



# "Concordia"

The Official Organ of  
**The Clapham Old Xaverians  
Association.**

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No. 2.

## **Fourth War-Time News Letter.**

Dear Members,

I was more than delighted to hear from Kachel that, with the assistance of John O'Sullivan, he was producing another War-Time issue of "Concordia." Now that I am in the Army I shall have the interesting opportunity of seeing a C.O.X.A. effort from the other side of the fence.

I have always felt that our fellows in the Services must look forward to news from home, and when I had a hand in the production of the "mag" I tried to make it serve this purpose. Eddie intends to do the same; and, now that I am exiled in the wilds of Yorkshire, I know that I shall appreciate all those little bits of gossip which we call "News of Old Boys." I am certainly looking forward to receiving my copy of "Concordia."

I gather that our fellows have been adding yet more to their laurels, but again the war has taken its sad toll in the deaths of others. We must feel deeply for those we have known, and our sympathies are with their families in their grievous losses.

I HEAR FROM EDDIE THAT THE MASS FOR OLD BOYS KILLED IN THE WAR WILL BE OFFERED THIS YEAR AT THE COLLEGE CHAPEL (CLAPHAM) ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 24th, AT 10 O'CLOCK. I HOPE THAT AS MANY OLD BOYS AS POSSIBLE WILL ATTEND.

There is not much else I can say about the Association now that I have no active hand in its affairs, but I should like to wish all of you the very best of luck, and express the hope that it will not be long before we are meeting again, with victory won and peace restored.

Yours sincerely,

P. F. TRUMPER,

*Hon. General Secretary.*

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EDITOR'S NOTE: As members will have seen from Phil's letter above, he is now serving in the Army, with the R.A.C., and his services in connection with this issue of "Concordia" have been sadly missed. He has acted as Secretary for the past eight years, and during the

whole of that time he has worked untiringly and enthusiastically to keep the Association in a flourishing state. Those who served with him on the Committee will bear witness to his breadth of vision and to the fact that he was not swayed by sectional interests in discussion on policy. Phil was ever jealous of the Association's reputation and strove vigorously to uphold its dignity. We wish him the best of luck in his Service life, and shall be very relieved when he can once again take up the reins.

### **Requiescant in Pace.**

We deeply regret to announce that, since our last issue, six Clapham Old Boys have given their lives for their country. We know that all members would wish us to express our sincere sympathy to their families and relations in their bereavement. We shall remember them in our thoughts and in our prayers.

PETER DIPROSE, aged 20, an Observer in the Royal Air Force, on active service in South Africa.

DESMOND FIRTH, aged 25, a Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force, formerly posted as missing, is now known to have been killed in action whilst on a raid over enemy territory.

DENNIS W. HODGES, aged 25, of the Royal Air Force, on active service.

BERNARD JENKINS, aged 19, of the Royal Navy, in action on H.M.S. Prince of Wales.

DENNIS MURRAY, aged 22, of the Royal Air Force, in action whilst on a raid over enemy territory. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross posthumously.

JACK WESTWOOD, aged 22, a Pilot Officer of the Royal Air Force, in action whilst on a raid over enemy territory.

We also deeply regret to announce that :

PILOT OFFICER GERARD DODD has been posted as missing, believed killed, in the Middle East.

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### **SIR FREDERICK BARTHORPE, K.C.S.G.**

We are very sorry to have to announce the death of Sir Frederick Barthorpe on 28th February, 1942. As all Old Xaverians know, he was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the College and, since the revival of the Association, acted as one of our Vice-Presidents.

Ill health prevented him from taking a very active part in our affairs, but he was always extremely interested in our progress. No appeal which we made to him for advice or assistance was ever unanswered. A long and successful career in the City brought him the General Managership of the London County and Westminster Bank, Ltd., and the Chairmanship of Marconi's. Among other high offices which he achieved were those of H.M. Lieutenant, City of London, and City Alderman.

His death is no less a loss to the Association than it is to the College.



## Clapham Old Xaverian Prisoners of War Fund—An Appeal.

I have been entrusted by the war-time Committee with the task of launching an appeal for a Fund for Clapham Old Xaverians who are Prisoners of War, and I feel that it is a great privilege and, at the same time, a great responsibility.

The Committee had considered the idea for some time, but a few months ago Miss Trixie Woollard (John's sister) informed them that she desired to "adopt" one of our Prisoners of War. Brushing aside all difficulties, she at last achieved her object, and the Committee have asked me, on behalf of all members, to express their admiration and appreciation of her efforts.

This matter cannot possibly be left to one or two kind-hearted people who are quite willing to drain themselves, financially and otherwise, to assist our Old Boys in enemy hands. It is a matter for corporate action. I firmly believe that all Old Boys, whether members or not, whether serving in H.M. Forces or not, their relatives and friends, will wish to associate themselves in this most deserving of causes. I am confident that there will be a generous and overwhelming response to this appeal for donations to the Clapham Old Xaverian Prisoners of War Fund. No donation will be too large and none too small. I am prepared to wager that no one who hears of this appeal will pass it by. Please spread the news around.

At the moment I know of only seven Old Boys who are unfortunate enough to be in the hands of the enemy, and to these, where possible, a Christmas gift has been sent out of Association Funds. Old Boys are serving in the front line at sea, on land, and in the air, in all parts of the world where we are engaging the enemy. I fear it is too much to hope that the number of those who are prisoners of war will not be considerably increased before victory is achieved. I want, therefore, to see a really large fund established, so that it can regularly meet all calls upon it.

The Fund will be controlled by the signing officials of the Association (Bro. Alphonsus, W. Donovan, E. P. Kachel, C. E. Robertson, J. B. O'Sullivan) for the duration of hostilities. After victory has been achieved, and all our prisoners liberated, the Association in general meeting shall decide what is to be done with any balance remaining. Personally, I hope that this appeal will be so successful that a considerable sum will remain unused. I have in my mind the Godsend it would be in helping any maimed or wounded Old Boys, who would richly deserve any assistance we might be able to offer them.

Our prisoners are suffering great hardship. Please get those remittances off by the first available post to the Hon. Treasurer, 124, Bradstock Road, Stoneleigh, Ewell, Surrey.

JOHN O'SULLIVAN,

*Acting Hon. Gen. Secretary.*

## Personalia.

Since our last issue we are pleased to learn that Old Boys have again been distinguishing themselves and are proud to be able to announce the following further awards:

SQUADRON-LEADER M. M. STEPHENS. While leading an attack on enemy transport in Libya, his aircraft was hit by cannon fire and the petrol tanks burst into flames. The starboard side of the cockpit was blown out and Maurice was wounded in both feet. He was preparing to abandon the aircraft and was half-way out of the cockpit when he saw an enemy fighter fly past him. He immediately regained his seat and shot down the enemy. He then baled out and came down in flames three hundred yards from the enemy's lines. Despite wounds and burns he made his way back to safety. This earned him the well-merited award of the D.S.O. We are pleased to report that he made a complete recovery. Not content with this, he is now joining in the gallant defence of Malta, where his efforts have been rewarded with a second Bar to his D.F.C.

LIEUT. P. B. REYNIER has been awarded the M.C. in Madagascar, where he took part in the initial landings. Unfortunately we have no details, but, knowing Peter, we are sure that it was richly deserved. We regret to have to announce that he was wounded in action, and wish him a speedy recovery.

J. HIGGINS, we now learn, was awarded the B.E.M. for gallantry during the London air raids. He is now with the R.A.F. in Palestine.

LT.-CMDR. A. J. GALVIN, D.S.C., R.N.R., has been awarded the Reserve Decoration. He has seen service in the Mediterranean and took part in the evacuation from Crete.

We very much regret to hear that:

KEN JONES is missing in the Far East. He was evacuated from Singapore two days before its fall but, unfortunately, his ship was sunk. With other survivors he managed to reach an uninhabited island, where they spent seven days before sailing for Sumatra in a small washed-up boat. Upon arrival in Sumatra they trekked three hundred miles over mountainous country to join up with other British survivors. A naval officer, under orders, put to sea on March 8th in a small native dhow in an attempt to reach Ceylon, and it is through him that we have heard the above details. Unfortunately Ken was not in the party.

PETER CURTIN, who is a Surgeon-Lieut. in the Royal Navy, previously posted as missing in the Far East, has now been reported a prisoner in Japan.

D. COSGRAVE and DICK ELLIS were captured at Singapore and are now prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

We are very pleased to have received from various sources the following interesting news:

JOHN NIXON, of Reuters, has been for some time the first official newspaper "eye-witness" to be appointed with the Royal Navy in any



part of the world. He represents the world's Press as well as many broadcasting systems. In addition to reporting the sinking of the Bismarck, as mentioned in our last issue, he was the only journalist to accompany the British raiding party that went to the Lofoten Islands. He deals fully with these and other epic events in his very interesting book, "Frontline of Freedom," published by Hutchinsons. Having read this book, we can fully recommend it to all who are fortunate enough to be able to secure a copy. Since then he has had another scoop by being the only newspaper correspondent to accompany the Naval and Commando raid on Tobruk. He was lucky to escape with his life on the last episode and we shudder to think what he may have been doing since then.

D. J. KEATING, who is now a Lieut. in the Fleet Air Arm, was on board the Ark Royal when that famous ship was sunk. He was previously in Trinidad and has since been to Jamaica and New York. Our latest information is that he was seen in England in June.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to G. P. COLEMAN on his appointment as Air Commodore in the Middle East, and to his brother, G. L. COLEMAN, on his appointment as Squadron-Leader.

ALAN BECKWITH is now a Lieut. in the Northamptonshire Regiment, seconded to the R.A.F. Army Co-operation Command with the rank of Pilot Officer. He is now flying Mustangs after a spell, very painful, we understand, to his pride, at "Prune's Purgatory." We have to apologise to Alan for our previous errors in the matter of his rank.

JOHN GLEESON, who received his commission a year ago, is now a full Lieut. in the Somerset Light Infantry.

RUDOLF REYNIER was married to Miss Patricia Stewart, at Westminster Cathedral, on 14th February, 1942. Congratulations, Rudolf. With his brother Peter he took part in the occupation of Madagascar.

DENNIS HICKS is now a corporal with the R.A.F. in much-bombed Malta. In his spare time (!!) he keeps in touch with his peace-time interests, such as the Society for the Preservation of Rural England and the Ramblers Association. He is writing articles on these matters in the R.A.F. paper published on the Island. If this spirit is typical of Malta we can understand why it is the G.C. Island.

JOHN McLoughlin, who was at the College from 1908-1914, is, we very much regret to hear, still very ill in Ware Sanatorium, Ware Park, Ware, Herts. We know he would be pleased to receive letters from his friends of school days. Meanwhile our prayers are with him.

MICHAEL TULLY is now a Sergt.-Instructor with the A.A. in India, and we hear that VICTOR SMITH is also in that part of the world, with the R.A., and is very fit.

PETER KELLEHER, we learn from his father, has made several trips to the U.S.A., Canada, Gib., and South Africa in convoy. He illustrated Marion Barker's "Water Sprite" extremely successfully, and the first edition was sold out both here and in the U.S.A. A second edition is due shortly with additional illustrations. We have not seen this book yet but hope to do so in the near future.



JAMES REYNOLDS is in Canada with the R.A.F. and is now a Sergt.-Observer. His brother TONY is an Instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals. How old are you Tony?

ROBERT ANSCOMBE's mother wrote us a letter of appreciation, for which we thank her, in which she told us that Robert is in the States and hopes to get his Wings there.

BILL BOOTH is now a 2nd Lieut. in India, still in the R.A. We are told that he is learning the native language fortified by large draughts of lemonade. This information came from an exceptionally trustworthy source but . . .

DOUGLAS SMALE was married to Miss Olwen Williams on 13th June, 1942. Congratulations, Douglas. He is now a Sergt. in the Royal Corps of Signals and is working at the War Office, endeavouring to ensure that square pegs are not put into round holes—a job, we should imagine, after his own heart.

JOHN REIDY is now in India, having been on a very secret and important course of Radio-Location.

THOMAS PALMER has now transferred to the Indian Army and is a Captain in the 27/2 Punjaub Regiment. His brother, WILLIAM, is now also in the Indian Army and is a Lieut. in the 10/2 Punjaub Regiment. The third member of the family, JAMES, is in the R.E.M.E.

MAURICE QUINLAN has been hiding his light under a bushel. Quite by accident we discovered he is very well known in Catholic Press circles, being the Assistant Editor of the "Universe."

SYDNEY RUTTER, another of our long-lost friends, is a Sub-Lieut. in the R.N.V.R. He has been on convoy duty to Iceland and Russia and was sunk in the Mediterranean. He was rescued after being in the water for some time, and those who knew him will not be surprised to hear that, despite this, he managed to take part in a game of football in Tobruk. He is now in Home Waters again and would very much like to hear from Henriques, Dunworth and Archie McPherson among others.

LEONARD CHARLTON is now at O.C.T.U. and we hope that ere long we may hear that he has obtained his commission.

DENNIS DANIELS is training to become a glider pilot in an Airborne Division.

EDGAR BILLINGTON is reported to be in the R.A.F. in Libya.

HERBERT HARRIS is still Assistant Press Officer with N.A.A.F.I. and is Chairman and producer for their H.Q. Dramatic Section. He is also writing articles for Service journals, and has written a play concerning the history of Piccadilly for the B.B.C., for production during the winter. Herbert announces his engagement to Miss Bonney Genn, an ex-Clapham Schoolgirl. Best wishes to you, Herbert.

We are glad to hear from GEORGE FRANCIS after a long silence, and to report that he is now married and has a daughter. Double congratulations, sincere, if belated! He is now serving with the R.E.M.E. His brother BERNARD is with the R.A.F., engaged on Radio Location, and is also now married. Again, congratulations!



HUGH O'DONOHUE, we regret to learn, was taken seriously ill on board ship and disembarked in South Africa. He is now back in England but, unfortunately, is still a very long way from recovery. We shall remember him in our prayers.

MICHAEL O'DONOHUE, son of our erstwhile and hardworking secretary, is in Canada, where he hopes to obtain his Wings.

EDWARD GANDY is now a Captain in the Intelligence Corps in India, after being at Dunkirk with the Field Security Police. He was mentioned and commended in "My first War" by Sir Basil Bartlett.

LAURENCE CROTON has been in the Middle East with the R.A.M.C. for nearly three years, and has visited Palestine, Syria, Iran and Egypt. Whilst in Palestine he had the privilege of being M.C. at the Midnight Mass at Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, 1941.

We are pleased to report that KEN RILEY is now a 2nd Lieut. with the Royal Corps of Signals, in the Middle East, and has met several Old Xaverians in Cairo. We wonder if he has developed a moustache equal to that never-to-be-forgotten one he sported in the "Creaking Chair."

BRIAN ORCHARD is continuing his medical studies and is now engaged on a course of Pathology.

DUNCAN NICHOLSON has obtained his B.Sc. in Civil Engineering and is now engaged on work for the Air Ministry. P. J. NYLAND was with him at Northampton Engineering College, but we have no further news of him.

JOHN CULLEN is in the Royal Corps of Signals. We hear that pressure of work in the army has cut short, temporarily we hope, a promising career as a writer of short stories, several of which have been published with requests for more.

BERNARD HODGES is at Worcester College, Oxford, working for a Science Degree.

We hear from FRANCIS WOODMAN that he and L. J. BELLAMY are still at the Ministry of Supply.

J. J. WILSON, our Cricket Secretary of happier days, is in a special branch of the Royal Corps of Signals.

JOHN BROWNE is a Sea Transport Officer with the rank of Lieut. in the R.N.V.R. His brother GEORGE is a Sergt. in the R.A.O.C., and has been in the Middle East for the last two years.

LESLIE DOWELL was married at St. Matthias Church, Worcester Park, to Miss Vera Miller on 29th June, 1942. Congratulations, Leslie! He is now a Sergt. in the L.A.A., R.A. His younger brother BERNARD is now serving with him in the same unit. We have heard from the same source that DESMOND COATES, who is a prisoner-of-war in Germany, is keeping well.

MICHAEL MOREY who, we understand, is still in the Royal Corps of Signals, was married in April, 1941, to Miss Mary Mullen. This should have been included in our previous issue. Congratulations and apologies, Michael!

PAT GORNER is in his final year at Liverpool University and hopes to obtain his B.A. (History) next year.



We are pleased to hear that RAY BROOKS has now recovered from his operation and rejoined his unit. He received his commission some time ago.

DESMOND TRAVIS has received his Wings in Canada and is now a Pilot Officer. We hear from his father that he is expected home shortly.

ARTHUR GAMBRELL is in the navy in West African waters.

Amplifying our remarks in the previous issue, we have now heard from PETER RODWELL that he was in the siege of Tobruk, and was among the first to break out when it was relieved. He has been promoted Captain and is now back in England.

ARTHUR HUGHES is still with the Admiralty despite strenuous efforts to obtain his release to join a fighting unit.

E. D. GREEN is now on a course with the Royal Corps of Signals and is thoroughly enjoying Army life, so we are told.

Many members will have seen the photograph, published some time ago in the London papers, of a remarkable operation performed on a British gunner at a field ambulance post in the Western Desert. A live anti-tank shell was extracted by a New Zealand surgeon. How many realised that the gunner in question was our old friend, LOUIS RADLMEYER? We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

JOHN WOOLLARD, we are glad to hear, is now fit and out of hospital again, and ran into ARTHUR TUNMER recently in Alexandria. By the way, John is now a Bombardier.

TONY DUPRE, we understand, is a 2nd-Lieutenant with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, and we would welcome further information.

RENE MENDEZ is studying medicine at St. Mary's Hospital.

Flying Officer KEVIN O'SULLIVAN has announced his engagement to Miss Mary Davies. He has been so busy popping from England to Algiers and then back again that we hesitate to hazard a guess as to where he is at the moment. His brother PHILIP, who has been in South Africa for two years now, is a Sergeant, and has announced his engagement to John Gleeson's sister, Eileen. MAURICE has been discharged from the Army owing to knee trouble; he is engaged to Miss Joan Hughes. Congratulations to you all! Is it to be a triple wedding?

RON COURSE is now in the R.A.F. as an Air Gunner, having transferred from the R.A., in which he was C.S.M.

FRANCIS ROSE has announced his engagement to Miss Wendy Arnup of East Malling. Best wishes, Francis! He is now a research assistant at the Imperial College, specialising in Agricultural Research.

We were particularly pleased to make contact with D. H. F. WILSON, F.R.G.S., F.R.A.I (known at school as Hugh Douglas Lloyd) who was at the College from 1904/7. He is now Overseas Manager of Crosse and Blackwell, Ltd. He has travelled extensively in South America and the East Indian Archipelago, and has made a thorough study of the people and conditions in those parts of the world.