



# "Concordia"

The Official Organ of  
The Clapham Old Xaverians  
Association.

VOL. III.

DECEMBER, 1941.

No. 1.

## Third War-Time News Letter.

58, Bincote Road,  
Enfield,  
Middlesex.

December, 1941.

Dear Members,

It is now over eighteen months since we last issued "Concordia" and I gather that some of you had imagined that we had closed down for the duration. That is not so, however, and it has always been our intention to keep going as much as possible. We are perhaps somewhat deserving of your censure for having left you without news for so long, but I feel that the anxious times of 1940 and the disturbance of our London nights which followed, did make any pre-occupation with Association affairs seem something of an anti-climax and it has since taken us a little time to get into our stride again. The following, I feel, should show that I have not been altogether neglectful of my duty in the meantime.

The morning after the first heavy bombing of London, I, together with some thousands of other auxiliary firemen, was sent to the Docks to relieve those who had been working there all through that difficult night. I am not going to pretend that I experienced any spectacular adventures there, but whilst parading the deck of a sadly ruined merchant ship I chanced upon our old friend Freddie Plummer. Freddie went home five shillings short, and the Association was one sub. better off.

However, we have now made a fresh and encouraging start, and the result is very pleasing. I was doubtful, at one time, whether you really were interested to hear about other Old Xaverians, but it seems that I was wrong. Many of the

letters I have received show a real desire for news of others and they, themselves, have often been extremely interesting. As a result we have gathered some first-class information, and I think that this copy of "Concordia" should prove acceptable to all. There must still be many Old Boys of whom we have not heard, and some of our facts are probably out of date already, but, nevertheless, we have a very good list and it is up to you to see that it is kept up to date and amplified for our next issue. I would like to suggest that you write to me from time to time, giving all the news you have, as that is undoubtedly the best way of spurring us to further efforts.

While we are able to look with pride and pleasure upon the distinctions which have been showered upon some of our Old Boys, it is inevitable that in these tragic times it should also be our sad duty to have to record the deaths of some of the bravest and the best. We hope that those to whom they were dear will accept our sincerest condolences and know that we share, at least, a little of their sorrow.

I should not like to miss this opportunity of saying thanks to the Brothers for the help which they have given me in compiling this magazine. In particular, Brother Alphonsus has sought out a great deal of the information which we have and he has most willingly given us all the assistance in his power. Incidentally, John O'Sullivan and I spent a very pleasant and interesting afternoon with the Brothers at East Grinstead, and I need hardly say that any of you who should pay a visit there would be welcomed most heartily.

There is little else that I have to say. With your help we will endeavour to keep the Association alive until those happier days come again when we shall be able to resume our manifold activities. As ever, we need your financial support and I hope that all who can, will send me those subscriptions which are so essential for our well being.

With good luck to you all,

Yours sincerely,

P. F. TRUMPER,

*Hon. General Secretary.*

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### Nota Bene.

Our Treasurer, E. P. Kachel, has now moved to the undermentioned address. Your greetings to that address would be welcomed—your **subscriptions** would be hailed with joy.

**124, Bradstock Road, Stoneleigh,  
Ewell, Surrey.**

## **Reverend Brother Cyril.**

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Brother Cyril at the age of 69.

Although not intimately associated with Clapham, Brother Cyril was one of the outstanding members of the congregation in England. For seventeen years he was Provincial of the Order and afterwards Superior at both Brighton and Mayfield. For almost fifty years he worked for the Order and he was responsible for the establishment of the College at Brighton, in 1909, and for the novitiate at Deeping St. James ten years later.

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## **The College in Exile.**

Under this heading in the last issue of the magazine we gave an account of our exodus from Clapham in September, 1939, of our meanderings in rural Sussex, of our temporary quarters at the County School, East Grinstead, and of Authority's final decree that here was "our abiding City." Thus benignly blessed and set on their course by the Ministry of Health, the London County Council and the East Sussex Education Committee, the staff and the boys soon settled down, and the College, though perforce sharing the premises of the local Secondary School, has now for over two years pursued the usual curriculum and retains its separate identity, spirit and traditions. A word of praise is due to the Headmaster and staff of the County School for the readiness with which they accommodated themselves to our needs.

Our position here is a fortunate one for many reasons. In the first place the boys have excellent facilities for attending Mass and the Sacraments and maintain contact with their homes—two precious advantages which have not fallen to the lot of many evacuated schools. There is a large Catholic Church in the town and the College has provided a large number of Altar Servers and a boys' choir. We are only 30 miles from London, and there is a good service of Green Line Coaches well patronised by boys and parents. It becomes incontrovertibly clear that we have made a success of this war-time expedient of evacuation principally because these important bonds of religion and family life have happily been preserved.

Secondly, we have full-time school by mutual "give-and-take" in the classrooms—a working arrangement which provides facilities for all our subjects and compels both headmaster to sit down to preparing their time-tables like experts at the chess-board. There are two classrooms for our entire use, and the sixth form, as old, "works" in the library; and so we have continued, without interruption and in the peace

and quiet of the countryside, the usual Clapham curriculum and pursued our way through the Higher and General School Examinations with highly satisfactory results. The problem of recruitment of new boys to fill the gap made by those who leave on passing their Higher and General caused great anxiety to many schools in the reception areas but it has happily been solved by the co-operation of the L.C.C., and last September 33 were added to our roll. In addition, about ten local Catholic boys and private Catholic evacuees have been admitted and several more will join next term. There are, therefore, in the main school, more pupils now than when we started in November, 1939. This reflects credit on the Brothers and masters who have faithfully carried out their duties in difficult conditions, on the large number of boys who have preferred the college in exile to the "soft option" of the emergency schools, on those parents who have so self-sacrificingly put their children's education and comparative safety above other considerations, and finally on those patriotic people of East Grinstead who have had the boys billeted with them for the last two years.

The difficulty of billeting has been greatly eased by the opening of a Hostel—a large country house, designed by Sir Edwin Luytens, and artistically furnished, with the picturesque name of Barton St. Mary, where about 30 boys are accommodated under the supervision of a Brother and a qualified Matron.

We are in one of the most pleasant parts of a pleasant county and can appreciate the beauty of the countryside around us, being grateful also for having been spared the horrors of air attack (for the Nazi shows an utter disinterestedness in the works of Nature and considers our neighbourhood merely an occasional "dumping ground" when in difficulties); but, if freed from the fetters of necessity, how many would haste back to the old haunts—and home? "The town-dweller will have none of your countryside except as a week-end diversion, for noise and smell are meat and drink to him and the stream of traffic is his life-blood. The pall of solitude which the countryman calls rest, would hang heavily on his restless spirit."

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### News from the College.

The Headmaster, staff and boys have heard with sorrow of the deaths of some of the Old Boys on Active Service, and send their sympathy to the parents and relatives of these young men who have gallantly given their lives for their country on land, sea and air, with the promise of frequent prayers for the repose of their souls—"Decorum est pro patria mori." "Their names are written in the Book of Life."