

## 24. DAVID RICKARDS OUR FOUNDER HEADMASTER

The Magazine September 1954 reported the first Spech Day when the Guest of Honour was the CIGS, Field Marshall Sr John Harding. David Rickards said "If I may say so, Field Marshall, the War Office has not the slightest idea how to run a public school" to which the Field Marshall immediately replied "If I may say so, Headmaster, don't pull your punches with the War Office!"

The Worksop Guardian, reporting upon the second speech day in 1955, Mr Antony Head , Secretary of State for War, and Chairman of The College Governors remarked upon "The wisdom of the Governors in the choice of such an excellent head master as Mr DA Rickards".

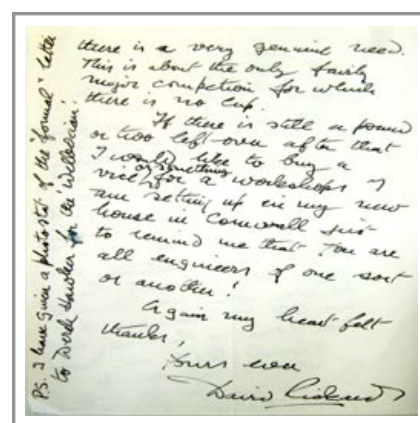
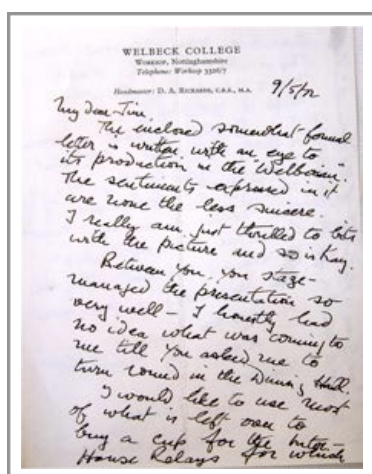
In recording details of "DAR", as he was generally and affectionately known, it is difficult to know where to start - or where end. Better to let those more qualified than I to do justice to this remarkable man.



Nick Thompson (1 Entry) remembers that "DAR made an immediate impact". Certainly I don't think any of us were in any way doubtful as to who was the Boss. The picture on the left left shows how he did his homework and the care he took concerning his charges. This was demonstrated in practice as he rehearsed every boy in reading the lesson to the College He was determined to get to know each boy personally. On the right he is hard at work with the boys constructing the first of the GP dinghies.



The OWA raised the funds to present him with a leaving present on his retirement (see the OWA section). Below is the "personal" letter he sent after the presentation.



His own recollections are below.

I was born in 1912. I was appointed Headmaster Designate of Welbeck in July, 1952 and so have spent exactly one third of my life in helping to conceive, to bear and to bring this baby through childhood to manhood. What a truly wonderful experience this has been!

During the Autumn term of 1952 and the Spring term of 1953 I was running a boarding house at Blundell's School and at the same time getting this College started. There was a teaching staff to be appointed, an advertising campaign to be launched, a Selection Board for the first Entry to be convened, a selection procedure to be invented and a thousand and one decisions to be made about how the buildings were to be adapted and other administrative details. Fortunately I had Major-General Gausson who had already been appointed Bursar on a full time basis. The amount that he did to get the College started is incalculable.

As a result of a massive advertising campaign, there were over 200 applicants for the 48 places of 1 Entry. I was allowed to appoint 7 masters to deal with these. With each subsequent new entry further masters were appointed until, in January 1955, 4 Entry and 15 masters brought the College up to full strength.

Those first 7 masters, 4 of whom are still with us, agreed to join me a fortnight before the beginning of the very first term. During that fortnight we held a Masters' Meeting every day. We discussed a topic a day: College Rules one day, the

Weekly Routine the next and so on for Games, Discipline, Religion, Fire Precautions and so on and so on. Everything had to be worked out from scratch and written directives produced. Fortunately the 8 of us came from a wide variety of schools; we put together what we thought was the best from the many different systems and rejected everything we disliked. What a wonderful opportunity it was to be able to start a school from scratch.

And now, 19 years and 38 Entries later, how much of what was laid down then has stood the test of time and survived? The gradual process of evolution, so necessary to the vitality of a school, has changed almost everything to a greater or lesser degree.

The 8 of us sitting round the table in my study in September 1953 would have been astonished to know that in 1972 the Senior Boys would have a Licensed Club, that casual clothes would be worn at weekends, that the word "bounds" would virtually have disappeared from the College vocabulary, that there would only be one compulsory Chapel Service on Sundays, that the cane would not be in use and that boys would be allowed to go in and out of breakfast when they chose. Just a very few of the countless changes that have gradually happened.

If we had been astonished and perhaps shocked at such visions of the future, we should have been delighted to know that by the year 1972 the College would have a deepened Swimming Pool with filter plant, a miniature Rifle Range, a new Squash Court, a fleet of Sailing Dinghies, five grass Tennis Courts, a Roman Catholic Chapel, an Engineering Drawing Office, a Study or Cabin for every boy, newly built Science Laboratories and Lecture Rooms, and a new Dining Hall and Kitchens. Looking back now, one wonders how we managed without these and many more facilities that now exist.

I am sure that all 8 of us would have been glad to know that, in 1972, the standards we were then trying to set in discipline, in personal appearance, in physical fitness, in manners, in morals and in human relationships would be more than lived up to.

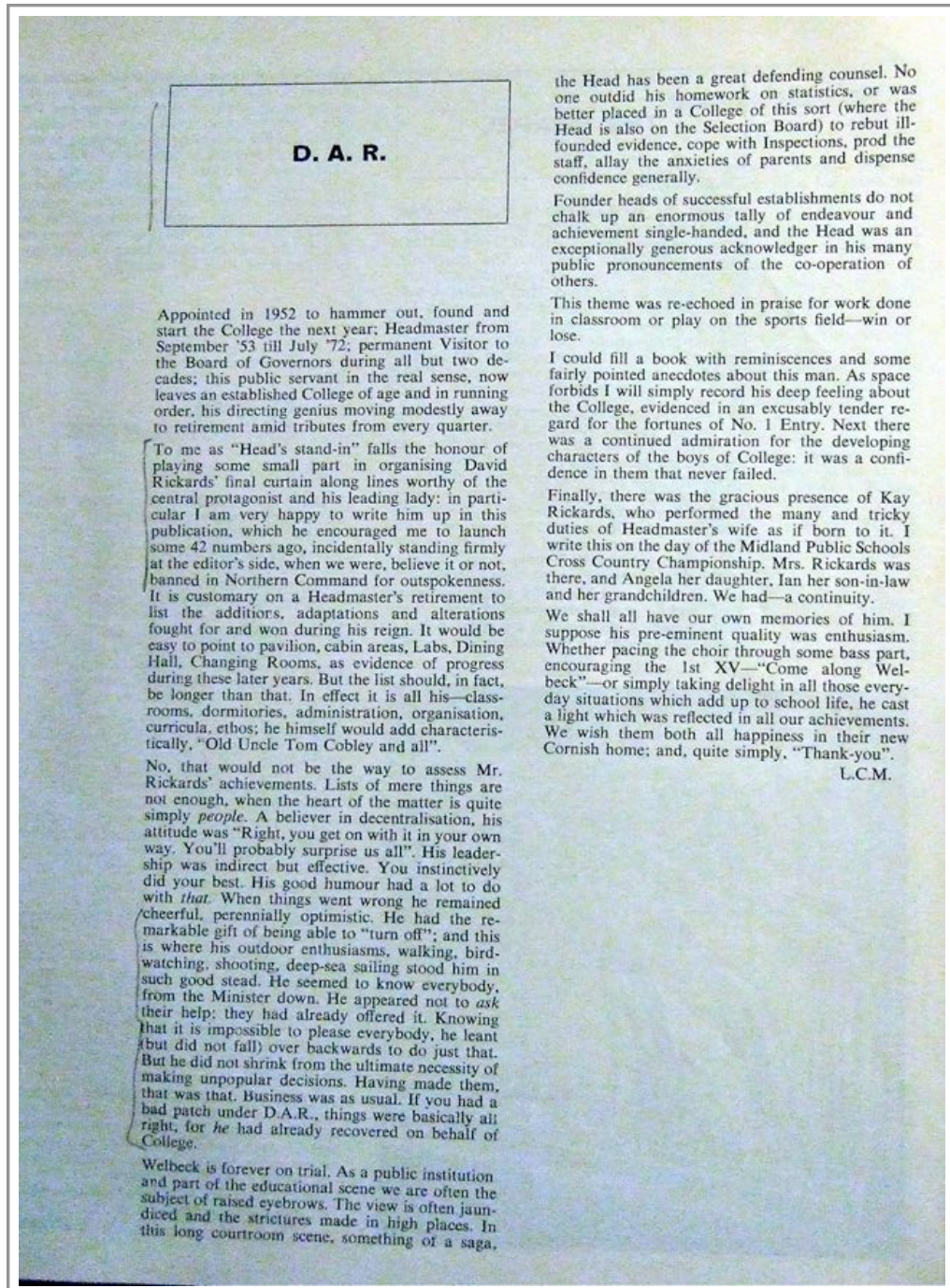
Visitors to the College, of whom we have very many, admire the magnificence of the setting and the splendid facilities. Almost every visitor remarks upon the friendly, open, happy atmosphere that exists here and this to me is the most important thing of all. May this warm, healthy, delightful atmosphere endure for what I hope will be the very long life of Welbeck College. D.A.R.



*At the palace March 1960 Award of CBE*



Leicester Moss paid this tribute on DARs retirement:



And the Staff presented him with this glorious reminder of his time at the College.



This entry in the magazine just a few months after his retirement.

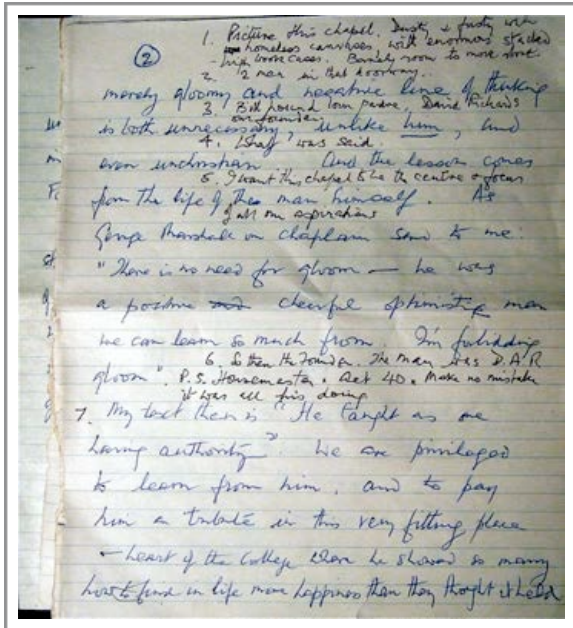
**DAVID AYSCOUGH RICKARDS, 1912-1973**  
**Founder Headmaster 1952-1972**



It is with great sorrow that we record the death, on April 10th, of David Rickards. As this magazine was already in the hands of the printers it is not possible here to add to the tributes paid to him on his retirement in this and in our last issue. Nor, perhaps, would he have wanted us to do so, for his monument is all around us, and is engraved on the memories of all those who knew him at Welbeck. We publish his Farewell Sermon on page 4, addressed to all those who have shared his love of the College and its Chapel, that others may learn to love them too.

We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Kay, and daughter Angela and the family.



LEICESTER MOSS SERMON ON DEATH OF DAR JUNE 1972*(Leicester's manuscript notes passed onto the OWA)*

We are met this June day on a unique occasion to mark with a simple service in this Chapel, the passing of David Rickards, Founder Headmaster of our College.

Everyone will remember the shock, the stunned incredulity with which the news of him being struck down on April the 10th was received. Our hearts went out to Kay, to Angela and Ian and their children in their grief, so close to him and so suddenly and cruelly bereaved. What were our futile condolences then? And what now? What consolations are there at a time like that?

*(The foregoing crossed out - not delivered?)*

I would like to try and show that a merely gloomy and negative line of thinking is both unnecessary, unlike him, and even unchristian. And the lesson comes from the life of the man himself. As George Marshall our Chaplain said to me "There is no need for gloom he was a positive cheerful and optimistic man we can learn so much from. I'm forbidding gloom"

*Overprinted on the penned script and probably used as the introduction:*

1. Picture this Chapel, dusty and fusty with homeless canvasses, with enormous stacked high bookcases. Barely room to move about.
2. Two men in that doorway
3. Bill Lound our first Padre, David Rickards our founder.
4. What was said: I want this Chapel to be the centre and focus of all our aspirations.

My text then is "He taught us as one having authority". We are privileged to learn from him and to pay him a tribute in this very fitting place - heart of the College where he showed so many how to find in life more happiness than they thought it held. There were four things in the life of David Rickards... this Church...his family...his career- that is for us his College and a group of diverse interest of such extraordinary variety that one wonders how he found time to pursue a half of them with the zest that he did.

First his Church. He believed in Chapel services as the central part of life here. Full stop! Chapel was the powerhouse - not negotiable. He himself was the most regular of worshippers. To his maker and church he turned quite naturally as we do now, to - he said simply - to solve, resolve, our problems and he said it here on this very spot in his farewell sermon.

His family. He believed in family life and drew untold strength from his very happy, exemplary, hospitable and sunlit home. What tremendous joy he got out of his grandchildren. None of us will forget the delight with which he announced the arrival of his first grandchild - he loved the fun of young children. He had merriment and fun generally. I have seen him at a College dance waltz a visiting headmistress across the floor, and a few minutes later discharge onto a suitable target a water propelled rocket - a toy destined for some child's birthday the next morning.

His career - His College. Of course he founded it - he and General Gausson the first Bursar. I don't want to go into all that - but it was nobody else really. He had the job of producing knowledgeable leaders and he believed this was best done by action and example, not words. A strict routine, high standards expected, work and play. Encouragement all along the line - I think he was best at this. "If you were last at a cross country provided you were struggling on, it didn't matter, he saw you as if you had come first or second" writes an OW to me. He never lost faith in a student capacity for improvement, even when his staff were wavering, he was firm about that. We hear a lot about leadership - he had the old fashioned trait (I don't think he realized it) - it was - immense and devastating **pride in his Command**. "He was so kind, many separate people in humble jobs said that to me when we lost him after a mere few months after his retirement. He was. I have known him wash out all detentions, gating and black marks against a young man - staff had to lump it - in search for the chap having a fresh start.

He could puncture a pompous attitude with wit and firm kindliness. I remember a master holding forth "What counts in a school is what the staff stand for" To which David Rickards in a hoarse whisper " You know as well as I do, that what counts in a school is what the staff **won't** stand for".

His humour and optimism were legendary, as was his shrewd ability to negotiate. All the Governors who knew him said the same. Indeed his grasp of problems and essentials was remarkable. He enjoyed the challenge. His clear mind was of a very high order. IQ - he could do routine admin and the Times crossword simultaneously. With Edwin Bailey the two of them demolished it, shredded it, with unholy glee in ten minutes of morning break. Difficulties of all kinds scuttled for cover at his approach. He had a waggish almost ebullient air at times. He exuded confidence and a cheerful good humour. This was just about a constant. I know he didn't always feel it - but cheerfulness always kept breaking in..

Some young men have asked me to include an outline of his career. He was at Sedburgh school - a tough northern outdoor existence. Hew on their grim 10 miles cross country run over the hills twice. At Cambridge he read natural science and was a running blue. Long distance. He taught at Blundell's school in Devon - then in the army when he rose to the rank of Lt Colonel in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Infantry. His very bright and analytical brain (those crosswords again) - earned him a place on General Montgomery's planning staff for the invasion of Europe - such plans had to be just about perfect. He later instructed at the Staff College. Back to school as housemaster - then in 1952 he had the job of starting the first sixth form college. The men of UC have reminded me of the great respect the College had for their Head. May I quote them?



“He was Welbeck.” “He gave the impression of being a dynamo” “He was a patriotic gentlemen: it was the easiest thing in the world to look up to him”. “It was through him that people began to respect the College”. “We gave him a silver pencil: he was deeply touched”.

What impressed his pupils was his being “a man for all seasons”. He could walk with Queen’s (we saw him do it) and would gossip with generals and ministers and private soldiers, he never lost the common endearing touch. The Queen honoured him with a CBE in 1960.



The Head Master rescuing an ice-bound deer on the Great Lake

His personal courage - his physical courage were beyond question. It was he who tested out the ice for safety. It was he who rescued a deer frozen in the lake. Out he went and did it while I was sending for a ladder! He was a man who every two years embarked upon a deep sea sailing race. He was very modest about this. I once asked him (I had been abroad and didn’t know the results) how he had got on. He regaled me with a comic and robust account of what the Irish light house keepers shouted from the Fastnet rock. He never mentioned that he had personally navigated the

winning craft that year!

It has been impossible to give some account of the working man without mentioning the fourth element in the man’s life - the mass of out of school activities in which he excelled and refreshed his spirit. He was an excellent skater, a great organiser of impromptu games on the ice. He was a deep sea yachtsman of international status. He was an excellent gardener - his garden always a picture. he carpentered the two prayer desks behind me.

His knowledge of wild life was pretty wide. To stroll about with him in a natural setting, hearing his chatter, was a revelation. He was in his younger days a fine golfer. He would have a go at cricket, ruggar and hockey. He could fly an airplane. He had a go at a helicopter. Terry Canham recalls that he was itching to try out surf boarding. He passed the advanced motorists test first time - some feat. He took beautiful photographs. He was a crack shot. Boys naturally admired all these things.

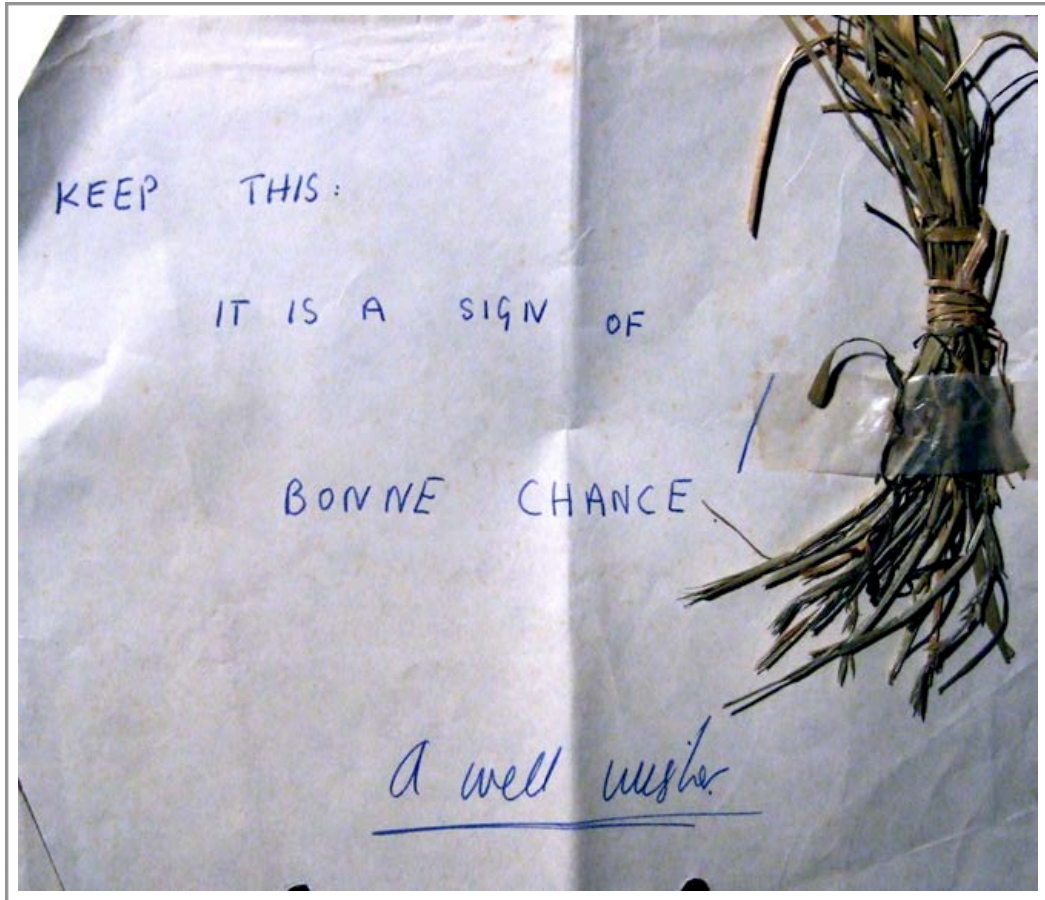
His whole life cries out to us, to do our best, to keep wide interests - to “Do it cheerfully as unto the Lord”. Some might call that old fashioned. I think not. David Rickards had many claims to be remembered for posterity. Those who knew him personally will remember him as an original character, a leader who understood the merriment. and the heartbreak, of the young; a charming and generous host and a friend of all who turned to him in any kind of trouble.

A far wider circle will remember his unique contribution the National Defence and the educational scene of his country.

As for his monument - look around you.

Dear Lord, teach us to learn from thy servant David, his ardent, courageous and brotherly spirit. May he rest in peace.

Below is a simple item sent to DAR sometime and its derivation is not known.

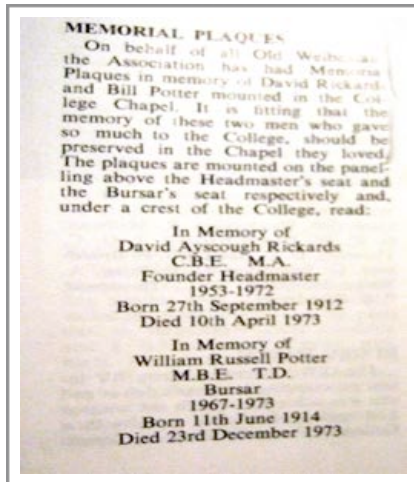




## 25 OBITUARIES

The College Magazine published obituaries in the OWA Section regularly. Always sad for contemporaries of those who have left us. This section records those of the early Staff and entries, particularly those who died in action. Extracts from obituaries are shown below with the full obituaries at Annex L on the DVD. Many apologies for missing others.

### The Staff.

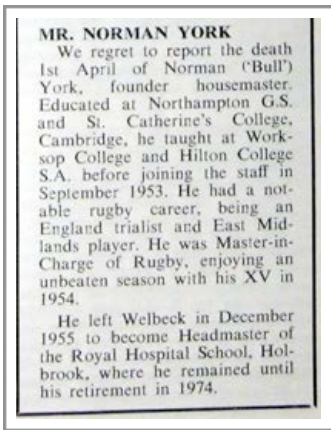


**David Rickards Founder Headmaster** He sadly died shortly after retiring in 1972. Full details are in Section 24. His fellow members of staff held him in high esteem and Leicester Moss has written in the magazine on the occasion of his retirement, on his death and in a memorial sermon. He made an immediate impact on the boys showing immense care. The OWA had a Memorial Plaque showing in the College Chapel (see left).

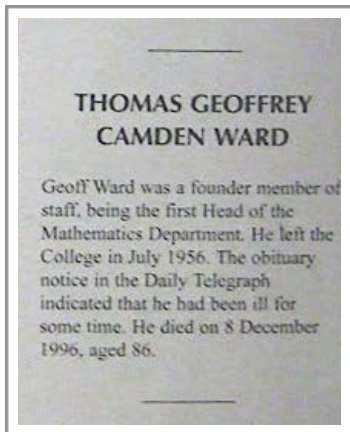
**Vivian Davey. Second Master.** Died in 1996 aged 94. His obit describes him: "An impeccable CV reflecting a fine career as a teacher and mentor in schools of very high standard. His feet were firmly planted on the classroom floor - or else! At 51 years of age and a founder staff member, ball of fire and energy, olympian, Napoleonic and at times abrasive. Commanded the Air Training Corps at one school, his reputation as a Rugby Football Coach and referee covered nearly half a century and earned him a wide spectrum of friends. The OWA owes its existence to him - he got the movement off its marks as soon as Number 1 Entry had done its two years."

**Lieicester Moss Head of Humanities.** Leicester died in April 1977 age 79 years. There was packed church at his funeral and many OWs attended, a number from the 1st Entry. Godfrey Harland wrote a tribute for the magazine (Annex L) including: "He fought as an infantry officer at Kohima whilst serving with the Royal West Kent Regiment. He was a founder member of staff and was head of the Arts/Languages Department for 27 years In this capacity, amongst other multifarious duties he was responsible for the College Magazine and the College Library. He organised an ran College tennis and helped with hockey being a prominent member of the Welbeck Wizards - the staff hockey team. With a quick and mischievous sense of humour he instigated the "The Book" in the master common room to house all their quotable sayings. The obituary ends with a quotation from Hamlet: '

*"He was a man take him all in all, I shall not look upon his like again".*



**Norman (Bull) York First House master.** His obituary form the Welbexian is here in full. I remember that when he died there were two obituaries in the Times Newspaper. Sadly we do not have a copy although perhaps it would be easy to obtain one from their archives. I remember one part which said that he "knew " boys very well.



**Geoffrey Ward Maths Lecturer** (On loan from the Royal Military Academy)

**Derek Hawker. Housemaster York House.** He died in 1989 and a memorial service was held in the College Chapel. Derek Pring, who took over York House from him writes: "He came to Welbeck from RNC Pangbourne. His interest enthusiasm and care was evident in York House. An excellent Maths lecturer he started college cricket, coached athletics and rugby and was a firm supporter of the Chapel where he preached many sermons. He was know as "Derektory" having produced two registers and was an enthusiastic Secretary of the OWA ensuring that it ran smoothly. His influence was great and is continuing to spread as his "boys" follow his fine example in their own lives." Annex L also has a piece from Mike Vann (6 Entry and one time OWA President) who gives some personal examples of Derek's influence on his life. Well worth a read.



## GORDON PARTINGTON MA



Many people were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Gordon Partington. A very large congregation gathered at St. Anne's Church, Worksop for a service of thanksgiving on Tuesday 7th May and the size and diversity of the people who attended was an indication of the breadth of his friendships.

Gordon joined the Staff at Welbeck College in 1954.

He was educated at Merchant Taylors School and from there he went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he read history. He then taught for a year at Gordonstoun and for two years at Salem Baden in Germany and for a time he taught in France at the College de Normandie (Seine Inferieure), before joining the Staff at Welbeck College on 16th September 1954.

In those early days Gordon taught history to 'A' Level and both French and German to 'O' Level: in addition he ran a flourishing Strathspey and Reel Society and he used to arrange English language soirees and concerts. He was a great raconteur and mimic who delighted in teasing people and many people have stories to tell !

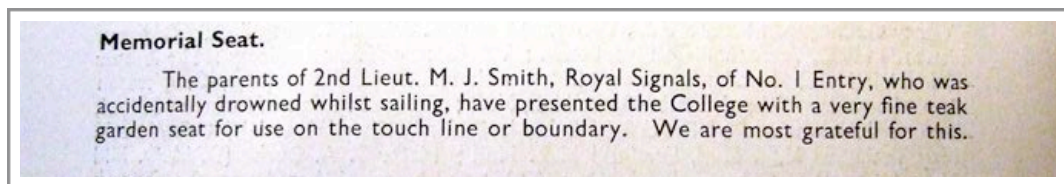
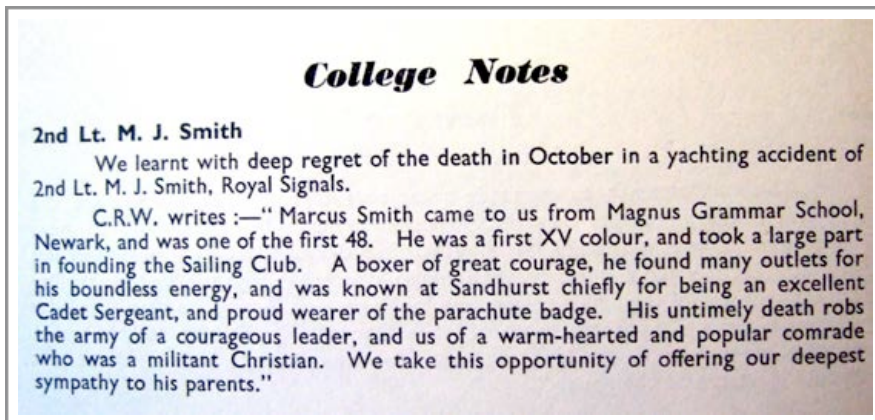
**Gordon Partington.** It is difficult to know where to start for Gordon. A friend to everyone, great fun nothing too much trouble the compleat schoolmaster. There are two very lengthy obituaries at Annex L. The first from his funeral service held in a church in Worksop; the huge congregation from all walks of life reflecting the love and friendship Gordon inspired. John Thomson's address in the College Chapel on 16 June 1996 is a voyage of memories about this man. Both need to be read. From the funeral Alan Sharman (11 Entry) was quoted by The Rev E T Beech, The College Chaplain, thus: "*Gordon was an amazing character and for my generation, and later I am sure, he epitomized the spirit and aspiration of Welbeck and what is was trying to achieve with our education. He was an excellent teacher, a caring man, yet he strove to develop the individuality, the unconventional and fun in all of us. If that required him to be a little eccentric then so be it. It worked, and anyway was more play acting than real on many an occasion*"

Above all he was faithful to Welbeck. It was right that he should have been a Governor and linked with the OW Association for he took a close and abiding interest in Welbexians. It was Gordon who invariably turned up at Sandhurst Passing-Out Parades or Shrevenham or elsewhere and chatted around all the OW's, even if it meant cutting a few periods back at Welbeck. He kept the links going aided by his remarkable memory for people and events – even casual remarks made years ago – and of course for nicknames many of them coined by his own genius for them.

After 36 years of service to Welbeck and a few years of retirement still virtually on the premises and with such a vast network of OW friends, Gordon can deservedly claim to be the longest serving member of College, an integral part of its history and life-blood and a remarkable and inspirational character whose memory we should none of us lightly set aside.

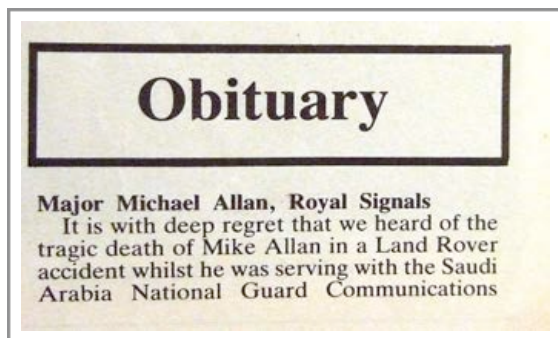
## The First Entry

The first to leave us was Mark Smith. A great character, enormous fun, good rugby player and skillful sailor. I recall going with him whilst in the second year at Sandhurst to Hayling Island. He took me sailing in a very rough sea and with his superb ability managed to quell my fears. It was at the time that Buster Crabbe the famous underwater diver of the Royal Navy disappeared around there whilst apparently spying on a Russian vessel. It was a really great shock to us all when we heard that Marc had gone off sailing alone at night on Lake Windermere. Sadly neither Mark or the boat was ever found. Two entries from the Magazine are below. I wonder where the Memorial Seat is now?





**Mike (Nig) Allan.** My dearest friend. So many fond memories of the times I shared with him at Chesterfield Grammar School and at Welbeck and RMA. The Signal Officer in Chief gave the eulogy before a very large congregation in Salisbury Cathedral His wife, three young sons and his mother were all there. The magazine entries are below.



(SANGCOM) Team on 8 March 1984. Mike, or Nig as he was affectionately known whilst at the College, was a member of the 1st Entry. He had been educated at Chesterfield Grammar School, was a member of York House and packed down in the scrum of the first unbeaten Welbeck College rugby XV. After commissioning into the Royal Signals on 2 August 1957, his service took him to Germany, Belize, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and to the Middle East. Mike was a pleasant uncomplicated man who knew exactly what things he liked in life and in the Army, and enjoyed doing them to the full. He always preferred serving with soldiers to working behind a desk and even into his mid 40s, when he was 2IC Recruit Trg Regt, he was happiest encouraging his recruits out on the ground and was still prepared to show them the way over the obstacle course. He enjoyed serving with Arab troops and they seemed to like him. His first tour with them was with the Trucial Oman Scouts in the early '70s and finally in Saudi Arabia with SANGCOM. He was a good all round sportsman, playing rugby for the R Signals as a young man. He was also keen on skiing and adventure trg and latterly had become an enthusiastic fly fisherman. He married late in life whilst serving in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, and his straight forward enthusiasm made him a devoted husband and family man. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jane, his wife, and their three young sons James, David and Andrew.



Chesterfield Grammar School Junior Cadets: Nig on the left of the centre row, self 2nd on left back row. On the right the Derbyshire Junior XV v Staffordshire during a mid term break from Welbeck - we couldn't keep away from it and to our surprise Bull was the referee! Nig 4th from right back row self next to him.

**John Skinner.** Another dear friend of all of the First Entry. Memories are legion. Blowing St Louis Blues in the back of the College Lorry, copperplate writing, stealing Bull's bike, the Rally of the Vales in Wales in his Morris Traveller, his wedding to Anne, many happy rugby hours - on and on. The magazine tribute below also see Sam's article in the OW section.

le was greatly helped by Sarah who is personal secretary at King's College, Cambridge (where perhaps she may find one or two more 'pickled dolentscents').

ue is rightly thought well of at King's and with the characteristic grit of her mother she helped to make her father's last years contented.

us has been said, the Cartwrights were produced by England and they were worthy products. Of course change is inevitable; and change is coming to England very quickly now. However, we doesn't have to indulge in cyclophantic nostalgia to know that we have much to learn from the lives of John and Pam Cartwright.

### LT COL J.J CULLEN

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of Jimmy Cullen on 5 May 1993 who served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1960 to 1990. An old Welshman, he began his career in Junde and served in Singapore, Germany and the UK. He took a great interest in young people which was put to good effect during his tours with the Junior soldiers' units in Troon and Ouston. Active in sports he later became a rugby referee. He enjoyed social activities and also gave full vent to his Thespian leanings.

On his retirement he settled in Scotland and became a member of the Carrick and Clyde Council, an Elder of the Church and took a keen interest in Youth Fellowship. He leaves a widow Eleanor, a son Lindsay who is serving in the Corps and a daughter Justine to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

### SARAH LEADBETTER

The OW's were shocked to hear of the death of Sarah, wife of Lt. Col. Nick Leadbetter REME (35E) in a motor accident in Germany in October 1993. They send their condolences to Nick on his sad loss.

### COLONEL R J SKINNER

It is with great sadness I write to report the death of John Skinner on 7th October 1993 after a long battle against Leukaemia.

John was born in June 1937 in Somerset and educated at Clifton College where he showed himself to be a gifted mathematician and musician. In 1953 he decided that his chosen career would be as an engineer in the Army and entered Welbeck College as a member of the First Intake in September that year. He was commissioned into REME in August 1957 and obtained an external London University degree from RMCofS. He served in 5 Inf Wksp, as EME QOH,

Adj to CREME in Aden and Hereford, and BEME to 20 Arm'd Bde before attending Staff College in 1970/72. He then served in HQ TO in C (Tpt 2) before commanding 6 Fd Wksp in Munster. A tour in HQ DEME (EME 2) was followed by an exchange appointment in Australia on promotion to Lt Col. On returning from Sydney he was appointed CREME Rhine Area prior to an appointment as GSO 1 at MVEE. In 1984 he was selected for promotion to Colonel and was posted as CO of 27 Dist Wksp Warminster. After a long and successful career in the Army he retired in June 1989. His second career was working with the Department of Transport as assessor for conformity of production of vehicle components and accessories for type approval. This new job took him to many countries including South Africa, Japan, Malaysia, India and Thailand as well as to most of Europe. Indeed he often said he joined the Army to see the world yet had to retire to achieve it.

John had a great interest in sport in general, in particular playing and supporting rugby and cricket. However his consuming interest was motor sport. From his days at RMCofS where his 'souped up' Morris minor competed in Club Rallies his interest and involvement developed into competing in the RAC Scottish Rally where twice he obtained his class award. He also had success in the Baltic Rally and Finnish 1000 Lakes Rally. He competed in the Munich World Cup Rally which involved crossing the Sahara Desert, a task that fully tested his engineering ingenuity. He was an active Rotarian and devoted time and effort to supporting charitable causes. With his wife Anne he was exceedingly active with fund raising and 'educating' puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind. His wise counsel was appreciated in both organisations where his down to earth common sense helped to bring order where this was not always apparent.

It was in 1985 that he discovered he was suffering from Leukaemia and as was typical of John he was determined to overcome this illness. John never complained and with his customary strength of character lived as full a life as possible both at work and at home. Indeed such was his will power that he attended a dinner in September held at Welbeck College to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the arrival of the first intake to the College. John made many friends during his life, his wise counsel was easily given and gratefully received. He was a great family man as well as devoting time and effort to others. He will be sadly missed and on behalf of all his many friends and colleagues we offer our sincere condolences to his wife Anne, daughter Sarah and son Simon.



Sam Roberts still as active as ever as the First Entry recorder keeps track of everyone as far as he can and lets us all know when one of us "shuffles off his mortal coil". When sending out the calling notice for our 60th re-union in September 2013 Sam had the up to date tally:

P.S. I have lost track of the following. If any of you know their whereabouts, please let me know: Bill Abson, John Brown-Squires, George Jukes, Dave Massey, John Oakley, 'Curly' Reynolds, Ron Taylor, Graham Williams.

P.P.S. Sadly, the following are no longer with us: Nig Allan, Mick Clifford, Trevor Elkins, Mark Fillingham, Don Haskayne, Bren Kavanagh, Terry Neyland, Ray Peace, John Skinner, Mark Smith and Jim Vine.

I am sure that no one will object to this little homily from Derek Baughan sent to me in 2012:

*The passing of so many from our intake makes me feel like the man who fell off a 30 story building, and, when passing the 13th floor, shouted to those watching, " So far so good !!! "*

The magazine recorded those OWs killed in action in The Falklands War.

**Obituaries**

**MICHAEL FORGE AND JAMES BARRY**

The year that has passed since these two great and intrepid men were killed in action has taken away only the shock, some of the grief and agony in such a loss is permanent.

Mike had a need to flirt with danger in the sport nature provided. He it was who in 1959 moved inside the hut he would have to be by an injured bird, or inspect an unlikely wild fowling ground the next morning. When Jim came from John Thomson at the first point, I found him during camp, whether it was plotting a night assault over a plateau, or on the 12th of October, Mike and I indeed leading his superb team of 4000 ft of snow. Mike thought the world of him, for he gave me the opportunity to study the intricacies of the Falkland Islands, and he took me to the mountains. Any other Falkland Islander in Mike's way, who thought of going to a bank, or a post office, before he went out in the field, or wherever. Let me say however, come away with the impression that he was fearless, or a reckless sportsman. For one thing, he detested heights, but still there was a yardstick to measure them by, which might explain why he avoided mountain like the plague, yet kept happily from

Our letters are with those who write dear to their men.

**Lakeview Men  
Second Master 1962-77**

I first met Jim Barry when I arrived at Camp, in January 1977, immediately took to him as we had two things in common: walking and sailing.

It was not until after he was commissioned when I met him on numerous occasions at Camp, where we were both engaged in offshore sailing. That I really had a chance to appreciate that he was a natural leader, dedicated to his profession as a soldier.

In a very short space of time he applied himself to sailing, with the enthusiasm and keenness that he displayed in everything he undertook.

He soon became a qualified skipper, and was always willing to help out at Camp, where he was very highly thought of and respected. He became an outstanding yachtsman, and was selected to be part of the crew of British Challenge, in the 1965 America's Cup Competition.

He became a personal friend of mine, and it was a great shock to learn of his death, but that was tempered by the knowledge that he died as he would have chosen, leading his friends from them. He was a character, and he is in a great line in the sailing world, in the Army, and to all those who knew him.

**M.E.**

**Major M.L. Forge, Royal Signals**

In September 1977 those small boys joined Harold House with the rest of the North Entry. They were rather like small puppies, and came to think of them as the three lads: Alan Brand, Michael Forge and Alan Jamieson. Perhaps, because of the affection, only Michael Forge retained the nickname and he became known to his friends from then on. He was a character, and he was a real role model for the boys.

Godfrey Harland always shook hands with the whole team after nightfall in the mess. On the arrival of each batch of new boys, he explained that he did not see whether they were "serving the cause or waging it", and also so that they should have practice in giving a firm handshake and looking the inspecting officer in the eye.

This was all explained to the new boys of 9 Entry in their turn, further they were asked, "What are they looking for in an inspecting officer, for example, 'Blings, Sir, Good Night'." When it came to Mike's turn in the three, that immediately he couldn't resist 'Blings, Sir, Good Night' as his first register. 'Blings, Sir, Good Night' with Michael Kelly of 'The Other House' - one remembers the name of a rather whole, almost and looking school-boy of a quarter of a century ago.

He was an officer of one of the best regiments that have come and gone over the years, and he enjoyed his contact with some of the characters of Cuckney.

He had been at Henwood Catholic School, but he had never to appreciate those things. My first contact with Mike was later in 1977, when he was in his young captain. He was sensitive about starting. After some persuasion he came to

one of the supper-dances in the Library, and then started a period of steady work for the OW Association which lasted until he was killed in the Falklands. He became a member of the South Entry. He appeared to pre-arrange and plan for O.W. events. He did a lot of hard work behind the scenes for such events as the O.W. presentation to David Harland.

His remarks could be caustic, but did not seem to hurt. "Anonymous, the 'League of Gentlemen' Men in the world" comes to mind.

He once took the present writer for a spin in his new aeroplane just over the line almost. College units, up and down the line almost into the port entrance of a startled marine looking out of the window of Deck 4, and so on.

Later, as he stretched off at that little aeroplane near Henwood, he turned round and asked, "How much do you weigh?" He was told. "That probably accounts for the fact that we nearly didn't take off."

Falk was loyal to his friends, who were in no means all of a pattern.

Just before he left Britain for the last time, he visited Mike Corbridge, of the North Entry, on his farm in Wales, and the Godfrey Harland in Somerset. He was several hundred miles off his route to the Falks. He was heard of his last visit.

We are going to miss someone who was sensitive to other people than his own was Falk.

**Killed in Action  
29 MAY 1982  
Lieutenant  
JAMES ANTHONY  
BARRY  
Royal Signals  
in action with the 2nd  
Battalion, the Parachute  
Regiment, near Goose Green.**

**Killed in Action  
6 JUNE 1982  
Major  
MICHAEL LANCASTER  
FORGE  
Near Port Stanley while  
commanding the HQ/Signal  
Squadron of the 5th  
Infantry Brigade**

roundness, and, with his own quick wit and sharp intelligence, he was intolerant of those few grills, particularly if he felt they were being put forward to impose their disagreement upon him. Add these characteristics to an irresistible urge to say at once whatever was on his mind, and it will be easy to see that there were occasions when he was diplomatic. Sooner or later though, his skill, his courage and his honesty would be impressed upon everyone, and no one who knew him well thought anything but very highly of him.

I mentioned his courage. He loved excitement and taking risks; and never hesitated in action to go forward to see for himself. Free-fall parachuting, firing powerful motorbikes are all part of the pattern and it does not surprise me that he was killed when engaged in seeing to a risky mission himself.

One of Mike's duties in our Headquarters in Oman was, at the end of each morning's staff meeting, to read out the news headlines from the BBC's World Service. About once a fortnight he would add one of his own, usually outrageous, but so skillfully worded and chosen that no one quite knew whether to take it seriously. This was typical of his rather off-beat sense of humour, but it was a useful reminder to us all not to take ourselves too seriously.

Another characteristic for which he is well remembered by everyone who lives in the large Officers' Mess at Salalah, and I believe everywhere he has been, is an enthusiasm for gardening, especially for major projects. For weeks on end at one time he would get up an hour before everyone else to build a wall around part of the Mess garden. I could say it was a wall that anyone particularly wanted, but Mike loved it, and put hours and hours of work into completing.

Since the Oman days we have kept in touch with Mike. Clever enough to get to the Staff College, he had a rough passage through the place because his fertile brain would never accept anything at face value; the establishment and its embroiled ideas were there to be challenged. His own ideas, frequently "way out", were always backed by logic and the sort of thing which would at first sight be poor. But give rise to reflection and deeper thought later. A fellow-student told me how much he enjoyed Mike's presence on the course for the way in which he gave so much entertainment and distracted the management's attention from those who often agreed but hadn't the bottle to say so.

All graduates of the Staff College who give their lives in action are recorded in a beautiful book in the entrance hall whose pages are turned daily. Lieutenant Colonel R. Jones and Major Mike Forge's names are dutifully to be added to that book, and may be seen there by anyone who cares to visit.

So today we remember an officer of warm, friendly character, of strong personality, and of refreshing, open, outspoken nature. My wife and I feel we have lost a friend whose letters and whose company were always welcome and interesting.

Some of you may wonder whether the death of anyone who fought for some bleak island in the South Atlantic could possibly be described as "worth it." To those who have suffered the loss personally it may be little comfort to give the answer "yes". But in the Falkland Islands Britain showed the will to defend armed aggression, and in the process restored national pride, gave confidence to many people in the world for whose protection we are responsible, and displayed

military skill and organisation, great courage and determination, the galvanising of national effort, leadership, and the pure to overcome severe setbacks. The people of this country can be, and mostly are, very proud indeed of their Armed Forces, and of how effective they proved themselves when they were committed to action. It was a remarkable, even dazzling military success which has won worldwide admiration but could not have been achieved without loss. I am so sorry, and offer my deepest sympathy with his family and friends, that the loss included Major Michael Lancaster Forge, Royal Signals, but we can all be proud of his sacrifice, and give thanks for his life which added so much interest and pleasure to the lives of so many. May he rest in peace.

**THE DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUES TO THREE OW'S**

The Dedication of the Memorial Plaques in the Chapel, to Major M.L. Forge and Lieutenant J.A. Barry of the Royal Signals, both killed in the Falklands, and to Captain B.S. Grieten, RAOC, killed in Northern Ireland, took place on Sunday 10 October, 1982.

The Service was attended by many close relatives of the fallen, as well as by the President of the OW Association. The Father of M.S. Holman of 47 Entry, the Revd. G.G. Holman, Senior Chaplain of North-East District, conducted the Service and the Dedication. The Choir sang the Russian Kontakion for the Departed, and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded.

Afterwards the visitors were entertained to lunch in the Messes' Common Room.

**HUGO TAYLOR**

It is sad to record the death of Hugo Taylor of 49 Entry while on duty at Fort George, Inverness-shire. Hugo came to us from Daniel Stewart's College Edinburgh in September 1977, and was a respected member of York House. He was always willing to help others and was an enthusiast for Voluntary Service. He took part in Welbeck's first production at Saint Giles' during the Edinburgh Festival in 1979, and all his family helped greatly with this production.

We send our sincere sympathy to his Mother and family in their loss.

**Honours**

**O.B.E.**  
D. Baughan (1)  
R.D.K. Thompson (5)

**M.B.E.**  
J.R. Stuart (23)  
J.C. Bennam (31)

**Mentioned in Despatches**  
W.K. Butler (19)  
R. Macdonald (25)  
R.J. Southworth (27)  
S.J.S. Cameron (29)  
A.T. Boyd (40)  
R.C. Herdsoth (41)  
M.R. Selfridge (45)



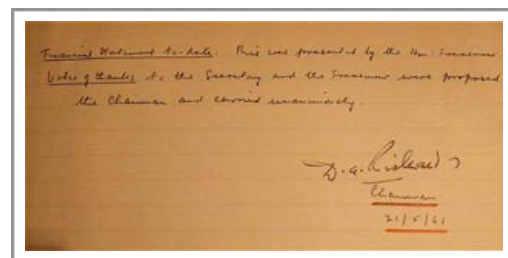
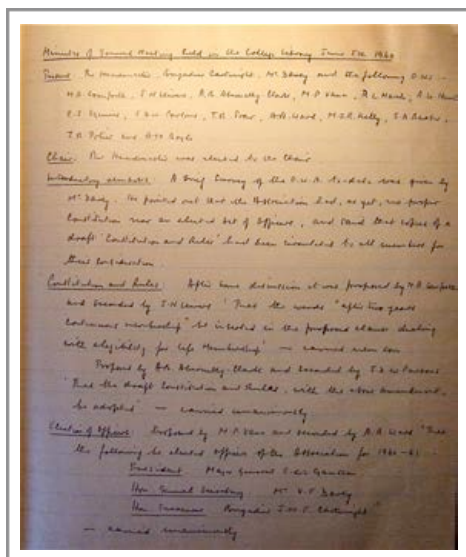
## 26 Old Welbexian Association (OWA)

The first mention I can find of the OWA is in the College Magazine of February 1958. It shows: "As the Association has been in existence for just over six months..." Formation was clearly September 1957 just after the First Intake were commissioned in August 1957. At that time there were some 180 members who had paid their 10/- subscription (to include every copy of the magazine). The "affairs" were in the hands of Corps representatives, a rep from each of the 12 Sandhurst Companies with Vivian Davey as the Hon Gen Secretary and Gen Gausson Hon Treasurer An OWA tie was designed and two sports fixtures held in 1957 cricket in July and Rugged in November. A dinner dance at the Cafe Royal to be held on 21 March 1958 was proposed (not sure if this ever took place) and requests for news of old boys.

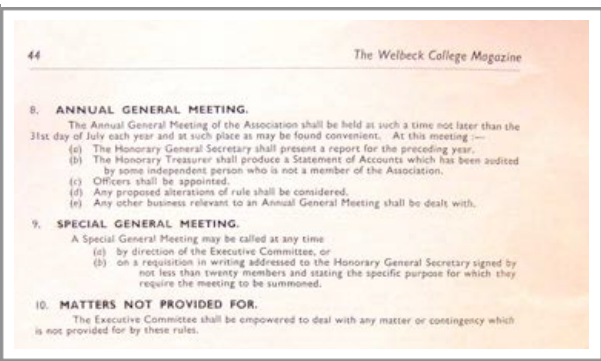
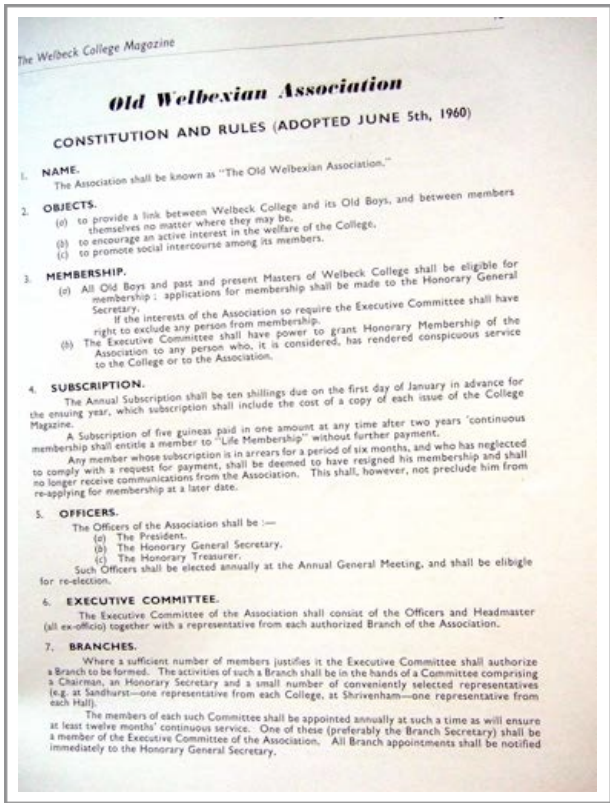
Vivian Davey was the real driver and inspiration behind the formation of the OWA. He must have started action when the first intake were at RMAS; as far as I recall we all joined en masse and coughed up our ten bob!

As an aside I believe I was in the rugged match in 1957, the first term at RMCS. I only recount this because John Skinner, normally locked in the forwards suddenly found himself with the ball and no one in front of him. With the try line seemingly not too far away John with great determination, for he was no sprinter, strode on manfully and grounded the ball beautifully - only to find it was the twenty five yard line!

From 1958 news of OWs was reported in the front of the magazine including two letters from Cambridge from Dave Massey! This continued until 1960 when an OWA section was instituted at the rear of each magazine.(WCM 2/9). This copy included the first OWA report listing the Officers, the formation of branches at RMAS, RMCS, Cambridge and Catterick. The first constitution was established and is shown below, along with a facsimile of the first AGM crafted in his readily identifiable manuscript by David Rickards, also below. The first President General Gausson was elected along with Vivian Davey as Secretary and the first "Balance Sheet".







O. W. A. ACCOUNT BOOK  
 Summary of Receipts and Payments from the start until 31st December, 1969

Receipts		Payments	
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
12.7.57	Subs from B.W.A.S., 1957	30.7.57	102 Magazines @ 2/-
17.4.58	Subs from B.W.A.S., 1958	10.10.57	147 Magazines @ 2/6
1958	22 individual subs, 1958	8.2.58	173 Magazines @ 2/-
4.6.59	Subs from B.W.A.S., 1959	30.5.58	126 Magazines @ 2/-
1959	17 individual subs, 1959	13.12.58	210 Magazines @ 3/-
		8.6.59	212 Magazines @ 3/-
		12.12.59	214 Magazines @ 3/-
		25.10.57	Secretary at B.W.A.S., Petty Cash
		13.12.58	V.F.D., Postage
		20.4.59	Card Index File
		23.6.59	Surcharge on letter
			Balance, credit
	204. 0. 0.		64. 6. 0.
			204. 6. 0.

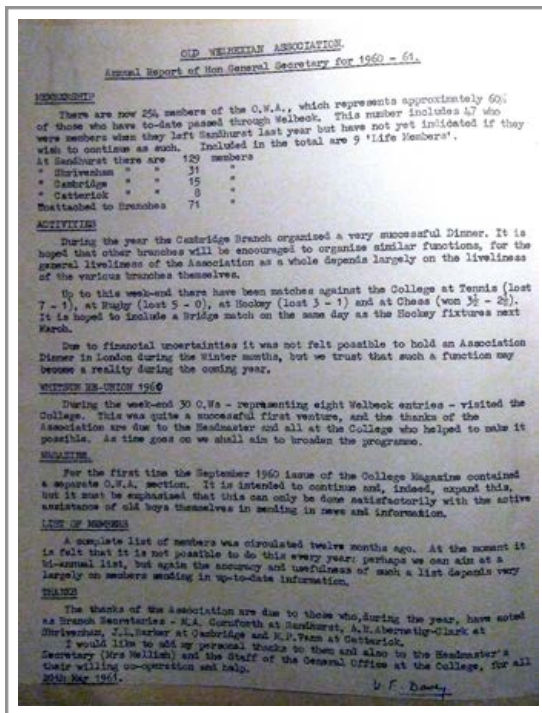
H. J. Matthews  
 Hon. Treasurer  
 21st Dec 1969

The constitution was later amended in 1969 and 1979 at Para 5 Officers: " The President shall not be re-elected more than twice", as well as causing an annual AGM .

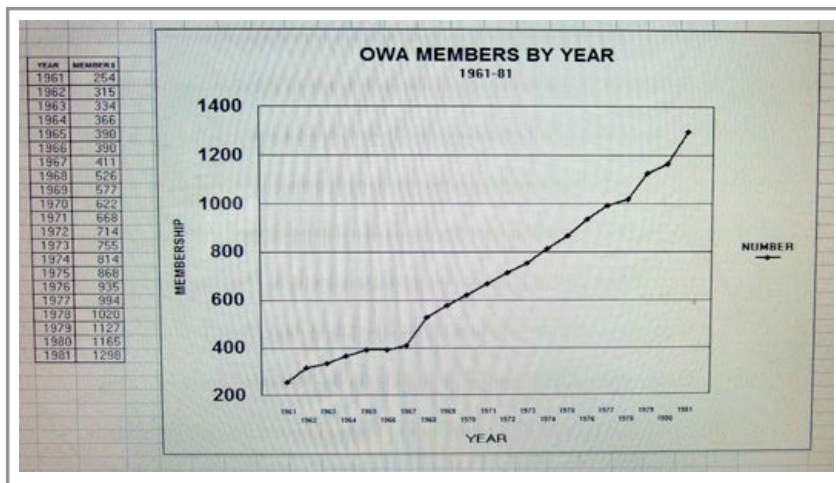
The minutes of the OWA meetings were recorded in a minute Book up to the 22nd meeting; the book was kept carefully by Bob Matthews a one time Bursar who donated it to the OWA. Every minute has been scanned in can be seen in the DVD.- OW Minutes Folder. along with a number of other documents.

It is interesting to note that The Welbexian of Summer 1967 contained 21 pages of contributions from OWs!

A copy of Vivian Davy's first Annual Report to the Association is shown below and this format continued for all of the 22 meetings recorded in the Minute Book



In 1961 about 60% of those eligible to join were members. Membership from 1961-81 is shown in the chart below.



With a membership of 1298 in 1981 assuming an eligibility of 75 per year over about 25 years ie 1875 this is near 70% which was remarkable especially as 1026 were Life Members. It is this latter number which figures in "creaking finances" later. The 10 shilling per annum subscription included the cost of printing and distributing the magazine to each member. With rising costs, particular of postage, subscriptions had to be increased necessitating a change of Bankers Order (most of the subs were collected in this way) and few members responded. In the future, around the 1990's, reportage has it that the data base of OWs was lost or not kept up to date and the OWA almost disappeared until the situation was gripped by the OWA Committee after 2000 and strenuous efforts made to recoup the organisation through the DSFC web site.

Some of the more significant items in the set of minutes are:

1st Meeting 1961. General Gaussen elected President. The constitution agreed.

2nd meeting 1962. Branch Secretaries at RMAs, RMCS Cambridge and Catterick elected. Cambridge and London oW Dinners proposed.

3rd Meeting 1963. London Dinner held with 47 OW's dining.

4th Meeting 1964. VFD comments on lagging support. Derek Hawker becomes Assistant Secretary.

5th Meeting. Poor attendance at the Dinner. Discussion as to the election of an OW as President.

6th meeting 1965. London Dinner cancelled lack of support. VFD notes that given that OW's were now serving in busy appointments world wide the OWA couldn't really act as a "normal" Old Boys Club and was concerned for the future. An OWA prize for the College suggested and Jeff Barker becomes the first Vice President.

7h Meeting 1966. OWA prize setteld at £5.00 twice a year to be awarded for "General all round effort" not on prowess. DCH becomes Secreatary and Jeff Barker the first OWA President.

8th Meeting 1967. President awarded the OWA prizes three times- for Chapel Warden, Chapel Organist and for cultural activities, the intention being to steer clear of the scientific and academic fields.

9th Meeting 1968. Finance creaking mainly due to the cost of the magazine. Sam Roberts introduces the recorder system.



Major-General C. de L. Gaussen, Bursar and secretary to the governors, in the Titchfield Library, which will remain a library and informal assembly room.

10th Meeting 1969. Mike Hammerton first OW to win Queen's Medal at Sandhurst. Recorder system up and running. Constitution amended so that President only re-elected twice.

11th Meeting 1970. Now 20 recorders in action.

12th meeting 1971. Death of General Gaussen. Introduction of the Presidents Dinner. Call for project sponsors. Jim Elliot (3) carries out subscription review.

13th meeting 1972. Three OW's concerned in bomb disposal. Leaving present, a painting of the Abbey by Helen Robins (master minded by Mike Forge and Jeff

Barker) presented to DAR. Part of the funds for the leaving present provided the Rickard's Relay Cup.



14th Meeting 1973. Death of DAR. DCH proposes the 53-73 Register. Room set aside to collect College artifacts and archive material so as to preserve the future as it happens. Honours boards being manufactured in the Workshops.

15th meeting 1974. Mark Fillingham preaches in the Chapel. Register published, Fred Revington retires and subs increased!

16th Meeting 1975. Sam Roberts becomes first OW Governor. First Lt Cols appointed: Sam Roberts, David Bidwell and Peter Davies.

17th Meeting 1976. Memorial tablets in Chapel for DAR and Bill Potter (Bursar). executive Committee formed of 11 members. 20 silver goblets purchased as the OW prize for the next ten years. Cost of magazine rising.

18th Meeting 1977. Silver jubilee celebrations discussed.

19th Meeting 1978. Jubilee Appeal raise £1545.

20th Meeting 1979. Peter Davies (20 first OW Colonel. Constitution again approved (again President only to be re-elected twice). Entry Scrapbook scheme proposal to preserve heritage.

21st Meeting 1980. Scrapbooks now in library. Sam Roberts elected President.

22nd Meeting 1981 New Register 53-80 to be compiled 11th Presidents and 7th Vice President Dinners held. Badge Board instituted. All magazines and calendar rolls inserted into the first batch of scrapbooks. Vice Chairman introduced.

**The Cambridge Dinners.** The OWA contingent at Cambridge, the pioneers, were very enthusiastic members. Below are two of the dinners held there in addition to regular newsletters from the incumbents.





OLD WELBECKIAN ASSOCIATION.Annual Report of Hon General Secretary for 1960 - 61.MEMBERSHIP

There are now 254 members of the O.W.A., which represents approximately 60% of those who have to-date passed through Welbeck. This number includes 47 who were members when they left Sandhurst last year but have not yet indicated if they wish to continue as such. Included in the total are 9 'Life Members'.

At Sandhurst there are	129	members
" Shrivenham " "	31	"
" Cambridge " "	15	"
" Catterick " "	8	"
Unattached to Branches	71	"

ACTIVITIES

During the year the Cambridge Branch organized a very successful Dinner. It is hoped that other branches will be encouraged to organize similar functions, for the general liveliness of the Association as a whole depends largely on the liveliness of the various branches themselves.

Up to this week-end there have been matches against the College at Tennis (lost 7 - 1), at Rugby (lost 5 - 0), at Hockey (lost 3 - 1) and at Chess (won  $3\frac{1}{2}$  -  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ). It is hoped to include a Bridge match on the same day as the Hockey fixtures next March.

Due to financial uncertainties it was not felt possible to hold an Association Dinner in London during the Winter months, but we trust that such a function may become a reality during the coming year.

WHITSUN RE-UNION 1960

During the week-end 30 O.Ws - representing eight Welbeck entries - visited the College. This was quite a successful first venture, and the thanks of the Association are due to the Headmaster and all at the College who helped to make it possible. As time goes on we shall aim to broaden the programme.

MAGAZINE.

For the first time the September 1960 issue of the College Magazine contained a separate O.W.A. section. It is intended to continue and, indeed, expand this, but it must be emphasized that this can only be done satisfactorily with the active assistance of old boys themselves in sending in news and information.

LIST OF MEMBERS

A complete list of members was circulated twelve months ago. At the moment it is felt that it is not possible to do this every year: perhaps we can aim at a bi-annual list, but again the accuracy and usefulness of such a list depends very largely on members sending in up-to-date information.

THANKS

The thanks of the Association are due to those who, during the year, have acted as Branch Secretaries - M.A. Cornforth at Sandhurst, A.B. Abernethy-Clark at Shrivenham, J.L. Barker at Cambridge and M.P. Venn at Catterick.

I would like to add my personal thanks to them and also to the Headmaster's Secretary (Mrs Mellish) and the Staff of the General Office at the College, for all their willing co-operation and help.

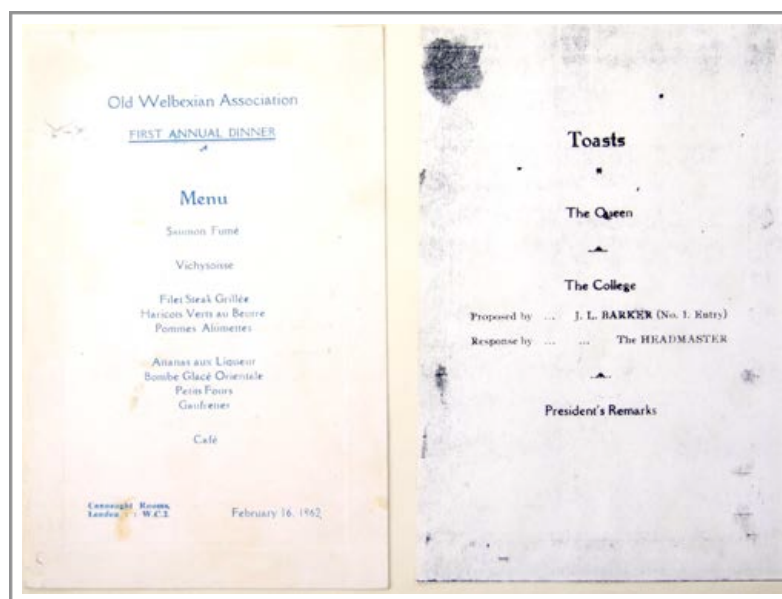
20th May 1961.

V.F. Davy

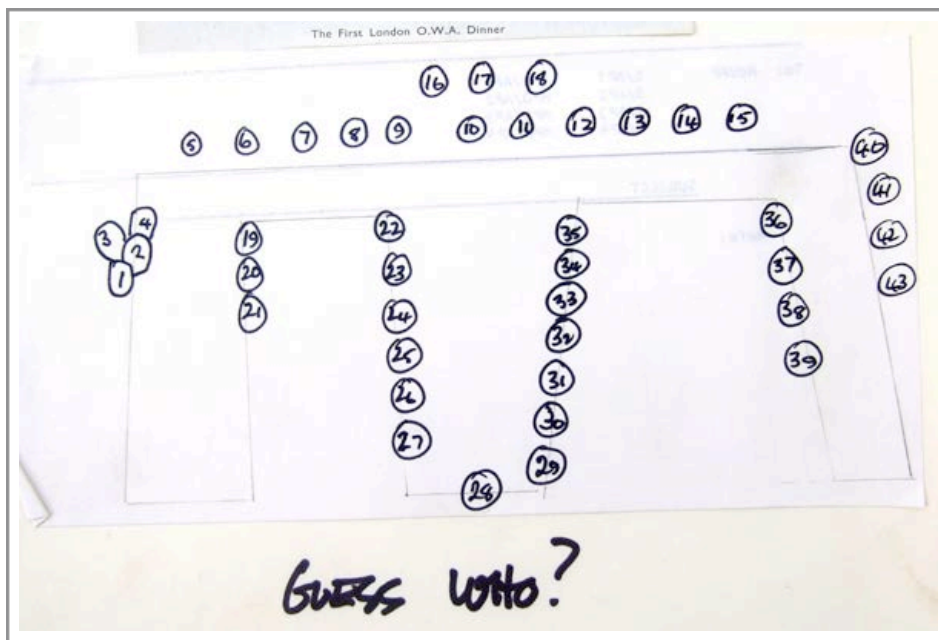


## FIRST OWA DINNER

The first Association Dinner took place at the Connaught Rooms, London, W.C.2, on Friday, 16th February. The President was supported by the Headmaster, Messrs. V. F. Davey, G. C. W. Harland, L. C. Moss, Brigadier J. M. F. Cartwright and forty-one old boys:—1 Entry: J. L. Barker, D. Bidwell, B. H. Cornish, C. R. M. Fillingham, B. H. Learner, A. J. Potter, S. J. Roberts, N. H. Thompson. 3 Entry: P. Kavanagh, C. E. Towsey, P. J. N. Weller; 4 Entry: A. A. Gaiger, E. W. Reed, C. E. R. Story; 5 Entry: R. H. Aylmore, J. A. Castle, J. F. J. Johnston; 6 Entry: J. S. B. Brinsford, M. J. P. Vann; 7 Entry: P. F. Tyzack, M. G. Watson; 8 Entry: D. J. Bennett, M. R. Cooper, M. R. Cowan, M. J. Hammerton, K. A. Hook, R. E. A. Parker; 9 Entry: M. J. R. Kelly; 11 Entry: A. R. Bailey, D. W. Cook, I. S. Durrell, C. P. Hook, B. Robinson; 12 Entry: P. E. A. Chaddock, G. W. B. Cowan, I. P. Howard-Harwood, P. W. Snell, D. Strong, M. P. Walker, G. M. Whiting, D. J. Wright. The toast of "The College" was proposed by J. L. Barker, and in his reply the Headmaster gave some up-to-date news items about Welbeck. The President added some well-chosen remarks, and in particular expressed the hope that this was the first of many such functions to be held in the future. The Speech-making over, the rest of the evening was spent in a very pleasantly informal manner which passed far too quickly—there were quite a few members still gossiping at a quarter to midnight! Altogether, this was really a very highly successful first venture, and perhaps it is best summed up by three typical comments taken from the many letters received afterwards—"Both the re-union aspect and the meeting of new people were most valuable to the O.W.A. cause, and it was really good to see the founder-members of the Staff so well represented"; "The Dinner has set a seal on the O.W.A.'s institution"; "We were glad to meet members of earlier entries and find out what the future holds for us."







- 1- Sam Roberts 2 -? 3-Nick Thompson 4- Bas Mahon? 5- Leicester Moss 6- Bernie Cornish  
 7-GWC B-H 8- Chris Story President?)? 9- DAR 10- Gen Gausen 11- Jeff Barker 12- Davey?  
 13-? 14 - Master? 15 - Mike Vann 16 - Chris Arnold 17 -? 18- Mick Clifford? 19 Tony Potter  
 20 Mark Fillingham 21 Davis Bidwell 22 Trevor Slee 23 Bruce A-Clarke 24 Adam Slee  
 25 Peter Metcalfe 26 Ray Insall 27 Roy Tarsnane 28 Ted Reed 29 ? 30 ? 31 Bill Kenney  
 32 ? 33 ? 34 ? 35 - Barry Learner? 36 Chris French 37 - Bennet 38 Hammerton  
 39 ? 40 ? 41 ? 42 - Bren Kavanagh 43 ?

**Past Presidents**

1960-66	Major General C de L Gaussen CB,MC
1966-68	J L Barker (1)
1968-70	C E R Story (4)
1970-73	J Dennis (1)
1973-76	M J P Vann (6)
1975-77	J R Drew (9)
1977-78	W K Palmer (3)
1978-81	G D A Mackay (2)
1981-84	S J R Roberts (1)
1984-86	F R Maynard (5)
1987-88	J R Drew (9)
1989-90	A J Sandiford (11)
1990-91	J Towler (2)
1991-03	M R Selby (17)
2003-04	A Antwhistle (41)
2005-	S Vickery (55)



**FIRST ENTRY REUNIONS**

Ad Hoc 1981



20th 1983



40th



50th



# Welbeck College First Entry 50th Anniversary Reunion

Saturday, 20th September 2003

In contrast to the very successful Old Welbexian Association banquet and disco 50th anniversary event in June, the senior citizens of the OWA celebrated their half-century at a quieter and more reflective celebration at the College. Almost fifty years to the day after the first 48 boys arrived at Welbeck Abbey, 19 elderly, mainly retired, silver-haired or balding gentlemen gathered at 3 pm in Stable Court, some with wives, for a conducted tour of the College and grounds. Almost visibly, one could see the years fall away as memories and escapades flooded back. Before long, it was as if it was only yesterday that we were stone-picking Abbey Bottom field to make it fit for playing rugby; lining up outside 'Bull' York's study to feel the measure of his bamboo cane; roasting chickens in the tunnels; etc. Our hosts on the tour were present day students, Thomas Armitage and Christopher Broad, who had the difficult job of keeping us together and to time. Unfortunately, we arrived at the rugby pitch as the final whistle blew on the match against Ratcliffe College. Welbeck won 32-0, which brought back memories of our 1954 unbeaten rugby XV (played 9, won 8, drew 1), a feat that few Welbeck teams have since repeated.

At 5 pm we met up in the Masters' Dining Room for tea. In addition to the 19 OWs, we welcomed John Thomson, one of the two surviving members of staff from our era. His wife, Angie, who was the Matron at the College from the 5th Entry onwards, accompanied him. The banter continued until it was time to disperse to our hotels to prepare for the evening activities. We were very grateful to Brian Price for putting himself at our disposal with the 16-seater minibus to fetch and carry us from the hotels.

Student, Ben McNeil, served pre-dinner drinks in the more familiar Masters' Common Room and, 50th Anniversary goodies were on sale on the PRI table, 'manned' by student Miss Amie Mumford. A search through the drawers for the 'Rule Book', which contained staff remarks on our misdemeanours, was un-fruitful, the book having been deposited in the archives some time ago. We then moved up to the Conference Room, which was one of our

dormitories on the top floor of the Oxford Wing, to hear a superb presentation by Tony Halliwell, the present Principal (we had a Headmaster in our day), on the plans and progress of the new Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College, which is under construction to the south of Loughborough. This state-of-the-art college is a tribute to the success of the Welbeck College we know and, I'm sure, will provide excellent seed-corn to the technical arms of the three services in the future. After the presentation, the aims of the Old Welbexians' Heritage Prize were outlined and a plea was made for contributions. The Prize was the brainchild of Bernie Cornish, the first head of Harland House, which was formed on the arrival of the 2nd Entry. Bernie now lives in Brisbane and was unable to fly over to be with us. However, we were delighted that Tony Iveson, the first Head of York House and Head of College, who also lives in Brisbane, was able to be with us. He presented cheques to the Heritage Prize fund from the known Australian OW contingent, namely; Bernie Cornish, Tony Iveson, Peter Hodgkinson from 1 Entry (all living in Brisbane), Nick Hastings and John Leivers from 2 Entry (also living in Brisbane) and Sam Weller from 3 Entry (living in Sydney). Well-done guys.

And so on to the Titchfield Library for the reunion photograph, expertly taken by student, Miss Beth Holden. It was at this point that the ladies left us for a dinner at the Charnwood Hotel, arranged by Andy Morton's wife, Gill. From all accounts, they also had an enjoyable evening comparing notes on their OW. Apparently, we all have similar traits! The menfolk walked across to the spacious present day Dining Room for dinner (in our day, we were cramped on benches on the ground floor of Stable Court). With Tony Halliwell as our guest of honour, we thoroughly enjoyed a superb dinner, prepared in-house by the chef, Danny O'Loughlin, and his staff. The individual beef Wellingtons were washed down with Welbeck's own 50th Anniversary wines; an Italian red and an Australian white. The excellence of the four-course meal prompted a call to the kitchen for Danny and staff to present themselves for a well-deserved round of applause. Thanks

were then given to Tony Halliwell for agreeing our staging of the anniversary at the College; to Captain Paul Hughes REME, the Adjutant, for making all the in-house arrangements for the day; to the staff and students, who made it all happen, and to Andy Morton, the ex-Bursar of the College and our man on the ground, for his liaison work on our behalf. The after-dinner speech then degenerated to cross-table banter and amusing reminiscences. After Nick Thompson had thanked the First Entry Recorder for his work over the years and for getting everyone together that day, an enthusiastic Tony Halliwell concluded the evening by outlining the recent excellent achievements of the students. His pride in the college shone through.

Our next reunion has yet to be thought through. Do we wait another ten years, when we will be in our late seventies, or will we be able to look over the new college once it has a settled routine? Watch this space!

Sam Roberts, First Entry Recorder

Statistics:- Original entry:- 48 members

Attending dinner:- 19 (Chris Arnold, Jeff Barker, David Bidwell, Jim Dennis, Trevor Elkins, Mark Fillingham, Steve Gilmore, Bernard Goodman, Brynley Griffiths, Tony Iveson, Brendon Kavanagh, Alan Kripe, Barry Learner, Bas Mahon, Andy Morton, Tony Potter, Sam Roberts, Arthur Soar, Nick Thompson. - Also John Thomson [Staff])

Apologies/ unable to attend:- 15 (Mick Adams, James Bateman, Derek Baughan, Mick Clifford, Bernie Cornish, Greg Dillon, Peter Hodgkinson, Bob Mansfield, Robin Matthews, Terry Neyland, Ray Peace, Robin Volkers, Chris Wade, Dave Watson, Martin Wilson-Brown. - Also Jim Steel [Staff])

Lost touch:- 9 (Bill Abson, John Brown-Squires, George Jukes, Dave Massey, John Oakley, Ken Phipps, Jack Reynolds, Ron Taylor, Graham Williams.)

Deceased:- 5 (Mike Allan, Don Haskayne, John Skinner, Mark Smith, Jim Vine.)



**The Presidents Dinner.** In my term as President I proposed, with a little trepidation, that we hold such a function so that serving officers could mix informally with the current senior entry so as to chat about what faced them in the future. It was to take the form of a Mess Dinner in Mess Kit and drink would be served - thus trepidation as to what DAR would think of that. In the event he was all for it and a very successful inaugural dinner was held in 1971. We assembled in the Library and then repaired to the new Dining Hall for a well prepared dinner. Inevitably some speeches - well me - then back to the Library where to get some messages over Bruce Abernethy Clarke gave a talk on how to make a map, and Mike Vann whetted the appetites of the assembled throng with tales of daring do during his travels around the globe. The Dinner was well received and I am so pleased to report that it is now a permanent fixture in the College calendar. a picture and some of the documentation is below with other material in Annex I.

**Old Welbexian Association Review**

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Feature Section

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Ice Cold in Andoga  
Mini Rally Paris  
Fascist 1971

**OFFICERS 1971-72**

**President:**  
Major J. Dennis, B.Sc., R.E.M.E. (R.E.M.E. Officers School, Arborfield Camp, Reading, Berks.)

**Vice-President:**  
Captain W. H. Gunn, M.A., R.E.M.E. (Welbeck College)

**Hon. General Secretary:**  
D. C. Hawker, Esq., M.A. (Welbeck College)

**Hon. Assistant Secretary:**  
G. Partington, Esq., M.A. (Welbeck College)

**Hon. Treasurer:**  
Colonel W. R. Potter, M.B.E., T.D. (Welbeck College)

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**President's Dinner**

The first President's Dinner was held at Welbeck on 22nd May, 1971, and was a very successful function. The President and 14 other O.W.'s, mainly from the older vintage, invited the Senior Entry (SE) at the College to dinner, which was a formal one, mess kit or dinner jackets being worn and the College silver being on display. The tables, set up in U-shape, had been decorated by Mrs. Thomson and Mr. Revington and the Kitchen Staff excelled themselves in producing a menu worthy of the occasion.

The evening began with a gathering in the Library for sherry and everyone then adjourned to the dining hall in the David Richards Building for dinner. After dinner and a short speech by the President, there was beer and conversation in the Library and, during the evening, two brief talks were given: one by A. B. D. E. Abernethy-Clark on Ordnance Survey and one by M. J. P. Vann on the Army affluat in H.M.S. Fearless.

It is hoped to make this an annual occasion and any O.W.'s who would

*President's Dinner 1971: M. R. F. James (middle), Headmaster, P. R. Blandill (head of College), The President, M. J. P. Vann (Library Head of College), L. C. Mast Exp., J. C. Thom.*



Jim  
From: Major J. Dennis, RMG

---

<u>Name Address</u>	<u>Office</u>
11 Hawthorn Close Epsom West Sussex	Weapons(a)5 O.W.(a) St Christopher House Southwick Street London SE1  Tel: 01-928 7999 Ext 4258

*14 December 1970*

O.W. - PRESIDENT'S DINNER

You may know that I was elected President of the O.W. at the AGM this year. I took a trip up to Welbeck last month to have a chat and everyone is well and the boys seem very happy.

I have one idea which I would like to launch during my tour and that is to hold a "President's" Dinner at Welbeck. I have termed it the President's Dinner both in the hope that it may be perpetuated and also to distinguish it from the official O.W. weekend. For very good reasons it is not thought wise to have too many open O.W. functions at the School in any one year. The aim of the Dinner is mainly for O.W.'s to pass on their experiences to the boys of the Senior entry prior to their departure for the U.S. It will of course enable us both to meet old and new friends. After Dinner I thought perhaps we could find a "distinguished" O.W. (such as Rory Cape and his climbing) to talk about some interesting, preferably non-military, experience which they have had.

The details are:

Cost - £2 for Dinner  
Provisional date 17 April 1971  
Dress - Mess Kit (?)  
Accommodation B & B at School Saturday night/Sunday morning  
(Other meals on your own ie a pint and a pie etc)

The School of very enthusiastic about the idea, and Ous Guest, the Adjutant at Welbeck, sorting out the fine details. The success of the event will depend of course on support from O.W.'s. I feel that initially O.W.s from the more Senior intake would achieve the aim better, rather than throwing it open.

I am not sure what the response will be but I think about 20 to 30 O.W.'s is the minimum with say 50-60 the maximum. May I ask you if you would come along to the first President's Dinner. In order to go ahead and confirm the Dinner with the School I would appreciate a fairly definite promise to attend.

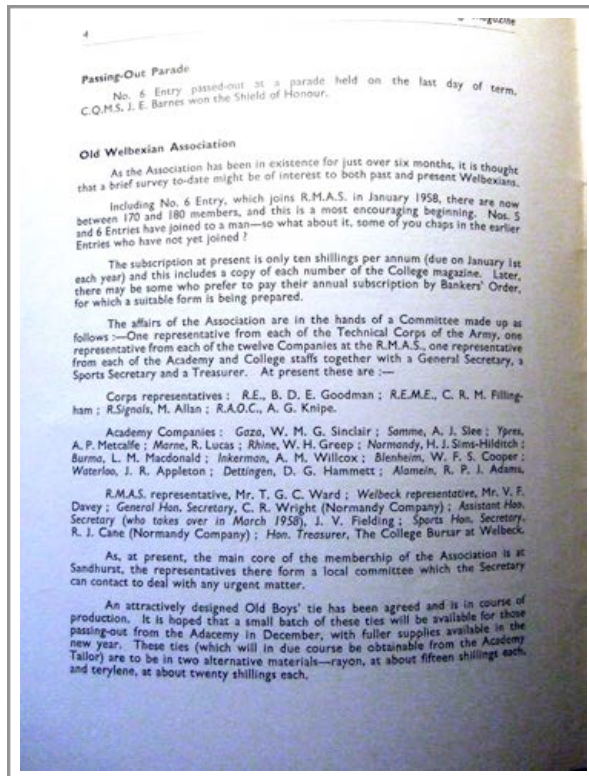
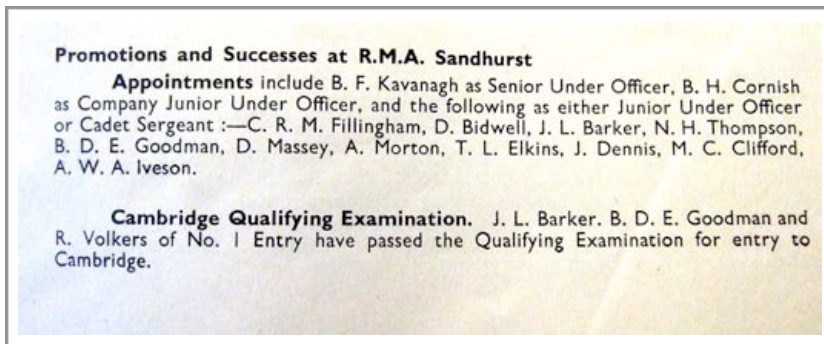
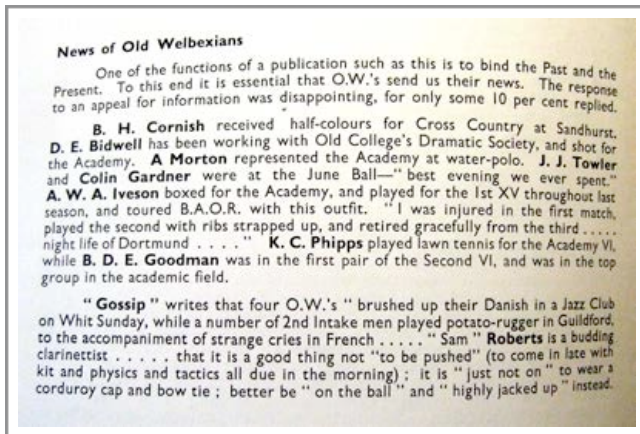
If you cannot attend I will be grateful both for your ideas on the Dinner and any other suggestions you may have. Could you please return the proforma attached to me as soon as possible.

*Yours Sincerely,  
Jim Dennis*

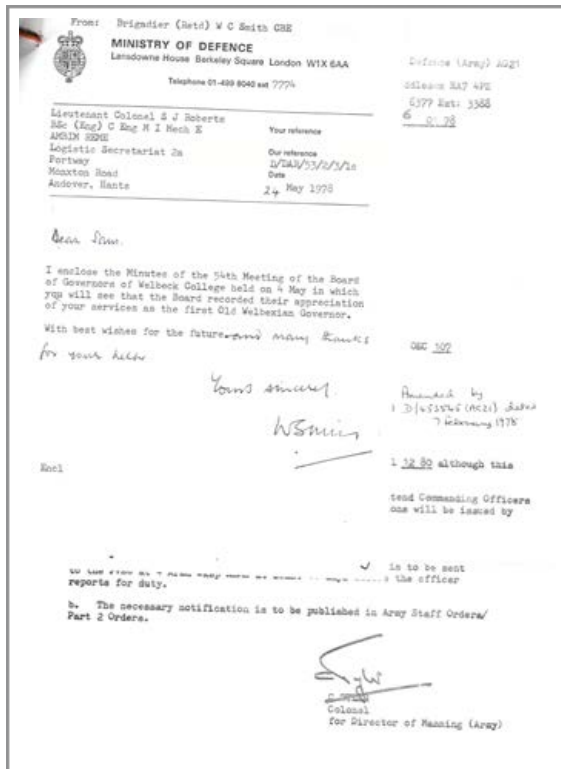




Typical entries in the front of the early magazines before a separate section for the OWA was allocated.

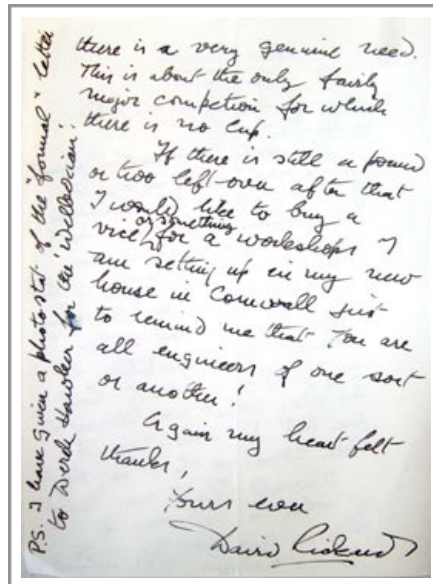
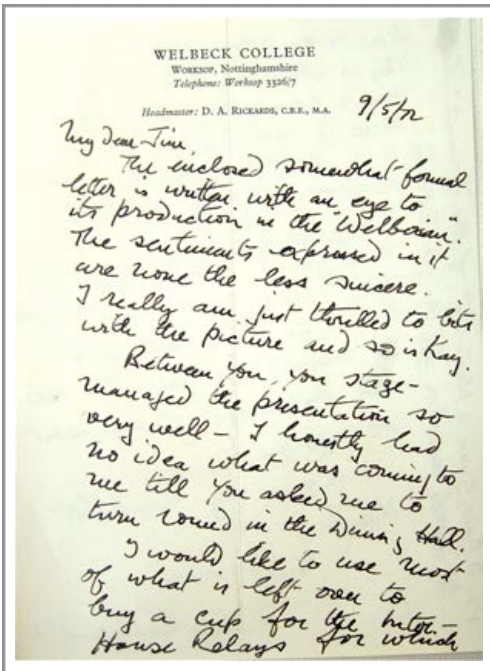


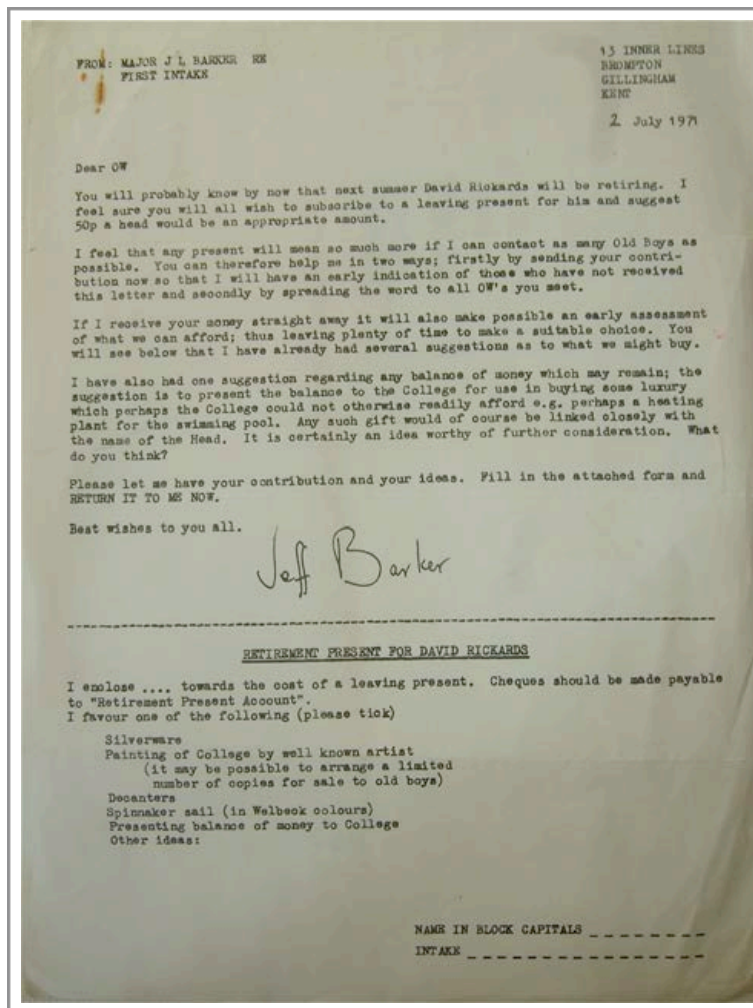
## Sam Roberts - The first OW to become a Governor of the College.



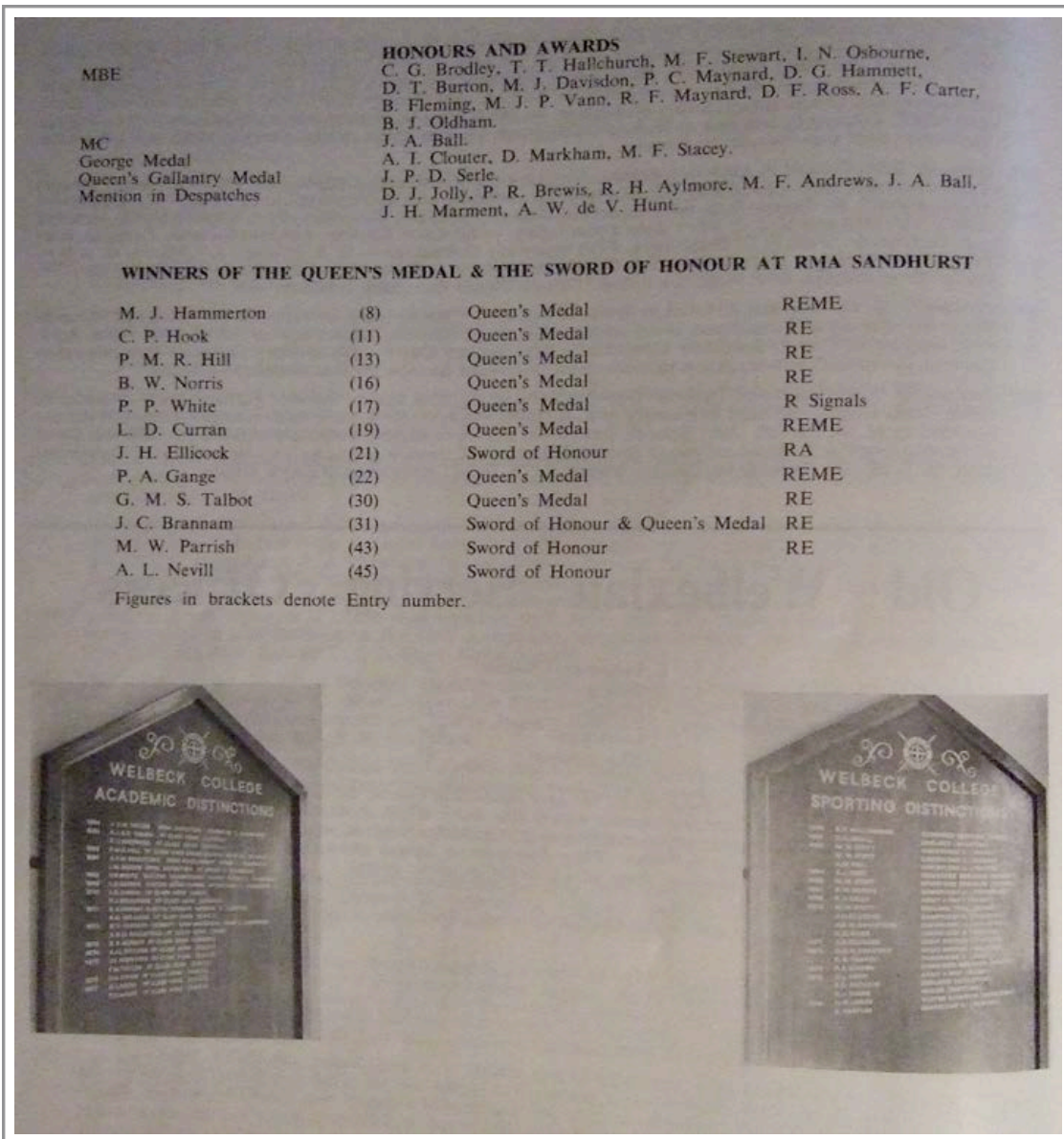


**Presentation of OWA Retiring Present to DAR** One or two pieces of the documentation are below, particularly DARs warm letter to me. Other pieces are at Annex





OWA Honours Taken from the Welbexian Silver Jubilee Edition.





## Presentation of the Heritage Cross by the OWA.



Some of you will recall that three years ago, Bernie Cornish (1 Entry), living in Australia, came up with the idea of creating a Welbeck Heritage (investment) Fund, the capital from which would be awarded annually to the top student at the new Welbeck: The Defence Sixth Form College. It was hoped that we would raise some £30,000 from the 3700 odd students who had passed through Welbeck College prior to the move to Loughborough. A letter was sent to all OWs and an announcement placed in the 'Welbexian' magazine.

Regrettably, the total reached was woefully short, amounting to only £4750 of which, £1250 was donated by members of the 1st Entry. Only 72 OWs and ex-members of staff donated.



A small committee, representing the College, the OWA and Bernie Cornish, was set up to decide what to do; whether to strive to reach the £30,000 total, to return the donations, or to find another way of maintaining the link between the two colleges, but within the pretty limited budget. It was decided to put the money towards a permanent gift that would be appreciated by the students at the new Defence Sixth Form College. The Principal, Tony Halliwell suggested a cross to go in the Unwin Hall, the only major seated assembly area (there

being no chapel). The Committee and the 1st Entry donors were approached and approved the idea unanimously. A modernistic design was agreed and the manufacture went ahead. The superb one metre Heritage Cross now hangs in the Unwin Hall accompanied by an appropriately plaque.

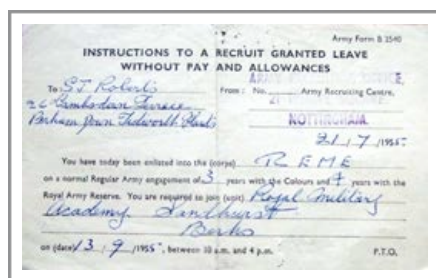
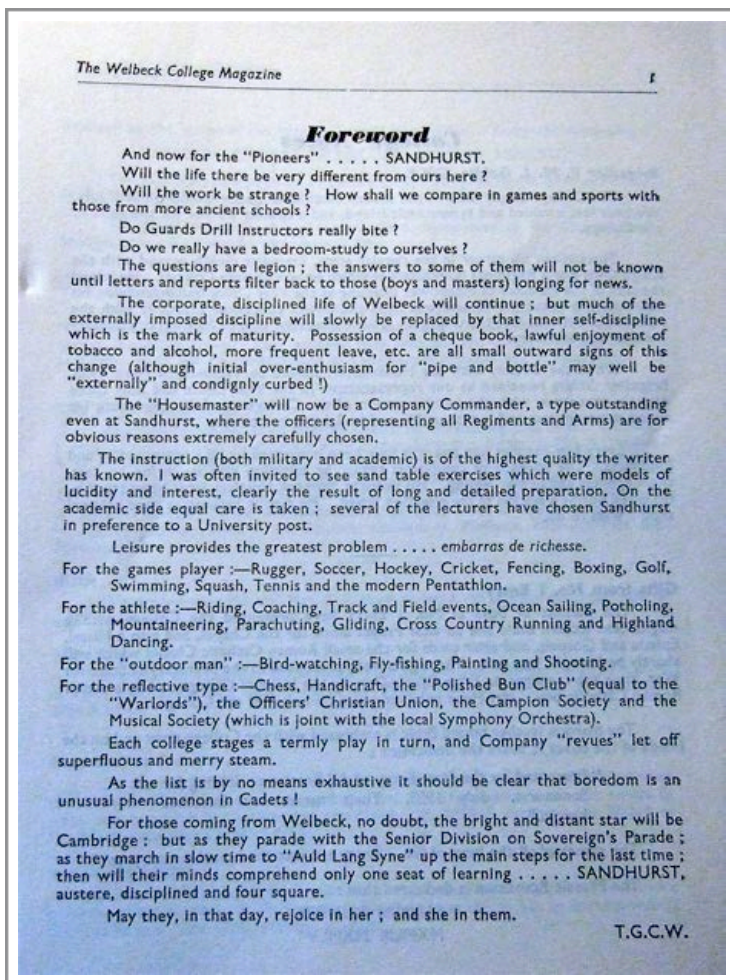
Following the Remembrance Day service in the College on Sunday, 12th November 2006, there was a short service of consecration by the Chaplain under the Heritage Cross in the Unwin Hall. All donors and their families were welcome to attend both the Remembrance Day service and the service of consecration.

It is appreciated that many of you live far away. However, I felt that you should know what has happened to your donation. As Bernie Cornish's representative, I have been gently pushing the process along and, on behalf of all Old Welbexians and our members of staff at Welbeck College, thank you all for your generosity.

Yours faithfully,  
Sam Roberts  
Welbeck College, 1 Entry

**27 ON TO SANDHURST**

Geoffrey Ward (who was "on loan" from RMAS and returned there later) produced this piece for the Magazine in September 1955



We received the Queen's Shilling on 21st July, 1955, and were given our Army Form B2540 'Instructions to a recruit granted leave without pay and allowances', issued by the Nottingham Army Recruiting Office. It instructed us to join the 'Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on 13/9/1955 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.' (Note, not 1000 hrs and 1600 hrs). It incidentally also informed us that 'This period of leave will NOT count towards pay, or towards any gratuity or pension which you may receive at the end of your service . . . You are advised, not to dispose of any of your civilian clothing, including underclothes, until you have completed at least 5.6 months Army Service'.

The news media registered our move on to the second rung of the ladder. The Sphere magazine, in a two page, fully illustrated, article announced that 'Next month there will be 45 new entrants to Sandhurst as their school'. The fortunes of those 45 have been varied although the majority have reached senior posts in the Services (including the Royal Navy) and some was made by the headmaster to the fortunes of Governors in December of last year, 1977. In his report he gave the following detail on the first four intakes into the College:

"These were the 'foundation' members of the College, commissioned between 1957 and 1959. The age range is now 41.3 to 38.9.

Sam Roberts kept his "signing on" chit AFB 2450, along with this explanation.



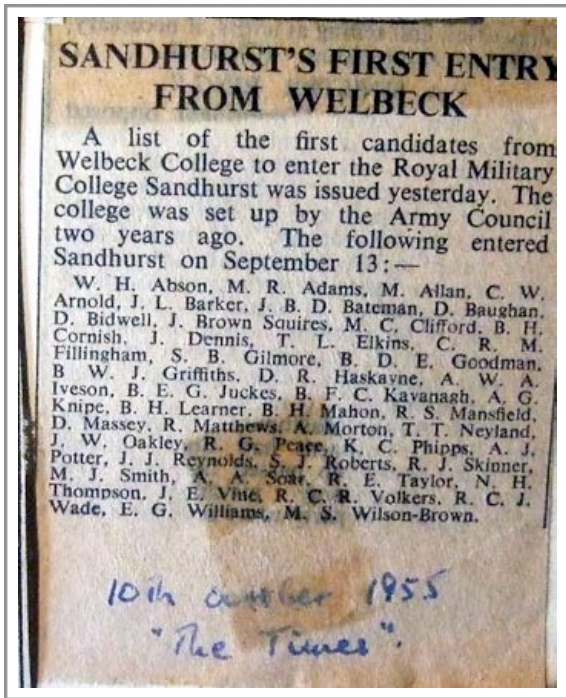
The College Magazine in the September 1955 Valeté listed the careers of the First Entry on their way to Sandhurst showing the achievements, sporting prowess and involvement in the various societies of each boy as follows:

<b>Valeté</b>	
<b>YORK HOUSE</b>	
<b>Abson, W. H.</b>	L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Sigs. A.I.; Science Society; Popular Music Society.
<b>Allan, M.</b>	House Prefect; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; Cadet P.T.I.; 1st XV Rugger; 2nd XI Hockey; 2nd XI Cricket; Science Society; Literary Society; Chess Club.
<b>Barker, J. L.</b>	College Prefect; Corporal in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger (Captain 1953-4, 1954-5); 2nd XI Hockey; Science Society; Art Society; Chess Club.
<b>Baughan, D.</b>	Corporal in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; Band; Science Society; Musical Society; Literary Society.
<b>Brown-Squires, J.</b>	Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller (A.S.I.); Photographic Society (Sec.); Science Society; Model Engineering Society.
<b>Clifford, M. C.</b>	Cert. "A"; Band; 2nd XV Rugger; Secretary of Boxing; Popular Music Society (President); Literary Society; Choir.
<b>Dennis, J.</b>	College Prefect; Sgt. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger; Water Polo Colour; Science Society; Chess Club; Boxing Club.
<b>Iveson, A. W. A.</b>	College Prefect; Head of York House; Sgt. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A" Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; P.T.I.; 1st XV Rugger (Vice-Capt.); 1st XV Hockey; Captain of Athletics; Literary Society.
<b>Juckes, B. E. G.</b>	L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; Band; Science Society; Literary Society.
<b>Kavanagh, B. F. C.</b>	L/Sgt. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Shooting VIII (Capt.); Literary Society.
<b>Knipe, A. G.</b>	Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 2nd XV Rugger; Musical Society; Science Society; Photographic Society; Popular Music Society.
<b>Mahon, B. H.</b>	House Prefect; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; 1st XI Hockey; 2nd XV Rugger; Captain of Cross Country Team; Victor Ludorum 1954; Popular Music Society (Chairman); Musical Society; Science Society.
<b>Mansfield, R. S.</b>	L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; Art Society; Musical Society; Science Society.
<b>Massey, D.</b>	L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Signals A.I.; 1st XV Rugger; 1st XI Hockey; Science Society; Popular Music Society (Chairman); Science Society.

<b>Morton, A.</b>	House Prefect; C/Sgt. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; 2nd XV Rugger; Captain of Swimming and Water Polo; Science Society.
<b>Phipps, K. C.</b>	Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; Tennis VI (Vice-Capt.); Musical Society Art Society; Literary Society.
<b>Smith, M. J.</b>	House Prefect; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger; Chief Boatswain; Science Society; Model Engineering Society.
<b>Roberts, S. J.</b>	College Prefect; L/Sgt. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger; 2nd XI Hockey; Water Polo Team; Hon. Secretary Squash; Science Society.
<b>Taylor, R. E.</b>	L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger.
<b>Volkers, R. C. R.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Science Society; Model Engineering Society; Chess Club.
<b>Wade, R. C. J.</b>	Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger; Art Society.
<b>Williams, E. G.</b>	Cert. "A", Part I; Chess Club; Science Society; Popular Music Society; Model Engineering Society.
<b>HARLAND HOUSE</b>	
<b>Adams, M. R.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger; 1st XI Hockey; 2nd XI Cricket; Librarian; Science Society; Literary Society; Model Engineering Society.
<b>Arnold, C. W.</b>	House Prefect; Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Hon. Secretary Athletics; Hon. Secretary Literary Society; Popular Music Society; Science Society; Musical Society.
<b>Bateman, J. B. D.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; 2nd XI Hockey; Science Society; Literary Society; Model Engineering Society.
<b>Bidwell, D.</b>	College Prefect; Sgt. in C.C.F.; Shield of Honour 1955; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Shooting Colours (Hon. Sec.); Photographic Society; Chess Club; Science Society.
<b>Cornish, B. H.</b>	Head Prefect; C.S.M. in C.C.F.; Shield of Honour 1954; Cert. "A" Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; Cross Country VIII; Hon. Secretary Musical Society; Photographic Society; Model Engineering Society.

<b>Elkins, T. L.</b>	House Prefect; Wilfred Perry Prize; Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; 2nd XV Rugger; Boatswain; Science Society; Literary Society; Choir; Strathspey and Reel Society.
<b>Fillingham, C. R. M.</b>	House Prefect; Cert. "A"; Captain of Choir.
<b>Gilmore, S. B.</b>	Cert. "A"; Shooting Colours; Photographic Society; Science Society; Librarian.
<b>Goodman, B. D. E.</b>	College Prefect; L/Sgt. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger; 1st XI Hockey; 1st XI Cricket (Capt.); Science Society; Literary Society; Chess Club.
<b>Griffiths, B. W. J.</b>	Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 2nd XV Rugger; 2nd XI Hockey; Musical Society (Chairman); Model Engineering Society; Art Society; Choir; Chapel Warden.
<b>Haskayne, D. R.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; Popular Music Society; Art Society; Choir.
<b>Learner, B. H.</b>	House Prefect; L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; 1st XI Hockey (Capt.); 1st XI Cricket (Vice-Capt.); 2nd XV Rugger; Chess Club (Capt.); Literary Society.
<b>Matthews, R.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; 1st XV Rugger; 1st XI Cricket; 1st XI Hockey; Tennis VI (Capt.); Victor Ludorum 1955; Choir.
<b>Neyland, T. T.</b>	L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 1st XI Cricket; 1st XV Rugger; 2nd XI Hockey; Literary Society (Chairman); Photographic Society; Musical Society.
<b>Oakley, J. W.</b>	Cert. "A"; Chess Club; Literary Society; Model Engineering Society; Popular Music Society.
<b>Peace, R.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; Model Engineering Society (Sec.); Asst. Editor this publication; Literary Society; Science Society; Photographic Society.
<b>Potter, A. J.</b>	Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 2nd XI Hockey; Science Society; Choir.
<b>Reynolds, J. J.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; 2nd XI Hockey; Musical Society.
<b>Soar, A. A.</b>	Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; 1st XV Rugger; Science Society; Musical Society.
<b>Skinner, R. J.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; N.C.O. i/c Band; Science Society; Literary Society; Musical Society; Art Society; Model Engineering Society; Sailing Club; Choir.

<b>Thompson, N. H.</b>	College Prefect; L/Sgt. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller; Strathspey and Reel Society; Model Engineering Society; Sailing Club.
<b>Vine, J. E.</b>	L/Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A", Cert. "T"; Class. Signaller (A.S.I.); Asst. Librarian; Science Society (Hon. Sec.); Chess Club; Musical Society; Literary Society; Choir.
<b>Wilson-Brown, M. S.</b>	Cpl. in C.C.F.; Cert. "A"; Class. Signaller; Literary Society; Art Society; Musical Society; Sailing Club (Boatswain).



NickThompson reflecting writes:

*As the school filled up more staff arrived and we all pushed on hoping to be accepted for Sandhurst. I broke my right arm badly and had it plated in the final Easter holiday taking my A Level left handed!. This meant I had to have a medical just before joining RMAS. and during this medical an elderly trio of doctors in Aldershot asked for a urine sample which one of them promptly upset all over my papers! I had to squeeze out a second helping whilst they mopped up their desk!*

*My comments about Sandhurst are that it was very different, but the Welbeck experience had prepared most of us well. In an intake of about 150 there were 42 OWs who went into the Academy without the hurdle of the Regular Commissions Board and were a significant proportion of the intake. Coming from a generally less privileged backgrounds we were not necessarily*

*popular. One reason is that sticking to our own group and using some of the phrases and expressions which were common parlance at Welbeck but out of that environment sounded somewhat juvenile.*

**Authors note.** On this tack I recall a very long pause in the rifle range butts whilst on Basic Training and our Coldstream Guards CSM barked at us: "Give us a song". Schooled in Welbeck jazz a few of us began to sing the "St Louis Blues" and he looked gone out. He was obviously expecting some ditty such as "I don't want to join the Army". Well at least we took the focus off the loud mouthed Wellingtonians!



*Army introduced Basic Training at Sandhurst for the first time when we arrived, instead of doing doing their first 14 weeks along with private soldiers with their parent cap badge units. We were still private soldiers and not officer cadets. We had the best sergeants in the Army to train us and they certainly gave all they could in the way of "beasting", discipline and exercise - all designed to test us, build up stamina, character, fitness and teamwork. Leadership was to*

*come later. A letter I wrote to my parents in the first weeks of Basic training said "This place is the absolute bottom!"*

*Picture: No 2 Platoon Basic Training Wing 1957 Drill Competition*

*Self right marker, Mick Adams, Ken Phipps and Martin Wilson Brown Nos 2,3 and 4 rear rank*



**Authors Note:** Can't resist recounting this story. The same CSM of the butts incident seemed to "have it in" for Ray Peace (1 Entry) and consistently balled him out for slack dress, dirty gaiters, scratched boots or whatever. We decided to prepare Ray for Parade and made sure that every item of his kit was immaculate. We carried him carefully onto parade stood him in the centre of the middle rank and warned him to stay at attention in case the bull fell off his boots. The good CSM, inspecting the parade, came up to Ray. He stopped in front of him, looked him up and down, very slowly, side to side, up and down again first on the left from shoulder to boot, then down his centre, repeating this in the same measured way searching for something wrong. He then, contrary to normal practice of continuing down the file inspecting our front, walked straight around to the rear of Ray and again took some time looking for some thing amiss. Nothing! He then whispered in Ray's ear and said: "Clean cap badge c\*\*t"! Well we all thought you just can't win! However he knew what we had done and later on, in jovial mood, told us that at that moment he knew he was turning us into proper soldiers! Bless him.

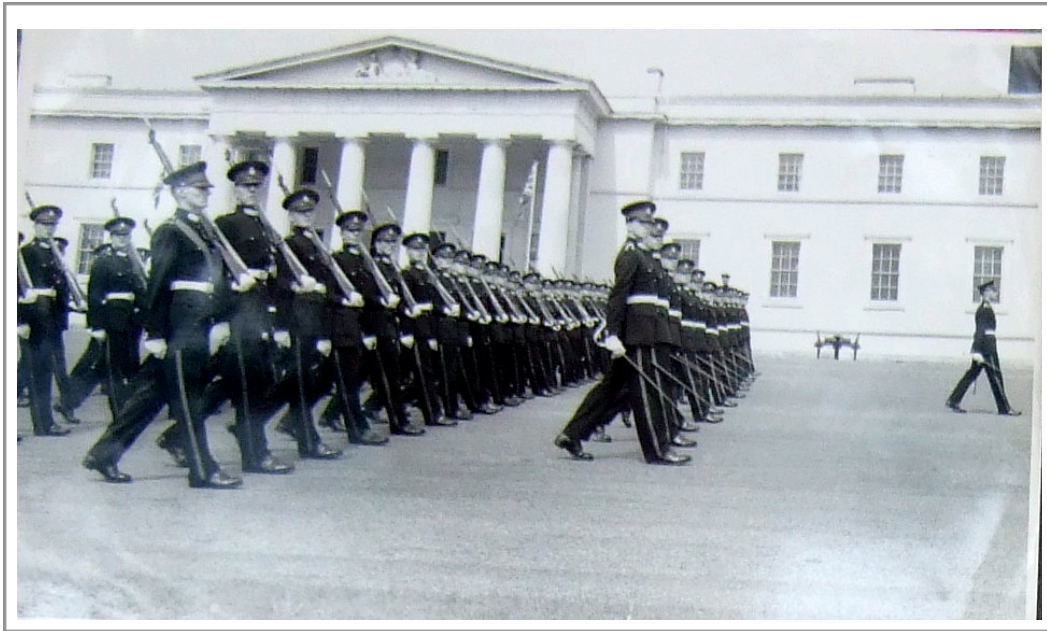
*After Basic Training we were allocated to Companies as Officer Cadets and I found my feet as a Modern Pentathlete which took up a lot of my free time, together with a motor bike, followed by an Austin Seven and finally Riley. There was not a great academic element at Sandhurst, and the whole focus was on learning about the Army and its ethos, leadership, personal qualities and character development -- with a sprinkling of academics to prevent rust! Military History was also important. It was interesting that the first Welbeck entry produced only one Senior Under Officer (Bren Kavanagh) but otherwise the right proportion of Junior Under Officers and Cadet Sergeants came from Welbeck.*



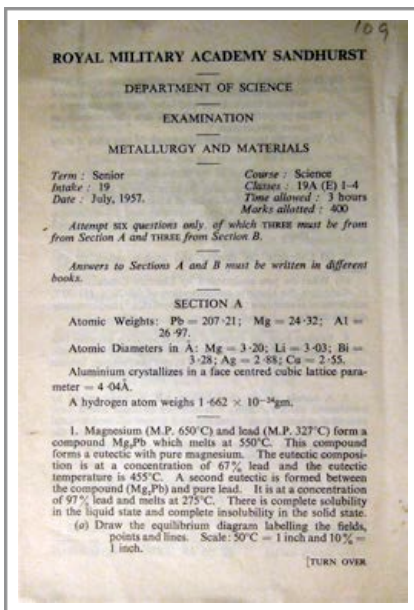
*High Sprints "Waterloo Company - Waterloo Day 1956"  
JimVine 2nd on left front row, self, Nick Thompson, Barry Learner in there somewhere*



*Sovereign's Parade 1957. Dave Massey the right marker5959*

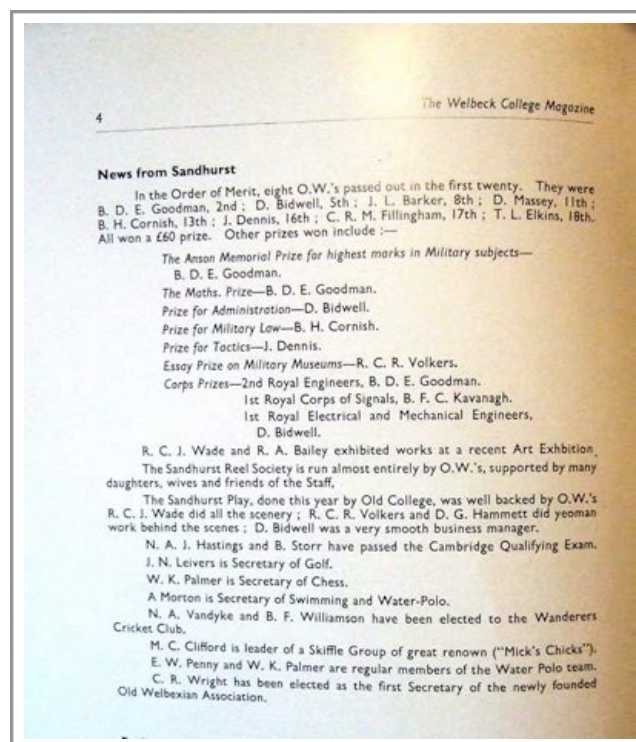
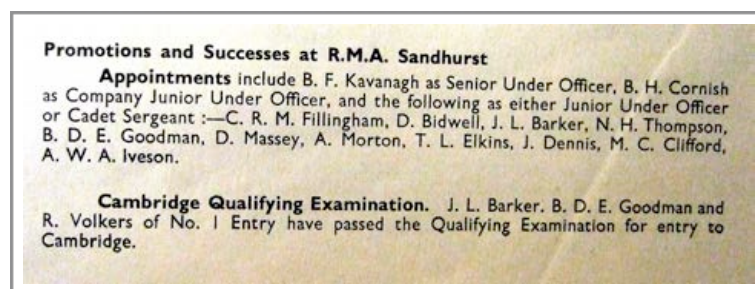
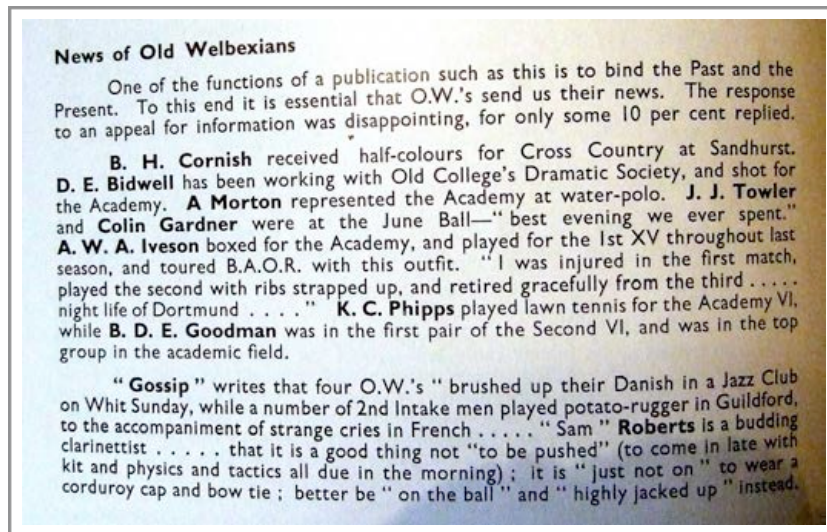


*Two years at Sandhurst as opposed to the current one year meant that in our day the training could be spread out with lots of sport and other activities which were great fun. When the final term arrived in the summer of 1957 the selection for Choice of Arm or Service took place and those OWs who opted for the Royal Engineers were told that only four places were available and would be decided upon the Order of Merit table. I came 5th and it then took 6 weeks after passing out of appealing and using all avenues available to be finally accepted. Some 32 years later, as Director of Manning (Army) I wondered whether I would have been as flexible! I eventually started my life as a sapper long with Bernie Goodman, Jeff Barker, Tony Iveson and Robin Volkers. Thus the Welbeck first entry broke up and each went his chosen way.*



My own recollection of academics at Sandhurst was that about a third of my time was spent in quick changing from drill, cycling up to the academic block, then the reverse into gym kit! I think about a third of the academic work was part of the grading in the order of merit. The exam paper on the left illustrates the level of instruction - that subject we had never met before. Preparation for the Cambridge Tripos Exam was intense.

The Welbeck magazines reported our progress at Sandhurst and a few excerpts are below.





Some press reports when No 1 Entry were commissioned on 2 August 1957

## Well Done, Welbeck!

### Old Welbexians' Successes

When the annual Sovereign's Parade took place at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, yesterday (Thursday), the 136 officer-cadets passing out included 33 former students at Welbeck College.

Moreover, of the first 20 in the Order of Merit, each receiving a special £60 prize, eight were Old Welbexians.

They were of the first entry to Welbeck, in September 1953, going on to Sandhurst two years later.

One, Cadet Jim Dennis, went to Welbeck College from Chesterfield Grammar School.

The eight former Welbeck Cadets in the first 20 at Sandhurst are: Second, B. D. E. Goodman; fifth, D. Bidwell; eighth, J. L. Barker; eleventh, D. Massey; thirteenth, B. H. Cornish; sixteenth, J. Dennis; seventeenth, C. R. M. Fillingham; eighteenth, T. L. Elkins.

"This is great news," said the Welbeck College headmaster, Mr. David A. Rickards, M.A., announcing the results. "We are very proud of our achievement."

*Wesop Gdn.  
2-5-57*

## Sovereign's Parade has local youth

**W**HEN the annual Sovereign's Parade took place at Sandhurst Military Academy today, the 136 officer-cadets passing out included 33 former students at Welbeck College, Worksop.

Of the first 20 in the Order of Merit, each receiving a special prize of £60, eight were Old Welbexians.

They were of the first entry to Welbeck, in September, 1953, going on to Sandhurst two years later.

The eight former Welbeck cadets in the first 20 are B. D. E. Goodman (2nd), D. Bidwell (5th), J. L. Barker (8th), D. Massey (11th), B. H. Cornish (13th), J. Dennis (16th), C. R. M. Fillingham (17th), T. L. Elkins (18th).

Dennis went to Welbeck College from Chesterfield Grammar School.

*SHEFF TELEGRAPH 1.8.57.*



Hey Ho Hey Ho its off to work we go:- The REME Intake No 19 posting list from RMAS

Stonegrove 4377 Ext. 302  
112/REME/1(3)201 List 227  
Memorandum for:-  
OO Depot REME,  
Arborfield, Berkshire.

THE MAIN OFFICE (AGST),  
STANDISH,  
WINDSOR.  
8 August, 1957.

Officers Posting on Commissioning from R.M.A.

1. The undermentioned officers, who were cadets at the Royal Military Academy, were commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants in the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on 2 August 57

Rank, Name and Address	
2/Lt D. BIRNELL (A53142) REME 5, Gorsehill Hill Road, Frensham, W. Wokingham, Surrey.	2/Lt D. HENRY (A53283) REME 21, Oak Park Road, Frensham, Wokingham, Hants, Chesham
2/Lt E.H. COHEN (A53455) REME West Hallow, Bineswood, Newton, Lincs.	2/Lt J. BROWN (A53465) REME Wyndhurst Castle Lane, Delamare, Chatterfield, Dorsetshire.
2/Lt G.R.W. PHILLIPSON (A53471) REME c/o Col. G.R. Phillipson, Birner Barracks, Ripon, Yorks.	2/Lt T.L. HARRIS (A53483) REME 22, Tolleshay Green, Dulliford, Surrey.
2/Lt F.J. CHURCH (A53461) REME 14, Lincoln Avenue, Wilton Fields, Leicester.	2/Lt J. NEWTON (A53500) REME 13, Belverly St., Croydon Green, Dorset.
2/Lt R.C. FRANK (A53530) REME 37, Gorse Street, East Wood, H.M.27	2/Lt J.T.D. WATKINS (A53513) REME Churchfield, Verdon Road, Witchin, Dorset.
2/Lt F.W. SPANISH (A53514) REME 57, The Avenue, Liss, Hants.	2/Lt R.W. LADY (A53522) REME 5, Broomby, Wokingham, Surrey.
2/Lt D.R. HARRISON (A53540) REME 14, Ladbroke Road, Wokingham, Hampshire.	2/Lt R.C.T. FRANK (A53546) REME Oak House, Garsdon, Larner, Dorset.
2/Lt J.L. POTTER (A53547) REME 24, Broomwood Way, Wokingham, Surrey.	2/Lt R.J. HENSON (A53552) REME 23, Larch, West Town, Bristol.
2/Lt R.J. BURNHAM (A53565) REME 17, Goodfield Road, Tisbury, Dorchester, Wiltshire.	2/Lt S.L. WILLIAMS (A53577) REME 277, Mechanical Road, Lamphey, Nottingham.
2/Lt W.W. ARDRE (A53582) REME 45, Tower Hill, Great Barr, Birmingham 22.	2/Lt J. ROSE (A53586) REME 14, The Rectories, Beckleyham, Kent.

2. Joining Instructions

They will be taken on the hold strength of Depot REME on 2 August 57 but will remain on leave until ~~Monday~~ 2 SEP 57 reporting to the Officer Commanding, Depot REME on ~~Monday~~ 3 SEP 57 for documentation.

Your attention is drawn to AMI 602/48.

3. Leave and Duty Travel

In the case of Officers who use one of their three Annual Free Warrants when proceeding on leave immediately after passing out from the Royal Military Academy, a duty warrant may be issued by you to enable these officers to report on completion of their leave.

Officers who are not entitled to, or do not use a free warrant on passing out will pay their own fares when reporting for duty after their leave. These officers may claim travelling expenses in accordance with para 226, Allowance Regulations, 1944. This claim should not exceed the cost of a Military Rates of a direct journey between the Royal Military Academy and their new station.

4. Outfit Allowance

Claims for outfit allowance will be made on Army Form G.1070.

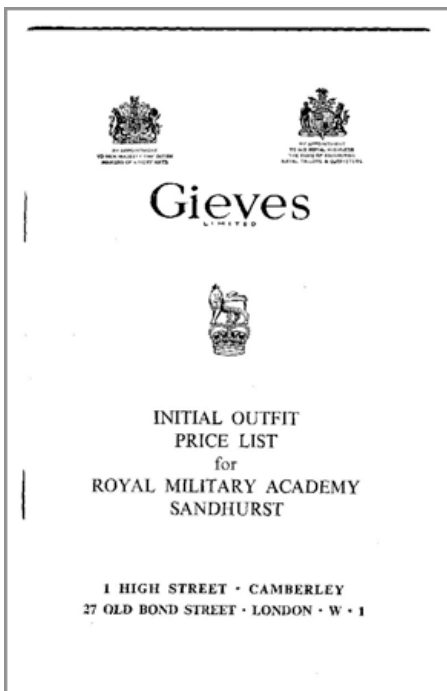
5. Officer Training

These officers will report to the Officers School, REME, Training Centre, Sandhurst Barracks, Arborfield, Berks, on ~~Monday~~ 24 SEP 57 to attend the 20 Reg. T.O. Course.

For Director of Personnel Administration Captain

Copy to:- The Commandant,  
Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.  
HQ REME Training Centre (1)  
DTC Officer Cadet Wing, Infantry Records, Warlock (2)  
Messrs. Olyn Mills & Co. (2)  
APO (Officers Accounts), Aldermuir-Isle (3)  
PA  
REME (2)  
REME  
REME Regimental Association, Arborfield.  
Officers School, REME Training Centre (2)  
1 copy to each officer

And it didn't cost a penny thanks to the Commissioning uniform grant although at that time 15 guineas for a sword and scabbard was a bit too much. Lucky David Bidwell who won the REME prize and got his for free.



INITIAL OUTFIT  
PRICE LIST  
for  
ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY  
SANDHURST

1 HIGH STREET • CAMBERLEY  
27 OLD BOND STREET • LONDON • W • 1

UNIFORM PRICE LIST		OTHER ITEMS	
	Price £ s. d.		£ s. d.
Khaki SERVICE DRESS		Khaki Van Housen Shirts, with two collars	2 14 6
Khaki Barathra .. .. .	34 15 0	Khaki Flannel Shirts, with two collars	3 3 0
.. Whispard .. .. .	35 7 0	Khaki Cymella Shirts, collar-attached	3 7 6
.. Barathra, Special .. .. .	35 7 0	Khaki Braided Ties .. .. .	3 6
		Khaki Socks .. .. .	from 10 6
No. 1 DRESS JACKET		White Poplin Shirts, with soft double cuffs	2 4 6
Blue or Rifle Green Barathra .. .. .	23 10 6	White Poplin Shirts, with stiff cuffs .. .. .	2 4 6
		White Patrol Collars .. .. .	4 0
No. 1 DRESS TROUSERS		White Dress Shirts, stiff front .. .. .	2 12 6
Blue or Black Barathra .. .. .	13 17 6	Black Socks, nylon .. .. .	4 6
		Black Dress Ties .. .. .	from 30 6
OVERALLS		Raitan Caps .. .. .	4 6
Blue Barathra .. .. .	15 3 6	Leather Covered Canteen .. .. .	18 6
		Brown Leather Gloves, lined or unlined	from 1 14 6
MESS JACKET AND WAISTCOAT .. .. .	from 32 10 0	Brown Grain Shoes .. .. .	5 7 6
(Prices for individual Regiments on application)		Chukka Boots .. .. .	6 6 0
		Chelsea Boots .. .. .	6 6 0
GREATCOAT		Mess Wellingtons .. .. .	12 15 0
Khaki Melton .. .. .	34 0 0	Mess Spurs .. .. .	2 10 0
		Khaki Barathra Service Cap .. .. .	4 5 0
BRITISH WARM		Mess Forage Cap .. .. .	4 10 6
		Main Fatigue Cap (free and aft) .. .. .	5 5 0
NOTE		Waterproof Coat, double texture .. .. .	8 0
A special discount of 5% will be allowed on this outfit or any part of it (tax excepted) which may be paid for by cash or assignment of Uniform Grant.		Metal Uniform Case, 36" .. .. .	9 17 6
		Sam Browne Belt and Curved Brace .. .. .	6 6 0
		Sam Browne Sword Frog .. .. .	2 2 0
		Sam Browne Sword Knot .. .. .	1 2 6
		Infantry Sword & Scabbard .. .. .	15 15 0

All prices include Purchase Tax where applicable

## 28. WELBECK - A SUCCESS?

In his farewell address on the retirement of DAR Leicester Moss writes:

*“Welbeck is forever on trial. As a public Institution and part of the educational scene we are often the subject of raised eyebrows. The view is often jaundiced and strictures made in high places. In this long court room scene, something of a saga, the Head has been a great Defending Counsel. No one outdid his homework on statistics, or was better placed in a College of this sort (where the Head is also on the selection board) to rebut ill founded evidence, cope with Inspections, prod the Staff, allay the anxieties of parents and dispense confidence enerally”*

I mentioned in the forward that College was a success by producing a good number of officers to reach the rank of General, with a retention rate higher than other sources. I have to confess that this was somewhat supposition based on hearsay from “authoritative sources” but with no clear evidence. Luckily an OW, Charles Brodley (5 Entry) has come forward with definitive evidence (see below) and the Brodley Papers in full are on the DVD. Although this memoir is about the early days it does not seem inappropriate to have a look at the success of Welbeck - the first true Sixth Form College in the country. But first the success of the first four entries in various categories.

### By Rank:



Peter Davies R Sigs (3 Entry) was the first OW to be promoted Major General along with four Brigadiers (3 in 1 Entry and 1 in 4 Entry). Peter on retirement had a very successful second career (After GOC Wales) as The Chief Executive of the RSPCA in which capacity he is seen here with Princess Anne when she unveiled the Memorial to Animals in War in London.



I must mention Andrew Figgures (27 Entry) the first of the two OWs to be promoted to Lieutenant General to date. He was commissioned into REME and all who knew him I think would testify to him as a buoyant happy character. He became the Senior British Officer in Baghdad during the Iraqi occupation and made it to the Army Board. He is seen below on the left at a Speech Day hobnobbing with Major General Napier Crookendon (One time Commandant of RMSC ). Rumour has it that whilst at Welbeck he put his name down on the waiting list to buy the new Jaguar and

when his name came near the top he sold his place! Maybe untrue but would fit.



**Sport:**

Andy Morton (1 Entry), always at the forefront in swimming, gained International Honours as The Great Britain Water Polo Team Manager in the Commonwealth Games and Munich Olympics. His experiences are reported below in a newspaper article and in a piece he produced for the College Magazine whilst Bursar at the College. I believe he went on to manage the team in the Moscow Olympics.

**AS BRITAIN'S** swim squad tapered off from a hectic week's training in Blackpool's Derby Baths, Army officer Andy Morton, their team manager, relaxed in his hotel to tell me: "Predictions are not easy. We might get more finalists than we did last time and a few medals. But it is going to be tough."

Morton, 46-year-old REME Lieutenant-Colonel, escorts his young charges on the long, tiring trip to Ecuador on Thursday for the fourth world championships at Guayaquil from July 29 to August 7.

Britain won two bronze medals and had 27 finalists in the last world championships, in West Berlin in 1978.

volunteered to stay behind, and on the 28 June we set sail from Port Stanley, and were all totally overwhelmed by the reception we received on reaching home on the 9 July.

This was a short campaign, but a very busy one for all those involved. There can be no doubt that our tradesmen and technicians certainly played their parts to the full, but even less doubt that all tradesmen, no matter what their Corps or trade-discipline, must be soldiers first.

**A WELBEXIAN IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS TEAM MANAGEMENT**  
By Lt-Col. A. Morton REME, (1 Entry)

Having been active at an Olympics (Munich), a Commonwealth Games (Birmingham) and a World Championships (Guayaquil), I believe one major result is a vast enhancement in my knowledge of swimming and water polo. As a competitor (in swimming) and as a player (in water polo), and subsequently as a team official for both disciplines, I have now seen and suffered most aspects of these aquatic sports. However, now situations seem to arise more times I am involved with a team, be it at Club level, with the Services, or Internationally.

In this short article I wish to give a view of my sport which is not too well known. I am not going to concentrate on my competitive days as these are all documented and recorded in various historical sheets. What I wish to do is outline how I survived as a Team Manager, firstly involved in 88 Water Polo Internationals between 1976 and 1980, and lately as the Senior GB Swimming Team boss. Both have had their demands, and I have been lucky to work alongside some of the finest people in British sport. A chronicle of events and venues attended might also be boring.

I am often asked how I cope with the conflict of interests between my military work and the sport. There are times when I don't, but fortunately these are few. In Service life is unquestionably sports-orientated. I think that my involvement has been no particular enhancement of my career, but I am philosophical and do not regret the choices I have made. What I have done for swimming and water polo has been totally voluntary, I have not been on an "ego-trip" although I may well have undertaken certain commitments when it might have been more sensible to have declined. To refuse seems to me to be letting others down. Certainly, the job of a Team Manager cannot live alongside too many other claims on one's time.

At international level, the demands on swimmers (as they would be for other major sports) are most exacting and totally time-absorbing. Training commitments are heavy, and are often undertaken during anti-social hours. This is because of the limitations in the Swimming Pool resources available in Britain, plus the country's unfavourably climate. Top-level professional coaches are few in number. Training squads and centres of excellence exist in addition to Clubs in order that top-level standards may be maintained. For the Team Manager to visit his Internationally regularly is almost impossible, but through devious means I seem to remain in contact with most of them. One has to measure this activity carefully and not allow oneself to become too involved. Family life and one's work can suffer; personal priorities are often most important, and one's routine must be periodically reviewed in order to maintain a correct balance. It is a discipline to be followed by all team staff, I believe.

The swimmers themselves are often young - it is after all a young persons' sport. Consequently, they depend quite heavily on management support when away from home in National teams. The Water Polo front was less demanding at this age, but as the sport survived on a "blue-chip" financially, the dependence was still there, albeit in a different form. There are times when you see "accidents" in an arrogant and ostentatious kind of, but on training the pressure, one does form an understanding of these less attractive characteristics. It is hard work for the British to better their Eastern Block rivals, and to manage the Commonwealth Dominions this task seems only fractionally easier. When you are the bit, it is no simple task to remain there if resources are limited.

I have always been of the opinion that successful sports teams are in that position because they are well led. Leadership is a strange quality to Service men, and the Falklands conflict reinforced this view (if ever that were needed). I believe a sport's Team Manager has to be a good leader to draw his team Captain, Group them two with the team Specialists, Coaches, and Medical staff in particular, then there should be an excellent pool formula. Leadership must be positive; decision-making has to be rational; and the important (and still recognised) ingredient of discipline has to be maintained; this always being firm but fair in application.

In spite of that, but maybe because of, the limited resources mentioned already, it is always a happy occasion when performance exceed previous bests. The 1979 Olympic Qualifying Tournament at Hvar, Yugoslavia, was such an occasion when I witnessed total team commitment and determination to win. More, possibly, the establishment of Commonwealth records in competition swimming events are memorable milestones. Outstanding for me maybe was Jane Cudde's Commonwealth Games 200 metres Freestyle swim last year when in a record time on the last but one day, she became the sixth woman to beat the 3-minute barrier and the first from the Commonwealth of Great Britain. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are good for team morale, and have always given me much pleasure.

I guess my house is full of sporting paraphernalia: albums are full of photographs and sport books full of press-cuttings. Two sporting occasions have been mentioned, and maybe my greatest moment was meeting Her Majesty the Queen in Australia last year at the end of the Commonwealth Games.

As a side-benefit I have certainly enjoyed the travel aspects. My military career has taken me far and wide, but swimming has taken me further. Sporting countries include most of the Eastern Block with Water Polo, and four out of five Continents in swimming. I guess over 30 countries have been visited from the wilds of Ecuador to the sophistication of Stockholm. The country making the greatest impact was Poland in 1977. I was there in Warsaw not so long after their food riots, and found what was being portrayed by the BBC TV News to be 100% accurate. How memories have flooded back recently.

I guess I shall continue to manage the British swimming team now until the next Olympics... I would think it an honour to do so. I have enjoyed my sport and hobby to the full and believe the sacrifices made worth every bit of the time, money and effort put in. How else could I have met after 25 years former College Head-boy, Tony Furness (1), if it had not been through swimming at last year's Commonwealth Games?

Jock Williamson and Colin Gardner (both 2 Entry) both achieved International status in Rugby and Show Jumping

**Congratulations**

B. F. Williamson, Captain of Rugby Football this season, is to be congratulated on his selection to play for the Scottish Schoolboys v. English Schoolboys at the Old Deer Park, Richmond, 2nd January, 1956.

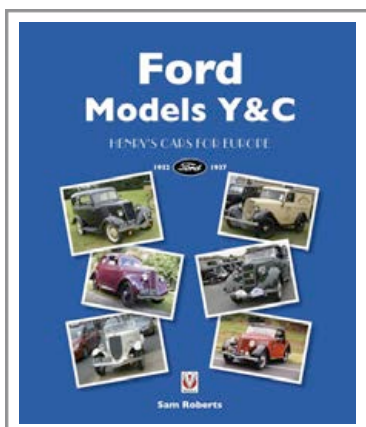
We congratulate E. C. Gardner, of the 2nd Entry on representing England versus Holland at Show Jumping. How Gardner maintains his position at the very top in British Horsemanship is a mystery, for it has not been possible for him to ride and jump at Welbeck. It only adds to his splendid achievement to say that he represented his country with only one day off from school. If this isn't an all time sports record, we'll eat our editorial hat. Meanwhile we are proud to doff it to him.

John Skinner (1 Entry) was an International Rally Driver. He tuned his abilities whilst at RMCS and went on to great achievement - as reported in the College Magazine part of, sadly, his obituary.

John had a great interest in sport in general, in particular playing and supporting rugby and cricket. However his consuming interest was motor sport. From his days at RMCofS where his 'souped up' Morris minor competed in Club Rallies his interest and involvement developed into competing in the RAC Scottish Rally where twice he obtained his class award. He also had success in the Baltic Rally and Finnish 1000 Lakes Rally. He competed in the Munich World Cup Rally which involved crossing the Sahara Desert, a task that fully tested his engineering ingenuity.

**Authorship.** An unlikely category but here are a few examples - possibly of many.

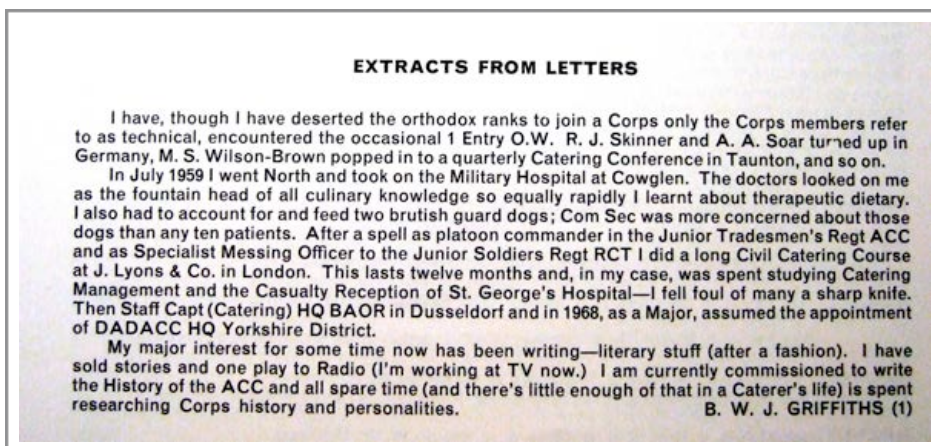
Sam Roberts, having lovingly and expertly restored a Ford wrote an acclaimed history as shown below.



**Ford Models Y & C. Henry's Cars for Europe by Sam Roberts**  
The definitive histories of the 8 h.p. Ford Model Y and the 10 h.p. Ford Model C of 1932 to 1937 and all their worldwide variants, complete with detailed technical specifications and production records. Most of the great names of the Ford Motor Company were involved with these small cars. The Model Y, in particular, had a huge impact on the history of the European family saloon car. In fact, so pleasing was the Y's design – the first streamlined mass-produced car – that Edsel Ford had it scaled up to become the beautiful V8 Model 40 of 1933/34. This heavily illustrated book (over 330 photographs and illustrations) is a fascinating and detailed account of the first Fords specifically designed for a market outside the U.S.A. and which changed the course of automotive history.



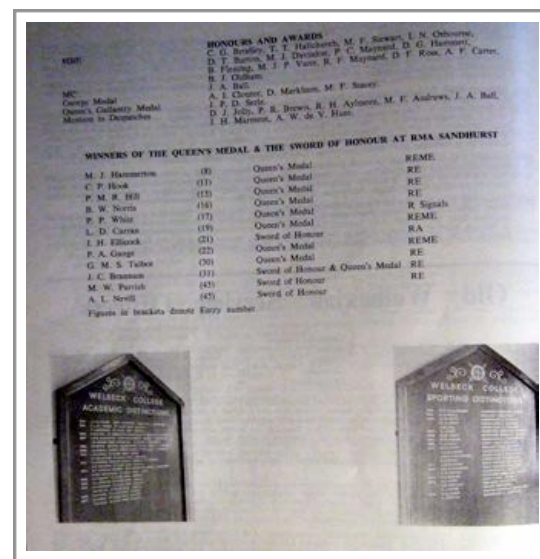
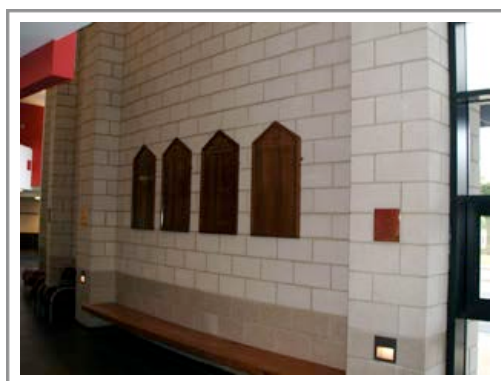
Bryndley Griffiths (1 Entry) writing in the OW section of the College Magazine told us of his authorship. I wonder if he completed the History of the ACC? Would be a significant achievement.



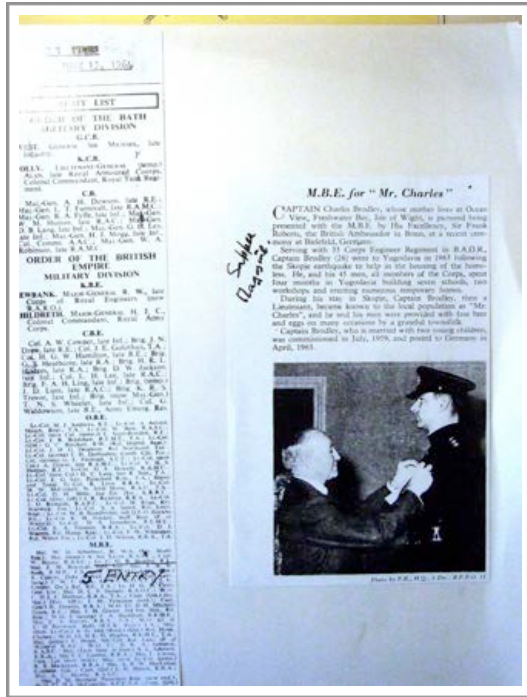
Bas Mahon (1 Entry), an accomplished mathematician ran the UK Census at one time and has subsequently had two biographies published. The first, by Wiley, a best seller about the life of James Maxwell of the equations fame, and also of Heavyside famous for the layer and a lab at RMCS!

Sam Wharton (2 Entry) has written a thriller based upon the College Grounds ( see DSFC Website OWA Section.)

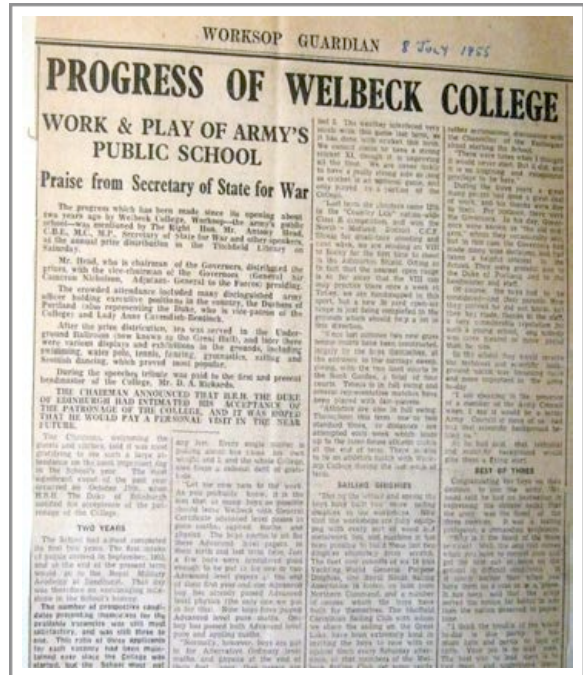
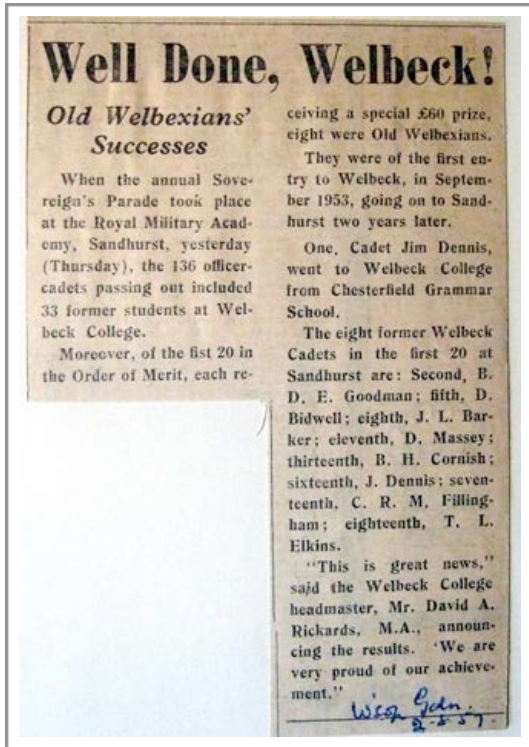
**Honours.** A view of the Honours Boards now at the DSFC and as reported in a College Magazine showing fourteen MBEs. one MC, three George Medals, one Queen’s Gallantry Medal and 7 Mention in Despatches, along with nine Queens Medal winners and Three Swords of Honour at RMAS see below.



The first OW to be awarded an Honour, The MBE, was Charles Brodley (5 Entry) see below- more about him later.



Perhaps a little premature but a couple of early press cuttings in praise of Welbeck.





A bit more up to date!

T.E.S. 14 APR '00

Not many people know it, but the army runs the second highest-performing state sixth-form college in the country, **Simon Midgley** reports

THE PROSPECTUS dubs Welbeck College the "army's best kept secret". Its students get some of the best academic results in the country, but the Nottinghamshire boarding establishment is not well-known outside military circles.

Housed in magnificent listed buildings, Welbeck grooms the young men and women who will become the officer elite of the British army's technical corps.

The college occupies most of Welbeck Abbey, near Worksop, ancestral home of the Dukes of Portland, and has 320 acres of parkland and five lakes.

Exams are taken in an old ballroom, the former outdoor ice-skating rink is now a parade ground, and there are corridors embedded with metal railway lines. These once rushed food to the reclusive fifth Duke of Portland's table, in a heated truck.

Despite the eccentricities of their predecessors, the present inhabitants of Welbeck College score an average of 28.1 A-level points per student — making it the country's second highest-achieving sixth-form college after Hills Road in Cambridge and the 19th top state school.

The college also aims to develop leadership and ensure that the 200 students reach peak physical fitness, which means a packed all-day schedule.

Mornings consist of academic study and PE, while afternoons are devoted to sports and adventure training such as climbing. One afternoon a week is spent in military training. The college has an assault course, gym, climbing wall and firing range. The lakes are used to learn to kayak. Computer screens displaying bulletin boards dot the college.

Senior students can qualify as physical training instructors and then help instruct junior students in PT and basic military skills.

Time is also spent helping elderly and disabled people. There are two hours of prep every weekday evening.

Students are bright, articulate, self-confident and surprisingly mature. They are also well-disci-



Corps values: pupils outside Welbeck College, once the ancestral seat of the Dukes of Portland

# Officers armed with top grades

plined and polite. All adults are deferred to as "sir" or "ma'am".

The college draws most of its students from state comprehensive schools (some 80-85 per cent) and is keen to take more girls (it has 46 at present) and more ethnic-minority pupils.

**'Students are bright, articulate, self-confident and surprisingly mature'**

Students do pay top-up fees — but these are low, and are meanstested: 40 per cent of parents pay £400 a term or less. The bulk of funding comes from the Ministry of Defence, which subsidises students by £10,000 per year.

Despite a bill for the MOD run-

ning into millions of pounds, the investment is considered to be well worth it. At a time when engineers are highly sought after, the army considers it crucial.

Major General John Sutherell, commandant of the Royal Military College of Science in Oxfordshire, said the college had a key role in ensuring that the army had enough officers with engineering backgrounds. Almost half of officers who train at Sandhurst need such expertise.

Also, evidence suggests that people who commit themselves at 16 to the army tend to stay on longer than other officers.

Some 400 applicants apply each year for the 110 first-year places. The college's entrance criteria include a minimum 15 points at GCSE, a B in the GCSE maths higher level paper, a BB in dualaward science and at least a grade C in English. Candidates must

also show leadership qualities and a desire to compete and achieve.

At Welbeck, students study A-levels in maths, physics and one other subject, for example, electronics or chemistry.

Most students go on to an engineering degree at the Royal Military College of Science — now part of Cranfield University, followed by a year at Sandhurst. But some go to Oxbridge or other leading universities.

Once they have committed themselves to the army, they must spend at least five years in one of the technical corps which include the Royal Engineers and the Corp of Royal Signals.

Tony Halliwell, the college's principal, said that the MOD is considering whether Welbeck might also serve the navy and air force as well. "That would be a very exciting initiative," he said, "and a superb challenge."

The Welbeck system has received unequivocal endorsement by the services in establishing the Defence Sixth Form College (DSFC) at Loughborough, a complete new build designed specifically for purpose to produce quality officers in a cost effective manner. Lord Guthrie, a former CIGS, gave this ringing endorsement at the Speech Day in 1994.

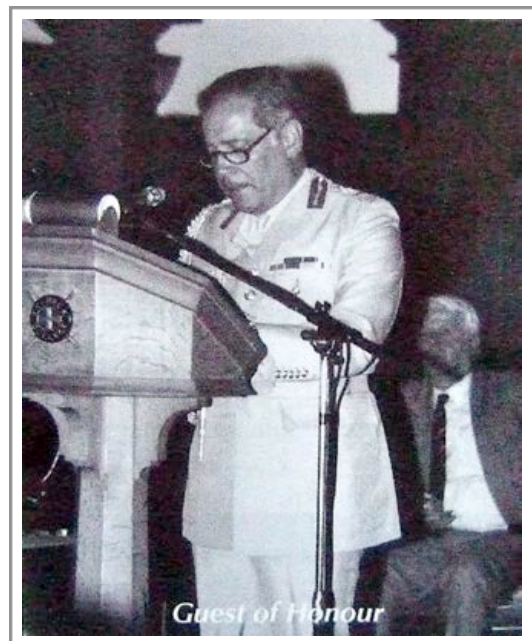
## Guest Of Honour's Speech *Speech Day 2/7/94*

### Chief Of The General Staff General Sir Charles Guthrie

I am grateful to the Principal for his kind words of introduction and indeed the invitation to be here today. I am very aware that for some of you today marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one. I hope those of you who still have a little way to go will forgive me if I address most of my remarks to those who are on the point of embarking on their careers as Army officers.

However, before doing so I feel that I must say a little about this August establishment which is both unique and very much part of the fabric of the Army. Welbeck has been one of the relatively recent creations, in terms of the Army's history, that is really enduring and with good reason too. The record of your predecessors is impressive. Welbexians now permeate through the Army's officers corp's and continue to earn the recognition that your college is indeed one of our centres of excellence, alongside other institutions such as Sandhurst, Staff College and Shrivenham. The importance to the Army of maintaining these 'Centres of Excellence' cannot be over stressed and in that respect I am confident that the College's future is secure. I say this as there is little doubt in our dependence on technology will continue to increase, along with our need to have high calibre officers who can ensure that we exploit the potential benefits to the full. Now as you may know Welbeck's role, as a major provider of technically qualified officers, was scrutinised in the recent, rigorous, defence cost study exercise. The studies, acknowledging that there is currently no better way of meeting this need, quite rightly fully endorsed Welbeck's charter for the foreseeable future. I hope this will help put people's minds at rest - the Army values and needs Welbeck.

Now much of ensuring the College's future had been made possible through the standards that you set and achieve here, and in this respect I congratulate not only those who have received prizes, but all of you, staff and students alike, who have played a full part in the College's life. I have been most impressed by what I have seen and heard so far, and greatly look forward to seeing more later on.





### The Brodley Research into the First 40 Entries.

Whilst putting this memoir together I found that in parallel, Charles Brodley (5 Entry) had completed a full survey of the first 40 Intakes listing honours, ranks achieved and length of service to retirement. A remarkable feat of detailed research using the Welbeck Registers ( see section 20 ), The London Gazette and the Times Sovereigns Parade lists. Thus we now have the facts.

Charles kindly agreed to his work being included in this story for which I am most grateful. His papers are shown in full on the DVD and the full content and detailed conclusions are well worth a read. On top of that he has produced a précis of his work below.

*In the OWA Newsletter of January 2011 the then Chairman proposed a Hall of Fame comprising all OW's of starred rank and nominated a handful of individuals known to him. Well the first OW Brigadier to be appointed had retired in 1985 when the Chairman was still at school. It was obvious that relying on the memory of those now serving was not going to produce an accurate list. So just how many had there been ?*

*In 1973 and again in 1980 Derek Hawker, then Housemaster of York House, produced a comprehensive Register of all those who had attended Welbeck. For each individual he gave the full name, date of birth, date and Corps of Commissioning and their current rank and, for most, their address. It was a prodigious effort; done at a time that a personal computer on every desk was unheard of and the internet did not exist. The IBM PC was not released until 1981 and the internet not for some years later. The Registers covered Entries 1- 56; over 2,000 individuals. With this information on the one hand and the availability of the London Gazette search facility on the other it was possible to track the disposition of all those who had been commissioned. At that time, December 2012, Entry 40 had reached the age of 55 and the first 40 Entries formed a large enough sample to be able to say precisely what Welbeck had achieved in the first twenty years of its' existence.*

*A summary would read: "Of **1,519 entrants** to Welbeck in Entries 1-40, **80% were commissioned**, or 1,216 officers. Collectively **they gave 26,816 years of service at an average of 22 years and 3 months** and had an average Rank of 3.32."*

*The average Rank was derived from a simple scale of Lt = 1 to General = 9 and an average of 3.32 was simply the mix you would expect when 25% of OW's resigned before reaching the rank of Major. In fact the actual rank attained by the 1,216 at the time that they retired or resigned their commission is given on the next page.*

<i>Entries 1-40</i>	<i>Overall</i>	<i>&gt; 20 years.</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Lt General</i>	2	2	0.27
<i>Major General</i>	18	18	2.47
<i>Brigadiers</i>	62	62	8.51
<i>Colonels</i>	162	162	22.25
<i>Lt Colonels</i>	278	276	37.91
<i>Majors</i>	343	208	28.57
<i>Captains</i>	243		
<i>Lieutenants</i>	108		
<i>Total</i>	1,216	728	100.00

*Those of you reading this who are still serving may wish to know the percentages if you serve for more than 20 years. The facts are that two-thirds will retire as Majors or Lt Colonels and one-third will become Brigadiers and above. The path to stardom is pretty well mapped out: Lt Colonel by 38, Colonel by 42, Brigadier by 45 and after that only the Military Secretary knows.*

*On the way members of Entries 1-40 were decorated 133 times.*

*This is well and good but looking only at Welbeck figures doesn't say very much. The real question is how did Welbeck compare with RCB Entrants or AOSB as it is known today ?*

*In 1951 when Welbeck College was first proposed the United Kingdom was a different place in ways that those under the age of 70 cannot imagine. Sandhurst drew 90% of its' Officer Cadets from Public Schools, only 5% of young people went to university, and the Welbeck proposal was not everywhere welcomed for fear, perhaps, that it would lower the tone. In order to compare OW officers against their RCB contemporaries a control group of 118 RCB Entrants serving in the traditional Welbeck Corps was randomly selected.*

*The comparative results are given below:*

***Welbeck Entrants:*** *Ave Rank 3.32 Service 22.24 years.*

***RCB Entrants:*** *Ave Rank 3.48 Service 22.35 years.*

*Despite the great difference in education and the much wider divide in socio-economic status prevailing in 1953, the Welbeck Entrants from Grammar Schools and Technical Colleges were the equal of their more privileged counterparts. It would be a very fastidious statistician who could perceive a difference; indeed, statistically, there isn't one. Well might the CGS in 1994 describe Welbeck as "this August body".*



*For those who are interested in the detail the full set of figures in spreadsheet form is on the disc. There you might discover the most successful Welbeck Entry and the most successful Welbeck Corps; not indeed by rank but by the contribution they have made. To print them here would be cause for heated discussion at Reunions for years to come but the secret is not, as many might think, in having a large number of high-fliers; the secret is in putting your hand to the plough and staying the course. The most successful entries have fewer early retirements.*

*To members of the Governing body I would say this. The record is one of which you may be justly proud but this memoir has been compiled by a few people..... mainly Jim Dennis..... who attended Welbeck sixty years ago. He, and we, have not forgotten the debt that we owe. If the record is to continue, so that in years to come the College can say "We did that", then the whole matter of record-keeping and archiving must be put on a much more regulated footing. Someone, a Bursar, a College Prefect must be made responsible for maintaining the record.*

*Do not expect another Derek Hawker to miraculously appear for such men are rare. It is very important. In these uncertain times you never know when a senior jobsworth asks: "Is Welbeck really necessary?" **Then you might be glad you have the evidence to hand.***

*You have been, or are, part of a hugely successful experiment brought about by some very far-sighted people exactly 60 years ago. Welbeck has been established for so long that there is a danger that it be taken for granted, it is a danger to be avoided. If you have been selected you have been given a huge privilege that will have changed your life. Do not forget, make the most of it.*

Charles went on to research the entries from 41 onwards and has produced a spreadsheet, now lodged with DSFC, which can be updated as an entry reaches 55 years of age. Latterly as Charles points out this is becoming difficult as Welbeck graduates move amongst other services, The Sovereigns Parade lists don't provide sufficient detail etc. However DSFC will have list of Welbeck entrants and their immediate careers so some form of tracking is possible.

**29. AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!**

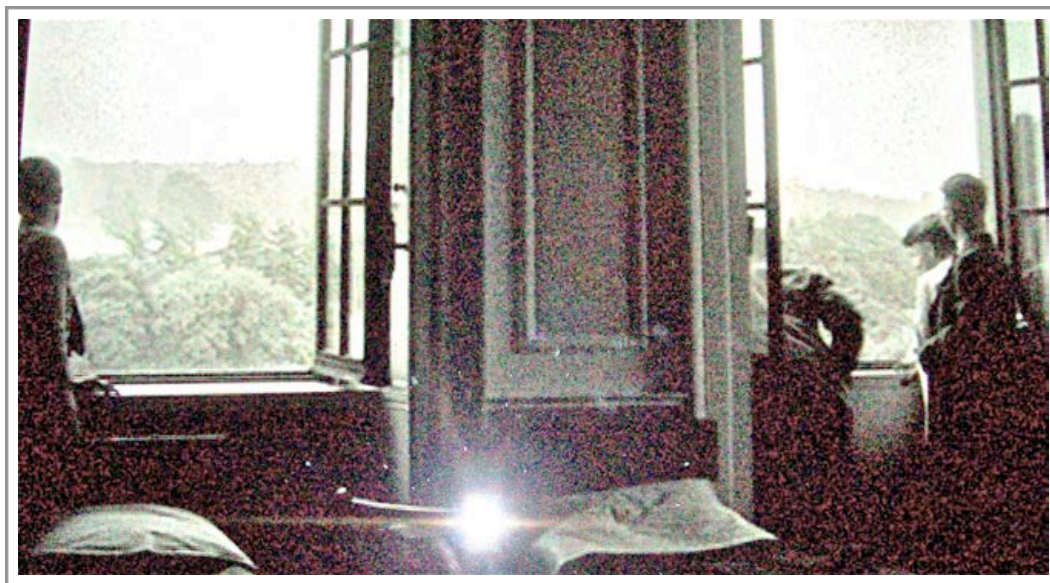
The magazine held a report of the Television cameras at the College on 6 February 1962 as shown below.

**B.B.C. T.V.**  
 On 6th February Welbeck appeared on B.B.C. T.V. in the programme "What's New." This portion of the programme was produced by Brian Robins and the commentator was David Dimbleby. During the seven or eight minutes that it lasted, viewers saw boys in action in the Workshops, in the Labs, on the Rifle Range and in the Great Hall. P. J. Heavey, J. P. D. Serle and the Headmaster were asked for and gave their views.

However this was not the first time - in a two liner on page 3 of the September 1954 Magazine we spy "The College was on Television on 24th July when in a newsreel viewers saw science instruction, sailing and athletics". No doubt the dormitories were also featured. I have a



complete boxed set of Monty Python. On their "Bonus Disc" was a set of "programme notes" from the Pythons explaining how they put the shows together. One aspect was their parody of Public Schools and Universities - John Cleese et al recounting the social backgrounds of young men of the time and explaining their approach to "sending up society" which came along with a black and white sequences of Cambridge University and, to my astonishment, of The College! The followings stills were taken from the film clip.



*Looks like Greg Dillon leaning out of the window on the right with Curly Reynolds at his side Chris Arnold at the window on the left?*





*Pretty sure the*

*is Bryndley Griffiths*

*one with glasses*

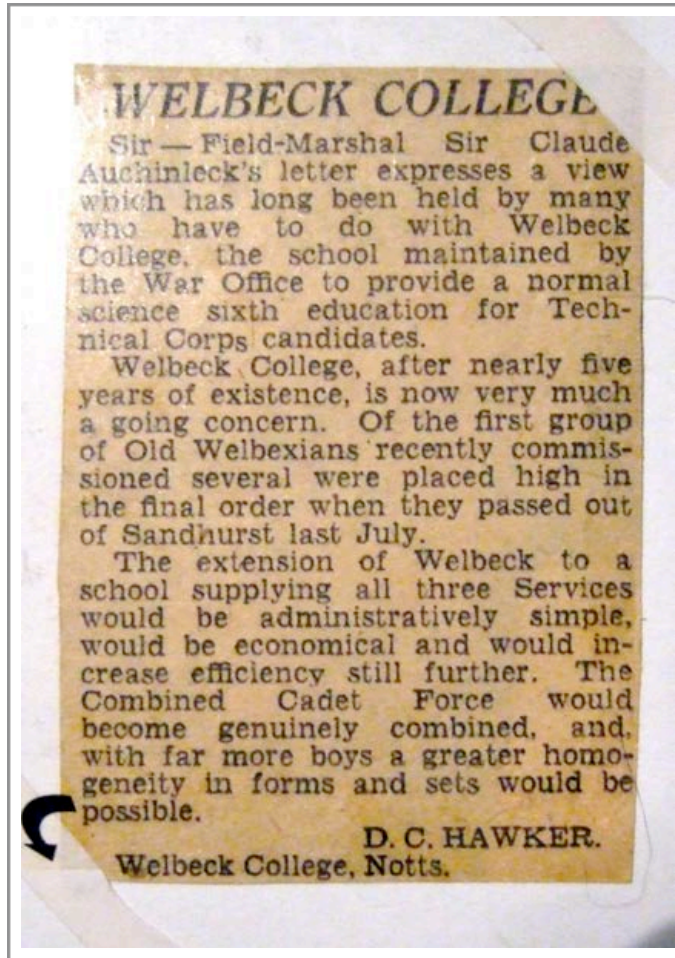


*Very clearly Steve Gilmore and David Bidwell*

***FAME INDEED!***

**30 EPILOGUE**

Derek Hawker wrote this to the Telegraph(?) in the Fifties



The 1977 edition of the Magazine had this small forlorn note from DCH:

*"I have given up hope of the dramatic change which I have been rooting for since the 1950s, the conversion of Welbeck into a combined services school"*

He would be delighted to know what has now happened - first the admission of girls then the transformation of Welbeck into a Combined Services College at Loughborough - The Defence Sixth Form College (DSFC). See below.



Then .....



Now.....

**Girls at Welbeck**

The first entry of girls in the history of Welbeck came to the college as a part of 79 entry at the start of the autumn term 1992. Eighteen girls from all over the country were given a place, these being Cassanna Woodruff, Hannah Winton, Angela Aylward, Carolyn Clewley, Kate Simmonds, Sarah Bassingham, Fiona Hodgkins, Jo Ann Buckingham, Louise Pickering, Nicola Blackman, Caroline Woodbridge, Deborah Hall, Elizabeth Nutt, Kirsty Watson, Fiona McLoughlin, Sarah Robinson, Julie Moody and Jennifer Jones.

If we had been given the label "guinea pigs" it wouldn't have been that far from the truth, as that is how we have spent our time at Welbeck, pioneers of a kind, making the way for girls in the future.

Having no senior girls to tell us right from wrong we have survived through trial and error, making many mistakes, but also pointing out many things wrong with the college that nobody had ever mentioned before.

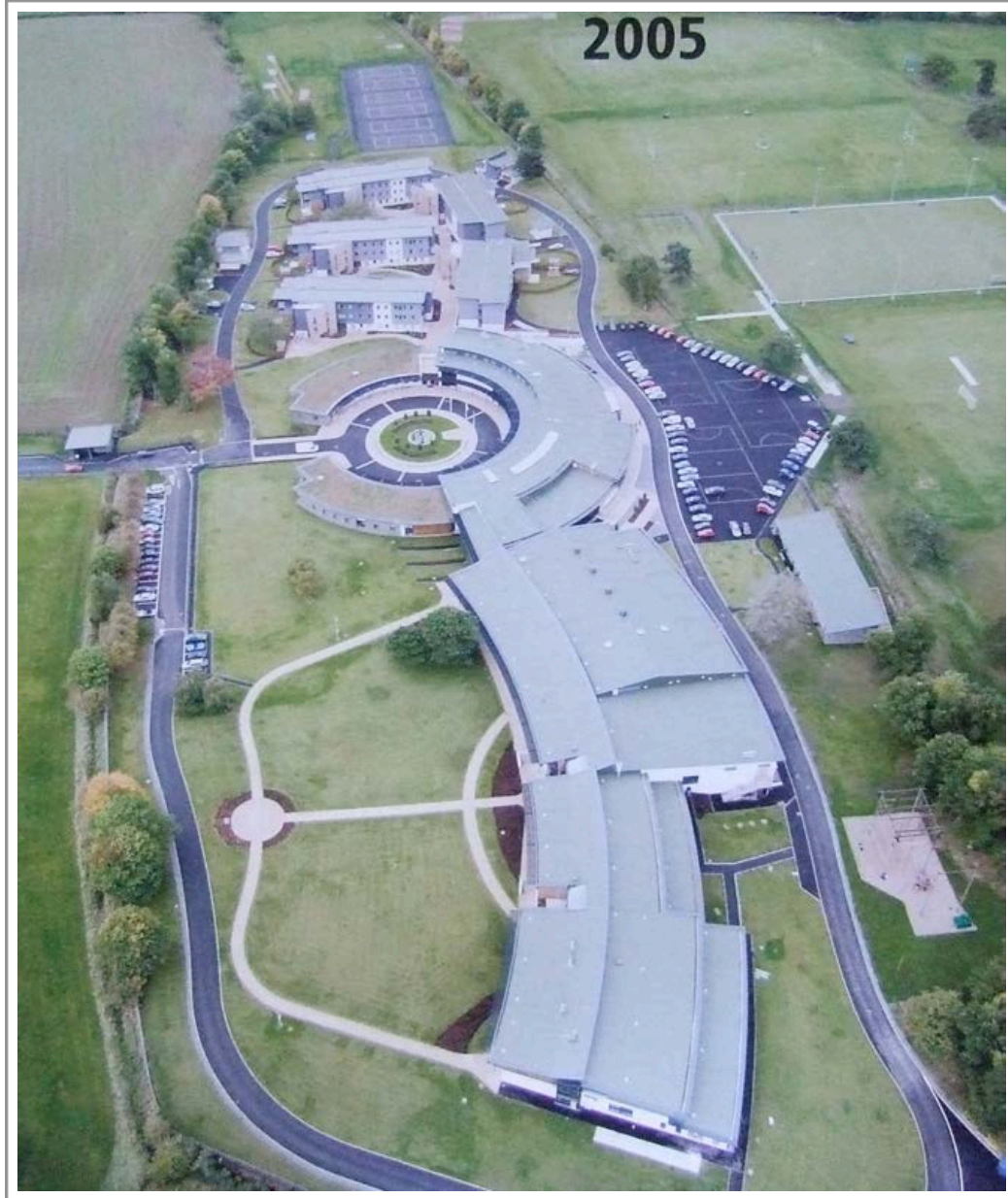
It has not been an easy first year, but then again amalgamation are never easy and so of course we have encountered our fair share of discriminations and I am happy to say that we are a strong minded group of girls and we have given as good as we get.

Our accommodation is called School Lodge and is situated on the site of the old college hospital about three quarters of a mile away from the main college and our House Mother is Mrs Pattison.

Our daily routine is identical to the boys. We have mixed lessons, P.T. and even some of the major sports are mixed depending on what we want to do.

Girls at Welbeck have opened up whole new areas of interest at the college, with





**The Defence Sixth Form College (DSFC).**



### In Conclusion

I stressed at the outset that this was not in any way meant to be a "History" of Welbeck College. I started with the intention of making available the many pieces of material I had acquired as an "Archivist", together with the material from Sam Roberts who was able to obtain the Old Minute Book of the OWA, courtesy of Bob Matthews one time Bursar, and through the kindness of Alma Moss, almost all of the College Magazines.

Now, having read my way through all the material, along with the many photographs, I hope to have produced both an acceptable archive, which others may care to follow, but also an affectionate remembrance of all that Welbeck meant to me.

Jeff Barker writes:

*"For me, it is a fact that Welbeck provided a marvellous entrée to a new way of life which proved a real blessing. A life of travel, some adventure, undoubted privilege and financial security ensued, facets not so easily realised these days. I doubt I would have been so fortunate had I not stepped off that train at Worksop".*

We will all drink to that!

Leicester Moss writing a valedictory piece on the retirement of David Rickards in the Welbexian 1972 had this to say:

*"I could fill a book ...about this man. As space forbids I will simply record his deep feeling about the College, evidenced in an excusably tender regard for the fortunes of No 1 Entry."*

A feeling I believe was reciprocated, so to:

**David Rickards, Kim Gausson and their supporting staff**

**WE SALUTE YOU**