ARTICLES

The Battle for Normandy.

Updated from what I wrote for VRIL four years ago.

Probably more than any other battle, the Normandy invasion changed the course of history; the greatest maritime invasion of all time and its consequent battle took place through that summer 75 years ago. It would be remiss of me not to record that event illustrated by a few of the OBs who took part.



Delayed 24hrs because of bad weather, the liberation of France under the code name “Overlord” began on the 6th June 1944. By dawn, eighteen thousand British and American parachutists were on the ground in Normandy, capturing essential bridges and disrupting German lines of communication.

At 6.30 that morning the first American troops landed on the beaches followed an hour later by the British and Canadians and by midnight over 100 thousand allied troops were ashore and apart from the Americans on Omaha Beach were making progress inland. The Germans still hesitated to commit full resources against the bridgehead believing it was only a ploy. Casualties were relatively low; allied losses were under two thousand. That same day the Germans took 400 Greek Hostages, three hundred Italian POWs and a couple of hundred Jews by boat out to sea from Crete and scuttled them; there were no survivors. It was this creed that the Allies were determined to destroy.



Artist's impression of a Lysander on operations.

Such is a quick recap of that day in June, but the preparation, planning and training had started a long time before. The fiasco of the Dieppe raid 1942 must not be repeated: Intelligence was vital and in 1942 **Colonel "Remy" Renault-Roulier** had brought the blueprints of the coastal fortifications with him when he and his escaped to England: his son **Jean-Claude (48)** was sent to Beaumont. Remy's further clandestine operations back in occupied France were orchestrated by SOE staff such as **Harold Cochrane (20)**, lately assistant Advocate General in the Sudan. The Notre Dame Brotherhood kept the information up to date and was confirmed by aerial reconnaissance. It was essential to guard Allied plans from the German High command and bombing raids had to give no indication as to the preferred invasion area. To this end and to mislead the Germans false intelligence was fed to them by double agents such as the Spaniard Juan Garcia who was overseen by **Edward Cussen (23)** at MI5. The Germans needed to believe that the obvious choice was the Pas de Calais. The ruse was to prove a brilliant success.

The choice of landing in Normandy

An Allied landing in force on a broad front in Normandy would mount several threats to the German forces. The port of Cherbourg and coastal ports further west in Brittany could be attacked. An overland thrust could be made towards Paris. From Paris an attack could be made to the border with Germany. Normandy was a less-defended coast. Normandy was also an unexpected jumping-off point. There was potential to confuse and scatter the German defending forces.

The initial plan proposed a landing from the sea by three divisions, with two brigades landed by air. In total, 47 divisions would be committed to the Battle. 19 divisions would be British, five Canadian and one Polish under British command. There would

be 21 American divisions with one Free French division. In total there would be over a million troops. General Montgomery presented his strategy for the invasion. He envisaged a ninety day battle, ending when all the forces reached the River Seine. The objective for the first 40 days was to create a bridgehead. This would include Caen and Cherbourg, a vital deep-water port. The breakout from the bridgehead would liberate Brittany and its Atlantic ports. After ninety days the Allies would control a zone bounded by the River Loire in the south and River Seine in the northeast.

In May, there was a diversionary raid on railway junctions and marshalling yards south of Paris and despite growing Allied air superiority casualties were heavy.

Count Henri de Boisgelin (07) and his American born wife Rachel reported from their Chateau at Houssay. *“Many of us living near were awakened by a tremendous roar of motors, by firing, and then the sky was lighted up for miles around by explosions. But at that time the Germans were masters here, and anyone who stepped out of a house before five in the morning risked being shot. By the noise and the glow in the sky, when the planes came down the Germans knew what had happened, and they were looking at everything before anyone else ... It grieves us to tell ... these painful details but the planes caught fire which made the identification of those who were in them extremely difficult.”*

Of the fifteen aircrew shot down over the de Boisgelin's village of Beauchery only one survived; and of those killed only two, could be identified. The remains were placed in five coffins and buried by the villagers in a collective grave in the Beauchery Communal Cemetery.

“Never has our village seen such a big crowd – 1,800 to 2,000 people. At that lovely time of the year, there were plenty of lilac and lilies of the valley, also tulips and rarer flowers. The five coffins disappeared under the tulips ... and whilst they were all being taken to their last resting place in this peaceful corner of the cemetery where grass often grows, we were thinking of their families who might be thinking of them alive – somewhere in Europe”.

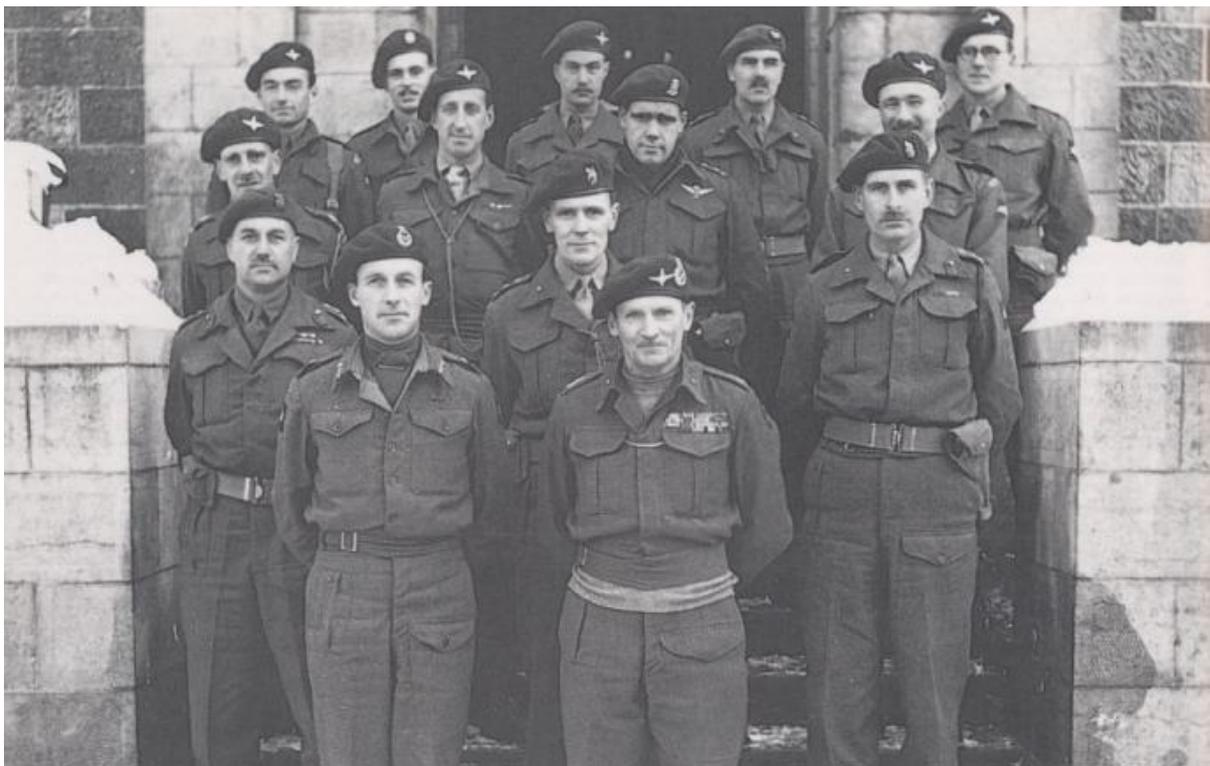
The spot where one of the bodies had fallen to earth became a place to express the hope for liberation. Rachel de Boisgelin watched as flowers were placed there, and recalled how the Germans tried to catch those responsible, and how the villagers continued to lay their tributes to 'fearlessly keep alive the memory of those fallen aviators'.

Liberation for the de Boisgelins and their fellow countrymen was now underway. It was at a cost, not just of those in action, but men in training such as **Hugh Pritchard**, Captain of the School in '38 and after Magdalene Oxford was with his regiment the Grenadier Guards in preparation for the invasion; he was killed when his tank overturned on manoeuvres at the end of March. Another was **John Williams (36)**, son of the Irish Whiskey distiller of Tullamore he had volunteered for parachute training but died on a practice jump over southern England.

Denis Beatson Hird (30) had served at the fall of France but would now be returning in a fresh Battalion as a company commander with – 10th Highland Light

Infantry. They were part of the 15th Scottish Division and had moved south from the wilds of Caithness to Sledmere, the home of **The Sykes (Sir Mark 94)** and eventually to finish their preparations in Sussex. Last minute training, last minute parties and the sense of imminent action.

The ground forces taking part in the invasion came from three sources; those withdrawn from combat operations elsewhere such as Italy. Those that had taken a mauling at Dunkirk in 1940 and had been held in reserve for this occasion and those that would be going into battle for the first time. There were OBs in all these categories and some found themselves in a role they had not expected. **Gerard "Florrie" Ford (30)** was a regular officer of the South Lancashire Regiment, but more airborne troops were required. His battalion was selected and they were transformed into the 13th (Lancashire) Bn of the Parachute Regiment. Not quite as dramatic but **Major John Drummond (28)** with the 1st Battalion of The Ulster Rifles were also allocated to the 6th Airborne Division to be carried in by glider. Light artillery would go with them including 210 Battery of the Worcestershire Yeomanry commanded by Drummond's cousin the **Hon Charles Russell (26)**, later Lord of Appeal.



Florrie (centre back row) with other senior officers of the 6th Airborne. Photo taken in the Ardennes in January 1945 not long before he was killed. Tall officer behind Montgomery, right of picture is Brig. Nigel Poett (Downside) son of **OB Maj- General Joseph Poett (73)**.

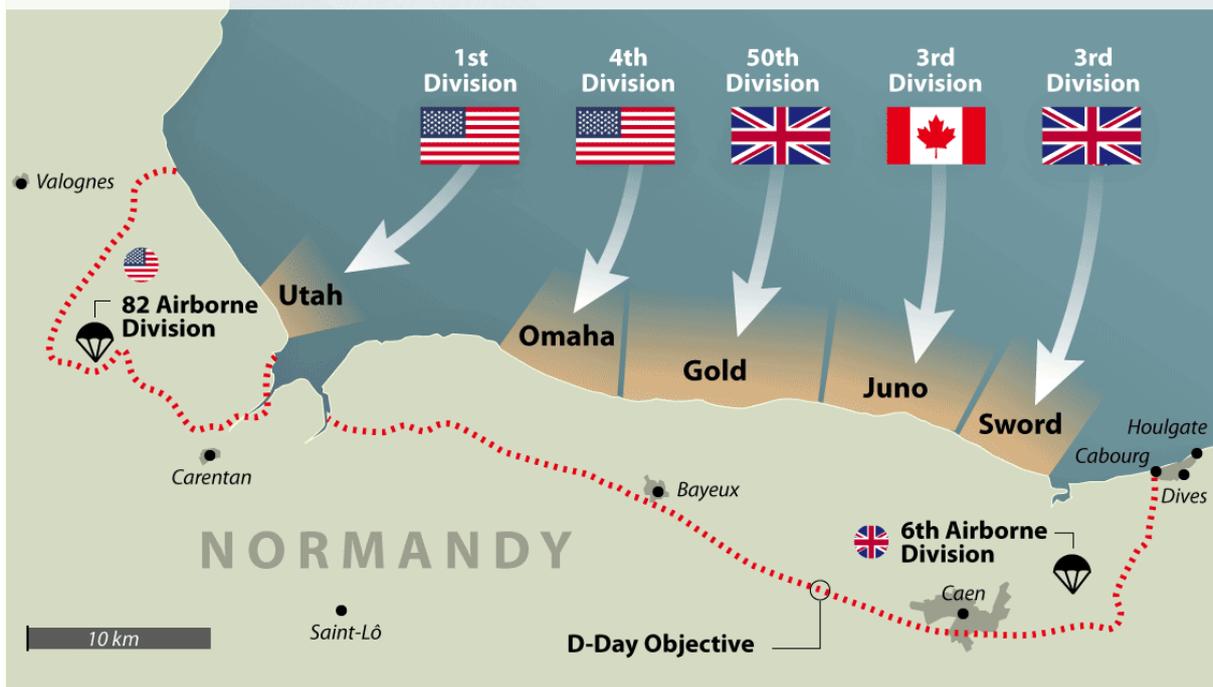
The 6th Airborne Division was part of two Corps that made up the British 2nd Army; they would land after midnight on the 6th June in advance of the main invasion force. The Army was under the command of General “Bimbo” Dempsey, the son in law of **Percy O’Reilly (84)** an Olympic Polo Silver Medallist of 1904.



General Miles “Bimbo” Dempsey

The British and Canadian beach landings would take place on “Sword”, “Juno” and “Gold” facing the line of Caen to Bayeux. The American Army under General Bradley landed further along the coast to the west of Omaha and Utah Beaches.

Normandy Landings June 6, 1944



THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Airborne assault, just after midnight, went relatively to plan; however there were troops dropped well away from their targets, lost in the flooded marshland or worse still in the River Orne. Americans were machine gunned as they came down at Sainte Mere Eglise. **John Drummond's** glider had to make an emergency landing at Worthing when the towing plane had problems; he had to take off twice before taking up defensive positions on the Orne. (not many survive a glider landing twice without injury.)



Men of the 1st Battalion The Ulster Rifles Leaving their landing zone

On landing, **Florie Ford** gathered his company on the hunting horn and took up their allocated position north of Ranville on the eastern side of R Orne. Apart from startling the cows and the Comtesse de Rohan Chabot at her chateau all was quiet; there were no Germans to be seen – yet, but the first village in France had been liberated. They dug in and waited; the 21st Panzer Division was on its way.

At the same time as the Airborne troops “dropped in” the allied bomber command flew over 1000 aircraft to hit gun emplacements, troop concentrations and airfields. When they were finished it was the turn of the capital ships out at sea firing broadsides to cover the invasion force as they went in: the troops felt the shock waves as the shells passed overhead.

Hugh Dinwiddy (Hon), later the charismatic English and games master was in command of a landing craft carrying Canadian troops and were the first to hit Juno Beach at 0730am. His craft had been part of a flotilla that had set out from the mother ships but the initial bombardment had not suppressed the coastal defences; they met stiff resistance and other craft disappeared in a shower of debris and floating bodies. Any survivors and cries for help had to be ignored as the second wave came into the beach. There was carnage and chaos as the men, heavily laden, tried to stagger ashore. Many were drowned or ripped apart as the German machine gunners found easy targets. The first assault troops paid a terrible price but with sheer tenacity gained a foothold and fought their way off the beach taking the first line of defences.

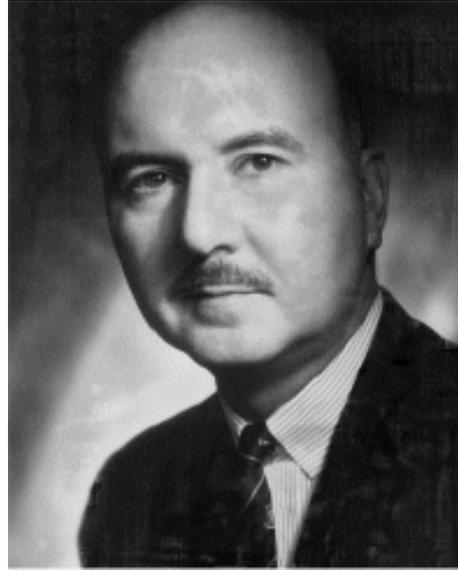


Others that came ashore included **Maxwell Chamberlain (36)** a onetime Captain of the school, with the Lincolns; he had last faced the Germans at Dunkirk. Another regiment seeking revenge from that retreat were the Royal Norfolks after the murder of their men at Le Paradis; **Eric Cooper-Key (35)** had been in India with the 1st Battalion at the outbreak of War and had been frustrated by home defence until now. A grandson of a First Sea Lord and an Army Cricketer he would be awarded an MC in Holland. Alongside the Norfolks on the 6th June were the 2nd Bn of the Royal Warwick's with a Canadian Loan Officer – **Don Jaime Oland (38)** of the famed Hailifax brewery company: their orders to march on Caen and capture it. This was not feasible with the troops available. The infantry battalions had to attack strong German defences with their tank support stuck on the beaches: losses were heavy and they could not make headway.

Montgomery's answer to this setback was to bomb Caen and force the Germans out and while this was in progress the main thrust would be south between Caen and Bayeux.



Eric Cooper-Key



Don Oland

Two of the armoured regiments that were part of the initial landings were the 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars with a young **Philip de May (41)** son of a Moravian noble, leading his troop in action for the first time. With the 13/18th Royal Hussars was **Captain Anthony Lyon Clark (26)**; originally he had been a regular officer but had left when he married his American wife Margot and he had re-joined at the outbreak of war from New York. Many other OBs would follow in the weeks and months ahead particularly with the Guards Armoured Division. Half of The Household Brigade would be fighting in tanks for the first time and for many this was an odd role: as one of their distinguished officers said “we are very good at defence but never brilliant on the attack – we are taught to stand and die to the last man: the exception are the Irish who have that killer instinct”. Over 20 OBs, with seemingly that “quality”, were serving officers with the Irish Guards among them were five who left in '43 – **Richard de Ayla** of the champagne family whose father **Edmund (13)** was fighting with the maquis, **Lawrence Dowley**, **Basil Berkeley**, **John Russi** and **Robert O’Grady**. All trained under **RSM Tom Kelly** at Pirbright and were commissioned together in preparation for the invasion. Much more experienced was **Basil Eugster (33)** already with an MC & Bar and **John Swann (41)** who landed with the 2nd Armoured Battalion on the 1 July. He would be the third OB Mick to be killed in action when his tank was hit in September when the breakout was complete.



Basil Eugster

The most senior OB to arrive on the beaches was **Brigadier Jerry Sheil (15)**, the Commander Royal Artillery for the 51st Highland Division. Jerry, Irish and a horseman of note had commanded 10th Field Regiment with the BEF and had to “spike his Guns” before evacuation at Dunkirk. He then took over 128 (Highland) Regiment RA to win the first of his DSOs in North Africa and his second was awarded in Sicily; a charismatic leader. His Division was in the second wave and came under the command of the Canadians and for battle hardened troops the Highlanders were going to have their worst experiences of the War in the weeks ahead.

Another Gunner to land was **Captain Guy Chilver-Stainer MC (32)** with “DD” Battery RHA and like the 8th Hussars they were old Desert Rats of the 7th Armoured Division. The Diary of the time gives a good description of their crossing and arrival in Normandy;

5 June 5

“Packed tightly in 3-tonners, the Battery moved to the quay-side and embarked on the American M.T. ship 16 at midday. Accommodation was bad: the holds of a cargo ship, with men packed tightly and only a few raised in hammocks, offer little ventilation or peacefulness. The Captain was a man of seventy years who had only recently returned to the sea. His officers contrived to run the ship successfully, albeit on rather happy-go-lucky lines. Picking up our own private barrage balloon, we sailed out down the Thames, waving to the rest of the Regiment .On M.T. 16 en passant, and anchored off Southend Pier.

6 June

Here we were waiting, when news came that the operation had started early this morning. The Colonel had briefed Battery Commanders on 3rd June, but only now could the plan be revealed to everybody and detailed orders and maps issued. The latter were available on a lavish scale. Meals on board were difficult (rations were the "compo" type), Self-heating tins of soup and cocoa were a new and welcome idea.

7 June

The convoy sailed at 0600 hours, and had an uneventful passage down the English Channel,

8 June

By the schedule we were due to land today, hot rough weather was slowing up the off-loading on the beaches. One had to be content with being one small part of the vast Henley Regatta scene that was the Allied invasion's shipping lying off the coast of Normandy. The scene never lacked interest as one watched throughout the day. Rodney and Ramillies were firing steadily - at what? You could only guess it was towards Caen, One heard that on the evening of D Day the Canadian (3rd Canadian Division) reached the edge of Caen, but later had to come back.

9 June

Landed and moved inland to Hermanville.

13 June

Cambes and saw the C.O, of the 1st K.O.S.B. His offer of help was gladly accepted: a few hundred yards in front of their forward posts were some sixteen tanks, dug-in, with their crews all protected by slit-trenches. The only O.P. possible was in a farm building exactly, two hundred yards from the nearest enemy tank (some weeks later the exact distance was paced). To get there involved crawling over exposed country: **Captain Stainer** reached the O.P. and had a highly successful shoot".

The Initial plan, apart from securing the bridgehead, was to capture Caen. This, as I previously stated, proved insurmountable as it was strongly held by the Germans and further repeated attacks were unsuccessful. The 13/18 Hussars who were to support the initial assault had many of its tanks stuck in the shallows and although their engines were flooded went into action but could not move to cover the attack. It was to take another month to force the enemy out of the city. Caen was bombed and shelled into a ruin and over 6000 civilians were killed. While Caen held the British fought their way south between the city and Bayeux to try and encircle from the south west; it was to take them to Tilly sur Seulles and Villers-Bocage.

Denis Beatson Hird and the HLI embarked on Derby Day - 17th June and waded ashore on Juno Beach before marching in full battle order and soaking wet the 14 miles to their concentration area just short of the Caen Bayeux main axis route. "As a Battalion we were still novices at the art and practicalities of war". This was soon to change as they went into action in some of the most difficult terrain imaginable. In their first week they would lose 66 killed and 210 wounded.



Bocage

Bocage referred to the local countryside of small fields, often hilly with narrow sunken lanes and high hedges. It was difficult for the infantry to operate in and was even more hazardous for armoured vehicles. The Germans with simple hand held anti-tank rockets were able to knock out the tanks at short range. Your chances of survival in a lead tank were grim but the troops accepted their lot stoically and with typical “squadry humour”.



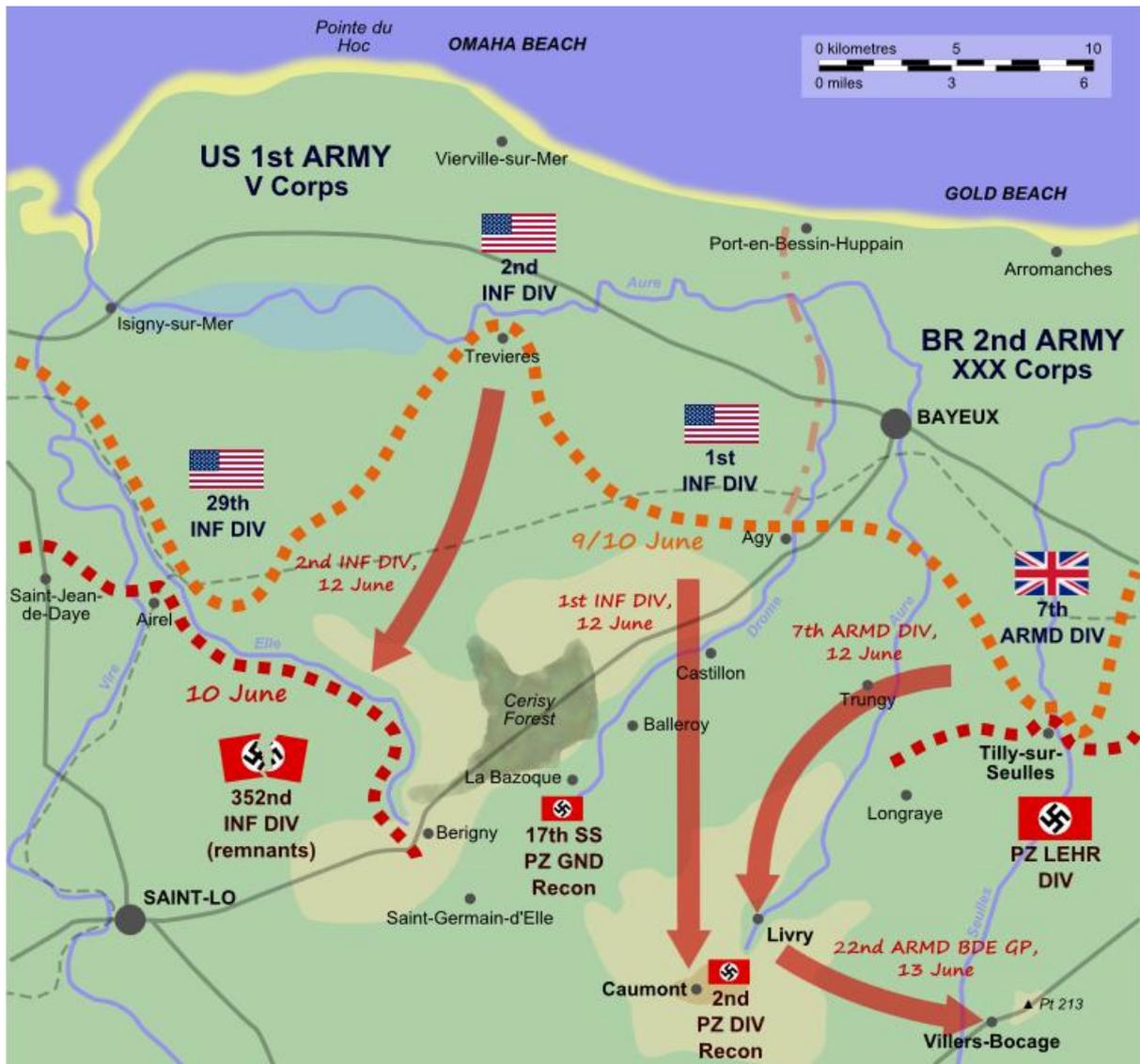
The Sherman nicknamed by its British crews “The Ronson” or “The Tommy Cooker”

The British equipped with American Shermans found that once hit, the vehicles would “brew up” like a chip pan. Montgomery wanted his most battle hardened troops to make the breakthrough – the 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats) but in this terrain it was a case of “Here they could see us but bugged if we can see them”. Despite close support by the self-propelled guns of 5th RHA under command of the hero of Hondegham **Robert Rawdon Hoare DSO, MC (13)**, the Germans could still pack a punch and the British were held at Villers on the 13 June and could not force the breakthrough; they had to withdraw. It was a major tactical setback and a heavy blow to morale with fault at all levels particularly the Generals but also many men were showing battle fatigue after years of front line fighting.



A mortar round hit

It was mortar fire that killed **Philip de May** on the 14th June as the regiment leaguered up for the night. One week into the invasion and it brought to an end the phase of gaining ground. It was now attrition that would take Caen.



Information was being quickly relayed to Army commanders by teams from the General Headquarters Liaison Regiment known as “Phantom”. Intelligence gatherers who were one of the clandestine outfits working behind the lines. They ensured that the battle map and unit locations were current. Commanding one of these teams was **Major Denis Russell (27)**, a son of the Hon Cyril and a peacetime Middlesex cricketer, racing enthusiast and stockbroker. What these teams reported was not good news for the British sector as the Germans brought in Waffen SS divisions to stiffen the defences. These men were indoctrinated Nazis many of whom were responsible for numerous atrocities: they would fight to the last man for Hitler and the fatherland. Their culture was that they did not take prisoners usually shooting them out of hand. Once known, this was reciprocated by some allied troops.



A "Phantom" Team

Also behind the enemy lines were the men of "Plan Sussex" either Free French under the control of Colonel "Remy" or allied linguists. Among the Americans, and under the auspices of the OSS (forerunners of the CIA) was **Reggie Dussaq (39)**, Born in Liechtenstein, he was an enlisted soldier, fresh out of Princeton and recruited for his linguistic skills. Reggie was one of the US "Ritchie Boys" trained at a secret camp in Maryland. He was later killed in August.



Hard graft at Bletchley

Back in England, German plans and movements were being monitored by Bletchley Park. Key analysts in the specialist "Testery" group such as **Kevin O'Neill (35)**, later Head of the Canadian equivalent of GCHQ, were scanning their decrypts. They

thwarted the German plan for a massed attack by torpedo boats against allied shipping crossing the Channel; Leonard Cheshire VC who later married the onetime St John's assistant matron Sue Ryder, led the raid on Le Havre on the 14 June destroying the pens and leaving only one boat afloat. Bletchley also confirmed that Hitler still believed that the landings were a ruse and was unwilling to re-deployment of divisions from the Pas de Calais region.



B-17s on a Raid in support of the Landings

Some 3000 aircraft had supported the allied landings and they continued to fly missions to assist the ground forces. Although air superiority had been gained, there were still casualties. One such, was a Flying Fortress of 710 Bomb Squadron out of Rattlesdon. On the 19 June the plane was hit by flak over the Cotentin and trying to limp home came down over the Channel. The ball turret gunner was 20 year old **Sgt Hugh Crimmins (39)**; the crew was lost. Hugh's brother **Thomas (38)** was a contemporary of **Reggie Dussa** at Princeton and later killed at Okinawa.

Wing-Cdr William Devas, nephew of the highly decorated WW1 Chaplains **Francis, Raymund and Philip** reported on one of his bombing raids:-

"We were standing by for the normal night attack. Some of our aircraft were still flying, while ground crews were working on the others. Flight crews were either preparing for the night's work or were sleeping. Suddenly the message came that were to bomb a tactical target at short notice. Aircraft had to be recalled, crews summoned from all parts of the dispersal camp, bomb and petrol loads had to be changed, cameras and ammunition altered for daylight work. Every man in the squadron was at full pressure. Minutes sped by, crews assembled for the briefing, without time for the evening meal. The target was a concentration of enemy tanks,

troops and guns in the vicinity of Villers-Bocage. They were preparing for a counter attack and they were not going to be allowed to get away with that. After the briefing, the last hurried preparations were completed and it was a relief to get airborne on time. The actual target was small as was vital. When we got there and it was bombs away, streaming down and on target all landing smack in the right place.



Villers being reduced to ruins

It was 12 minutes of precision bombing, done exactly as it should be done and what flak there was made little or no difference to its accuracy, the weather was good and we had a clear run. Underneath, dust, smoke and flying debris surged up into the air. We turned for home and then I saw something which I shall not easily forget. It was in a way a fitting reward: British tanks on the move again nosing forward towards the enemy positions.” Devas was awarded a DFC, AFC and a CBE.



Operating in the Field near Bayeux

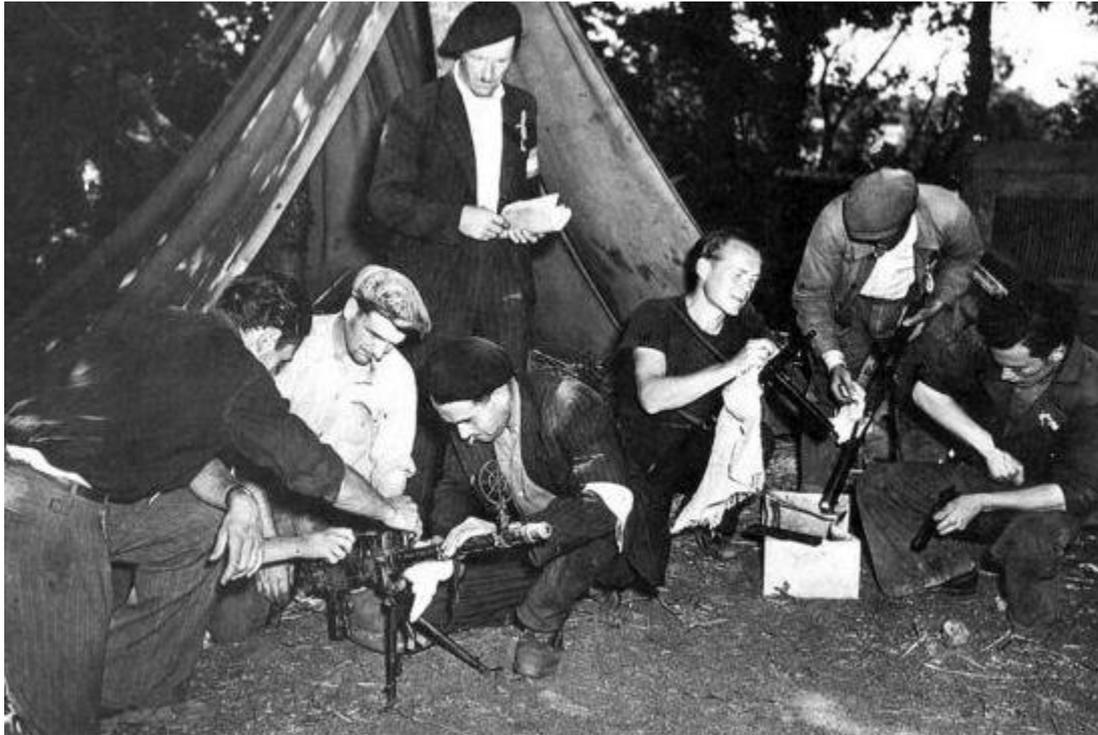
Wounded within the bridgehead were initially dealt with by the supporting RAMC Field Ambulances until Field Hospitals could be set up and evacuation organised. The medical treatment plan (Triage) was organised and actioned by **Lt Colonel “C P” Stevens (29)** and his staff and was all part of the detailed organisation that was required by an operation on a huge scale. Many doctors and surgeons were needed and these included **Sqn Ldr Gordon Gryspeerd (31) RAFVR** at the time he was a trauma and orthopaedic specialist though later to make his name in neuro surgery. He and the other medical teams were working all hours as a constant stream of wounded were brought in.



Mulberry “an exceptional piece of engineering and construction”.

To this end, resupply was vital and two floating harbours were brought across the channel; one to support the British, the other the Americans. "Mulberry" would provide a port the size of Dover and was constructed with much secrecy by engineering companies around England. One such was Measures Brothers under its Managing Director **Frank Outred (24)**. The harbours were constructed at Aramanches and at Omaha by 9 June. A severe storm was to wreck the American port on the 19 June but the British harbour designed to last 3 months, operated for 8 months and brought in over 2.5 million men, half a million vehicles and 4 million tons of stores.

The various factions and circuits of the French Resistance were included in the plan for *Overlord*. Through the London-based headquarters that supposedly embraced all resistance groups, the British Special Operations Executive orchestrated a massive campaign of sabotage. The Allies developed four plans for the French Resistance to execute on D-Day and the following days. Coded messages were transmitted. One famous pair of these messages is often stated to be the general call to arms by the Resistance. A few days before D-Day, the (slightly misquoted) first line of Verlaine's poem, *Chanson d'Automne*, was transmitted. "*Les sanglots longs des violons de l'automne (Long sobs of autumn violins)*" alerted the resistance fighters of the Ventriloquist network in the Orleans region to attack rail targets within the next few days. The second line, "*Bercent mon coeur d'une langueur monotone*" ("soothe my heart with a monotonous languor"), transmitted late on 5 June, meant that the attack was to be mounted immediately. It was appropriate that this Group should be the first to be informed as it was set up and commanded by **Baron Philippe de Vomécourt (19)** and was one of the first organised after the arrival of Philippe's brother **Pierre (19)**, SOE's first Group Leader in May 1941 .



Both SOE and the SAS were involved in taking offensive action. **Major John Farmer (35)**, the local SOE coordinator in the Auvergne together with his operator Nancy Wake, organized some 2000 Maquis in the battle of Mont Mouchet over the 10 – 11 June holding up the rapid advance north to Normandy of some 3000 German troops. Later some 7000 maquisards brought together by Farmer and Wake would hold down some 22 thousand of the enemy. After the war Farmer moved to MI6.

Maverick **Ellery Anderson SAS (35)** had an unexpected landing south of Falaise in a manure heap; the Resistance leader insisted that he had a bath and a change of clothes before they started operations within the German defended area.



Another team was led by **Peter Le Poer Power (29)** a chain-smoker and “inscrutable as the sphinx”: he had come to the SAS through stable management and tea planting in Ceylon and carried a scar across his face after a close encounter with a bullet in North Africa. Peter was awarded an MC in Normandy for his activities in “liquidating Germans”.

Alex Muirhead (38) nick-named Wooster for his idiosyncrasies and his accent, was dropped into the Morvan region of Burgundy with his SAS team to assist some of the most formidable groups in France. German retribution was swift and savage; villages razed and their populations murdered; names such as Oradour, Dun-Les-Places will not be forgotten. At Tulle, in the “Vomecourt” area of activity, a hundred men were sized and killed by the SS; “I came home to find my husband and son hanging from the balcony of my house” recalled one woman.

The work of the Resistance was invaluable to the Battle for Normandy. On the 6 June, the 2nd SS Panzer Division equipped with the latest heavy tanks were ordered north from their base at Toulouse. It should have taken them 3 days to reach the combat area; it took them two extra weeks because of ambushes and sabotage.



Maquis inspect the fruits of their labour

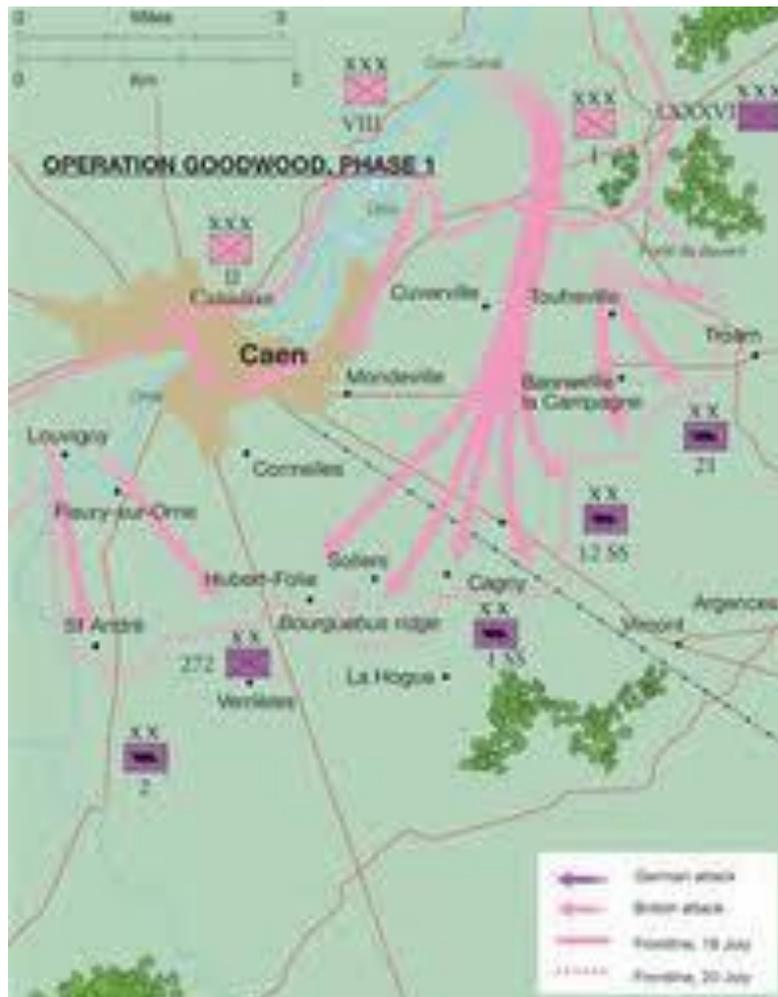
Although reinforcement was slow in arriving, the Germans were proving extremely difficult to dislodge and defeat in an area better suited to defence than attack. Temporarily blocked trying to outflank the enemy at Villers Bocage, Montgomery ordered General Dempsey to break out to the east of Caen with an Operation named Goodwood. Although this was to be a feint to allow Bradley and his forces time to outflank Villers and continue the advance East, Montgomery gave Dempsey the objective of Falaise to the south of Caen. On the face of it, the ground seemed far more attractive than the bocage; once across the River Orne it was flat and open and ideal for the use of armour. However, the Germans had mined the ground and it suited their tanks better than the allied vehicles.



German "Tiger" Tank

The German armour had a much more powerful gun capable of a devastating round at a longer range, they could take on the Shermans, except for the Firefly version, well before our tanks could respond. They also had the formidable 88 anti-tank gun. The British had a 6pdr anti-tank gun with which certain Gunner regiments were equipped. One such the 71st with men from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and commanded by **Lt Colonel Gerald Castelli (14)**: Gerald had been wounded and a POW in WW1 –he was to suffer the same fate in this conflict but with a DSO and other bravery decorations. The 6pdr was not very effective against the front armour of the German tanks but Dempsey believed that the enemy could ill afford any tank losses whereas he had plenty in reserve; of greater concern to him would be the loss of experienced tank crews and there were few infantry replacements. This was to be an armoured led battle by three divisions.

However, the Germans still held Caen in strength as had been shown only one week previously when the 51st Highland Division with **Jerry Sheil** had failed to take the village of Colombelles on the NE outskirts of the city and had been forced to withdraw. This was yet another setback that the Scots had suffered since moving through Ranville which had been taken by **Florrie Ford** and the 13th Paras on D Day. Montgomery was highly critical of the Highlanders saying "They have failed every mission given to them"; their general was one of several sacked by the Allied Commander. It would seem that Dempsey's Divisions would risk flanking fire from the outskirts of the City as they moved south and not only have to break through German minefields but our own defensive ones laid by the Highlanders to protect their lines.



Probably aware of these difficulties, Montgomery had lesser objectives than Falaise in mind for the 2nd Army but failed to Inform Eisenhower as Supreme Commander which was to lead those at SHAEF to believe that the operation was a failure. The attack was to be led by 3rd Royal Tank Regiment commanded by David Silvertop. He was the son of **Cmdr Arthur Silvertop RN (90)** of Minsteracres killed at Horne Reef (Jutland) in 1916. David was four at the time of his father's death and his mother sent him to Ampleforth before a commission in the 14/20th King's Hussars. The Operation started on 18 July with a huge rolling artillery barrage assisted by RAF fighter bombers. The RTR reached their objective to the East of Caen but with heavy casualties. The lead division then passed to the Guards Armoured and by the end of the day they had reached Cagny to the east of the city where they consolidated. In the next couple of days, the Germans counter-attacked but the positions held and on the 20 July Dempsey called a halt to the armoured operations and brought forward his infantry. Among the casualties on the 18 July was **Anthony Lyon-Clarke** with his Regiment 13/18H fighting with 27th Armoured Brigade on the eastern flank of the main thrust. They had found Troarn heavily defended and successive attacks failed. The Brigade was broken up at the end of the Operation and the Regiments re-distributed.



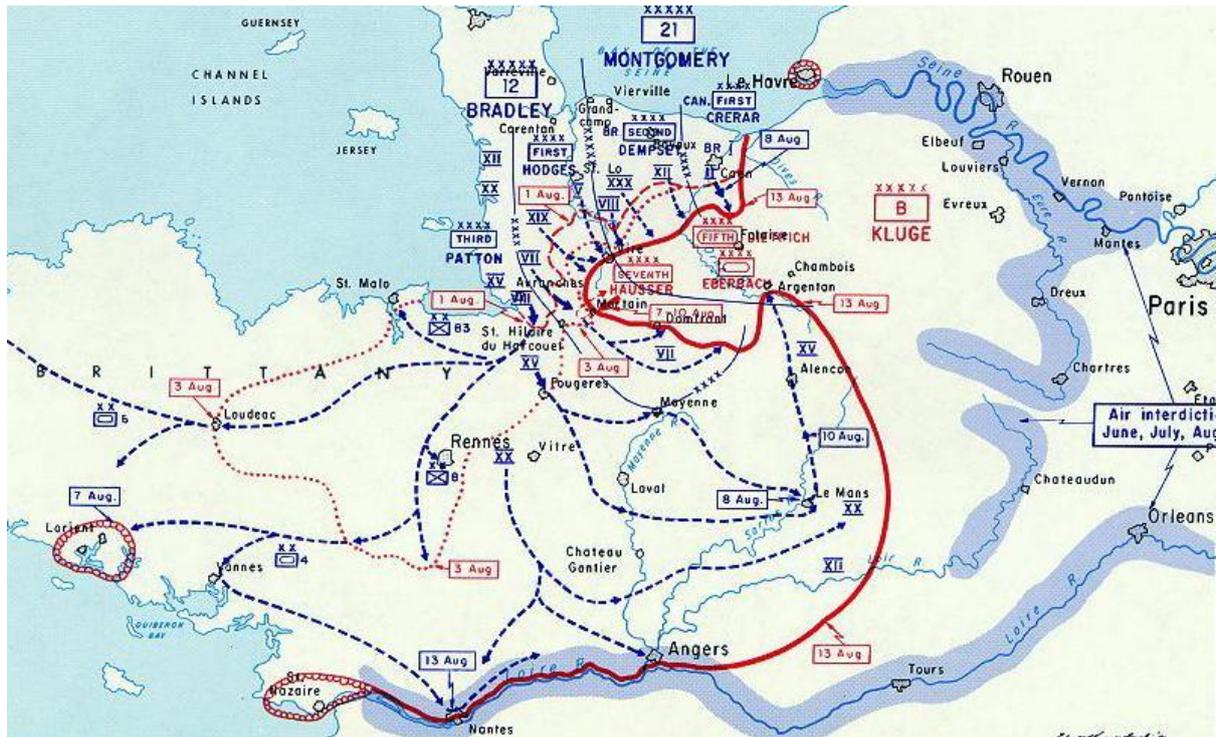
The Guards Armoured Division moving to Cagny

Tactically the Germans had contained the offensive, though they had now been forced out of Caen. They had prevented a breakthrough but on the other hand it had drawn the German resources away from the oncoming Americans with the enemy now believing that the major threat was coming down from the east of Caen. British tank casualties had been heavy indeed, but the Germans had lost equipment that could not be replaced; attrition was working. Allied Air Forces had control of the air. German movement came under fighter attack particularly by rocket firing Typhoon and Mustang squadrons who wreaked havoc with daylight movement not only troop concentrations but on the commanders as well: both FM Rommel and von Kluge were strafed and wounded.



Michael de Kerdrel

Among these pilots were **Flt/ Lt Vicomte Michael de Kerdrel RAF (35)**, an Anglo Breton, he had made an amazing escape to England by submarine in 1941, he was now flying missions with 175 Sqn as was the American **James Ferris (37)** from New Jersey with 359 Fighter Group: “Jimmy’s letters home” were published after the war: both he and Michael de Kerdrel were later killed.



Tightening the noose – The Falaise Pocket

On the American front during July, they launched a major operation (Cobra) to clear western Normandy and Brittany; the German defences in that area were collapsing. The British played their part outflanking Villers; **Denis Beatson Hird** and his men were part of this operation. Bimbo Dempsey signaled “ it was the 15th Scottish Division that broke the main enemy defensive line south of Caumont and opened the way for the Armoured Divisions; the result of your great action can now be seen by everyone”.



Beatson Hird's men on the march

On 1 August General Patton's Third Army took over the offensive and swung south taking Le Mans on 8 August and approached the Falaise Pocket with the British, Canadians and Poles working their way south to join them.

Under the command of the Canadians moving down from Caen were the 51st Highlanders with **Jerry Sheil's** gunner regiments in support. Many of the infantry were carried on American self-propelled guns known as Priests from their pulpit style turrets. The personnel carrier version with the gun removed were known to the troops as "de-frocked priests". Between the 6 – 8 August the Highlanders took all their objectives deep into the German defensive positions and felt their honour was restored after their early setbacks and criticisms in July.



Michel d'Arcangue

Under the command of General Patton approaching from the west was the French 2nd Armoured Division led by General Leclerc that had landed on their home soil on 1 August. With the 12th Cuirassiers, known as “The Big Brothers”, for their reputation of coming to the aid of others, was **Lt Michel d’Arcangues (30)**. Michel, the son and heir of the Marquis d’Iranda had initially run an escape route from his home Basque country over the Pyrenees for allied servicemen. With the Germans closing in on his activities, he went over the mountains himself in March 1943 and made his way to England to join the Free French Forces. On 12 August, the Division played an important role in what was the decisive battle for Normandy and the liberation of Paris.



Falaise

Montgomery's noose on the forces of General von Kluge was tightening though he failed to close it entirely: by the 21 August they should have been surrounded. Eisenhower was to record; "The battlefield at Falaise was unquestionably one of the greatest 'killing fields' of any of the war areas. Forty-eight hours after the closing of the gap, I was conducted through it on foot, to encounter scenes that could be described only by Dante. It was literally possible to walk for hundreds of yards at a time, stepping on nothing but dead and decaying flesh." 15 thousand Germans had been killed and a further 50 thousand captured. It was not without Allied losses; **Capel Pritchard (41)**, a cousin of Hugh, had been commissioned in April as a 2Lt in the "Sharpshooters" The County of London Yeomanry. He was serving with the combined 3rd and 4th CLY that had to amalgamate following heavy losses in the bocage and the battle for Villers. In countryside near the village of Roufigny described as "thick and close and anything but suitable for tanks, **Capel** and his crew were hit and killed on 18 August. Also killed that day was his brother officer **Noel Cleaver (39)**: School together, fought together, buried together at Bannville-La Campagne.

The War Diary of "DD" Battery in support of the CLY reported on 18 August; "A great day, with some of the best shooting of the whole campaign. The guns moved up by batteries while the armour deployed along the high ground, which had Ronal at its eastern end. The weal (right) flank was exposed but with little threat from the Germans, who with seven anti-tank guns, two Mark IV's, a Panther and some two hundred infantry, succeeded in holding off any direct attack by " B " Squadron down the road into Roufigny, which lay at the foot of the escarpment. Towards the end of the day " A " Squadron crossed the stream 1,000 yards west of the village and spent a lonely night on high ground south-west of Roufigny. Meanwhile, all day the O.Ps, were shooting continuously at Germans moving east in all sorts of vehicles from tanks to farm-carts. We put down frequent concentrations on Roufigny and Fresnay-le-Buffard to its south. One could see most parts of the country as far south as Habloville. But the day was not without disaster. **Captain Chilver-Stainer**, with " C " Squadron CLY, was a having some good shooting from the ridge. A burst of gun-fire caught him sitting with his legs only in the turret of the tank. He was seriously wounded in the arm, also in the neck and chest, First unconscious, then delirious, he only recovered consciousness in the Casualty Clearing Station".



Temporary Burial

Capel Pritchard and Noel Cleaver were not the last OB casualties in these battles; a week later **Reggie Dussa** died from a traffic accident when his jeep was hit by lorry and overturned.

The Normandy phase of the campaign was all but over; **Michel d'Arlangues** and the Free French were heading on from Paris. **Peter Le Poer Power** would parachute into the Vosges to take out some leading Nazi Commanders. **Florrie Ford**, now second in command of the Lancashires, was to be awarded an MC at Pont L'Eveque for "his example when wounded, and his attempt to save his batman from a burning building"; the army was on its way to Belgium and beyond. **Charles Russell's** Battery would be credited with firing the first artillery rounds onto German soil. **Denis Beatson Hird** would command his company of Glaswegians across the Rhine and the Elbe to Hamburg; victory awaited them.



Battle end; "DD" Battery with captured staff car

This has been but a brief insight into what had been an extraordinary three months in which many OBs played a part, some of whom I have mentioned and several paying the ultimate sacrifice. I don't think anyone can doubt the heroism and courage of the vast majority of our forces which in many ways was only sullied by the petty squabbles of the senior commanders claiming sole credit and for which Montgomery must hold prime responsibility. The Normandy campaign ended in the liberation of Paris and it was BBC reporter **Richard Wessel (27)** who announced it to the World with the crowds singing the Marseilles in the background.

In my Regiment's War Memories it was written "at the end, we turned our backs on the torn ruins of a once fair countryside left reeking with the sickly smell of death, we never held any blame for the inhabitants whose stunned despair had made them fail

to see in all these horrors their liberation from a conqueror"; Normandy was martyred. This experience, together with the other horrors he encountered in the War, made the decision for a young **Captain George Vanier Canadian Infantry (39)** to enter the Trappist Order in an act of atonement for this misery of war.

The Battle did not go to plan but they seldom do. However critics can never dispute the outcome: the back room boys, planners and fighting men all played their part to alter the course of history. It underlined that this had been an Allied Operation and that OBs from Britain, Canada, USA and France had taken part in common cause as they had in their schooldays on the playing fields at Runnymede.

After Note:-

During a visit to France to coincide with these battles I visited the small British War Cemetery at Tilly north of Villers. In that emblematic "English garden" a section is given over to the German dead and is as beautifully cared for as our own; magnanimous in death. Also by chance, I came across the grave of Keith Douglas one of the few WW2 poets and his tribute poem comes to mind "Aristocrats" which sums up so many of the OBs that I have mentioned in this article:-

*The noble horse with courage in his eye,
clean in the bone, looks up at a shellburst:
away fly the images of the shires
but he puts the pipe back in his mouth.
Peter was unfortunately killed by an 88;
it took his leg away, he died in the ambulance.
I saw him crawling on the sand, he said
It's most unfair, they've shot my foot off.
How can I live among this gentle
obsolescent breed of heroes, and not weep?
Unicorns, almost,
for they are fading into two legends
in which their stupidity and chivalry
are celebrated. Each, fool and hero, will be an immortal.
These plains were their cricket pitch
and in the mountains the tremendous drop fences
brought down some of the runners. Here then
under the stones and earth they dispose themselves,
I think with their famous unconcern.
It is not gunfire I hear, but a hunting horn.*

Don Oland, like Peter in the poem, was badly wounded and lost a leg in the fighting but he luckily survived.



Poppies opposite Sword Beach at the site of the new British D Day Memorial

In the past one has written extensively about Jean Vanier whose Obituary appeared in the last REVIEW but as I mentioned then, his elder brother George (Dom Benedict) who was at Beaumont 1936-9 was also an exemplary man as the following couple of articles show:-

Benedict Vanier 1925-2014 A Spiritual Life

By Alan Hustak

Benedict Vanier stood tall, head and shoulders above all the other Trappist monks in his religious community at l'Abbye Val Notre Dame in St. Jean de Mantha. The regal bearing came naturally. He was the son of Canada's devoutly catholic Governor-General Georges Vanier and his wife Pauline Archer. He lived a life of contemplation in relative obscurity as a monk and as a priest for almost seven decades. Yet at his funeral on May 17, he was remembered as a genial spiritual advisor who was both pithy and profound. Father Vanier was 88 when he died at on May 13. His brother Jean, the renowned philosopher and founder of L'Arche, was with him when he died but a previous commitment prevented him from attending the funeral.

"He was a free man, free of everything," said Dom André Barbeau, who celebrated the funeral Mass, before a standing room crowd. "He was a man of deep wisdom

who was able to impart with precision, in a few well- chosen words, his carefully considered ideas, his deep sense of humanity nourished by his faith in Christ. He was someone with a great sense of humour, always smiling. He had an open, welcoming spirit.”



Benedict Vanier, the third of five children in the distinguished family, was born at the Citadelle in Quebec City on Nov. 20, 1925. As a child, he was known as “Byngsie” nicknamed for his godfather, Lord Julian Byng, the British aristocrat who led the Canadian Corps to Victory at Vimy Ridge during the First World War. When Benedict was born, Lord Byng was Governor-General of Canada and Vanier’s father, Georges, a hero of the First World War, was Byng’s aide-de-camp. Byngsie was schooled in England, then in France, when his father was named ambassador.

He fled with the family after the Germans marched into Paris, but enlisted in the infantry in 1944 and served until the war ended. The war shocked his sensibilities; he was especially horrified by evidence of Hitler’s persecution of the Jews, and decided to become a monk in an attempt to make sense of a world gone mad. He entered the Cistercian Abbey at Oka when he was 20, was professed in 1948 and ordained a priest in 1952. He contracted tuberculosis and spent two years in a sanatorium before returning to the monastery. For nine years afterward, he was chaplain to the Sisters of Bon Conseil at St. Romuald.



Vanier's thinking was influenced by the Belgian philosopher Adolphe Gesché, who held that God is not an abstract, intellectual concept but an active, sometimes disturbing, presence in the contemporary world. If the Church is going through a crisis, Vanier said, it is because "God provokes us, challenges us. But like the sunlight that breaks through the darkness, be assured, God renews everything that seems to be dormant and without life."

Vanier wasn't always comfortable being the son of parents who are now being considered for sainthood, and considered his religious community more of a family than the family he was born into.

"He was a man of little things, a wise man of few words," said Rev. Marcel Gagne, who was a novice with Vanier. "He was a man who was aware of his own weaknesses and at the same time extremely forgiving of the weaknesses of others."

Nicole Paquette Laparé, who did an annual retreat at the abbey, remembered Vanier as a spiritual advisor who was "tender, vulnerable and completely non-judgmental. He embraced everyone with an easy warmth. His nephew, Phillip recalled that his uncle "was so generous with his feelings, so generous with his thoughts, so patient. Children gravitated to him spontaneously."

Last Word: 'Un Petit Saint'

Georges Vanier, Brother Benedict

By Mary Frances Coady



In 1946, two years before Thomas Merton's book *The Seven Storey Mountain* brought Trappist monasteries into popular focus, a twenty-one-year-old man set out on a ship from France to try his vocation in one of them. His destination was the Abbey of Notre-Dame du Lac in Oka, Quebec. His name was Georges Vanier, named after his father, who was the Canadian ambassador to France.

Georges Vanier Sr. had been named to the diplomatic post in Paris in 1939 as Europe was preparing for war, and the family escaped to England when France fell to the Germans in June, 1940. They returned to Canada, where Vanier Jr., the second of five children and the oldest boy, finished his schooling *summa cum laude* at Loyola College in Montreal. In 1944 he joined the Canadian army.

He rejoined the family in Paris a few months later. Two of his parents' friends, the philosophers Jacques Maritain and Etienne Gilson, were told of the young man's interest in philosophy, and they both offered to help him settle into further studies. When his parents learned that, rather than continuing his education, their son was returning to Canada to become a Trappist, his father asked him what his friends' reactions would be. "They'll think I'm a crackpot," young Vanier replied. In December of that year, he received the black and white Trappist habit and a new name: Benedict.

Over a series of summers, I made annual visits to the Oka monastery as I worked on a biography of Benedict's parents. His father had become the governor general of Canada, the first Roman Catholic in that position, in 1959. The Vanier couple had a deep sense of public service, fuelled by a profound spiritual life. Mme Vanier's mother as a young woman had received spiritual direction from the Jesuit Almire

Pichon (the same Jesuit who had been the first spiritual director of the young St. Thérèse of Lisieux). Thus their spiritual outlook had deepened and broadened beyond the confines of Quebec Jansenism of the day. They became friends with the Lisieux Carmelites, Mère Agnes (the saint's sister) saying to them, "You're part of the family now." After her husband's death, Mme Vanier joined Benedict's younger brother Jean at the fledgling community he had begun in France. The community, called L'Arche (now an international movement), consisted of people with mental disabilities and assistants who lived with them as a family.

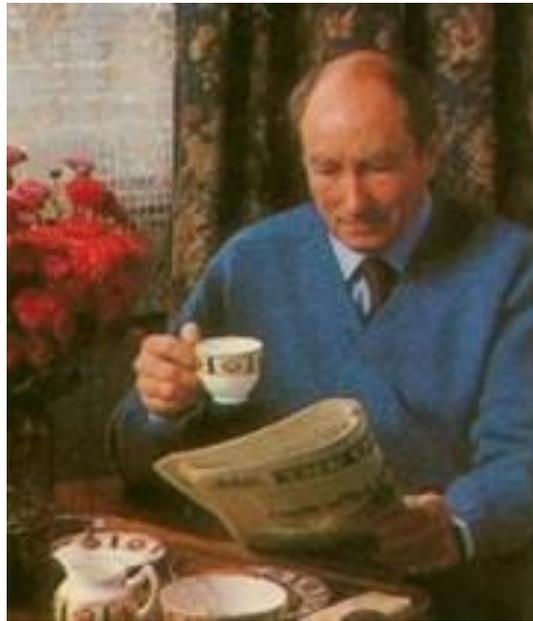
At Oka, Benedict and I sat on lawn chairs beneath the spreading branches of an oak tree, he wielding a can of insect spray. He had spent the past five decades cutting slabs of cheese, sorting apples, tending bees—and, increasingly, giving spiritual counselling. When he was still a novice, his abbot had told his father that the lanky, six-foot-four Benedict was un petit saint in the making.

Benedict himself, however, wouldn't have seen it that way. Before leaving for the monastery, he had told his parents that the Trappist life seemed "sensible." No one told him that it was a life of penance and asceticism. On an early visit, a concerned friend from Montreal noticed a nervousness about the young monk, a reticence in his speech. "You could be disappointed," was how Benedict put it to me.

On another occasion, he told me he had entered the monastery to learn contemplation and found (like Merton) a machine. As he said this, he rolled his long arms around each other, simulating a bulldozer. Through it all—the rote work, the strict fasts, the inability to pray in the pre-dawn hours—he somehow found his way. "God wanted me here," he told me simply. In 1952 he was ordained to the priesthood. Around the same time, after a visit to the monastery, his father wrote to a friend, "Benedict is always smiling, and when he's not smiling, he's laughing."

I sent him the chapters of his parents' biography in manuscript form, and he made a few suggestions. My visits continued after the book was published and the Trappists moved to a new monastery north of Montreal. Bemused by voicemail, Benedict would phone from time to time and, hesitating, say, "Is that you—or your voice?" I'm still unable to delete his last voicemail message to me. It came in January, 2014, four months before his death: a new year's blessing on my work. "It all serves a purpose," he said. Then he said it again, for emphasis.

The Knox-Leet story continued:-



Opening its doors in 1961, the dyptique boutique distributed and promoted English perfumes. It was probably the only store to do so. One of these was Culpeper's pomander based on dried oranges peppered with cloves from Indonesia.

For the record, the pomander was scented with ambergris, a strong smelling substance produced in the digestive tract of the sperm whale. The ingredients were contained in perforated balls that an individual carried about on their person. The word then came to mean the fragrance receptacles that had developed into silverware items and gifts of choice as much for their value as for the imagined virtues of ambergris. From the XVIth century, a pomander came to mean the blend of plant material that aimed to scent a room and that usually included citrus fruit peppered with cloves and spices.

Already hard at work in the boutique's workshop putting together the ingredients for the fragrances of the first candles, Desmond Knox-Leet found himself creating his own mixed pomander paste inspired by an XVIth century English recipe that included notes of cinnamon, rose, clove, geranium and sandalwood. This stunningly scented paste gave him the idea to turn it into a perfume. He took it to a perfumer to have it

transformed into a fragrance using alcohol. This first eau de toilette would become « L'Eau ».

This eau de toilette was envisaged as a style statement not a genre. It broke the mould at the time, spices not being the norm for other fragrances on the market. Also « L'Eau » was the matrix for future diptyque eaux de toilette as the name would be an Echo of the O in ensuing scents; not just because of its exoticism that mysteriously enhanced the voyage down memory lane or around the world, but also because of its characteristic of being dedicated to all and of being blithely of its era.

The story of diptyque is the fruit of an alliance of trust. Its core was the friendship between its three founders. Naturally, they caused diptyque to expand by forming long, faithful bonds. Professional friendships with perfumers or « noses » are therefore at the heart of this company's history...

It will soon be 50 years since L'Eau (1968) and diptyque's water based fragrances (eau de toilette and eau de parfum), and yet, only six perfumers have collaborated with the House to develop each « juice », a common term used to refer to the alcohol based solution of a perfume concentrate. Only one of these collaborators, Cécile Maton, the last to partner up with diptyque, has not known at least one of the three founders, all of whom are dearly departed but whose earthly sojourn is eternalised somewhat in the spirit of diptyque which endures in the scents that the House continues to create. diptyque is all about lineage and concord.

Each diptyque fragrance has been created by four noses: two at the cornerstone of the House – firstly Desmond Knox-Leet, then after his death Yves Coueslant and Christiane Montadre-Gautrot, and after their demise, Myriam Badault, Product Creation Director in partnership with a nose technician, the perfumer often delegated the job by a perfume manufacturer. An ordinary relationship between customer and supplier would never have given rise to such an extraordinary delivery. On the contrary, there was always a creative intelligence, a dialogue of discovery and of pushing the boundaries of each individual; the long and adventurous team work required to chase the imaginary perfumed butterfly. The springboard for a diptyque olfactory accord is harmony between people. diptyque perfumes are rooted in trust, collusion, loyalty and connection.

Desmond Knox-Leet worked at length with Serge Kalouguine from Fragonard. He suggested a poetic idea with a few fragrant supports that the latter interpreted, and the diplomatic to-ing and fro-ing process between the two partners, tweaking amounts of ingredients, continued until they both agreed that the right olfactory

structure had been achieved – which often went beyond their original idea, surprising them by their length of their exchanges and the happy olfactory accidents that had surfaced as a result of their noses. This would always be par for the course from that moment on.

There then followed Norbert Bijaoui, Olivia Giacobetti, Fabrice Pellegrin, Olivier Pescheux, and finally Cécile Maton. Each new idea for a perfume from diptyque must be matched to a good nose, who, by means of affinities, the raw materials used, the character of the creative spirit, is best placed to interpret and serve the olfactive drawing that has barely been sketched. These days diptyque has perfume technology that was not available to its predecessors hence they were guided by good taste and aesthetic intuition. But the olfactory denouement remains the same: a common language that allows the sensitivity of each person to be shared. Developing a scent takes time, much experimentation and periods of crystallisation, maturation, doubt, reflection... It's a long road from olfactory challenge to fragrant exaltation. Interpreting a scent during the creative process is not easy and knowing how to express one's feelings to perfect it is even harder. So mutual trust in the relationship is paramount.

In this sense, diptyque is perhaps the only place in this world where one can be nose-to-nose with someone yet still be looking in the same direction. In the same way that it's a good pointer when someone doesn't get up your nose.



Choriambe, Paladin, Fabliau, Légende, Basile, Sarayi, Prétorien – these names with an old world sound tend to conjure up former times – medieval, dreamy escapes. They were the names of printed fabrics and the very first diptyque creations. The three friends who founded the House thought of using their painting, draughtsmanship, graphic designing skills and were passionate about the arts and all kinds of traditional craftsmanship.

Christiane Montadre-Gautrot was a graduate of the national School of Decorative Art. Desmond Knox-Leet was a painter. Yves Coueslant, a former student of the Ecole du Louvres, was working in the theater as a set designer and later as a theater administrator. Desmond and Christiane had been making fabric patterns for years and time had come to do something with it.

So they started creating fabric patterns, quite unusual for the time, such as geometric variations inspired from abstract and modern art. The colors chosen were a range of natural hues, more vegetal or reminiscent of ancient mosaics or pottery – ochre, black, pompeiiian red, indigo. The artists were inspired by objects they'd brought back from their travels, in particularly from Greece or Turkey. A series of plain color fabrics completed the diptyque range. They selected quality fabrics from a factory in Wisembach, in a mountainous region near the German border. The printing was then done manually in the Haut-Rhin, Alsace, using dyes imported from Germany. Partnerships by affinity such as this have always been a part of diptyque.

The *Prétorien* fabric plays with the oval representing Antiquity which was dear to them. The fabric is named after the oval shape of the praetorian soldier's shield. It was the first occurrence of a shape that would soon become part diptyque's visual identity and logo. *Prétorien* was actually the brand's most successful fabric and although all got good publicity, this was not reflected in sales. These prints are now part of the collection of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. The *Basile* fabric had particular importance as it was used for the background of a press conference by General de Gaulle.

diptyque created fabrics until 1963 and the last diptyque fabric was *Fuchsias* in 1969, suggesting an Art Nouveau inspired design that was born from the artistic collaboration between Desmond Knox-Leet and the talented designer Andrée Putman.



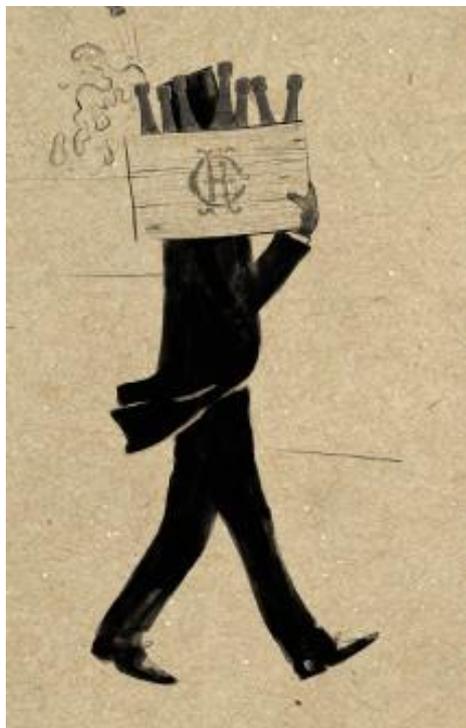
Ivy was always rich in symbols and was particularly thought of to stand for fidelity and for strength. This plant was very dear to Yves Coueslant and Christiane Montadre-Gautrot as it shows diptyque's attachment to its roots – Desmond Knox-Leet who passed away in 1993. Ivy was flourishing in Castle Rea in Ireland where he spent his childhood. Later he covered the old garden walls of his house Les Lilas (The Lilacs) in Normandy with ivy.

Ivy means loyalty – it grows by climbing so when it attaches itself onto a tree it's never a parasite, but only lives by embracing it and if the tree dies, the Ivy stays. This is why it symbolises loyalty and faithfulness until death and beyond – Ivy will often survive its friend. Such a fate is bound to happen to someone who can live for about four hundred years. Compared to the standard lifespan of the average person, there is not much difference from four hundred years to eternity, which is why Ivy was also a symbol of the Egyptians, as it was dedicated to Osiris, God of the Dead and of Resurrection.

Let's sum up quickly the ambiguous relationship of ivy with the vine. Ivy was always believed to sabotage drunkenness, which is why all the drunkards dancing around Bacchus are crowned with ivy for protection from the harmful effects of drinking wine – no better excuse for drinking more. It seems appropriate not to go into details about the dances around Dionysus in Greek mythology, the numerous creatures gathering among them, the Gods Pan and Priapus, all of them wearing ivy here or there, as any civilized person would most likely consider them quite disgusting. The origins basically meaning that ivy strangles and suffocates the vine which is why wine producers hate it.

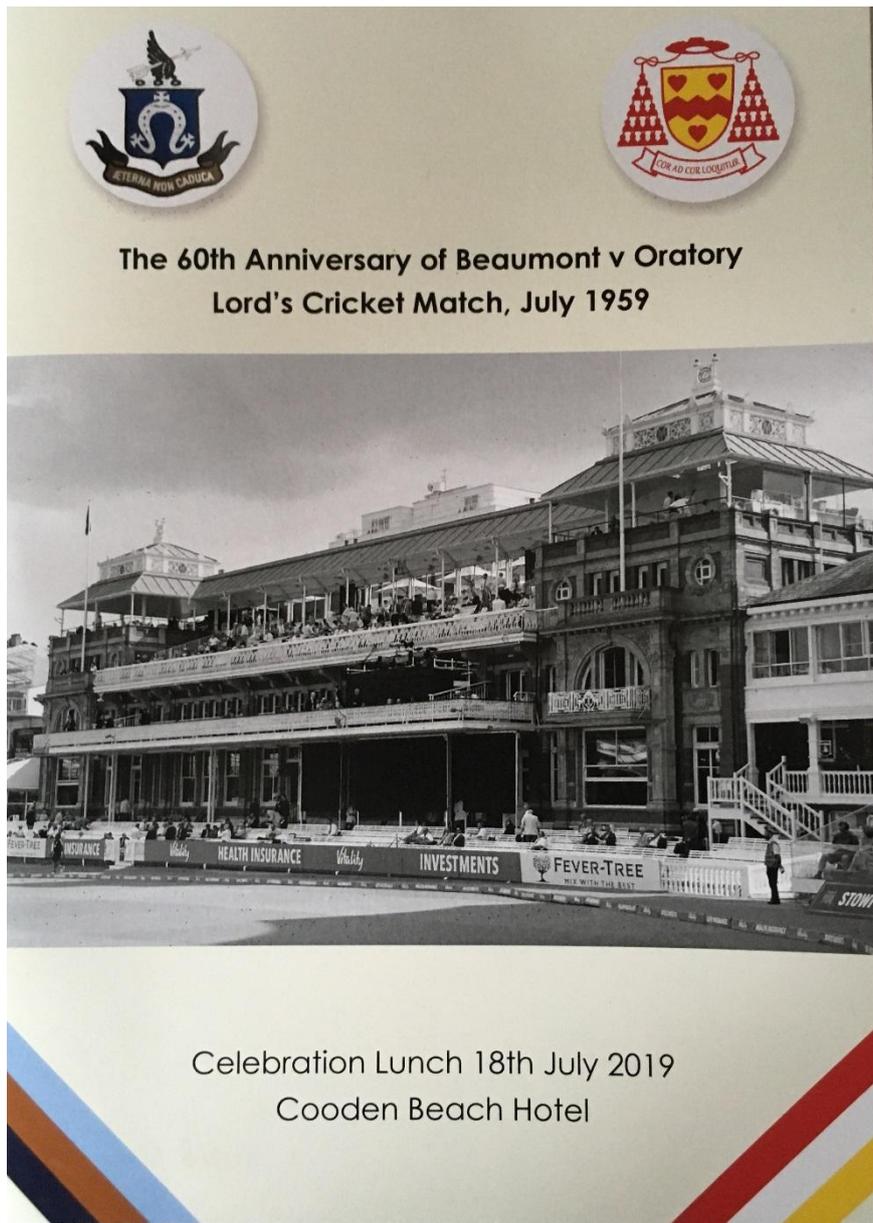
During the Medieval Ages, eternal loyalty represented by ivy also expanded to fraternal friendship between knights. Eau de Lierre was also thought of in this sense as it was a tribute to long lasting friendships that is at the source of diptyque. It is dedicated to noble bonds but at the same time, it means a fidelity that looks to the future – faithfulness to one’s roots enables it to grow without repeating oneself, it enables regeneration.

GISS - GOSS



GISS – GOSS is THE REVIEW gossip column with tittle-tattle gleaned from various sources.

1959 Lords Reunion.



I was contacted in the Spring, before the cricket season started by John Fieldus who played for The Oratory against us in 1959. Despite being a match they lost, John was proposing a Reunion for the teams and various supporters to mark 60 years since that eventful day: could I rustle up the Beaumont Eleven? I don't think that "survivors" or indeed "remnants" has the right nuance but I was able to put John in touch with the "remaining" members of the side. The result was that on the 18th July a party gathered at the Cooden Beach Hotel at Bexhill on Sea. A venue described as "award winning" with rooms complete with Tempure mattresses (an open celled viscoelastic, pressure relieving and temperature sensitive material that moulds to the exact contours of your body) to tempt those wishing a night away – none of the BU did.

So we were represented by **Adrian Naughten** over from Northern Ireland, **David Collingwood** escaping his Golden Wedding arrangements, **John & Jill Paton Walsh** away from home selling and searching, **Pat and Rusty Haran** up from the West Country; **Peter Peake** and **Barrie Martin** (Match scorer) who had left the rigours of the croquet lawn in Mayfield to attend.



Martin, Naughten, OS, JMPW, Collingwood, Peake, OS, Jill PW. (John Fieldus OS Organiser seated)

.In support we had various OB friends of John Fieldus including **Bill “Beefy” Thomson (58)** –Rugby and Boxing team and now back on the BU books and down from Beeston, Nottinghamshire: **Ian Swabey** – I could have said “flown in from St Lucia but in reality he drove down from Chobham with **Bart Bailey’s** widow Vrons: finally the **Editor** acting as Naughten’s chauffeur. Regrettably **Julian Murphy** and **Charles Halliday** were unable to make it.

There was no account in The Times of the game that year as there was printing dispute but the Sunday Times did report on the match with the rather fulsome headline of “**Triumph for Beaumont**”. Making the odd comment concerning those of the side who were present:-

PAT HARAN, was the off spinner, with a command of flight and an intelligent variation of pace not that it stopped Fieldus hitting him for 6 the first ball he bowled.

PETER PEAKE was the man who transformed our fielding during the season but during the match neither batted, bowled or caught but as they say –they also serve who only field and throw. Next year he was the opening bat.

DAVID COLLINGWOOD had the pleasure of stumping Francis Langan his opposite number and then went on the following season to hold the Beaumont all-time record of catches in a season by a wicketkeeper of 20. (David had no idea that he was in the Record Book)

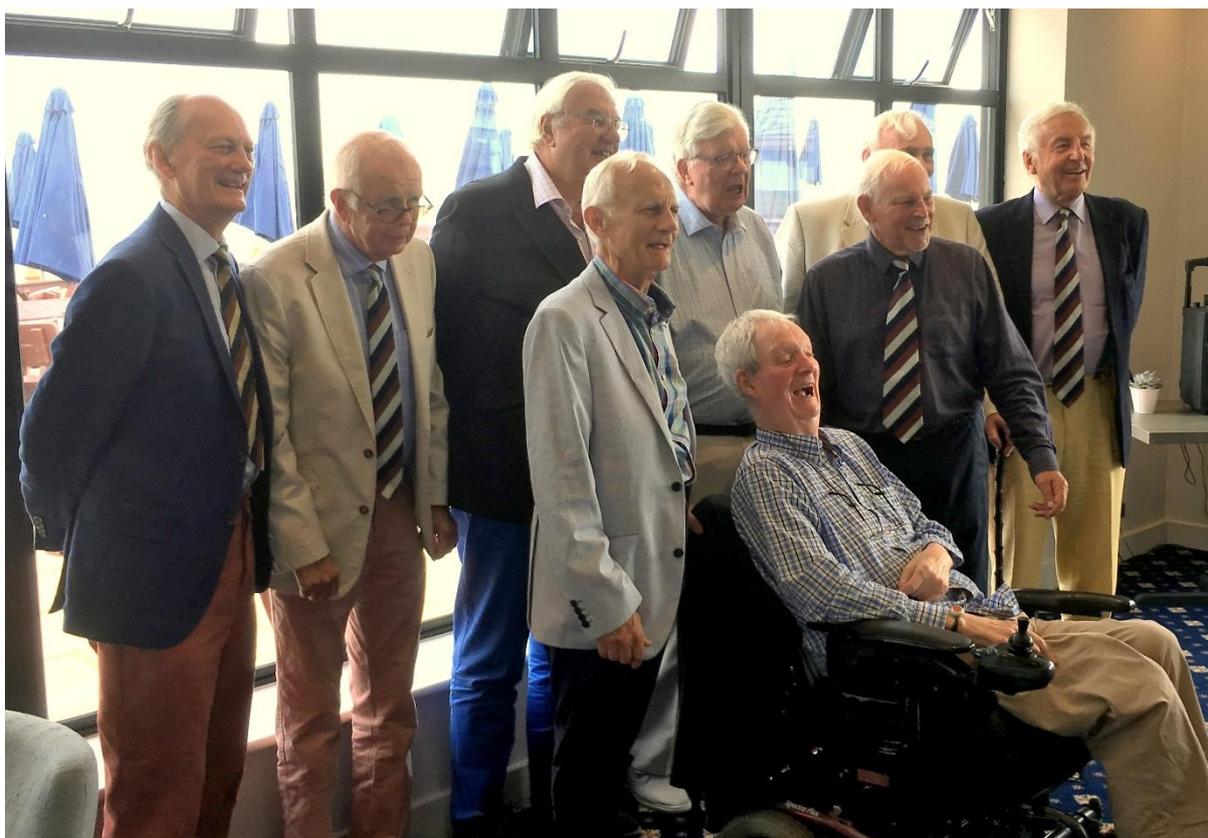
ADRIAN NAUGHTEN came into the side as a “Change Quickie” promoted from the Schismatics. Adrian with Julian Murphy were the men that did the damage. He took 5 for 54 and went on to be our most successful post war all-rounder. He Captained the Army, Combined Services and played for the MCC against Ireland and The Indian Test side.

JMPW was our best slip but he was according to the REVIEW *“a young man of uncontrollable desire: this was to try and hit every ball for 6: If only he could control his impulses”*. It was appropriate that as a future solicitor he was caught by Igor Judge – the future Lord Chief Justice.

We must not forget BARRIE MARTIN the match scorer.



“What do we reckon to the braces”



The “remaining” victors and their adversaries: this time The Ed managed to include Pat Haran.

“When the one great Scorer comes to put a mark against your name, he writes not if you won or lost but how you played the game”.

COLOURS

“ It became traditional over the years in which the fixture was played at the headquarters of cricket for the OS supporters to sport a yellow carnation and Beaumont supporters a red one. The yellow of the OS favour echoes the same colour in the school’s flag which combines the papal yellow and white with the Oratorian black. ”

This quotation from the Oratory History gives the explanation for their wearing yellow but why red for us? Well dark red was the nearest to the colour in the “Pyjama” Jacket – it was always dark red in the original cricket colours and remained so despite brown replacing it in the general school colours. We could have gone for blue but the obvious cornflower was already the flower of Harrow: so red was adopted.

Beaumont won by 6 wickets

4^D
LORD'S
GROUND
4^D

BEAUMONT v. ORATORY

Saturday, July 25, 1959 (1-day Match)

ORATORY	First Innings	Second Innings
1 M. Balcomb	b Murphy	1
2 B. Andrews.....	b Murphy	26
3 N. L. Simpson	c Wood b Naughten	15
4 P. Sorapure.....	b Murphy	0
5 P. J. Nicol	b Naughten	5
6 J. Fieldus.....	c P.-Walsh b Barr	78
7 I. Gordon.....	b Naughten	1
†8 I. A. Judge.....	b Murphy.....	17
*9 F. P. Langan.....	st Collingw'd b Naughten	0
10 J. A. Hawkes.....	b Naughten	0
11 W. Hickie	not out	12
	B 3, 1-b 3, w 1, n-b ,	7 B , 1-b , w , n-b ,
	Total	161 Total

FALL OF THE WICKETS

1-16	2-41	3-41	4-46	5-52	6-58	7-121	8-122	9-122	10-161
1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-

Name	1st Innings					2nd Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd. N-b	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd. N-b
Murphy	15	2	44	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
Naughten.....	14	2	54	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barr	10.5	0	23	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haran	8	3	21	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scott	2	0	12	0	...	...	...	...	...	...

BEAUMONT	First Innings	Second Innings
†1 M. R. Barr	l b w b Sorapure.....	36
2 M. Wood	b Sorapure	20
3 A. Scott	b Hawkes	3
4 C. Halliday	not out	41
5 J. Paton-Walsh	c Judge b Hawkes	10
6 J. C. Murphy	not out	34
7 P. Peake .....	.....	.....
8 A. Naughten .....	.....	.....
9 P. Tolhurst .....	.....	.....
*10 D. Collingwood .....	.....	.....
11 P. Haran .....	.....	.....
	B 16, 1-b 2, w 2, n-b 1, 21	B , 1-b , w , n-b ,
	Total	165 Total

FALL OF THE WICKETS

1-56	2-59	3-71	4-98	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-
1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	9-	10-

Name	1st Innings					2nd Innings				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd. N-b	O.	M.	R.	W.	Wd. N-b
Nicol	16	5	38	0	2 1	...	...	...	...	...
Simpson	5	0	17	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sorapure	12	2	37	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hawkes.....	14	4	35	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Andrews	3	2	4	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hickie	3.1	0	13	0	...	...	...	...	...	...

Umpires—H. P. Sharp & W. B. Morris Scorers—R. O'Sullivan & P. A. Mazzotti

† Captain

* Wicket-keeper

Play begins at 11 Stumps drawn at 6 (half-an-hour extra if necessary)

Spectators are requested not to enter or leave their seats during the progress of an over

Oratory won the toss



The Party have sponsored three chairs to commemorate the event to be presented to the Oratory Cricket Pavilion.

HENLEY.

Let us not forget the Wetbobs.



Once again John Flood (Our Summer Season and Perennial Party Goer) writes:



ED: “A really well-made buttonhole is the only link between Art and Nature.” Oscar Wilde. Well, It looks as if Bootneck Robert is missing the link!



Wortley: "Did we really lose by 5 lengths"

On the first day, 3 brothers-in law, **Robert Bruce (64)**, **Mike Wortley (65)** & **John Flood (65)** enjoyed a full day at the Regatta, turning the clock back to the days when Robert and John watched their sons rowing for the Oratory and later the Oratory Cardinals. There they met up with **Paul Burrough (62)** and his wife Ginny.



The Hosts with Richard Sheehan (Patrick sporting Caius colours)



In reflected glory

The next day **Patrick Burgess (63)**, with his wife Maggie, hosted their traditional picnic attended by **Mandy Bedford (Hon)**, **Bertie de Lisle (63)** and his wife Catherine, **Mark Marshall (63)** **Mike Wortley (65)** and his wife, Laura and **John Flood (65)** and visited by **Richard Sheehan (63)** and his wife Marylu. This was the day when the result of one race was “by the smallest possible margin”, the least ever recorded which was said to be one inch.

On the final day **Mandy Bedford** hosted a lunch party at the home in Twyford attended by **Derek Hollamby (60)**, **Bill Gammell (61)**, **Richard Sheehan (63)** and **Marylou and John Flood (65)**. They then moved on to Phyllis Court to see some of the finals. Sadly, **Tim Fitzgerald O'Connor (60)** did not make it because his car broke down en route.

St Ignatius Feast Day at Farm Street – 31st July.

Final Floodrep

The Church was full for the annual Mass celebrating the feast day of St Ignatius to which all Jesuit alumni from their schools and colleges across the world are invited. It

was particularly gratifying that several rows were full of young students who we learnt were largely from a Jesuit university in the States. Less encouraging was the BU presence which seemed to be restricted this year to just 4 of us, **David Liston (52), Jeremy Attlee (60), Duncan Grant (61) and John Flood (65)**. The Mass was concelebrated by 9 SJs, the choir was excellent and the choice of hymns suitable for our generation enabling some rousing singing. The wine flowed generously at the reception afterwards where we engaged in conversation with others including some young old boys from Stonyhurst, one from Nigeria. Two of us also engaged the Provincial, who had been the principal celebrant at the Mass who revealed that he was born the year Beaumont closed in 1967. It was perhaps therefore understandable, if regrettable, that he did not recognise the BU tie – he will in future! **I hope next year the event will be publicised by Robert and the numbers of BU attending will be more in keeping with the mark that Beaumont has made upon the world!** Three of us enjoyed a light meal and discussion together afterwards.

Ed: knuckles rapped

SNIPPETS.

Not Quite The Raj:-



Hans-Christoph von Massenbach (54) in Ceylon (as it then was) some 60 years ago.

Progeny

I think it fair to say that, for most of us, our years of making an impact on the “world stage” are behind us but it is good to record that our progeny are making themselves felt.

Adrian Naughten stayed with the Editor for the Lord’s Reunion and a chance to catch up on days when we soldiered together and talk of old friends over a glass or two of Tullamore Dew. Adrian is currently Chairman of SSAFA Northern Ireland and is living in Hillsborough, he and Artemis sent their son Charlie to Ampleforth and daughter Philippa to St Mary’s Shaftsbury. Philippa’s name may already be known to those who are current with the film world as a highly successful production manager with films such as “*Quartet*” to her name. She is now a member of “The Academy” (by invitation only): we await an Oscar in due course.



Ed: I’m also basking in reflected glory as my Gt niece Kate French has just won silver at the European Modern Pentathlon Championships 6-11 August and team GB took the Gold.

60 Years ago

EX CATHEDRA

The highlight of the summer term was the visit of Cardinal Godfrey on Speech day to lay the foundation stone of the New wing, now inhabited and appreciated by those within and without –at night from the classrooms and dormitories it is a gay sight with the lights glowing through its red green and blue window curtains. He also invested Mr Clayton with the insignia of a knight commander of St Gregory.

We welcome Fr Swindells as Spiritual Father, Fr Kingdon as Bursar, Fr Smalley and Messrs Edwards, Ogden and Walker to the Staff.

Fr Rector (Costigan) paid tribute to Fr Weld who has served the school as Prefect, Rector and latterly as Spiritual Father and stays with us in semi- retirement.

Welcome to Mr Weare, a contemporary of Fr Rector at Stonyhurst and comes from Ampleforth to take Classics. Both scholastics, Mr McCluskey and Wareing have moved to Heythrop to continue their studies.

Fr Parker celebrated his Diamond jubilee in the Society having joined in 1899.

The Archbishop of Portsmouth visited for St Ignatius the last Sunday of term. Fr **Michael Hollings (OB)** preached the panegyric.

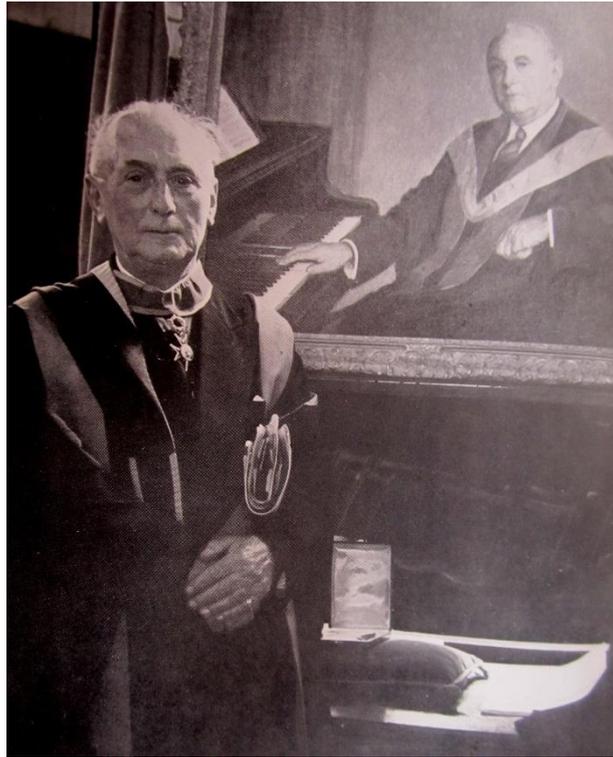
Anthony Leggett has gained a First in Greats and a Domus senior scholarship at Merton.

Two of the Dormitories have been repainted, as has the Swimming Pool (a la Matisse), The War Memorial cleaned as has the Chapel. The Community Chapel is to be re-decorated and Fr Vaughan's Tabernacle removed.

One of the highlights of Speech day was "Peace and Co-Existence" extracts of speeches made by The Queen (English), Krushchev (Russian), Adenauer (German) The French Embassy were too late in sending the offering of Gen. de Gaulle which had been asked for.

Ruds A has produced "Discovery" the '59 class magazine which is well up to its usual high standards.

Mr Clayton at Beaumont.



To try to write about Mr Clayton at the present time is almost to attempt the impossible; the superlatives have already been exhausted! Let the present writer's apology for the inadequacy of what follows.

As a matter of history, everyone knows that Mr Clayton has just completed fifty years of teaching music here: that in honour of the occasion His holiness the Pope decorated him with the rank of Knight commander of St Gregory, which honour was conferred upon him on Speech day by the cardinal Archbishop of Westminster: that Mr Clayton's portrait by F S Kwart (Ed Polish artist who survived Belsen concentration camp and then settled in England) – is to hang in the Boys' refectory in perpetuum rei memoriam: a tribute to him from boys past and present, parents and other friends of Beaumont, who united to make him a personal presentation.

So much is common knowledge. What perhaps is less well-known is that Mr Clayton, before coming to Beaumont, was something of an infant prodigy. (Lest such an expression now appears unseemly, let us add that, though far from an infant, he remains a prodigy). He gained the L R A M at the age of sixteen – which at the time was a unique achievement in one so young: and, as a mere stripling of nineteen, he became organist to the Bishop of Whalley. His arrival at Beaumont in 1909 was preceded by his winning the Lancashire Exhibition for Music 1907-9.

All this doubtless suggested a young man of some promise: and those who know Mr Clayton best will agree, not only that the promise has been abundantly fulfilled, but that the man has- in the best sense of the expression – remained young. His energy remains unimpaired: music lessons, singing lessons, church services, concerts,

pantomimes follow each other in unending succession: and Mr Clayton is always there – always punctual, always cheerful, immensely enthusiastic, never giving “no” for an answer. His sheer physical energy, and his willingness to put it at the disposal of others, is a perpetual source of wonderment, as well as a living object-lesson in this age when “do as little for as much as possible” seems to be the motto of all too many.

Of his sheer skill as a music teacher there can be no two opinions: results in examinations provide eloquent testimony, as do the glowing tributes of inspectors, to say nothing of the encomiums of the pupils themselves. A recent article on Mr Clayton brought forth the following letter from one who is now a Director of music: “His music lessons were the joy of my life, and the outstanding memory of my childhood. He was the only teacher I ever had whose every lesson was a delight from start to finish; and there can be few who did not come to look on music, under his guidance, as the rare wine of the spirit, making glad the heart of man”.

The same writer expresses his pleasure at the knowledge that “he is still spreading the gospel of all that is honest, lovely, pure and true and of good report”. And it is here, of course, that we touch on the secret of Mr Clayton’s energy and unselfishness and of the power of influence. His insistence on putting first things first, upon the primacy of the spiritual, upon the power and necessity of prayer – these strike deeper even than his devotion to duty and his skill as a musician; and it is these, beyond all else, that endure and that endear him to all who have had the privilege of knowing him.

If his work as organist has so far received but a passing mention, it is in this context that we should recall it. This together with his immeasurable help in training successive generations of choristers, is always to him a matter of serving God’s house. There especially, he insists, we must give no less than our best; and if in the Beaumont Chapel music is frequently praised, everyone knows that most of the credit is his.

Many have reminded Mr Clayton that “it is the first fifty years that are the hardest” and if the exigencies of some future age should demand the transference of Beaumont to some distant planet, the imagination by no means boggles at the picture of Mr Clayton in a space-suit still carrying on with his customary verve and energy. Certainly, all his friends – and there are legion – will unite in wishing him many more happy years of fruitful work. For himself, we feel sure that it is our prayers, that he will most appreciate; and these can be assured in abundance.

SPEECH DAY.



14th June Cardinal Godfrey laid the foundation stone of the New Wing, He was accompanied by his secretary Mgr Worlock (Mr Haywood's brother in Law). He was assisted by **Sir Giles Gilbert Scott OB** the architect, and by the builder Basil Longley. The Mallet used was used in 1897 by the Prince of Wales to lay the foundation stone of Christ's Hospital. Afterwards Benediction was given at the war memorial followed by tea. The band of the Royal Horse Guards played during the afternoon on what was a beautiful June day. There were of course the usual speeches and prizes: among them were –for Rhetoric: Classics **Atlee**, Geography **Agnew**, English **Scott-Moncrieff**, French **Gedet**, Chemistry. **Gardner-Thorpe**, Biology **Hywel-Davies**, Maths **O'Sullivan**.

For Poetry; Latin **Ryan**, Greek **Hamilton**, Chemistry **Hollamby**, Maths **McArdle**. Both the Heathcote Essay and the Prize Debate went to **Hugh James**. Lower Line Elocution **Neckar and Poels**.

Scholarships etc: **Christopher Kelly, John Haywood and Brian Bell**. Exhibitions **Stephen Crompton and Anthony Russell**. Roper Scholarship; **Hawthorne** and St John's **Haddon and Kelly**.

VALETTE (interesting entries):-**Adamson and Ash** –Tug of War Team (only 2). **Barnes and Cameron** – floodlit football (only 2). **Devaux** – sculler. **Kells and Haden** – athletics medal. **Malley** – Eastern Command Cadet Leadership Course Silver Tankard. **Hamilton** – House Shot Putting Team (Only 1). **Walter** – Holder of the 1 mile Walk. **Xavier**- Officer in charge of Bugles.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 1959

Three pages by Fr Gillick without mentioning one boy!

SODALITY

Scholastic work and Sport took heavy toll on time BUT The Catholic Enquiry Group under **Christopher Gardner-Thorpe** doubled its numbers with catechising at Englefield Green Church with each "pupil" having a dossier on their progress.

CHOIR.

This Summer must hold the record for the number of vocal casualties among the Trebles.(Balls dropped early this year). At Corpus Christi and Speech Day they were augmented by the St John's choristers. Choir Day was spent at Roehampton Swimming Pool followed by the Moscow Sate Circus at Earl's Court. Farewells to **Walter, Bingham, Wood and O'Sullivan**.

CCF

Admiral Grant (**father of Duncan**) was the Corps Inspecting officer: the parade was held on the lawns with the Band of the Irish Guards. Later there was an exercise on the Beeches. No1 Company received the Championship Shield and No 2 Company

The Shooting Cup. The under officers Dinner was held at The Cricketers Bagshot. **Walter, Hooper, Stevens and Paton-Walsh** attended.

QUODLIBETARIANS

The Summer was taken up with the Launch of the '59 VRIL - it was a commercial success with previous losses turned into a £20 profit. The Journal was said to be "a little work of Art". The Tablet reported "*very Lively...a splendid effort...most violent in the best sense*". Neville Braybrooke, poet and writer, wrote that it reminded him of his early days with Wind and Rain. To date VRIL has reached Madrid, Prague, New York, Calcutta, and Buenos Aires – it is hoped that the outside world is not taken by too much storm.

SCOUTS

A Venture Course for the Seniors was organised by the Troop which inevitably involved the construction of rafts resulting in both gory and aquatic casualties. At the end of term there was a camp fire in the woods by way of a farewell party. Queen Scouts Awards went to **Walter and Creek**. TROOP CAMP: Cruel Irony in what was the hottest and driest summer for years we were drenched with heavy rain. The site was Sarsden House Oxfordshire the home of Lady Wyfold not visited since 1952. The grounds were ideal with rolling parkland and overgrown backwoods dominated by the lake. Alarming information received that with weed infestation swimming might not be possible. The very ample form of **Parkinson** was attached to a rope and dragged from one side to the other: he did not catch – bathing was passed as safe.

Apart from rafting, a monkey bridge was built and an obstacle course produced by the Rovers that was so "perilous" it was obviously the revenge for what had been inflicted on them by the Troop in the early summer. Other activities included "Night Ops" followed by pitched Battle, cooking culminating in the competition, Lumber jacking in what proved an axeman's paradise and finally excursions by "Sass-bus tours" to Oxford and the Cotswolds.

Despite the weather morale remained high and cheerfulness was all pervading.

Ed: The Radio 4 "News Quiz" has listeners sending in "unfortunate statements" they have come across, usually in the press – they could easily have picked on Fr Fizz's article which included "*The squirrels and swifts each constructed their own ingenious and much-used erections*" and on the last day "*fifteen people emerged from the Lions' tent where they had spent an adventurous night*".

B U

Congratulations to **Fr Michael Hollings MC MA** on his appointment to Oxford. With **Mgr Gilbey** at Cambridge both Universities have OB chaplains.

Peter Levi SJ has had his book of poems "The Gravel ponds" published by Deutch.

Hugo Clifford Holmes stood as Conservative candidate in Sheffield (Brightside) in October (ED he lost to labour by some 16000 votes in what is one of their safest seats since the War)

Gilbert Conner passed out of Sandhurst.

The Sphere in April wrote favourably of **Pierre Gilles** (46) General Manager of the Grand at Torquay.

Among the Jesuit fraternity we have **Corcoran, Page, and Rousseau** who have taken their first vows. **Bellamy, Haddon and Mulcahy** have been joined by **Bingham, Murphy, Synnott and Wood** to try their vocations.

BUBC under **John Hanrahan** failed to produce an VIII for the post Henley regattas this year. Among those at Henley were **Aldington** in the London Grand crew, **Bernard** for 1st & 3rd, **Bedford** for Christ's. **O'Brien** for TCD. **Becvar** for Reading and **Conner and Rutherford** for RMA.

Michael Wood-Power (51) runs his own Penn Overland Tours – the World's most adventurous and longest tours by motor coach. On offer is India via Iran and Afghanistan. Rhodesia via Morocco, Nigeria, and the Congo. **Ed** He was there well before Dragoman.

Births: Seward, Gilbert and Burden –sons and a daughter for Waterkyn.

Engagements: Mark Shanks, Michel Allen, Christopher Campbell-Johnstone and James Pound.

Marriages: Hugh Orme and Jane Pouncey, Tim Ruane and Tone Vinje.

Deaths: Frank Harrington (08) son of William (73) and John Hale-Monroe (Sonnie Hale): Theatre and Cinema actor and Director.

BUGS

The Summer meeting was at Worplesdon with 25 competitors.

The Blackwell Scratch – James Outred

Russell Cup – Brian Tolhurst

Hayes Cup – John Mathews

Brodie Rowe Foursomes – Ambrose and Henning.

The Russell bowl was played for at The Berkshire and was retained Beaumont, Ampleforth, Downside and Stonyhurst: we were represented by Charles Russell, Jim Pound, Jack Wolff, Jim Peppercorn, Desmond Tolhurst and Anthony Thompson.

Halford Hewitt.

Lost in the first round at Deal to George Watson's who are previous winners on a couple of occasions. **Ed:** It must have been just a little galling to see Richard Gilbert

Scott, the son of Sir Giles who was a mainstay of the BU side before the war, playing so well for Charterhouse.

BOAT CLUB

E J Merrell 1928 – 1959

How can anybody write a worthy appreciation of the thirty-one years which Edward Merrell has given to the Boat Club? Facts and figures of racing are meaningless for they cannot, however put, give any sort of indication of the important things which Edward Merrell has shown to so many generations which have passed through his hands. To quote the REVIEW of February 1954, which marked his silver jubilee as a master at Beaumont: “continuous application to duty, unremitting fidelity to the seemingly unimportant, conscientious upholding of ideals – these are the qualities that endure; and of these Mr Merrell is a shining example.” At this, his retirement from active coaching, we all feel sad, for what will the Boat Club be without this steady guidance and great example? We can but hope that although missing from the towpath he will continue to help the club as he has always done.

It is remarkable to realize that Beaumont’s Boat Club which is now 64 years old having been founded on St David’s day 1895, has had the guiding hand of Edward Merrell for nearly half its life. He has directly coached some 279 boys in his time and hosts of others have felt his influence. In 1929 he coached the 3rd VIII when Captain of Boats was H Seward, and between 1930 and 1935 he took on the 2nd VIII and then between 1936 and 1954 the VIII.

What highlights will he and we recall? Will it be the victories over Eton in 1941, ’42 and ’52? Will it be the victories at Molesey, particularly in 1951 when the VIII set a new record for the Schools event? Will it be the fine racing seen at Reading in 1936 and ’52? Will it be the win at Staines in 1951 and the narrow loss in ’52? No doubt each of us has something which particularly stands out in our memory of the eventful career of E J M.

But to many the greatest example he has given us during the last five seasons was taking on the Colts A VIII. We have seen a man coming down to the Boat House, often a little tired from the classes he has just taken, bursting into new life once the megaphone was in his hand and his faithful bicycle was under him. He has given just as much effort, patience and understanding to the younger boys as he had done to The VIII. Not only to the boys has he given effort, patience and understanding but also to his colleagues, particularly to the present coach of The VIII.

Coaching The VIII and endeavouring to steer the Boat Club along its proper course is not an easy one even though it is enjoyable. Often it is a lonely task, but one of the greatest blessings the present coach has had has been the complete loyalty and support of Edward Merrell.

May we strive to give as much as he has given and may we give it in as humble a manner as he has done. May we have the same courage to carry on when difficulties

seem great as he has done when during the War years he coached both The VIII and the 2nd VIII and as if that was not enough by taking both Colts VIII.s during this last season.

What more can we say? Well, I am sure there is a lot more many of you can and will say, but all will agree that for the moment just let us say "Thank you and bless you".

The New VIII

The new VIII and its oars were blessed by Fr Rector on Wed, 23rd April. It was a most enjoyable occasion because we were able to see the fruit of all the labour put in by the Beaumont Union, the present members of the Club and all its friends. The Occasion was made even more enjoyable by the fact that Mrs Merrell unveiled the name of the boat, which unbeknown to herself or her husband was E.J. MERRELL. How fitting this was that at the end of his coaching career the Club which he so willingly and wonderfully served should show its appreciation in this small but sincere way.

(for those interested the boat and oars cost £407 of which £100 came from the BU and £104, 4s and 6p came from the boys).

The New Boat House

As we all know, since the 1930s Beaumont has realised the need for a new Boat House and every effort has been made to build one. Three years ago under the stimulus of Fr Corbishley the present effort started to raise the money to build the house it needs. Great efforts have been made by all concerned particularly by Fr Coventry and Fr Costigan. Difficulties have been encountered, but now the real struggle is on.

The Rector has asked the Boat Club itself should raise the money. A business committee, therefore has been formed and plans drawn up and financial ways and means studied.

"Many of you, Boaters and non-Boaters alike, will have ideas about raising money. Let us have them please, together with the subscription you feel able to give: cheques made payable to the Beaumont College Boat house Appeal".

Rowing Notes



The VIII started the season training at Henley under the guidance of A T M Durand (Eton and Oxford). Racing started well with wins over University College School, Caius Camb. and Lincoln Ox. Against Eton they started well but tiring they were beaten a length. At Walton Regatta in the Junior Senior VIII's they beat Quintin and the next morning Vesta followed by Thames Tradesmen in the semi-final, then with only an hour's rest they took on Walton to lose by a length in the final. Having shown form at Walton it was decided to try for the Thames Cup VIII's at Reading: they were drawn against London and Imperial. Together with Imperial they made a good start but the two boats collided and the Umpire decided to restart the race. Again Beaumont and Imperial got away from London and although the VIII came with a late rally the finish came too soon and they lost by half a length. On this form all looked good for Henley and it was unfortunate that we drew "teddies" Oxford in the first round: it did not go well and the loss by 4 lengths was put down to staleness. A happy crew that would have been judged successful if it wasn't for the near collapse at Henley.

Ed: As has become the tradition "The Henley Table" was formed at the start of June with special meals (including steak) and draught Guinness. Mental stimulus was provided by Mr Elvis Presley and The Times crossword.

Windsor Tortoises.

During the summer vacation a crew was formed to row at the serpentine Sprint Regatta. In their heat of four crews they were beaten by St Neots ('58 winners). The Crew was **Creek, Ching, Trowbridge, Flores and Houlder as Cox.**

CRICKET

The Eleven

The term started with rain, the pitches were sodden and unplayable. Within a couple of weeks we would play the 2 day match against Downside with little idea of who would form the team. From Last year there was the sole colour **Michael Barr** and to back him up Scott and Paton Walsh. We found fast bowlers in **Murphy and Hywel-Davies**, off-spin from **Haran, Collingwood** behind the wicket and a promising bat in Halliday. The first match in drizzle against the Home Park inevitably ended in a draw. Downside was bit of a disaster – inside thirty minutes and we were had lost 5 for only 16 runs and were all out for 63. It would seem that there could be no recovery but there very nearly was. By tea Downside were 113 for 8. Not only the fast bowlers being effective but **Barr** hit form with the googlie: **Collingwood** made 4 catches. Next day was not much better: the side was dispirited and finished the second innings only 30 runs on. The result was a foregone conclusion. On the plus side the fielding was quite good and our bowling aggressive. Next up the MCC and although we went down by 4 wickets, the batting came to life with **Barr, Scott and Paton Walsh** all finding form; we lost to a team “to men who used the long handle to everything and got away with it”. Against Reading it was **Haran's** day and at Aldenham **Murphy** brought victory. Incogniti ended in a draw but the whole side came together batting, bowling and the energetic out-fielding of **Peake!** Sadly it did not last for the Whitgift match: the match allowed to slip through ones hands literally with 4 dropped catches. Next day we entertained Emeriti which include the formidable **James Melville (53)** bowling with “venom and intelligence”. However all came together with praise in equal measure for batting, bowling and fielding. **Naughten** coming into the side (by way of the Schismatics) was impressive 10 overs, 2 maidens, 10 runs and 3 wickets as was Peake's boundary catch. Against the BU (interfered with by speeches; it was Speech Day). **Jim Melville** was on devastating form with 7 for 45: Wood in particular showed form with the bat but we went down against a strong side by 59 runs. Aldenham and MTS were drawn and Douai was the final match before Lords; an unpredictable pitch and we were 37 for 7 but rescued by **Peake** to reach a reasonable score of 103, **Murphy** was then in devastating form to see us home by 13 runs. **For LORDS see The REUNION** for a match won by 6 wickets.

Overall for a young team they had won 4, lost 4: not a bad record and a very enjoyable one. The side was cheerful, generous and unselfish and played as a team rather than individuals: **Barr** as Captain was mainly responsible for this and everyone owes him a debt of gratitude for his contribution to Beaumont Cricket.



“A player of uncontrollable desire”

Ed: I note that **JMPW** was an obliging and good – natured Secretary, excellent in the outfield and our best slip. However as I reported in the Reunion piece, he had an uncontrollable desire..... to hit the ball out of the ground which tends to be his undoing.

Schismatics.

A Successful season with 6 wins and 3 lost. Having beaten the BU by 13 runs the side then provided The Oratory with a crushing defeat – Schisies batted for a quick 121 for 9 declared, the Oratory collapsed for 34 and a second innings of 19: both Bailey and Hughes claimed 4 wickets for 1 run. R C Wallins was a close shave getting home by just 3 runs: likewise Aldenham with 7 runs to spare but UCS was more convincing with a margin of 79 and Champion Hall by 9 Wickets with **Frame and Houlihan** seeing us home. Whitgift, St Anne’s and Merchant Taylors were the only defeats. Golliwogs were awarded during the season to **Patmore** (6 for 9 at UCS), **McArdle and Houlihan** long and faithful service. **Stickney** for all-round play and **Hughes** for his bowling. **Fitton** the captain had the outstanding record of winning the toss on every occasion.

ATHLETICS

M Murphy produced a new record for the Beaumont Mile set in 1924: he knocked 15 seconds off reducing the time to 4 mins 47 secs, He also won the South Berkshire Schools title.

LAWN TENNIS.

Following the BU match (lost 5-4) we took on the girls. We played St Mary’s away – a pleasant afternoon: a return match was not possible (Ed one wonders why). St

Bernards were really strong opposition (we broke up and played mixed doubles). Farnborough were offering more than tennis – a dance as well, which meant that **Hooper and Roberts, Barnes and Peyton, Storing and de Kerdral were joined by O’Driscoll, de Kok, Johansen, Cameron and Stevens.**

HALE & FARWELL

Ed; I mentioned earlier the death of one of Beaumont’s best known actors 60 years ago (fortified by the rights of Holy mother Church).



Sonnie Hale (20) both his brother **Adrian (18)** and nephew **Alick** were also at the school.

An amiable actor and singer, as well as an author, producer and director, Hale made his West End stage debut in the chorus of the revue *Fun of The Fayre* at the London Pavilion in 1921. Apart from his undeniable talents as a performer, he is remembered particularly for having been married to two of the London musical theatre’s favourite leading ladies, Evelyn Laye and Jessie Matthews. Between 1927 and 1940 he appeared with Matthews in *One Dam Thing After Another*, *This Year Of Grace!* (in which he sang Noël Coward’s ‘A Room With A View’ and ‘Dance, Little Lady’), *Wake Up and Dream!*, *Ever Green*, (introducing Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart’s ‘Dancing On The Ceiling’), *Hold My Hand*, and *Come Out To Play*. He was also seen in several other musical comedies and revues, including *Little Nellie Kelly*, *The Punch Bowl*, *Mercenary Mary*, *Queen High*, *The Knight Was Bold*, and *One, Two, Three!* (1947). He directed and co-produced the latter show - one of his last

West End projects - in which he starred with his sister, Binnie Hale. Their father was the actor, Robert Hale.

From around 1934-39, Sonnie Hale took time off from the stage to appear in - and later - direct a number of film musicals, such as *On With The Dance*, *Tell Me Tonight*, *Happy Ever After*, *Early To Bed*, *Evergreen*, *My Song For You*, *My Heart Is Calling*, *First A Girl*, *It's Love Again*, *Head Over Heels*, *Gangway*, and *Sailing Along*. He was also in the cast of the movie *London Town* (1946), which starred Sid Field, and his 1955 play, *A French Mistress*, was filmed in 1960 with Cecil Parker and James Robertson Justice. Playing a minor role was a future superstar of the musical theatre - 18-year-old Michael Crawford. Sonnie Hale died before that film was released.

Sonnie though, is probably best remembered for his wives both of whom it could be said provided services to the Royal family.

Jessie Matthews: The Diva of Debauchery

By MICHAEL THORNTON

The atmosphere at the London divorce hearing was electric. The public benches were packed with people who had queued for hours to get in. The Press box was jammed with reporters armed with pencils and notebooks.

Outside the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, crowds stood ten deep, together with an army of photographers, all waiting for the conclusion of what promised to be Britain's first great show business scandal of the 20th century, an astonishing saga of intense sexual passion, illicit love and steamy, pornographic letters.

Scroll down for more...



The names on the door of the courtroom - *Monro, E.E. versus Monro, J.R.H., Lytton J.M. intervening* - gave no clue to the fame of the three protagonists, or to the sensational nature of the *cause celebre* about to unfold.

For Elsie Evelyn Monro was better known as Evelyn 'Boo' Laye, the reigning blonde beauty of the London and Broadway stage. Her husband, John Robert Hale Monro, was the popular actor and comedian, Sonnie Hale. And Jessie Margaret Lytton, the other woman, was the West End's saucer-eyed, long-legged, high kicking musical comedy sex symbol, Jessie Matthews.

'Boo' Laye was not in court. She was in Hollywood, making a film called *One Heavenly Night*. In her absence, the court was told about the heavenly nights enjoyed by her husband and his devastatingly attractive mistress, and listening to the sexually explicit love letters which Jessie Matthews had written to her married lover, which his wife had discovered.

'My Darling,' she wrote in one that was read aloud, 'I want you and need you badly, all of you, and for a very long time. I am lying here, waiting for you to possess me. The dear little boobs, which you love so much, are waiting for you also.'

Representing Matthews in court was the most celebrated advocate of his day, Norman Birkett, who was soon afterwards to appear for Wallis Simpson in the divorce case that

precipitated the Abdication Crisis. Birkett had already acted for Matthews in her own divorce.

Presiding over the court on this afternoon in July 1930, was the most censorious and inflexible divorce judge of his generation, Sir Maurice Hill, a 68-year-old widower, three months away from retirement, with a deeply ingrained distaste for divorce proceedings, which he once described as like having 'one foot on sea and one in a sewer'.

Matthews' presence in court, young, beautiful, a self-confessed 'fallen woman', visibly angered Hill. She sensed his hostility to her and became increasingly tense.

Halfway through the evidence, she slumped forward, falling in a dead faint on the floor beneath the seat in front. Very tenderly, Hale lifted her up and some women helped to carry her outside, where she was given a glass of water.

This painful incident did nothing to lessen the stinging severity of Sir Maurice Hill's final comments. 'It is quite clear,' he said, 'that the husband admits himself to be a cad, and nobody will quarrel with that, and the woman Matthews writes letters which show her to be a person of an odious mind.'

Those words, emblazoned in giant headlines across the front pages of newspapers all over the world, scarred Matthews for life. 'That day in court marked me,' she admitted later.

Not even the massive fame she was to achieve as Britain's first and greatest international movie star would erase the memory of it.

And ironically, when, at the age of 56, she emerged from more than a decade in the show business wilderness to seize the headlines again, it was in the role of radio's Mrs Dale, the paragon of middle-class respectability.

This month, the centenary of Matthews's birth has been celebrated by the National Film Theatre with a season of ten of her films and four of her television performances. A new double CD, also released in tribute to her, contains love songs such as *May I Have The Next Romance With You?*, *One More Kiss* and *Head Over Heels In Love*.

Yet at the beginning, Jessie Margaret Matthews, born on March 11, 1907 in a cramped Soho flat above a butcher's shop, sixth of the 11 children of a Berwick Street Market costermonger, was a figure of total innocence.

In 1923, when she made her first visit to New York as a 16-year-old chorus girl, she had never had sex with anyone, and was completely ignorant of the facts of life.

But with her huge and brilliant eyes, gamine looks, and unconscious, nymph-like sexuality, she acted as an overpowering magnet to men.

The first was a fellow passenger on the Aquitania, taking her to New York, a devastatingly handsome young Argentine, Jorge Ferrara, with whose rich family the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, had stayed with during visits to Argentina.

The Cockney innocence of Matthews, acted as a challenge to the louche and sophisticated 28-year-old. He set out to take her virginity. He continued his siege for months after their arrival in New York, and when the star of her show, Gertrude Lawrence, fell ill, and Matthews stepped into the lead, he finally lost patience and raped her.

She became pregnant as a result, and after her return to London, was forced to undergo a secret abortion. Both the rape and the abortion triggered a recurring psychiatric illness that was to plague Matthews's career for years. She always believed the abortion had damaged her chances of childbearing. She suffered a series of miscarriages and her only child lived for just an hour. Later, she adopted a daughter.

However, after her spell in New York, and despite Ferrara's attack, at just 19 she became a West End star, acclaimed by the critics.

The leading man in her first major hit was Henry Lytton Jr., the spoiled and pampered son of Sir Henry Lytton, the legendary idol of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas at the Savoy.

The couple married in 1926, a partnership which seemed to offer Matthews all the social advantages her own upbringing had lacked, but which proved to be a short-lived disaster. Lytton was an indolent womaniser who bedded chorus girls behind her back, then charged bottles of perfume for them to her account.

Nevertheless, at the age of 20, Matthews took London by storm, starring in Charles B. Cochran's lavish revue, *One Dam Thing After Another*.

Prince of Wales was 'captivated'

The Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, attended the opening night, and was so captivated by her that he leapt to his feet in the stage box, shouting 'Bravo! Bravo!'

He reported her 'devastating' physical attractions to his brother, Prince George, later the Duke of Kent. George went to see for himself and agreed.

The princes ordered the 12th Earl of Airlie, father of the late Sir Angus Ogilvy, and his brother, the Hon. Bruce Ogilvy, to invite Matthews and another member of the cast, Sheilah Graham - later F. Scott Fitzgerald's 'beloved infidel' and a formidable Hollywood gossip columnist known to some stars as 'Miss Poison Pen' - to supper at the Berkeley.

The object was to inquire discreetly if Matthews was willing to dine *a deux* first with the Prince of Wales, and then with his brother.

'Jessie,' Miss Graham told me years later, 'coming from a Cockney family in Soho, was under the impression that a royal command could not be refused. So she said "yes", without having any idea what she was agreeing to.'

The first dinner, alone with the Prince of Wales, took place at York House, St James's Palace, with the servants banished and HRH serving the star himself. She was surprised by this, then astonished to find herself shortly afterwards in bed with the heir to the throne, an episode that was over almost before it began, as the Prince, in his pre-Wallis Simpson days, was a disastrously incompetent lover.

With extreme apprehension, Matthews returned to York House for dinner with Prince George, who ate nothing, appeared to be very much the worse for drink and possibly drugs, showed a bizarre fascination with the texture of her evening dress, and finally slumped unconscious over the coffee and liqueurs.

Ringling the bell, she informed the footman: 'His Royal Highness appears to be unwell. Would you bring my wrap and arrange for a car to take me home?'

Matthews was so ashamed of these episodes that her strait-laced Cockney family was kept in ignorance of them, and in 1974, when I wrote my biography of her, to coincide with her own ghost written memoirs, leading lawyer Lord Goodman, on her behalf, forbade any reference to these royal interludes.

Royal admirers aside, Matthews's leading man in the Cochran revue was Sonnie Hale, who had been married for just over a year to the London theatre's greatest beauty, Evelyn 'Boo' Laye, whom he was later to describe as 'sexually frigid'.

Matthews's hit song in the show was Rodgers's and Hart's My Heart Stood Still. The song went: 'I took one look at you, that's all I meant to do, but then my heart stood still.' The two stars, both unhappily married, took more than one look.

The following year, in Noël Coward's This Year Of Grace, Matthews and Hale starred together again, sitting at a lighted window, holding hands, to sing Coward's tender love duet, A Room With A View.

Evelyn Laye, visiting her husband during rehearsals, found him holding Matthews's hand off-stage as well. She searched their flat and found the bundle of explicit love letters, written by Matthews that were to feature so sensationally in the divorce case.

On the first night of her greatest hit, Ever Green, Jessie forgot to put on the leotard she was supposed to wear under a pair of chiffon pyjamas. The lights cut straight through the chiffon, revealing her pubic hair to the shocked audience.

And even after her marriage to Hale, the scandals did not cease. In their next show, *Hold My Hand*, Matthews's love interest was played by a tall, dark-haired and extremely handsome 31-year-old actor, Harry Milton, who had been married for only 18 months to the film actress, Chili Bouchier.

In the show, Milton had to fall in love with Matthews, kiss her passionately, and then marry her.

'One night,' Bouchier was later to allege, 'Jessie opened her mouth to Harry during a stage kiss and that was it. He was lost.' Milton pursued Matthews relentlessly, imbibing huge quantities of brandy, and destroying his marriage. But Matthews was a major box-office draw and could not afford another scandal with a married man. Milton was bought off by her studio.

In desperation, he hired a Gypsy Moth and flew it low over The Old House, the Hale mansion at Hampton, dropping a cluster of matchboxes on the lawn, each containing a single raspberry. Later, divorced by Bouchier and unable to get work, he was reduced to working as a porter in a block of flats. He never got over his obsession with Matthews and finally gassed himself.

But little affected Matthews. In 1933 she became an international star in the role of Susie Dean, the diamond-bright concert party trouper in the film of J.B. Priestley's novel, *The Good Companions*.

Her co-star, John Gielgud, was homosexual, but Matthews still pursued him. 'She was an enchanting creature,' he recalled years later, 'but no man was safe in her presence.'

When the film was released, King George V and Queen Mary attended the premiere, but Matthews, as the central figure in a scandalous divorce, was not allowed to shake hands with them.

Breakdown

In 1934 she had a son by Hale - although many believed the child to be Milton's - but the baby lived for only one hour. It was then that Matthews succumbed to one of her many major breakdowns. Showbiz cynics dubbed her 'Jess the Mess'.

Her private life was equally complicated, her affair with Milton being far from her last.

On a visit to Cadaques in Spain, Matthews made love to the surrealist painter, Salvador Dali, in front of a canvas depicting an extremely large cow reclining on top of a grand piano, while Hale went fishing.

In the 1937 film, *Head Over Heels*, the first in which her husband directed her, Matthews's leading man, Robert Flemyng, the 6ft 1in, 24-year-old ex-Haileybury public

schoolboy, was alarmed to find himself pursued by her to his dressing room 'in a distinctly predatory manner. Then Sonnie, obviously aware of what was going on, breezed into the room as if nothing had happened'.

During the making of *Climbing High* in 1938, in which Matthews co-starred with Michael Redgrave, she had a passionate affair with the film's director, Carol Reed, the uncle of Oliver Reed. In Hollywood in 1941, where she appeared in *Forever and A Day*, her lovers included the bisexual Tyrone Power.

In New York, where she was signed to star in a Broadway musical, she bedded another bisexual, Danny Kaye. However, the musical was a disaster, and Matthews suffered the worst of her breakdowns.

She was admitted to a psychiatric hospital, where she was diagnosed with chronic paranoid schizophrenia. The hospital reported to Hale that she was 'on the edge of madness'.

When she returned to Britain six months later, she found that Hale, in her absence, had fallen in love with Mary Kelsey, the Norland nanny employed to look after their adopted daughter.

Matthews went back to the stage, but six months later Hale left her for Kelsey, and the couple were divorced. A third marriage, to an Army officer, Brian Lewis, 13 years her junior, resulted in another miscarriage and another divorce.

Her popularity was dwindling and she was in the spotlight less and less until, in 1963, she won the role of Mrs Dale in the BBC's hugely popular radio show, *The Dales*. By 1970, after the award of the OBE, Matthews was plump and matronly. Her great rival in love, Evelyn Laye, glimpsing her at an all-star gala, observed acidly: 'Oh look, the dear little boobs have become apple dumplings.'

But Matthews retained her allure for men. In 1973, when she was 66, a neighbour in the village of Verwood in Dorset, a 60-year-old widower, Edward Armsdon, was said to be 'completely captivated' by her.

And in 1980, when I saw her last, she was heavily involved, at the age of 73, in a physical relationship with Roy Wilson, a man some 20 years her junior. She even divorced her third husband, Brian Lewis, for the second time - their 1958 divorce was not recognised in Britain - in order to be free to marry Wilson.

Her friends suspected he was gay and on the make, but she blithely ignored this. However, when Matthews was hospitalised with cancer, he was barred from her bedside, and marched into the office of a Fleet Street gossip columnist to spill the beans.

'R. is a rat', she wrote to me bitterly, in a hand I scarcely recognised. By that time, cancer was spreading throughout her body and she died in 1981.

In 1995, 14 years after her death, a plaque was erected to her in Berwick Street, Soho, where she was born. The market stallholders, of whom her father had been one, suspended their customary cries as Andrew Lloyd Webber unveiled the plaque, the street falling silent for the first time in its history.

It was a uniquely touching tribute to a woman who, both on stage and screen and off, had dedicated her life to the pursuit of love”.

The unsung star who helped a King find his voice

The film *The King's Speech* portrays George VI being helped to overcome his stutter by speech therapist Lionel Logue.

By Roya Nikkhah



“A key character is missing in the film: actress Evelyn "Boo" Laye, who introduced the two men and sang with the future king to improve his fluency.

The film starred Colin Firth as the stammering monarch and Geoffrey Rush as the Australian Logue, who is depicted as the undisputed hero, saving the King from a lifetime of embarrassing long pauses.

But a new book of the same name, based on Logue's previously unpublished personal diaries, suggests there is a crucial character missing from the film.

The King's Speech, co-written by Logue's grandson, Mark Logue, reveals the actress and singer Evelyn "Boo" Laye, as the unsung heroine who played a crucial role in helping the King, even singing with him to help overcome his stammer.

The book reveals how Laye, a famed beauty and one of the most celebrated stars of her day, became the King's favourite actress after the then Duke of York first watched her perform as a 19-year-old in a 1920 West End production of *The Shop Girl*. George VI's infatuation with the beautiful Boo - an aspect of his life that has escaped every biographer and royal historian to date - was to endure until the day he died.

He and the Duchess of York, later Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, later developed a friendship with Laye, and regularly attended her plays.

But in 1925, Laye experienced problems with her singing voice while appearing in the musical *Betty* in Mayfair at the Adelphi Theatre.

Forced to miss several performances when she lost her voice entirely, Laye visited Logue at his consulting rooms in Harley Street, where he recommended various deep breathing exercises, and her voice swiftly recovered.

The book recounts how Laye is thought to have met with the Duchess of York the following year, who confided in her that "Bertie", as she called the Duke, was "extremely apprehensive" about their first major overseas tour of Australia and New Zealand in January 1927, because of the numerous speeches he would have to make.

Previous attempts by the Duke to speak in public had proved an ordeal because of the pronounced hesitation in his speech.

Laye suggested that the Duke and Duchess meet with Logue, and telephoned Patrick Hodgson, the Duke's private secretary, to arrange the appointment.

The Duchess is said to have later told Laye that in a fit of nervousness, the Duke almost cancelled the first appointment, but that she had insisted he should keep it.

The book also reveals how Laye gave the Duke singing lessons to improve the fluency of his delivery.

With Logue's encouragement, they regularly met at a West End rehearsal studio, where they sang his favourite Evelyn Laye songs together, including *Love is A Song (But Two Must Sing It)*, *When I Grow too Old to Dream* and *I'll See You Again*, from Noël Coward's musical *Bitter Sweet*, in which Laye starred on Broadway in 1929.

Michael Thornton, a royal biographer and a close friend of Laye's, said: "Boo was incredibly discreet until her dying day about her friendship with the King and Queen Mother, and never spoke publicly about the role she played in curing his speech problems.

"But she told me in a series of meetings we had before her death about her hand in the matter, and of how she used to sing with the King.

"It was also confirmed to me by Sir Martin Gilliat, the Private Secretary to the Queen Mother, who told me that she herself had confirmed it was Boo who arranged the introduction of Mr Logue to the Duke and Duchess of York."

Mark Logue described Laye's alleged involvement with his grandfather and George VI as "very interesting".

Laye, who died in 1996 aged 95, was made a CBE in 1973. In 1994, Queen Elizabeth wrote to John Major, the then Prime Minister, suggesting Laye be made a Dame of the British Empire, an honour she never received”.

THE LAST HALE

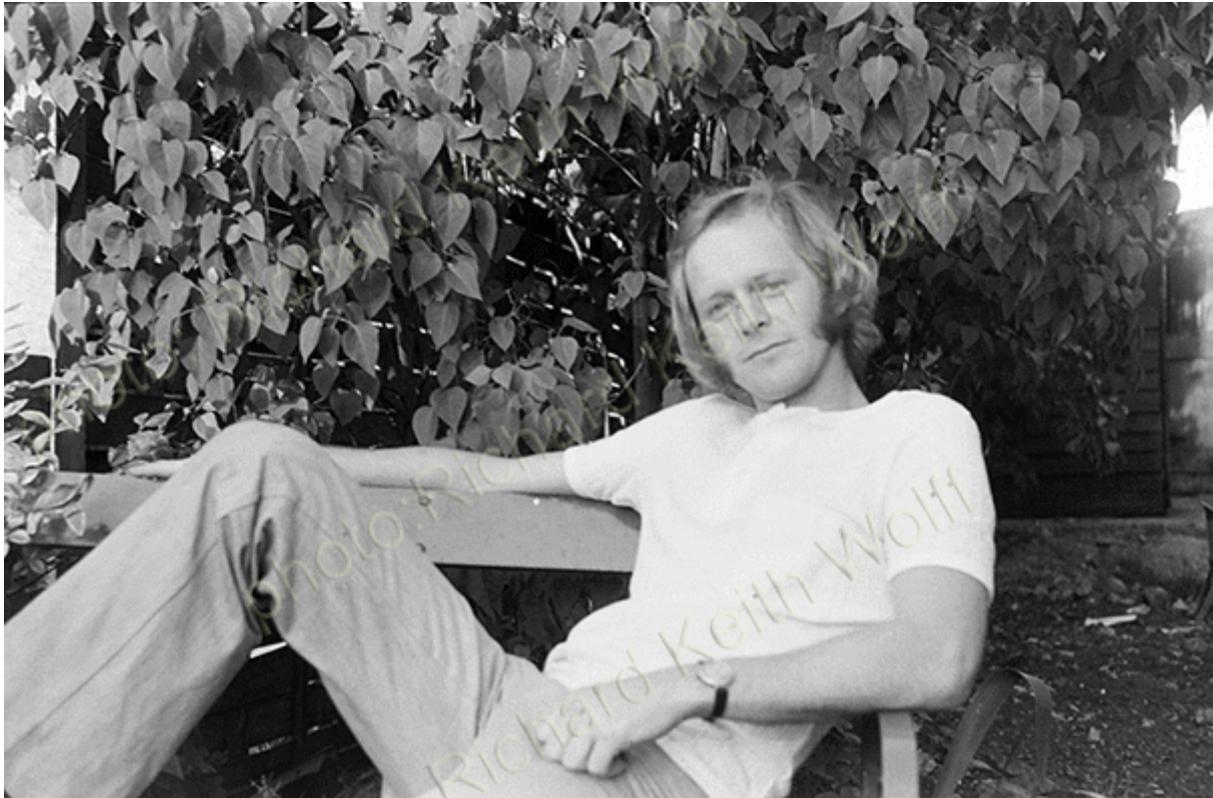


Photo by Richard Wolff

Alick Hale-Munro sound engineer BBC Radio. Credits include, chief sound engineer - The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, the original radio series 1978, written by Douglas Adams. Chesham, Buckinghamshire, UK, 1978

HISTORY

At the end of June I went down to the Chalke farm History festival which runs for a week. I was primarily there to hear Annie's nephew Dr Calder Walton of Harvard speak on Russian involvement in vote rigging. However I notice that during the week that **Leanda de Lisle (daughter in law of Gerard)** gave a talk on the Stuarts and the Irish historian **Turtle Bunbury** on the year 1847 (only a man called Turtle could be descended from various Irish OB families).

The Russian involvement in the affairs of others led to a discussion on British intervention in past years. Apart from false information (fake news) being fed to the Americans to bring them into WW2 there was also our intervention in the Middle East.

John Farmer MI6 (35) worked to promote Britain's interests in CIA operations of the early 1950s to overthrow the Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq. He

worked closely with French Intelligence in the run-up to the Suez crisis and is believed to have met with, and paid, royalist Egyptian officers to assassinate Nasser – whose determination to shake off former colonial bonds infuriated Britain. According to André Gerolymatos's chronicle of Anglo-American intelligence intrigues in the Middle East, *Castles Made of Sand* (2010), Farmer met Mahmud Khalil, head of the intelligence directorate of the Egyptian air force, at the Riviera Hotel in Beirut, where Farmer was then stationed, in 1953. Khalil apparently agreed to form a "secret organisation of Egyptian officers" to lead a coup against Nasser, and Farmer handed over £1,000, with the promise of much more to come.

As time went by, Gerolymatos claims, MI6 needed to protect Khalil and provide cover for his trips abroad to meet his handlers. This they did by providing him with valuable intelligence about Israel, despite the fact that MI6 and Israel's intelligence agency were on good terms. Eventually, the coup plot was shelved, though other assassination attempts were considered. One was Operation Unfasten. This depended on the fact that Nasser had a heavy beard and needed to shave several times a day. A plan was hatched somehow to present him with an electric razor, inside which explosives would be hidden. "Overall," Gerolymatos concluded, "the British attempts to kill Nasser, with one possible exception, bordered on the ludicrous.

Another case of "Hallo pot - Kettle calling".

Royal Reception

The Editor was present at a Reception given for The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and The Officers of the Yeoman of the Guard at St James's Palace in May and is pleased to tell you that the Champagne on offer was Ayala: **Ferdinand (05), Edmund (13) and Richard (43)** would be pleased to know that it has such approval.

OSCARS 2016

BY ANNE MARIE BOMPART

Ed: three years late is current by my standard; the **Pouncey (55)** effect.

Columbia University alumnus and former Spectator staff writer Graham Moore's screenplay for "**The Imitation Game**" took home the **Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay** on Sunday night.

"**The Imitation Game**" follows Alan Turing, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, a British cryptanalyst who was crucial in cracking the Nazis' Enigma Code during World War II. Later prosecuted for homosexuality, Turing's ostensible achievement

faded into history. *"The Imitation Game"* was also nominated for Best Picture, but ultimately lost the top prize to *"Birdman, or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)."*

Moore's screenplay for *"The Imitation Game"* topped the 2011 Black List, the annual survey of the best motion picture screenplays not picked up for production. The script was acquired by Warner Bros. in 2014 for \$7 million, the largest amount paid for U.S. distribution rights at the European Film Market.

Moore received a degree in religious history from Columbia in 2003. In an interview with BuzzFeed, he admitted to not having enjoyed his time at Columbia first, though his Great Books class with **English professor Peter Pouncey** made an impact.

"Every year I think college got better for me, so at the end I was really enjoying it, but at the start... I did not enjoy it very much. Except for this class," Moore said in the interview with BuzzFeed.

From 2000 until 2003, Moore worked for Spectator, reviewing music records. He reviewed a number of artists, such as Radiohead, The Smashing Pumpkins, and R. Kelly.

For his final Spectator column, *"Under the Sea and Over Your Head,"* he reviewed The Coral's 2002 self-titled release with staff writer D. Sloane Morris—while both were under the influence of alcohol.

Before becoming a screenwriter, Moore worked in music production. His writing career began in collaboration with his friend and NYU Tisch graduate Ben Epstein, with whom Moore wrote the 2008 comedy short *"The Waiting Room"* and the 2005 comedy short *"Pirates vs. Ninjas."* He was also a writer for the TV series *"10 Things I Hate About You."*

In 2010, his debut novel *"The Sherlockian"* topped the New York Times Bestseller List. As announced in 2012, he is slated to write the screenplay for the Warner Bros. film adaptation of the novel *"The Devil in the White City,"* which will feature Leonardo DiCaprio as the lead.

CORRESPONDENCE

RUTH ELLIS

From Nigel Courtney

Regarding your research about Cussen's involvement with Ruth Ellis, I was at prep school with her son Andre. As I recall he was principally brought up by his grandparents and I used to visit him at their house on Shirley Hills, near Croydon. After the scandal erupted he disappeared and I never saw him again. I heard that he had a very sad life which ended in suicide.

Ed: The presiding Judge later Lord Havers felt so badly about the verdict and lack of reprieve that **he helped to pay for Andre's school fees.**

CLOSURE

From Damian Russell

Thank you and others for the splendid stories from Beaumont and the attached pictures. I notice that in one of the articles the cost of the New Wing is given as £43,000. This translates to about £984,000 in today's money – not a huge sum, I'm sure you will agree. So it seems the Jesuits got a bargain ...

I heard that some of the BU Committee were absolutely incensed at the announcement of the school's closure, but one OB at least showed them a drop of courtesy. Frankly one or two of the Js deserved a good kicking, but assaulting a man of the cloth could earn you many years of intense torment post mortem, so it didn't happen.

At that time I was in hospital in London – after an operation and almost at death's door, ahem – and was visited by **Anthony Tussaud**, who made me laugh. Absolute agony! I was in stitches. Imagine my chagrin when the next day Father Gillick and Father Dunphy both turned up at my bedside with hangdog looks on their faces and a book of poems by Edith Sitwell, which I didn't understand. As they left, I think I heard Father Gillick murmur, 'Is there anything you'd like to tell me, Russell?'

I'm sure I was mistaken.

HOWLER

Ed:- CONCERNING MY HOWLER in the last "round robin": I have lost count of the number of ferulas awarded: gratifying is probably not the word. At least I was spared an extensive berating from the late Robin Mulcahy..

From: Anthony Rogers

Many Thanks Robert, as always you have done a great job, much appreciated

PS I find it works better of one spells Beaumont with the "a"

Ed:- I feel so much better having noted that you have left off an "r".

From Anthony:

Brilliant. Touché as Paul Gedet's brother Raipur used to say.

RUGBY

From John Wolff

In the Sussex team photo with Henry, **Gus Becvar** is in the back row.

Simon Jones also played for Sussex and could be the big chap in the back row. (Ed: No – apparently he played for London Irish and died very young)

Interestingly neither Gus nor Simon got into the Beaumont 1st XV. They were both a bit overweight but seem to have grown into their size and added muscle after leaving school.

Becvar became farmer in Sussex and must have played for a Sussex club. He used to come to BU dinners but I think died a while back. **ED:** Correct

Simon became a stockbroker and I used to see him in the City but not for a very long time. Not sure if he still around. I think he played for Richmond or Rosslyn Park.

From Tom Scanlon:-

In the photo of **Henry Stevens** with the Sussex rugby team is another BU.

Has anyone pointed this out?

He is **John Becvar**, fourth from the right in the back row.

John, who is sadly no longer with us, was I think a contemporary of Henry.

When I ran the BU rugby team in the early seventies playing a few Sunday matches against other Old Boys teams (Old Ratcliffians; St. George's, Weybridge Old Boys; various others), it was always a delight to see John turn up. Being a farmer, he was very strong and more than a match for any front row forward he opposed. I felt we always had a chance to win the majority of scrums when John was playing.

I know that **John Paton Walsh** would agree from his place in the second row, or when refereeing and knowing the sort of sculduggery that goes on in the front row!

We lost more games than we won, and had to bring in guest players to make up a full XV, but it was all great fun.

Ed:-

John's father took part in an extraordinary adventure after the Great War. At the outbreak in 1914, the countries now known as the Czech Republic and Slovakia were an unwillingly part of the Hapsburg Empire and hoping for independence. Another faction of this Slav population was also living in Russia. A student, Gustav Becvar was conscripted into the Austro-Hungarian army and sent to the Italian front where the Czechs received unjustified inhuman treatment from their German officers who doubted their loyalty. However in 1915, Gus's regiment was transferred to the east, where they found themselves fighting against their own brother Slavs. Gustav tried to desert to the Russian side and only escaped summary execution by a successful Russian attack which killed the witnesses. Shortly afterwards, he was able to surrender but was then sent to a POW camp. Later the Russian Czechs were allowed to raise their own Legion to fill the gaps in the fast depleting forces of the Tsar, and Gustav was among those recruited from the camps.

With the collapse of the Imperial Army and the Bolsheviks more interested in securing power than fighting the German advance, the Czechs realised they were going to have to save themselves. They gathered their forces at Kiev and had to fight a brutal rearguard action as the Germans entered the city. The Slavs had a decision to make, the Legion could sit and wait for the situation in Russia to stabilise or they could try and join up with the Allies in France and continue the war; they chose to

fight. To the west and north were the German armies, thus making escape to the Baltic ports impossible. To the South meant marching overland through several sovereign states to the Arab peninsula or the Indian Ocean. Their only option was east, four thousand miles along the Trans-Siberian railway to Vladivostok.

To begin with they were able to negotiate their passage but as the Bolsheviks became more belligerent, they realised that they would have to force their way to freedom. In a series of skirmishes and outright battle, the Legion of some 60,000 men took control of the whole the railway east of the Volga River. At Lake Baikal, they formed an ad hoc navy and successfully sank the Red Navy units patrolling the waterway. They also managed to seize eight train cars that were carrying gold bullion from the old Imperial reserves at Kazan and take it away with them. Part of the Legion was within two days march from the town of Yekaterinburg in July 1918, unaware that the Tsar and his family were being held there. It was the fear that the Czechs would mount a rescue mission that decided the Bolsheviks to murder the family.

The Legion expanded its sphere of control and defeated every Soviet force they came across and inspired a fight back by the local population. Siberia was able to declare its independence as a free state while the Czechs were there to assist. News filtered to the outside world of the “Army without a Country” and caught the imagination of the general public. The Allies agreed to an independent Czech State in exchange for their assistance in the battle against the Bolshevik revolution. It was a failure mainly caused by the corrupt, brutal and incompetent White Russian forces that lost the support of their own people and eventually the Allies and The Legion.

The Czechs kept their side of the bargain and their armoured trains held vast swathes of the countryside for two years and were often the only rule of law over thousands of miles of countryside. By May 1919, the last of The Legion set sail in the rescue ships to travel round the globe to Europe to their new home in Czechoslovakia, a country that hadn't even existed when they had left. The cost of their passage was paid for by the gold bullion that they had rescued. It also helped to set up The Legion Bank in Prague with its façade featuring their various actions in Siberia. Gus Becvar was to write the epic story of the Czech march to freedom in “The Lost Legion” which he published in 1939. His son **John but always known as Gus**, would leave Beaumont in 1957 for the more tranquil life of Dairy farming on the Kent/Sussex border. He later sold the herd so he could spend more time at his house in France. He died young following a heart attack in 2001; always a keen sportsman he became a golf enthusiast after he gave up rugby.

Next Missive Tom Scanlon:-

When I saw **Anthony Hussey** again (there will be an article later this summer in AutItalia magazine), he told me some hilarious stories about both Beaumont and St.John's days.

He sent a photograph of himself and others in the chapel at St. John's, all angelic-like!!



Hussey leads, passing a young **Bamber** maybe? Perhaps not. Then **Diaz** and **Iversen**,² don't know, **Gompertz** and maybe **Bulfield D**, **Christopher Dickens** and the rest I knoweth not.

GRANDEES

From Paddy Coffey

Many thanks for your usual excellent update, much appreciated I am in contact with my old pal **Chris Cafferata**, who as the crow flies, is directly west of us, by about 3000 miles!!!! We live on the 28th latitude One comment, in all the histories of OBs I notice a huge number were Spanish grandees. This all seemed to dry up before WW1. Did they simply transfer allegiance to Downside or wherever?

ED: Concerning the Grandees, as far as I know there was no transfer of allegiance unless it occurred after Beaumont's closure. Put it down to the times: several died in the Civil War or lost their money and estates, the tradition of sending the eldest son to England also started to die out. Some of these Spanish OBs produced daughters

and some were closet gay! Finally their social rank in Spain no longer brought about a life of distinction in their chosen profession that's if they had one.

Times changed after WW2: perhaps in recent years they have changed again and they may be back but not benefitting from our distinctive education.

From Richard Sheehan

Is this an extract from the BU Old Boys list?

VANIER Jean (37) son of the Governor General of Canada. WW2 served in the RN and the Canadian Navy. 1950 resigned commission to attend Catholic Institute Paris. 1963 Professor of philosophy at University of Toronto. 1964 set up the charity L'Arche (Noah's Arc) - group homes for those with development disabilities and those who assist them. Order of Canada, Legion D'Honneur. Asteroid 8264 named after him. Author.

VANIER, Bernard (37). Artist. Youngest son of the Canadian Governor General. Brother of George and Jean (Religious qv.) To School of Political Science Paris. Then studied art influenced by both fauvist and modernist work. His paintings becoming more abstract with time. He lived and worked outside Paris. He exhibited in both France and North America. Paintings in both private and public collections including the National Gallery of Canada. RIP 2010

VANIER George Charles (39). Son of the Governor General of Canada. Brother of Jean and Bernard (Artist qv). Godson of Field Marshal Viscount Byng of Vimy. George was known as "Byngsie" WW2 he was commissioned in the infantry and served until the war ended. The war shocked his sensibilities; he was especially horrified by evidence of Hitler's persecution of the Jews, and decided to become a monk in an attempt to make sense of a world gone mad. He entered the Cistercian Abbey at Oka, was professed in 1948 and ordained a priest in 1952 as Dom Benedict. Vanier's thinking was influenced by the Belgian philosopher Adolphe Gesché, who held that God is not an abstract, intellectual concept but an active, sometimes disturbing, presence in the contemporary world. If the Church is going through a crisis, Vanier said, it is because "God provokes us, challenges us. But like the sunlight that breaks through the darkness, be assured, God renews everything that seems to be dormant and without life." "He was a man of little things, a wise man of few words, a man who was aware of his own weaknesses and at the same time extremely forgiving of the weaknesses of others." RIP 2014.

From John Wolff (in answer to Sheehan)

Richard,

The info is accurate but I don't know if it came from BU Old boys lists. Possibly supplied by Robert. (Ed: correct0

There was little reason to note the Vanier connection to St Johns and Beaumont until Jean became well known well after L'Arche was established, although their father was quite well known.

However he became much better known later when he became Governor General of Canada well after the war.

I think I may have been the first person, anyway in recent times, to have spotted Jean Vanier went to St Johns for a short while.

I read it in a book more about the Vanier family than L'Arche. They were a very strong Catholic family.

A Pere Pichon, who was connected to Saint Therese of Lisieux, was transferred to Quebec and became involved with the Archer family. Jean's mother was an Archer. Jean's father was in the Canadian diplomatic corps in Paris and London in the thirties and lost a lot of money in the 29/31 crash. The Jesuits either totally or partially helped to fund his sons at St Johns and Beaumont. They all left to go back to Canada at the beginning of WW2.

By chance shortly after I read this book, HCPT and a Spanish pilgrimage organised a seminar in Lourdes about 12 years ago on disability. Vanier was one of the keynote speakers.

I managed to catch him walking downstairs from the lecture hall and asked him if it was true that he had been to St Johns. Also if Pere Pichon had been spiritual director to the Martin family and his mother.

He confirmed both, mentioning as he was the youngest that he was only there for a short time before war broke out, but that his brothers had been at St Johns and done a little time at Beaumont.

He particularly mentioned a Jesuit called Fr Sharchy with affection.

I gave this info to Robert a few years ago and recall he pinpointed the exact times the Vanier brothers were at both schools.

Anyway it would be good if St Johns is aware of all this.

I expect Vanier will be canonised eventually.

I heard him speak 3 times. Beautiful man.

ED:- To add a further penny's worth. Firstly the mini biographies are from the OB list of interest on the Website. I became aware of the Vaniers as I'm also a Regimental historian and George Vanier was a great friend of FM Viscount Byng of Vimy who was a much loved and admired commander of the Canadians at their famous victory and site of their most beautiful war memorial. Byng was also one of our officers (and I have "paraded" with his baton in the mess when a little worse for wear). The Vaniers eldest son **George (39)** was his godson and always known as Byngsie. Later on, living in France I quickly came aware of L'Arche as it was much discussed. The Vaniers are a family of Saints. George and Pauline are already in the process for Beatification and I'm certain **Jean** will soon join them but one should not forget **Byngsie (Dom Benedict)** or their sister Therese both remarkable in their own right.

From John Marshall

I love the quote in the Times today where Louis Sarkozy (youngest son of the French President describes his four years at Valley Forge Military Academy. His mother thought he would not last the six week induction but he survived four years:-

“A horrible place to be at, but it’s a great place to be from.”

I dare say some OBs might have felt the same about Beaumont!!! Not me I hasten to add..

A GOOD NOTE ON WHICH TO FINISH. EXCEPT TO SAY
“WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE LUNCH 7TH OCTOBER.



L D S