

MICHAEL de BURGH

Michael de Burgh, the son of Lt Colonel Graham de Burgh OBE MC was at St John's and Beaumont between 1931 – 41. He was also the nephew of Colonel Ronald MacDonnell DSO & Bar Late 9L (OB16). His brother Simon was also at the College 1937 – 41. The Album provides a snapshot of Beaumont just before and during the early War years.

THE CORPS



Officers and NCOs July 1941

Back L -R; John Ewart (WW R Horse Guards, huntsman, R Yacht Sqn, CBE, DL H Sheriff Northants) Hugo Duplessis (WW Fleet Air Arm, Southampton Univ, Civ. Engineer) George Gordon-Shee (WW Lt Irish Guards, wdd, Barrister, Laird of Letterfoyle) **John Dempster (WW R West Kents, KIA Gothic Line age 21, 13/11/44)** Mark Gilbey (WW Capt Grenadier Guards, wine merchant) Anthony Morson.

2nd Row L-R; Hugh Scrope (WW RAFVR) **Philip de May (WW Lt 8th KRI Hussars, KIA Normandy 13/6/44)** Cyril Russell (WW Lt Irish Guards, wdd, Solicitor) RSM Percy Martin, Baron Ernst von Roretz (WW Capt Indian army, Farmer Kenya) John Thomas (WW Capt RE, Downing Cam. Civ. Engineer) David Collier (WW F/Lt RAFVR, Worcester Ox, Box blue, Priest, Prof. Divinity)

1st Row L-R; Richard Meakins (WW Lt RN, N. Atlantic Convoys) **John Morrish (WW Lt RN, MTB 695 KIA Ymuiden 3/44)** Michael de Burgh (WW Lt 9th R Lancers, wdd, Italy) Vincent Baker (WW Capt Grenadier Guards, Jesus Cam.) Leonard Gordon-Lennox (WW RAFVR) Edward Berkeley (WW Lt RE) Anthony Stiebel (WW Capt 17/21 Lancers, Farmer Rhodesia, New Zealand) Peter Smith (WW Major RE, St John's Cam.)

Seated L-R; CSM Osborne (Band Instr) Hugo Holmes (WW Capt RA –Lt Colonel, Colonial Service, Wine merchant) Alan Fraser (WW RN, torpedoed,) The Viscount FitzAlan Officer Commanding, Barry

Dempsey (WW Major RE) **Capel Pritchard (WW Lt 3rd Cty of London Yeo, KIA Normandy 18/8/44)**
Michael Gompertz (WW Capt, D of Wellington's, Barts, GP)

The Officer Commanding:

Henry 2nd Viscount FitzAlan of Derwent OBE was a subaltern in the 11th Hussars (PAO). In WW1 his horse was shot under him and he was wounded in the thigh Oct 1914 and was a POW for the remainder. He acted as Private Secretary to his father the last Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1921 and was awarded an OBE. He was known by the boys as "FitzAlan Tonk" because of his limp. However although offered a horse by The Rector he preferred to march with his men. (Beaumont adopted wounded soldiers with the arrival of Capt Tom Kelly late Irish Guards, with a similar injury, after the War).



Guard of Honour; Duke of Berwick & Alba (OB 90) with Fr Lillie (Rector) July 1939

This was the last formal parade before the outbreak of war. The Corps Under Officers wore Officers pattern Infantry Service dress and Sam Browne which were purchased at their own expense; the infantry swords were provided by the Corps.

The Duke had been appointed to the Court of St James as Spanish Ambassador in April 1939 following the end of the Civil War. Previously he had served as Minister of Foreign Affairs leading up to the abdication of King Alfonso. Apart from being a patron of the arts, he also won a Silver Medal for his country at polo at the 1920 Olympics.



The full parade scene



Camp at Cobham 1939



Transport provided by the Grenadier Guards



Post exercise debriefing



An Army marches on its stomach

The solid fuel “Tommy Cooker” had been issued to individual soldiers in the First War but was remarkably unreliable: an improved version continued in WW2 and beyond. Members of The Corps found cooking over an open fire a much better method.



Sgts de Burgh, M Gompertz and E Berkeley

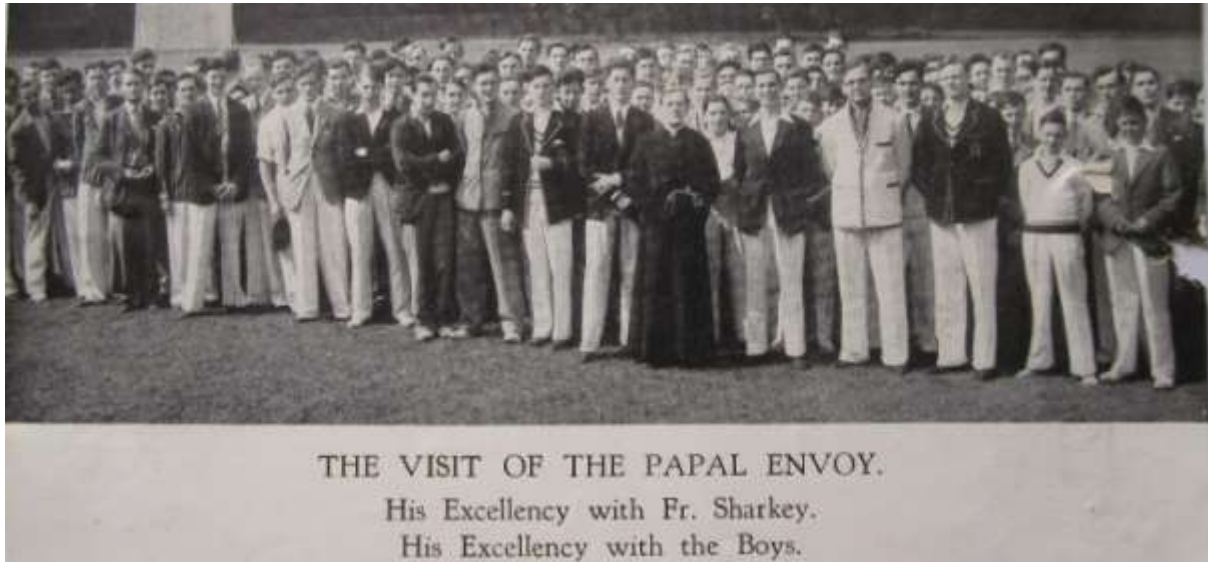
The Lee- Enfield .303 rifle first issued to the British Army in 1895 was the standard weapon issued to The Corps during its existence.



Windsor Castle guard

During the war years The Corps was part of the Crown Lands Battalion of the Home Guard coming under the overall command of Sir Owen Morshead the Castle Librarian. As such they provided the Guard at Windsor Castle and the other Royal Residencies including Frogmore and The Royal Lodge.

THE FAITH



His Excellency Mgr Joseph Pizzardo visited the school on Whit Monday of 1937. He was accompanied by the Marchese Guido Pacelli the nephew of the then Papal Secretary of State but later Pope Pius X11. The visit was arranged and the party brought to Old Windsor by the Earl of Granard (OB 90).



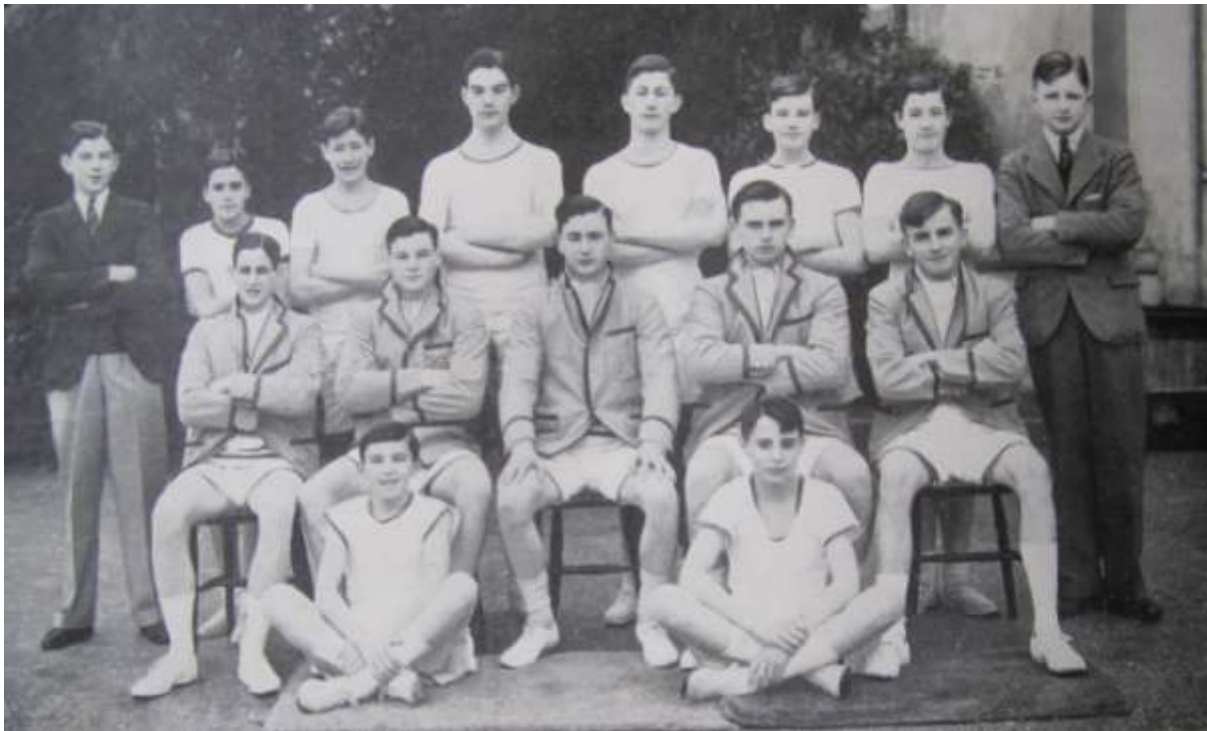
Corpus Christi 12 June 1941

Members of The Sodality carrying their banner

It was written in the School History that The Sodality was a pious association, instituted in honour of Our Lady, which boys in the Higher Line have the opportunity of joining. Certain formalities were required by the Spiritual Father, namely that the candidate is earnest in his desire to lead the life of a good Catholic before he could be admitted. The members elected their own Prefect, two assistants and six councillors. It was the duty of Sodalists not only to lead good lives themselves, but also to safeguard the moral tone of the school, stamping out by their own action any EVIL that may from time to time appear.

SPORT & GAMES

The majority of those depicted in the following photographs served in The Second War



Boxing 1936-7

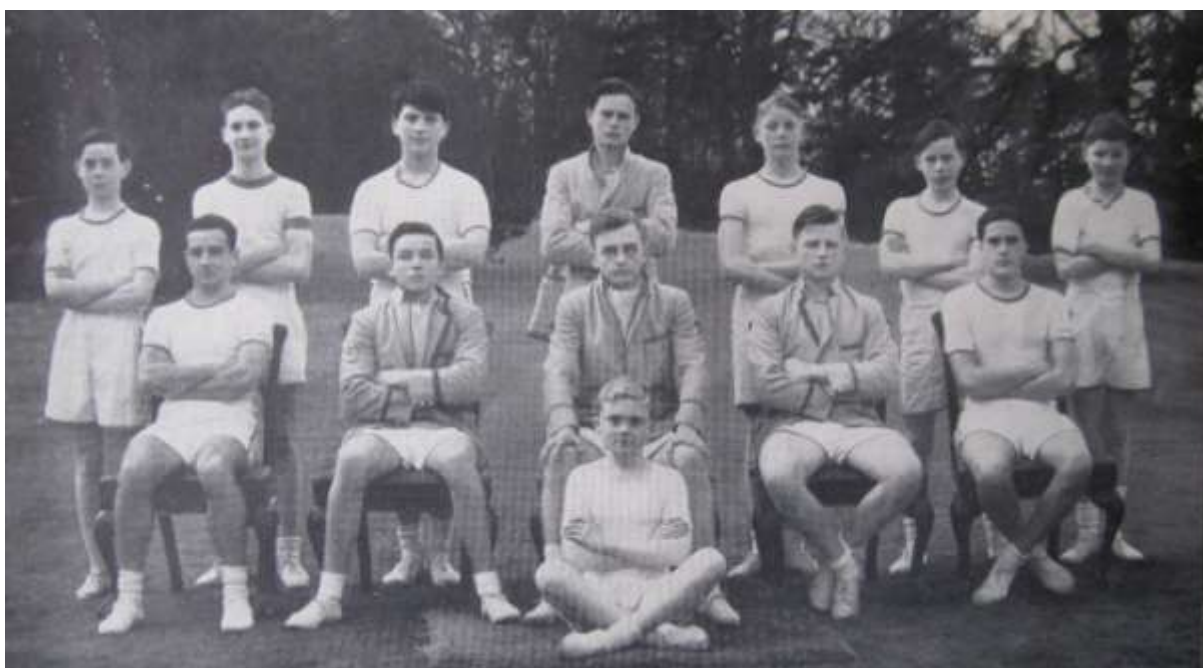
Back row L-R: Peter Daly (from Rhodesia), Ronald Waterkyn (WW F/Lt RAF), **Patrick Thornton (WW P/O RAFVR KIA BARDIA 3/11/41)**, Ralph Bowring (WW Suffolk Regt), Richard Anderson (Woolwich, RE WW MC Lt Col OBE), Peter Dawson (WW Lt Scots Guards POW. Jersey), **Philip Gompertz (Woolwich RE WW KIA Tobruk 1/1/42)**, Edward Watson (WW Lt Indian Army, wdd. To Malaya)

Seated L-R: **Edward Stiebel (WW Capt RM KIA Scilly No 40 Cmd 17/7 43)**, **Denis Sweetman (Woolwich RA, WW 2LT KIA Dunkirk age 20 25/5/40)**, Richard van Cutsem (WW Lt R Irish Fus), Niall Downie (RVC, WW Capt RE, MC, Fed Vet Canadian Gov), Peter Downie (WW Capt RA)

Floor: John Hilterman (WW Lt RNVR) Cecil McIver (Varsity Rugby 1942, Middlesx Hosp. surgeon Canada).



Junior Colts X1 1938

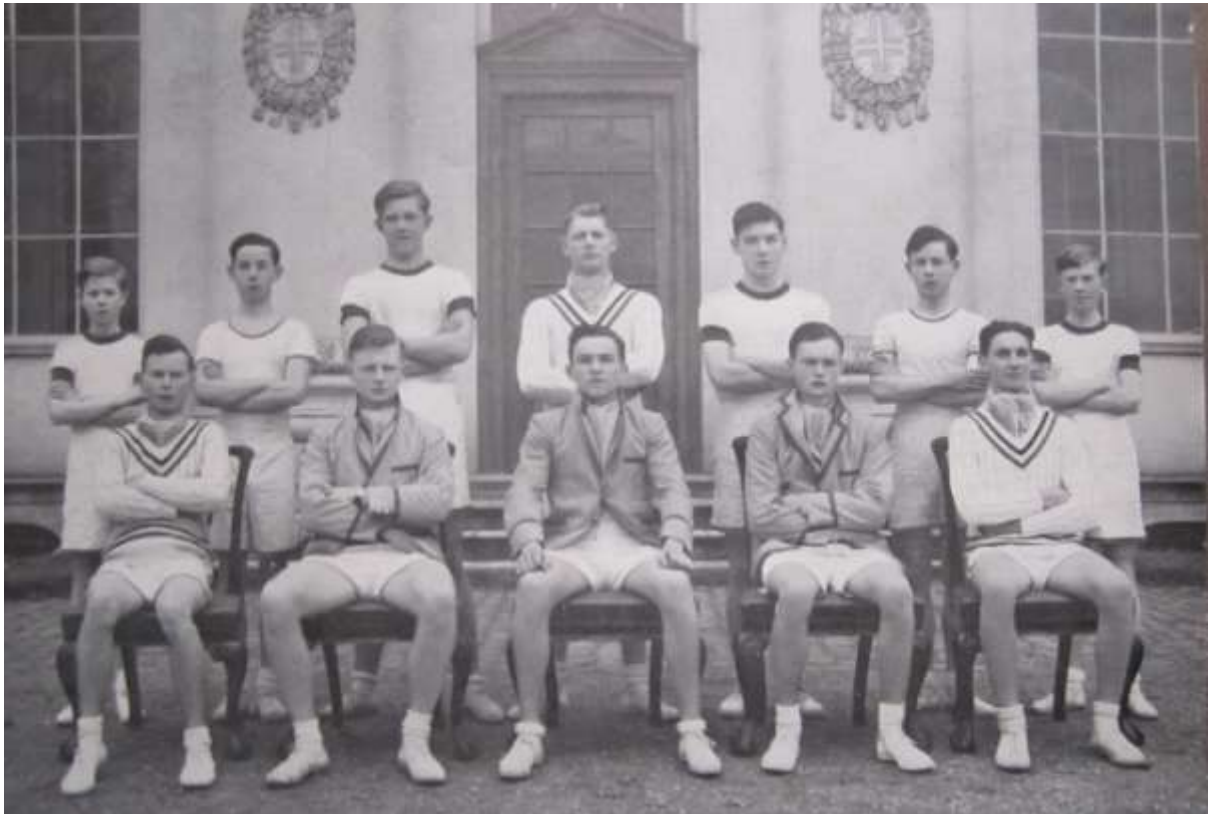


Boxing 1938-9

John Ewart, Harry Fergusson (WW pilot RAFVR), Baron Ernst von Roretz, Guy de la Mare (WW Fleet Air Arm), Alan Fraser, James Sheppard (Surg Cmdr RN, GM 1951) Richard Parson (WW Lt RA)

Charles Defferary (from Gibralter), John Hiltermann, Peter Downie , Edward Watson, Ronald Waterkyn.

David Collier



Boxing 1939

Peter Everleigh (WW RA, Lt Colonel) John Ewart, Leonard Gordon-Lennox, Alan Fraser, Peter Smith, James Sheppard, Stewart Bell.

Richard Bell (GP), Edward Watson, John Hiltermann, Guy de la Mere, Harry Fergusson.



Unofficial



Official

The XV 1939- 40

Back row L-R: Michael de Burgh, Peter Throssell (WW Lt Fleet Air Arm, farmer), Philip Clarke (From USA. WW US Inf, Univ. Pennsylvania), Victor Berry (RMAS Sword of Honour, WW Capt 9th Royal

lancers. Accountant), **John Day (WW LT Irish Guards KIA N Africa 2/12/43)**, Roland Waterkyn, Eustace McNaught (New Coll Ox, WW Lt Airborne RA, Diplomat, MI6), Richard Bell, John Hilterman

Seated L-R: John Corbould (WW Lt Coldstream Guards, Ox Univ. RIP Polio Ceylon 1956), Cecil McIver, Desmond Bruen (WW Maj, 11th Sikhs. To Singapore), Edward Watson, Brian Campbell (WW Lt RNVR),

Floor: Michael Gompertz, **Frank Jackson (Camb. WW F/O RAFVR KAS 12/6/43)** Harry Fergusson



With the coach Fr Bernard Egan

Frank Jackson, Michael de Burgh, Brian Campbell, John Hilterman, Michael Gompertz. The light topped socks were Colts, multi-ring 1st XV. Frank's were the standard school Rugby socks.

Fr Egan was known as the Parachuting Chaplain; during the War he was the first Padre to make a parachute descent. Later he jumped in at Arnhem with the Parachute Brigade and was badly wounded in the legs; he spent the rest of the War as a POW. He was not just a good rugby coach but a fine boxer and patron of the club.



The Oratory match on The Meads 1939

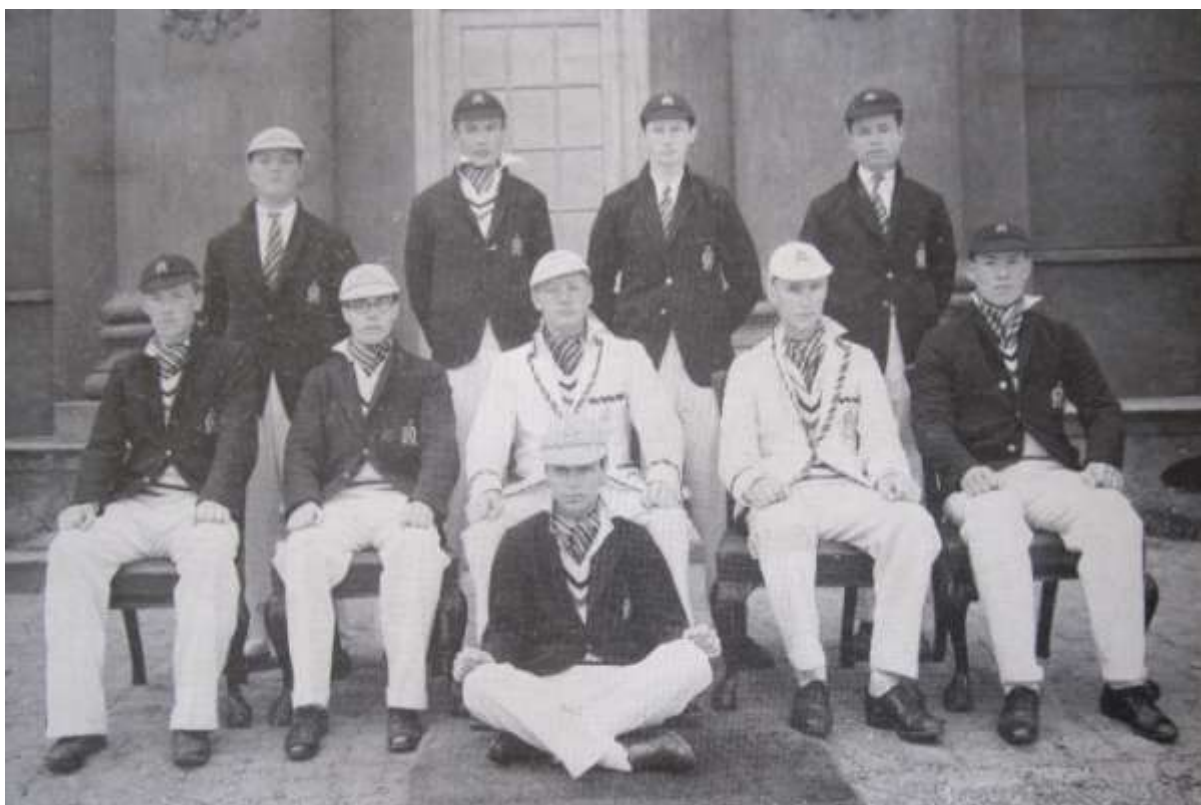


Boxing 1940

Hugh Meyer (WW LT Queens Surreys), John Ewart, Laurence Dowley, Philip de Zulueta (New Coll Ox, WW Capt Welsh Guards, Diplomat, PS TO PMs Eden, Macmillan, KT) Peter Eveleigh.

Leonard Gordon-Lennox, Edward Watson, Alan Fraser, James Sheppard, Peter Smith

David Collier



The VIII 1940

Back Row L-R; Vincent Baker, Laurence Dowley, Emile Guillet (Guillet Brandy), Rex Baseden (WW Lt RN, wdd)

Seated L-R: Victor Berry, Anthony Morson, Alan Fraser, Martin Poels (White Father Pr. 1948), James Hyland (Brit Guiana).

Floor: Anthony Shattock (**Ox Cox '44. WW AMGOT KIA Italy 22/7/44**)



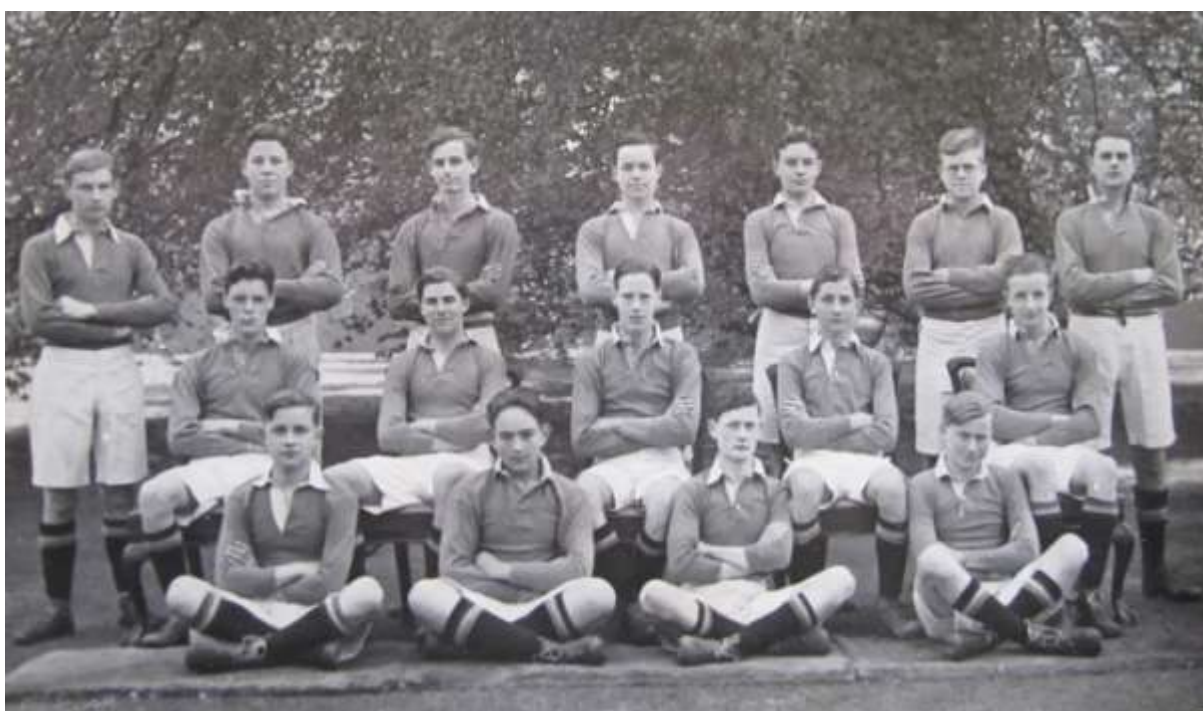
The XI 1940

Back Row L-R: Michael Sadd (WW Lt RN Accountant), Richard Meakins, Patrick Burns, John Beatson Hird (GP), Robert Berkeley (WW Capt Irish Guards, Lloyds Broker) Michael Gompertz, Harry Churchill (WW Capt Grenadier Guards)

Seated L-R: Anthony Nicholson, **John Morrish**, Hugo Holmes, Cyril Russell, Brudenell Wallis.



The Mile 1940 on the Cricket Flats



The Colts 1940



Swimming Tournament 1940 (Mr "Fizz" SJ on far left)



The XV 1940-1

Back Row L-R: Anthony Nicholson, **Christopher Blundell-Hill (Cam WW F/O RAFVR, KIA 1/4/45)**, Hugo Holmes, Leonard Gordon-Lennox, Laurence Dowley, David Dempsey, Peter Smith.

Seated L-R: Michael de Burgh, Michael Gompertz, Edward Watson, Victor Berry, Baron Ernst von Roretz

Floor: Brudenell Wallis (WW Lt RNVR, Ox Univ), Kenneth O'Connor (WW RAC), **Frank Jackson**



At Home v KCS



After Merchant Taylors



1941 after the match v London Fire Brigade

RUGBY FOOTBALL

Eton were beaten on their own ground by Beaumont by one goal, one dropped goal, and two tries (15 points) to one goal (5 points).

It was not until late in the second half that Beaumont showed such a decided superiority as to account for their decisive victory. Eton were the first to score, when McGrigor got over after some excellent passing by the three-quarters, who in the first half often played brilliantly. De Burgh opened the Beaumont score a minute or so later, but at half-time Eton led by five points to three. The first part of the second half was very evenly contested, but in the last 20 minutes Beaumont showed themselves to be the better team and kept up a constant series of attacks during which Holmes scored two tries, one of which he converted, and just before the end Nicholson dropped a fine goal.



Junior Colts 1941

LEISURE & PLEASURE



"I killed the Count" Shrove Tuesday 1941

Geoffrey Porri (WW Lt RE then Canada), Basil Berkeley (WW Capt Irish Guards, wdd, Lloyds underwriter), Timothy Maloney (RIP 1951), John Sulman (WW RAFVR), Harry Churchill (WW Capt Grenadier Guards), Rex Baseden (WW Lt RNVR, wdd), Michael Deane (fm Argentina), Desmond Ryan (RA Korea, MID LT Colonel) , Peter Dinshaw (fm India).

Murray Llewellyn-Jones

Robert Ouseley (WW RAFVR to Rome)



The White House (camouflaged) June 1 1941

The occupants of "The Flats"

Back: Anthony Nicholson, Martin Poels, Richard Meakins, **Capel Pritchard**, Leonard Gordon-lennox, Philip de Zulueta, Victor Berry, Hubert MacNaire-Smith.

Seated: **John Morrish**, Michael de Burgh, Vincent Baker, Michael Gompertz, Hugo Duplessis

Floor: Michael Sadd

Herbert Stiebel