

THE VICTORIAN



1996

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL

Patron - HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, KG, KT, OM, GBE



The School provides boarding school education for the children of both Scottish Servicemen and women and those who have served in Scotland. Set in 45 acres of beautiful Perthshire countryside, QVS is easily accessible by road, rail or air.

Pupils may be registered for entry from the age of 7 and will normally be admitted to Primary 7. Applications must reach the School by 31 December, so that they may be considered for the Admissions Board which convenes in February. However, consideration will also be given, in particular circumstances, to applications made after these dates.

The School offers a wide curriculum following the Scottish educational system and includes Standard Grades, Highers, SYS and SCOTVEC modules. The career links with the services are strong, but increasingly pupils move on to Higher and Further Education. Pastoral care is afforded a very high priority along with careers guidance and personal and social education. In addition there is a very full programme of sporting, cultural and spiritual development.

Queen Victoria School is a unique boarding school and, as such, looks to achieve the best that is possible academically for all its pupils. The School prides itself also on developing the pupil in the widest possible sense and, as well as academically, aims to achieve success in activities such as sport, music, and other extra-curricular areas. The traditional ceremonial side gives Queen Victoria School a very special and unique dimension.

For further information, write to The Headmaster, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0JY

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PATRON

HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH KG KT OM GBE

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School Staff

Headmaster - B Raine, BA (Hons), PGCE
Deputy Headmaster - L D Clark, BSc (Hons), BA PGCE
Asst Head Teacher - Mrs A Hailey, MA, T Cert

Housemasters

Wavell - G D M Carroll, BA, DCE
Cunningham - G Borking, BEd
Trenchard - W G Webster, BA (Hons), BD, Dip Ed
Haig - J S Laing, Dip Tech Edn

Principal Teachers

M J Boast, BA (Asst Housemaster Trenchard)
C Bruce, MA (Hons)
D Garden, BSc (Hons), M Phil, Dip Ed
D Gilhooly, BA (Hons), Dip Ed
Mrs J Howie MA (Hons), Dip Ed
A M Kirk MA (Hons), PGCE, Dip Ed Tech
J S Laing, Dip Tech Edn (Housemaster Haig)
P S Onslow, FLCM, LRSM, A Cert CM, Cert Ed
D Stewart BSc (Hons) (Assistant Housemaster Cunningham)

Teaching Staff

G J Beattie, MA, M Ed, PGCE, (Assistant Housemaster Haig), (Assistant Principal Teacher)
Miss E Blackwood, BEd
T A Dale, BSc, Cert Ed (Assistant Principal Teacher)
I Dow, BEd (Hons), T Cert, Dip SEN (Deputy Housemaster Wavell)
D Frize, MA, BA (Hons), PGCE
R Hannah, BSc, Dip Ed
D P Kelling BSc (Hons), Dip Ed Tech (Assistant Principal Teacher)
T King B Ed (Hons), Cert Ed, DRSAM PERNCN (Assistant Housemaster Wavell)
J Martindale, BSc (Hons), PGCE
Miss C Milligan, BSc (Hons), PGCE (S)
Miss J Scott, BEd (Hons) PE
Mrs L A Shannon, MA (Hons), PGCE
T Shannon, Dip Tech Edn, HND Eng Mech, (Director of Outdoor Pursuits)
The Rev J Silcox, BD, Cert PS, CF, TD (School Chaplain)

Part-Time Teachers

Mrs S Johns, Dip Ed
M A Martin, BA, Cert Comm Ed, AITD
Mrs L Thornton, Dip Art & Design Grad CE
G J N Willman, MA (Hons)

Visiting Music Teachers

A Bell, DRSAM, ABSM, Cert Ed (Woodwind)
R Donaldson, BA, (RSAMD) (Percussion)
Miss A Ferguson, BA (RSAMD) (Piano)
Mrs R M Jones, BA (Hons), LTCL, ALCM, Cert Ed (Brass)
Mrs R Series, GRNCM, ARNCM, Cert Ed (Guitar)

Housematrons

Wavell - Miss M L Chalmers
Cunningham - Mrs J B Kean
Trenchard - Mrs M Willey
Haig - Mrs C R Tomkins

Hospital Staff

Resident Hospital Sister - Mrs C A C Fitzgerald, RGN, RSCN
Nurse - Miss B McNeil, SEN

Bursar

Col A R Tapp FIMgt

Estate Manager

Lt Col J Sharp MBE

Uniformed Staff

School Sergeant Major - D Duthie (late Scots Guards)
Pipe Major - A T Dippie BEM (late Black Watch)
Drum Major - H W G Tomkins (late Gordons)
Highland Dancing Instructor - Mrs E M MacDonald

The start of the 1995/96 Session was made all the brighter because of the much improved examination results. At Standard Grade 100% achieved the target of at least 3 passes in Grades 1 - 4 and 82% achieved the target of at least 5 passes at 1 - 3. The latter result was up from 74% last year but what was more significant and pleasing was that Grades 1 and 2 were up by 454%. In Higher 69% of our presentations were in the A to C category as opposed to 47% last year; however, the figure of those who got B's was up by over 50% and out of those who took 3 or more Highers 53% got at least 3 in the A - C category. These were very encouraging statistics and both pupils and teachers should be congratulated for their respective efforts in helping to bring about such an improvement.

The School is committed to raising the overall academic achievement of pupils and strategies are being examined to achieve this objective. In addition, management have taken on board recommendations made by HMI in the Triennial Review. Thus we are examining our provision of Learning Support and reviewing the content, quantity and arrangements for prep. At present we are using a system of supportive prep, if required, and we will tackle prep from different angles, ie from the teacher with more systematic and rigorous work set and corrected; from the supervision angle and from the pupils' context.

We have responded quickly to another suggestion made by HMI, which was to look at the use of the library. Although this was on our agenda the Triennial Review gave added impetus to our thoughts. Thus a Chartered

Librarian, Mrs Sheerin was appointed in April 1996 and an extension will be built on to the library this summer. The aim is to improve reading skills and reading overall within the



Headmaster's Notes

School; to develop the library as a multi-media resource; to involve the library and librarian in the curriculum through close liaison with Principal Teachers and Teachers; and to develop the career section and provision within the library.

Having updated our curricular Guidance of S5 and S6 we await more detailed plans and courses connected with Higher Still. Meanwhile, all pupils moving from Standard Grade S4 to S5 Higher and SCOTVEC and on to S6 are interviewed and guided appropriately as far as courses are concerned. Mr Clark and the Board of Studies not only ensure that this area is appropriately dealt with but also those moving from S2 onto S3.

Following on the good work that has already been accomplished in creating links with parents we have established regular communications with them eg Initial Pupil Reports, Course Choice Booklets, more frequent Parent/Teacher Meetings, regular information letters and

latterly a termly Diary of Events. In addition, the Parents' Association has been well received and a Liaison Committee of parents has been established which will meet more regularly and help the Headmaster and the School to better understand and meet the wishes of parents. School events are targeted as opportunities to bring parents into the School and meet staff.

We have continued to improve our marketing with further visits to bases and extended our advertising eg the Officer magazine and many others. In addition, we have just taken on a marketing company, Davis Design, to produce a new School brochure and if we are happy with their work we will widen their remit. A new School video is desperately needed!

Allied to marketing we held our first Open Day for prospective pupils and parents in September 1995, mainly connected with the introduction of co-education in August 1996. However, this proved to be a great success and we would like to continue this idea. To what extent the improved and more proactive marketing has had a real impact on numbers as well as the extended eligibility, it is difficult to say, but at the Admissions Board this February, unfortunately, we had to turn away more pupils than we were able to take.

Certainly, the move towards co-education has given a real boost to the School and we look forward to the arrival of our first girls in August. We have now almost completed the refurbishment of Wavell in preparation for this. There is very little left to do in the House itself and the final stage will be an extension which will be built by 1997 and complete the girls accommodation.

Another piece of the jigsaw was completed when Miss Murdoch was appointed recently as Housemistress. She is a well-qualified and highly experienced teacher who was a Housemistress at St Leonard's as well as a Head of Department and Deputy Head at other schools.

The end of this Session will, therefore, see the last of the all-male School roles and as Miss Murdoch moves into Wavell so Mr Carroll will move out and into Trenchard. This coincides with Mr Webster's retirement from Trenchard after 14 years as a Housemaster, which is a long stint to be doing such an onerous job. Mr Webster is to be congratulated for looking after so many pupils so well and seeing them through his House. His House matron, Mrs Willey is not only retiring from the House but the School altogether at the end of this Session. Mrs Willey has been House matron in Trenchard for the last 5 years and she will be missed by all for whom she has cared.

As always there has been a considerable amount of building development and refurbishment over the year, which includes: the remainder of the drive being tarmaced, the final phase of drainage renewal, carpeting of classrooms, refurbishment in a number of areas of the School, a new classroom installed in the Reception Area, drainage of the pitches and a major refurbishment of the swimming pool. I am also looking to gain agreement and funding to build a new boarding house which will fit in with further development and refurbishment of Cunningham and Trenchard.

This is necessary to fit in with modern requirements in accommodation and to move the School forward into the 21st Century.

I mentioned last year that "the highlight of the year" may



well prove to be the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers tour to Nova Scotia. This was very much the case and I can confirm that the Tattoo in Halifax is a magnificent event and there is no doubt that QVS boys were good ambassadors for the School and Scotland. The tour was a great success and all involved can be justly proud of the boys' performance.

The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers continue to advertise the School in the best possible light. There was considerable success for the latter at the Argyllshire Gathering, including the Senior Team winning the Alistair McLean Challenge Cup. Dancers also competed well at the UKA Championships and, in particular, Paul Kane, Christopher Niven and Christopher Harris had notable success. Junior Dancers also performed creditably at the Butterstone Competition in the Spring Term with best performances coming from Barry Gillies, Ross Stevenson and Liam Bridgeman. Apart from many small engagements and Parade Services the

highlights for the Band might well be Beating the Retreat at HMS COCHRANE, playing at the Caird Hall with the 51st Highland Brigade in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and playing at Murrayfield before the Western Samoan, French and English games. The Pipe Band even found time to make a CD in the Spring Term. However, it should be noted that individual pipers and dancers do contribute substantially to the local community by taking part in a variety of engagements and, recently, we have seen how important community spirit is.

The 1st XV deserve a special mention for a magnificent season in which they lost only 2 games and reached the semi-finals of the Scottish Schools Cup. Stephen MacKinnon, John Nelson, James Cornelius, Andrew Blackhurst and Alex Smith are to be congratulated for representing Midlands U.18's and Alistair MacKinnon and Andrew Boyle the U.16's. In addition, Stephen MacKinnon and John Nelson were both selected to play for Scottish Schoolboys. At the U.15 level John-Ross McCulloch and Darren Robertson were invited to join the National training weekend and our U.13's combined side did well in the Jubilee Cup.

In the CCF the Highland Tac Team came 3rd in their competition and everyone in the CCF presented themselves well for the Biennial Review with Captain McEwen. In ski-ing the teams won the 1st League and came 2nd in the B League in the Central Region Schools at Tillicoultry and Iain Murray came 3rd in his first year in the Senior event. The "A" Team

also came 12th out of 22 teams in the Scottish Schools Dry Ski Slope Championships in October.

Paul Kane, an SV pupil, won his division in the Scottish Small Bore Rifle Association Winter League and was selected for the Prone National Junior Squad for Scotland - the only schoolboy in the squad. In Cross-Country the Wavell Team again won the Longridge Towers Inter-Schools Cross Country Competition with Michael Brown and Kristopher Reid coming 2nd and 4th respectively. Football in the School continues to do well and we lost in the final of the U.14 Perthshire Cup and are through to the final of the U.18's.

In debating our Senior and Junior Teams have been extremely active and did well in a number of competitions. The time and effort spent, as well as the experience gained, at last bore fruit when the "B" Team of Craig Donnelly and Paul Matuszczyk won through to the ESU Area Semi-Finals. It was also pleasing to see Ian Ramsey and James Cornelius winning Flying Scholarships, Dale McMenemy being highly commended for his entry into the Scottish Association for Language

Teaching and Alistair Thomson being selected for the final board for an Army Scholarship.

On the staff side it came as rather a blow at the end of the summer term to learn that Mr Halyburton wanted to move out to Majorca to join his wife. The timing meant that we had to have a temporary Principal Teacher until a full-time appointment could be made. We were indeed fortunate to have Mr Jones for the Autumn and Winter Terms and it was good to see the Brass Ensemble being used on a regular basis in Chapel. Mr Halyburton's full-time replacement is now Mr Onslow, who joined us in January from Aiglon College, Switzerland where he was already Director of Music.

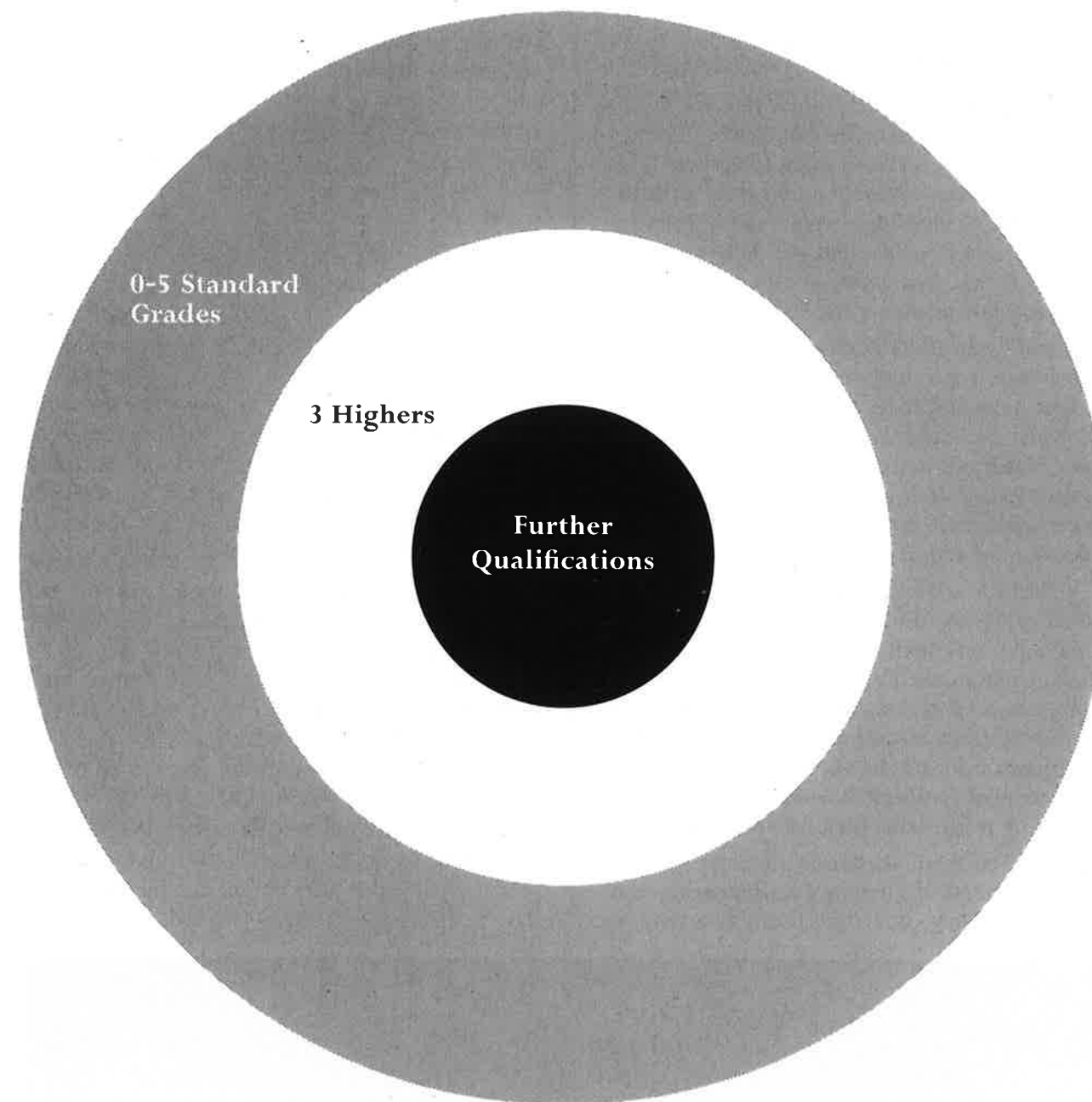
Malcolm Ferguson, our GAP student from New Zealand left us in December after a very successful year in Wavell and the School in general. His replacement is Alasdair Saunders from Sydney, Australia.

Mr Willman retires at the end of this Session after 31 years as a Latin Master and Principal Teacher. Unfortunately, Latin has more or less phased itself out and thus he will not be replaced. He will, however, be very much

missed.

My second year as Headmaster has convinced me that there is terrific potential at QVS. It is the job of the whole staff to ensure that this potential is tapped and that we continue to set high targets. However, it is also incumbent on the pupils to realise, and fully take on board, that education is a two-way process. I do believe that we have improved the work ethos but there is considerable room for improvement and I would like to see pupils taking more responsibility for their own development and future progress.

As a boarding school and Government Agency we are bombarded from all sides which makes life at QVS very challenging. I am pleased to say that the staff continue to respond well to this challenge and the demands exerted by the change process through which we are living. Once again, I would like to pay tribute to all staff at whatever level for their contribution: there is no doubt in my mind that QVS continues to provide a valuable service for the children of Armed Services personnel.



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Bursar's Notes

This has been another very busy year for all the support staff and I cannot see that there will be any relief in the future. This is right and proper if we are to enable the School to continue with the fundamental changes that have been introduced, with still more to come, that will help to further develop the academic, pastoral and accommodation aspects of the School.

Last year the Estates Manager and the Maintenance Supervisor managed over 500 works services - ranging from a few pounds to tens of thousands - and there will be a similar number this year. We have also been able to equip our industrial staff with a number of labour saving devices which will enable them to carry out their responsibilities more quickly and efficiently.

Our main works effort this year will be going into an extension to and general upgrading of the Library, the construction of an extension to Wavell House, some minor improvements in Trenchard House and, not forgetting the Staff, continuation of the refurbishment of kitchens in married quarters. In preparation for the future we shall be planning the all-weather sports pitch, a new boarding house and major refurbishment of Cunningham and Trenchard Houses.

The arrival of girls in August has kept our stores team busy ordering clothing, arranging

tailoring contracts for red jackets and kilted skirts and getting in the many other bits and pieces that suddenly come to mind. If, as we expect, co-education is introduced smoothly, the success will have been due, in no small measure, to those who have worked with so much dedication behind the scenes.

Mrs Evelyn Young left us in October after 20 years at the School - latterly employed as our Personnel Officer. We shall miss her hard work and loyalty and wish her well for the future. Many will also remember Johnnie Miller who has left us after almost 13 years. His impressive upright, soldierly appearance was a constant reminder to us that first impressions count! We welcome Andy MacDonald and Sandy Laird to the General Hands Club and hope they enjoy their time at the School.

Finally, in my ceremonial hat, I would like to say a few words about the Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers. The Headmaster has said how well they perform and the good work they do. I shall never forget their most impressive performances and conduct in Nova Scotia - neither will the thousands who were lucky to see them. But the high profile events are just the tip of the iceberg. I am most grateful to them for the smaller appearances - the old peoples homes, the piper for a wedding and many others - they give so much pleasure with such little reward and the pride they have in themselves is totally justified.



John Willman



John has been at QVS since September 1964 which by anybody's standards, deserves a long-service medal. Another remarkable record is that he has not had a day off in all that time. He is a graduate of St Andrew's University and although he read Classics there, he contributed substantially to the badminton and tennis university teams and less intensively to golf, table-tennis and squash. His prowess at racquet sports has always been notable and he has coached boys at QVS throughout his years here in badminton, squash and tennis, as well as playing other members of staff in all of those games.

A measure of John's competitiveness in racquet sports can be seen by a comment to me by Ben Paterson when he was giving me a briefing on staff just before I came here. Apart from some very complimentary remarks about John, his major comment was on the frustration of not being able to beat John at squash - this seemed to be much more important than anything else!

I gather that John also took boys fishing in his early days - another of his great loves in life - and coached the S1 rugby team for many years. At some stage it seems that the fishing began to take a back seat and another great passion emerged - gardening. His next door neighbour for a number of years, Ben Paterson, told me once again of his frustration at having lived next to what was a wilderness for some years, and being quite satisfied with his own garden, when almost overnight he saw a magnificent

garden being produced before his very eyes. Obviously when John sets his mind to something, nothing gets in his way and now his garden is almost like the Chelsea Flower Show.

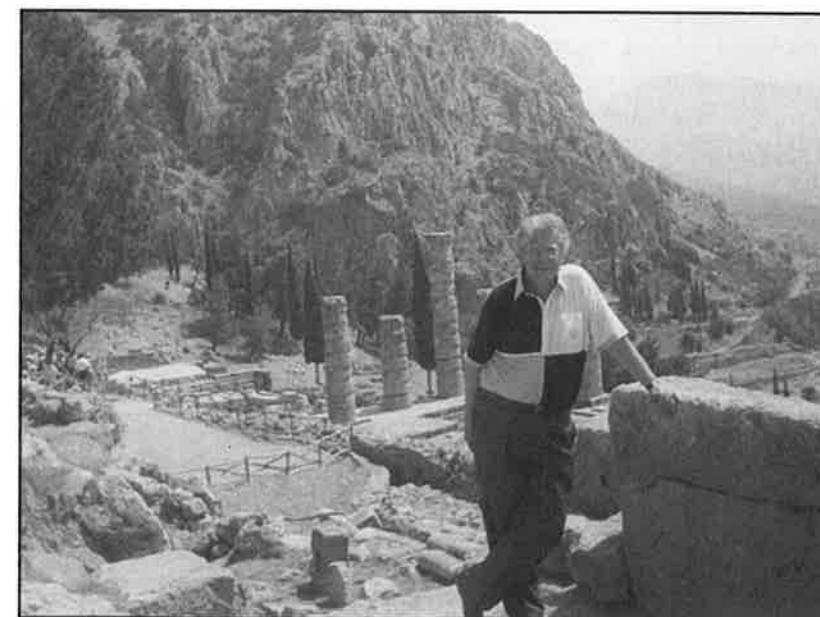
John and Rhona and their three now grown-up children have obviously been a close happy family and no doubt got used to John driving the family car in a very sedate fashion. However, they may not have appreciated that once out of the family car and environment he drove the School car and mini-bus like a bat out of hell.

John, who has a dry, quiet but telling sense of humour, has given excellent service to QVS in the widest possible sense, but primarily as a teacher of Latin, as Principal Teacher and as acting Deputy Head for two years. John is an enthusiastic and dramatic teacher as can be verified by anybody who has walked past his classroom and heard the noises emanating from therein. In addition, he has always achieved excellent results.

Although John took early retirement last year he stayed on as a supply teacher for Latin this year. Sadly, for John and the School, Latin no longer seems to be a viable option and so John is leaving altogether at the end of this Session.

We wish John and Rhona good health and happiness in the years ahead.

BR



Cunningham Notes

While considering the content of this article I thought about who the readers would be. Who is this directed at? In the main it will be Parents, Boys and Staff. What an opportunity to promote the House. So here goes.

Some of the extra curricula activities by the house have been, bowling, cinema trips, shopping to Edinburgh, Rugby Internationals, a camping weekend at Aviemore, panto at Kings Glasgow, discos - the list could go on. In the house we regularly have video nights and ice cream nights usually on a Saturday. So for all those who are curious as to how we spend our funds, all these activities are either partially or fully funded by the house.

The camping trip to Aviemore was enjoyable if a touch trying as it was quite cold and we had a howling gale on Saturday night. It put me in mind of "Three men in a boat" where the reality didn't quite match up to our original idea. The cinema was for 15 only, the ice rink was curling, a tent blew down and the boys went blue when they jumped in Loch Morlich.

"Babes in the Wood" was excellent with Cannon and Ball in fine form and Jimmy Logan superb as the Dame and, unlike last year, we saw the whole show. The disco before Christmas was cancelled because the girls' schools which usually support us were unable to attend, but the spring term disco was a resounding success.

On a more in-house theme, the pool table yet again requires recovering and we need new pool balls as some miscreant has taken two, and yet again we are looking for a new Assistant with Mr Frize seeking quieter pastures. My thanks go to the House Staff who help ensure the smooth running of Cunningham and to Mr Stewart who has helped in the absence of Mr Frize, and to Mr Duthie for all his assistance. We have also had Andrew Blackhurst, Craig Donnelly and Peter Clark from Haig and their help has been very welcome.

On a more sombre note, we are trying hard to maintain the standards expected from the boys in the house and, regretfully, on occasion serious action has had to be taken. However I am sure we are fully supported by all in our pursuit of excellence in our academic and social education.

With summer and Grand Day rapidly approaching we look forward to the Bar-B-Q and a long and restful holiday.

Mr Borking

Trenchard Notes

Last year as we went to press Trenchard won the all-School Fun Day organised by Mr Dow. That put the icing on the cake of a very successful year in which Trenchard seemed to win everything. However, these things go in cycles and we assume nothing in consequence: the opposition is always hard to beat. All that I can say at this stage is that we have made a good start.

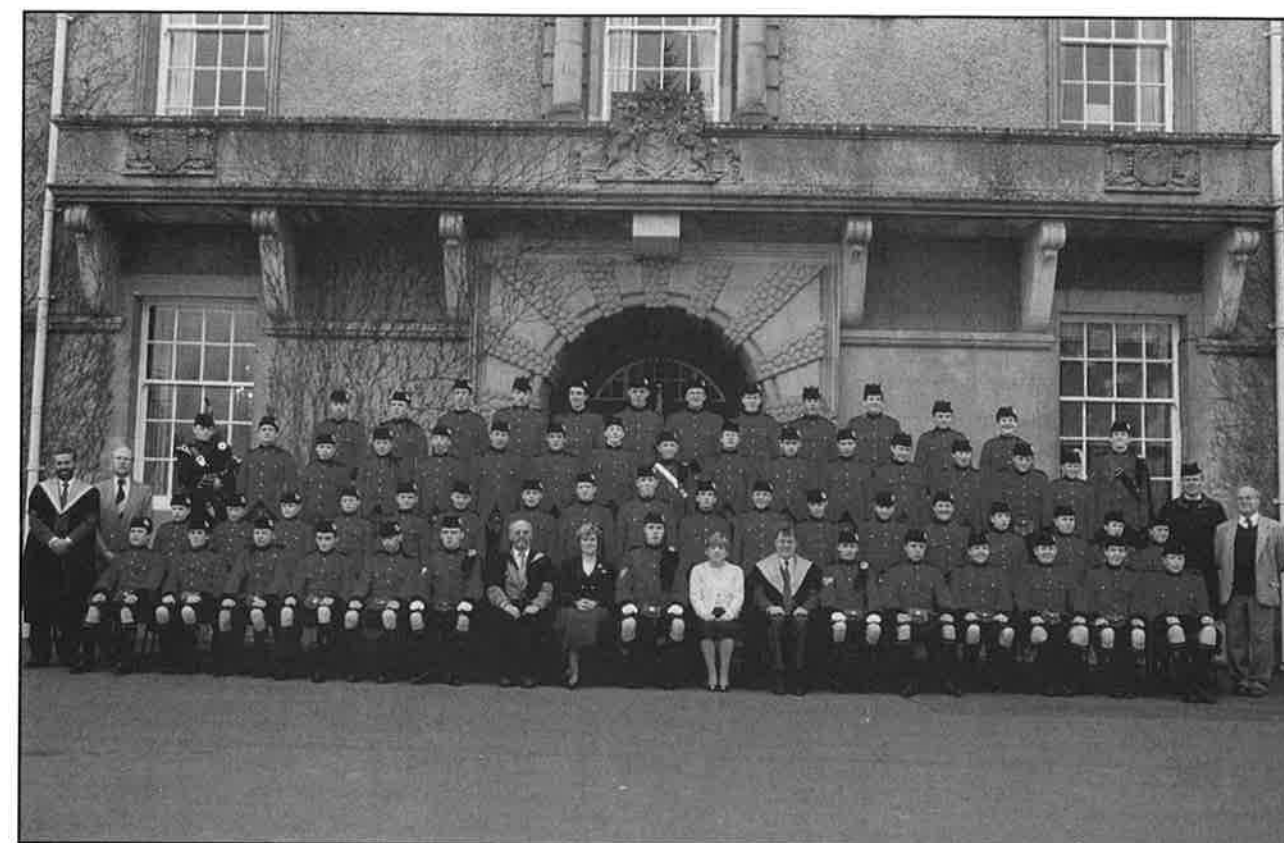
Next year, following the arrival of girls in the School and a re-positioning of staff, Trenchard will be under new management. I shall be retiring as Housemaster and Mrs Willey, Trenchard's Matron, is also retiring. We should like to wish our successors well and hope they find the House as enjoyable as we have.

Our Constitution, a somewhat enigmatic but democratically sound document, will be torn up at a ceremonial dinner on June 16th. We are proud that its essential idea (an ancient one going back as least as far as the Witan) that the House members embody and are, therefore, the representatives of its rules, has not lost its validity for practical politics - which is what communal living entails. We think our Constitution has been the model to follow and it was certainly franked by the Inspectorate After the dinner comes the barbecue. Your sons like eating!

One of the pleasantest aspects of being Housemaster has been to see the increasing involvement in the life of the House of parents, many of whom now address me by my first name. Support has been forthcoming for all sorts of enterprises and charity efforts. Generous gifts of books and equipment have also come our way through the same source. Developments I should like to see are a closer link with the business community and a new link with an overseas institution to promote correspondence and exchanges.

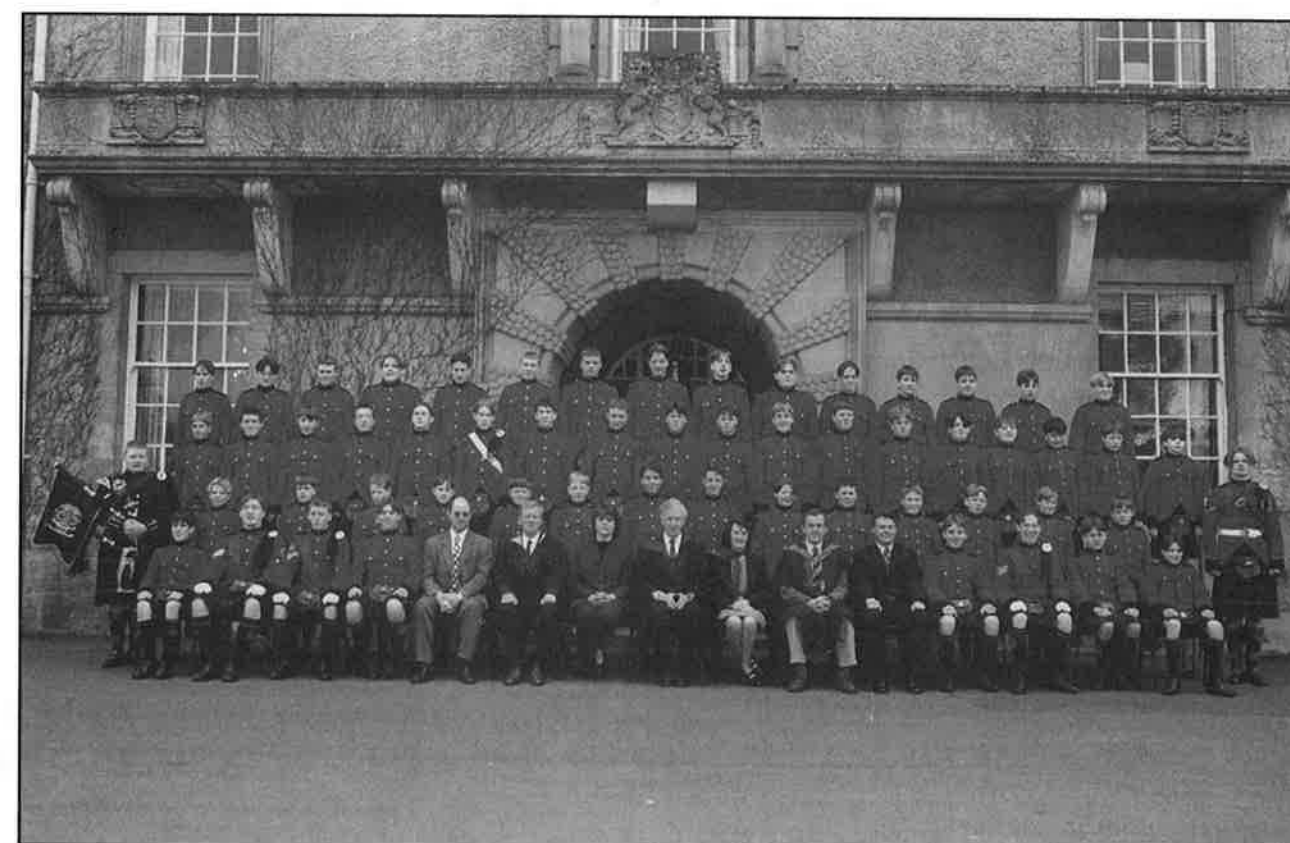
My final word this time is about the staff - all those, that is, who work in Trenchard. I cannot say enough to commend the quality of the contribution.

Mr Webster



Cunningham House

Trenchard House



Mrs Willey

Mrs Willey joined Trenchard in October 1991. The School wishes it had been earlier: the boys want her to stay - unfortunate on two counts. However, she is due to leave the School in October and this summer term is her swan song.

As an historical aside, after the interview when Mrs Willey was appointed, Brigadier Tweedy remarked, "I think you've got a good 'un", and so it turned out. She took over and further refined our self directed work team model and along with Mrs Miller and Miss McInroy made participation fun. It has been refreshing to have someone on board who does not need a system as a guide or a committee as a thought process.

As regards care - I am addressing parents here - I do not think your charges could have been in better hands. Mrs Willey

has out-discoed all those who fancied their chances on the dance floor: her wit has rendered challengers speechless: her cooking has been the balm of sore hearts and her laugh the disarming of the scruffiest recalcitrant. Her involvement in the life of the House and the School has exemplified a commitment beyond any duty. She has been approachable and un-stuffy, without letting standards slip. Is it surprising that even senior boys continue to beat a path to her door?

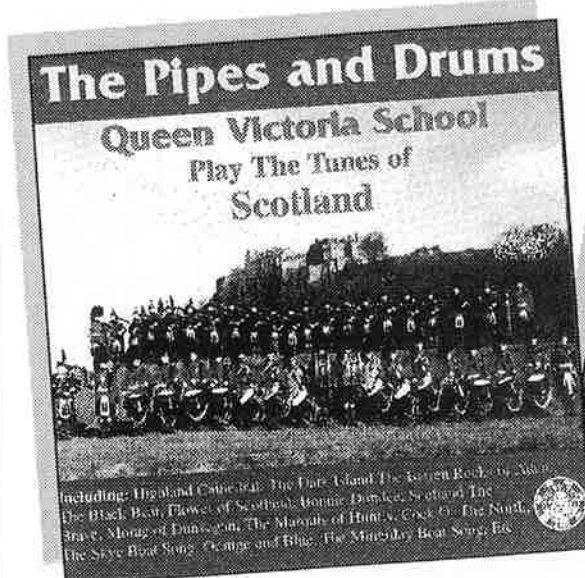
Mrs Willey came to us with no previous experience of boarding schools, a qualification I found in her favour, but also something that has made her achievement all the more remarkable. *Rasa avis in terris* Enjoy your retirement. And ... Thank you.

Bill Webster

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Rugby 1995 - 96



First XV

The first part of the 1995/96 season, up to the October break, was certainly a most successful one. Starting with a 34 - 3 victory against Perth Academy, further victories were notched up against Strathallan 15 - 12, Fettes 27 - 0, Merchiston 33 - 0 and Watsons 31 - 5.

Against **Perth** it was evident that the strength of the side was in the pack and in playing a wide, expansive, fifteen man game as the back row of Ross Seaton, Paul Kane and James Cornelius showed, even at this stage, that they would be a force to be reckoned with both in defence and attack. Alex Smith also started where he left off last season with a superb dummy and an incisive break to open the score. Alex's direction of the team from fly-half was also to play a major influence throughout the season.

The game against **Strathallan** started well with 2 tries from Chris Kerr and one from John Nelson. All three showed an excellent combination of forwards and back play, as well as good continuity. Sadly, at 15 - 0 just after half-time we lost our way and, with it, almost the game. Our naivety and a lack of killer instinct and fitness allied to Strathallan's determination led to a nail-biting finish.

Fettes was remarkable in that at half-time the score was

0 - 0 and we appeared to be still suffering from our hang-over against Strathallan. Fortunately, the forwards woke up and we scored 5 tries in the second half. The third was probably the best. It started from a Fettes lineout which we won. Richard Givens came into the line from full back and cut through but was held eventually; Richard went to ground and we produced good ruck ball; Andy Denholm (scrum half) went blind and the forwards took it on again and produced another good ruck ball; the ball was transferred swiftly to Alex Smith who jinked through to score.

Our victory over **Merchiston** was certainly a most satisfying one in that we took the game to them in a most positive manner, scoring 19 points in 26 minutes with 2 tries by John Leitch and one by Paul Kane. Unfortunately, for the remainder of the first half and most of the second, we went to sleep and then within the last 10 minutes picked up 2 more tries through Tommy Wilson, who was put away by Alex just outside our 22 and another by Alex himself capitalising on excellent work by Paul Kane and Andy Denholm from a scrum.

Our first victory over **Watson's** was also brought about by some excellent interplay between forwards and backs and some powerful running by John Leitch and Tommy Wilson. Remarkably almost all of our scoring was over by half-time.

After the October break we were brought down to reality with 2 very close games against **Robert Gordon's 2nd XV** (12 - 7) and **Lomond XV** (11 - 6), both of which we could easily have lost. The former was by far and away our worst performance of the season and we allowed ourselves to be rattled badly. In

addition, we ended up with injuries before Lomond which meant that we entered this game with a depleted side. However, those who came into the side performed well - none better than Geoffrey Greenhowe and Michael Crease. At 11 - 0 ahead we appeared to be doing well but Lomond produced a very gutsy second half and it was only good tackling and defence when it really mattered, that secured the victory.

The next two games against **St Columba's** (43 - 0) and **Portobello** (69 - 0) illustrated that this year's fifteen did have the capacity to score a lot of points. Ball-handling skills and ball retention were improving and as a result six and eleven tries were scored respectively.

The game against **Rannoch** was cancelled due to a flu epidemic at Rannoch and so our last "friendly" match before Christmas was against **Morrison's Academy**. This was a tough game, a very gutsy performance and a hard fought victory. Our first score came from Ross Seaton as a result of a well-executed free kick. Morrisons and ourselves swapped penalties which brought the score to 10 - 3 after 28 minutes. From another free kick Paul Kane made the initial break and set up Andy Blackhurst for another good try. With the conversion by Alex this brought the score to 17 - 3. The last score before half-time came from Stephen MacKinnon taking one against the head at the scrum, Andy putting Alex away on the blind side who chipped through and scored. Unfortunately, we were unable to sustain the pace and quality and the final score was 22 - 8.

Thus we had arrived at Christmas and, including Cup games, we were unbeaten. Sadly, this was short-lived after Christmas when we lost our first game of the season (10 - 17) to **Dundee High School** 1st XV. This was a game we could and should have won but we seemed to be somewhat reticent in taking them on and our tackling, at times, in the middle of the field was disappointing. However, we came back twice and, in between, should have scored another try which may have taken us clear eventually. This and the second try again illustrated that, at their best, this side could play some very good and attractive rugby. The second try came from a break in our 22 with Andy Denholm setting up Alex: there followed great interplay between Alex, Chris Kerr, John Leitch and Alex again; following a good ruck ball in the middle of the field, in their 22, the ball was moved blind and Chris Kerr set up Stephen MacKinnon to score. Great end-to-end rugby!

Northern Ireland

Our friendly matches continued at the February exeat weekend with a short tour to **Northern Ireland**. Here we were hosted by **Campbell College** and **Coleraine Inst.** Although the rugby was perhaps not as competitive as we would have liked, due to both sides having Cup Competitions that weekend, our two victories of 30 - 7 and 36 - 0, respectively, did illustrate what I have stated above. Considering that all 22 on tour played in both games it was good test of our reserve strength and it did give some valuable experience to those who were not regulars in the 1st XV. The power of our pack was evident against Campbell as we ran up 22 points in the first half with 2 tries by Stephen MacKinnon and one by John Nelson and James Cornelius each. All 3 showed their class in this game with James Cornelius doing a magnificent job both in cover defence and attack.

Unfortunately, we appeared to be rather jaded against Coleraine and injuries added further to our discomfort - the one to Mark Harris being the most untimely, as he was emerging as a great find on tour. Despite this we did manage to score 6 tries with 2 apiece for Alex, Andy and Paul Kane.

The last game of the season was against **Robert Gordon's** who played a mixed 1st/2nd XV against us. Having played so badly against the 2nd XV this 41 - 10

victory was a most satisfying performance, in that we played some scintillating rugby at pace and our angles of running were much improved. Seven tries were scored and all illustrated so well the way the team had developed and the confidence that existed which allowed for great innovation and ball-handling.

Our progress in the **Scottish Schools Cup** was almost as good as last year and my feeling is that the rugby we played in beating **Dunfermline** 23 - 3, **Galashiels Academy** 23 - 10 and **Hillhead - Jordanhill** 20 - 0 was some of the best, most disciplined, quality rugby we played all season. All 3 were very hard and uncompromising and relied very much on brave-hearted defence. There were also one or two memorable, great tries e.g. 1) the first against Dunfermline which started by good pressure and tackling on their line from which we won a ruck; Andy moved the ball to Alex who set Richard Givens away on the burst; he was held and went to ground; we rucked and the ball was driven on by the forwards; it was rucked again and Andy fed Andrew Blackhurst on the blind side and James Cornelius was there to take it on and score. 2) The second try against Galashiels Academy started with good line out ball from Andrew Blackhurst and the ball being transferred swiftly

along the backs to the left where we there in numbers to ruck quickly; the ball was moved back right to the open and there was good interplay between Alex, Richard Givens, James Cornelius and Andrew Blackhurst; another ruck followed and the ball was moved left and Alex fed Stephen MacKinnon to score. Winning ball, retaining it, good angled running and immense support play particularly from James Cornelius in the Hillhead - Jordanhill game were key features in these games. Unfortunately, against **St Aloysius** we were unable to reproduce the same disciplined and dominating type of rugby and thus went out of the Scottish Schools Cup at the semi-final stage losing 12 - 18.

Thus the season finished with a record as follows:-

Played 18 Won 16 Lost 2 Points for 492 Against 106.

This is a very impressive record and even with, at that stage, one defeat, we were in contention for the team of the season organised by the Scotsman. There are, of course, many factors that make a good side and, certainly, we have had mobility, speed, maturity, strength, athleticism, footballing talent and sheer determination.

In general, the forwards performed well: Alastair MacKinnon's improved mobility and crunching tackling was noticeable; Craig Cunningham and Andrew Boyle did well as 4th years in difficult areas of the scrum; Michael Crease proved to be a versatile

asset; Andrew Blackhurst recently converted from Highland Dancing was a revelation in the line out and increasingly competitive in the loose; the back row - Ross Seaton, Paul Kane and James Cornelius were equally impressive constructively as they were destructively. Lastly, the power-house front row (Geoffrey Greenhowe, Stephen MacKinnon and John Nelson) matured in stature and presence as the season progressed. In particular I would like to thank Stephen MacKinnon on the excellent job he did not only in leading the forwards but as Captain this season.



The backs, at times, showed great flair and increasingly became innovative. Our mercurial full back/inside-centre Richard Givens proved as difficult and elusive for the opposition to read as indeed our own players; Danny McDade and John Leitch, our experienced centres, became an established and very effective partnership in midfield and we had pace on the wings with Chris Kerr and Tommy Wilson. One of the key areas in rugby is always the half-backs and once again we were blessed with an excellent pair in Andy Denholm and Alex Smith.

As well as team success, the 1995/96 season will also be remembered for individual success. Alastair MacKinnon and Andrew Boyle both played for Midlands U.16 and James Cornelius, Andrew Blackhurst, Alex Smith, John Nelson and Stephen MacKinnon all played for the U.18s. John and Stephen were also chosen to represent Scottish Schoolboys. In total this represents a significant individual and collective achievement for Queen Victoria School rugby.

Once again I would like to pay tribute to all the school coaches who helped to develop the game within the



School. I would like to thank Mr Clark for looking after the 2nd XV, the Wavell coaches for instilling such enthusiasm at the grass roots and all those including Mr Gilhooly who helped to prepare the U.131/2 side which did so well in the Jubilee Cup. (Malcolm Ferguson, our GAP student from New Zealand, was also a great help). In particular, I would like to thank Mr King who has helped so much with the 1st XV but also rugby, in general, in Wavell, the U.131/2 and on tour in Northern Ireland.

Finally my thanks are also due to the Groundsman, Mr Warner, Mr Henderson and the kitchen staff and to Sister and Nurse. Their support and care in various ways is very much appreciated by all involved.

B.R.



2nd's The Great

Well here we are at the end of another great season. We played 9 won 6 and only lost 3, the best set of results the 2nd XV have had for a long time.

The highlight, and very much a first, was our 13-5 victory over a strong Morrison's 2nds with two fine tries from Craig Simpson and Scott Connelly tipping the balance in our favour.

A further noticeable match was that against Strathallan where an interception try from Ryan Kerr saw the team home by the narrow margin of 7-5. We had to defend strongly for almost the entire second half, with outstanding defence from Baz Ramsay.

Had our defence acquitted itself as strongly against George Watson, Merchiston and Dundee High School we could have won these matches as well. In reality we lost these games rather than the opposition winning them.

We always endeavoured, sometimes with too much enthusiasm, to play a running game, passing the ball wide and creating space. Everything slipped into place against Lomond where, away from home, we trounced the opposition 57-3. The entire back row of Sam Morton, Andy Paisley, and of course Baz Ramsay featured on the try list along with the entire back division bar Richard McConnell our scrum-half, who did try. But as a tackler Richard was second-to-none. Thanks to Richard it felt like we were playing with four back row members.



*I wiped my tear upon my sleeve,
I just couldn't begin to believe
That St Aloysius had beaten us again,
Our attempts till now seem all in vain.
The game has gone,
The chance has passed
For some of us, it was our last.*

*They scored 18, we scored 12,
Into our reserves we had to delve.
The place was right, the time was now,
We had to win this game somehow.*

*Everything we did, just turned out wrong,
The second half seemed oh so long.
We had to score six points, at any cost.
We didn't and so we lost.*

Daniel McDade

Mark Harris (Haz), Craig Simpson (Simmie), and S.H. Murray featured strongly in the three-quarters throughout, even when pulled up into the first team. It is noteworthy that over the season 12 of the team played in the senior side, 7 going on the Irish Tour, and it was a credit to our own reserves, mainly from Form 4, that we performed as strongly as we did. On average 7 fourth formers played in every match and usually we were smaller than the opposition. Michael (Trev) Logue, Scott Connelly and Craig Kintrea showed themselves to be very much players for the future.

The artistry of Iain Stewart's throwing-ins and position playing at hooker, prop, wing-forward, and auxiliary stand-off shone throughout - he never did get the try he deserved.

The mole like burrowing of Craig (Dougie) Donnelly and his fellow accomplice Kyle (I want all the penalties) MacFarlane was of great benefit - to the opposition. However they learned and went on to play in the senior side

In all modesty most credit for success has to go to the back row. This is how Mr. Clark, our coach describes them:

"The back row were ... not only good looking but also they were cheerleaders urging others on while they stopped for breath. One day, perhaps when I am old, Adam Morton will pick the ball up at number 8 and score a try."

We played our rugby hard but always sought to enjoy ourselves. It was a great season and a lot of thanks must go to other people bar myself. The main person thanks and credit must go to is Mr (Motivater) Clark without whose training in the pitch black we would have lost all our games, so thank you very much, sir. Thanks must also go to Mr King for allowing the 2nds to be crash dummies for the first team, but we showed them a thing or two ... I think?

At the end of the season the players and staff voted for the best player of the season, and I would like to thank everyone for voting for me.

Captain Baz.



1st Year Rugby

After being Captain and player with this team I have seen three seasons and I can gladly say that this has been our best. I have seen our players hit hard and be hit hard quite a few times. We owe most our success to our coach, the now departed GAP student, Malcolm Ferguson.

The key players, who contributed to the team, were Christopher Harris and Graham Ferguson who were our main runners. Also Kenneth Finnigan and Simon Patience would help keep the team in order and start off some great running and passing movements. Gary Houston, our kicker, kept us in games by just a few points. Wayne Ratcliffe was a good tackler and saved us on different occasions by making vital tackles.

There wasn't really a best player, the whole squad put heart, gut and soul into everything they did. That's the best I've seen this team so far.

The team: David Kelly, Graham King (Captain), Paul Fleming, Gary Houston, Gareth Martin, Simon Patience, Kenneth Finnegan, Ben Hawksford, Wayne Ratcliffe, Craig Murphy, Alan Gault, Graham Ferguson, Christopher Harris.

The Subs: Stuart Donnelly, Stuart Downie, Liam Dondeswell, Alastair Porter, Dean Colvin.

Graham King (Captain)





1st XV

G. S. Meldrum

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The Library

The Sound of Silence?

There have been some odd noises coming from the library this term.....

In the first week came the noise of heated debate about the colour scheme for the library refurbishment and extension. The senior boys couldn't agree on any colour, but they were all adamant that they did not want blue for some reason?! The librarian said: "Maybe I should ask the Art Department for help?" but the boys said: "Have you seen the colours in Mr Gilhooly's ties?" So, the upshot is that, over the summer holidays, the library will be fitted out with a new ceiling in lilac, a lime green carpet, red paintwork and orange chairs, with thanks to Steve MacKinnon for that suggestion.

The second week the noises were of coughing and spluttering as the librarian attacked the thirty-years-of-dust-covered-fiction trying to find some novels the boys might actually read amongst such scintillating titles as *The Glen o' Weeping*, *Hurrah for Foxy!* and *Jack o' Judgement*. Rather a lot of the stock has consequently been donated to charity via the Ranfurly Library in Edinburgh, with many

thanks to Mr Clark and Mr McIntyre for organising this.

The third week heard the noise of the date-stamper working overtime as a lot of new books had arrived and the librarian created a new entry in the Guinness book of records for (wo)manually issuing the most Point Horrors ever in an hour.

The fourth week's sound was the questioning from everyone's lips: "Where is Wally?" Seniors and primary boys alike were searching frantically for Wally - teachers too (don't worry, Mrs T. - your secret is safe with us!) One lad got put on a "day" for daring to point out where Wally was to a monitor who wanted to find Wally all by himself!

Some noises to eagerly await next term will be the zapping sound of a scanner as the librarian automates all the stock and any of the pupils who get in her way. After that we should soon be hearing the buzz of networked computers, the typing of printers attached to CD ROMs and the dialling tones of a modem connecting us to the Internet as we surf the information superhighway.

C S

Graham Robertson

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Highland Dancing

After the triumph of the Nova Scotia Tattoo the school's Highland Dancing teams have had a busy year with many varied engagements. The most unusual of these was Songs of Praise for the BBC. I must congratulate the 8 boys and 1 reserve on the way they tackled this most rewarding task.

During the week of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland dancers performed for H.R.H. The Princess Royal, at the Palace of Holyrood House; later the same week, as part of the Combined Schools CCF Pipe Band, the boys danced at Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle as well as at the Palace of Holyrood House again.

As far as competition dancing is concerned we made a very good start by retaining "The Alisdair MacLean Challenge Cup" and the "Poltalloch Cup" for HM and Allied Armed Services Competition Teams at The Argyllshire Gathering in Oban on the 24th August 1995. In January 8 dancers registered

with the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing which allows them to enter all registered competitions. On March 16th they entered the UKA Annual Highland Championships achieving very good results and on April 28th 4 boys entered The Aberdeen Highland Festival. All dancers will take UKA exams during the first week of June with several of the most senior dancers attempting the President's Award (grade 10). I am confident we will maintain the very high standards set in previous years.

The Wavell dancing team have had a busy and successful year and the effort the junior boys put into dancing is very much appreciated by all who see them.

The QV dancing teams have been most ably led this year by Paul Kane, Principal Dancer, Andrew Denholm and Mark Harris, Assistant Principal Dancers.

QV HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION

Beginners:	1.	L Bridgeman	2.	K Reid	3.	C Boyle
Junior:	1.	D McDade*	2.	J Smith	3.	A Tose/ B Gillies
* Winner - Most Promising Dancer Prize						
Intermediate:	1.	S Ruthven	2.	C Niven	3.	C Harris
Senior:	1.	P Kane*	2.	A Denholm	3.	D Robertson

* Winner - London Scottish Prize

SEANN TRUIBHAS

Junior:	1.	C Harris	2.	C Niven	3.	J Campbell
Senior:	1.	C Cunningham*	2.	D Robertson	3.	A MacKinnon

* Winner - Seann Truibhas Shield

VICTORIANS BROADSWORDS

1. R Givens, C Wood, P Clark, S Connelly
Winners - John S Steel Trophy

INTERHOUSE REEL

1. Cunningham House
D Greenhowe, J Campbell, J Donald, C Harris

ABERDEEN HIGHLAND FESTIVAL RESULTS

Beginners 11 yrs and over

	Highland Fling	Sword Dance	Seann Triubhas	Reel	Flora MacDonald
C Niven	6th	6th	3rd	5th	2nd
C Harris		2nd		3rd	6th
C Wood		1st	6th	6th	
D Greenhowe		4th	4th	6th	

Trophy Highland Fling
2nd C Harris
4th D Greenhowe
5th C Wood

The Strachan Trophy for Overall Boys Beginner
Winner C Niven

EILEEN MacDONALD
Highland Dancing Instructor

Raleigh International

Zimbabwe '95

After a 10 hour flight that seemed to take an eternity we arrived at our destination - Harare. We were greeted off the plane at 0600 with the happy news that we were to wake up with a 200m swim in freezing cold water. This turned out to be only a 20m swim in water that was surprisingly cold, considering we had just arrived in Africa.

The next four days were spent acclimatising and learning some necessary skills that could save our lives if there was an emergency. We were taught how to use the Army 320 radios and reassured that if anything went wrong while we were out on our phases, we could contact field bases and get help as soon as possible. The most reassuring part was that while we were testing them out only two worked, a situation that was to become very familiar over the next 11 weeks. We went through First Aid instructions and many medical lectures concerning the state of disease in the country.

After a 10-hour truck journey with 14 venturers squeezed into the back half of a 4 ton truck - the other half being taken up with all the food and tools we were to require over the next 17 days - we arrived at the New Hope Home in Gatsi. Gatsi is a small village in the Honde Valley. The New Hope Home is an old folks' home for the old men of Africa. The task of the expedition was to supply this 3rd world project with the extra facilities to allow it to expand to care for even more needy old folk.

Our personal goal for this phase was to construct two twin shower blocks and a twin Blair Toilet. After a full day in which

we made ourselves comfortable, we started work on the project in hand. Our first task was to dig a 3 metre hole for the toilets. This task was made increasingly difficult with the hot climate and tough ground. Things were helped along when the old men saw our pathetic effort and decided to move 6" of soil at a time - compared to our 6" an hour.

Our presence in the community was felt greatly. We could tell that the old men enjoyed our company and really appreciated the work we were doing for them. We were made as welcome as possible and some of the old men took on the impossible task of trying to teach us Sheona - the first language of 90% of Zimbabweans.

We also had the opportunity to experience some of the local delicacies. Zimbabwe is a nation where the staple diet is maize. This is usually eaten in two forms. Thick porridge-like paste, commonly referred to as "Mealy Meal Porridge", formed the basis for most of our breakfasts. The other common form was a more of a "mashed potato" texture called Sudza. This dish is quite similar to the Italian dish Palenta. We were taught how to make these dishes by our local venturer - Martina.

Our greatest challenge on this phase was probably when we tried to move concrete slabs over the hole for the Blair Toilets. Each slab weighed around 800kg. We moved them with rollers, but failed to manoeuvre either of the slabs without some sort of damage. After a few touch-up repairs, we were ready to start our bricklaying.

The end of the phase came far too quickly for all of us. We

did not complete our personal goals, because we did not use effective management technique, but our adopted committee method ensured permanent high morale. By this time the whole group felt like a close family. It was a real shame to leave behind all the old men who had been so nice to us and all the comforts we had got used to. We were going to be trekking for the next week.

Our trek took us out of the Honde Valley and up to the second highest waterfall in Africa. It was a hard first day trek. Although only walking 3km we made a climb of over 750m. This, with a rucksack weighing in at approximately 70 lb, made for a physically demanding first day.

We carried on to drop into the Pungwe gorge, a spectacular scenic forest land with sides of 500m. Our task at this point was to break open track so the the area may eventually be opened up for tourists to trek under the supervision of the Park Scouts. We had two scouts with us, who both had an unnatural instinct for orientation. They really could tell you exactly where they were and how to get to places without ever looking at the map. They also had the somewhat dubious skill of tracking animals. Telling us that there had been a leopard pass by here about 3 days ago travelling west and it had a 3 month old cub was not exactly fully believed when all you could see was a few foot prints and some stool.

Our trekking was nearly cut short when Martina fell down a slope, resulting in aggravation of a previous hip dislocation. However we set up a base camp and worked from there. Two days later we all walked out of the gorge - a feat that we all

admired Martina for. Martina was then taken back to Harare to see a doctor.

The rest of us went for a very hard trek on our last day. After 5 days of only walking 5-8 km per day we went for a 28 km walk. This trek allowed us to ascend to the highest peak in Zimbabwe - Inyangani. This made for a challenging end to an adventure project that made us feel we were still doing some good for the country.

Next stop, Victoria Falls. As part of the expedition we were all given the chance to experience the wonder of this beautiful venue. We were also there to challenge the mighty Zambezi River to a "one-on-one" over the rapids. White water rafting is an activity that many do not get the opportunity to experience. It is a great feeling knowing you are completely out of control and your fate will be decided by the river itself.

My next project was a Bindura at an SOS village. We were there to build a Lecture theatre and a creche to help with the running of the training farm used by the orphans. This set-up was a bit of a culture shock.

On one side we had the compound. This is where we worked alongside the natives (and immigrants). Things were so bad here that they could hardly afford to live on what they could earn. It was great working with them and it gave me the opportunity to see just what performance-related "pay" can do to a man. Many of the workers came from Mozambique, where they would be beaten for not working to a certain level. Even when in the more relaxed climate of Zimbabwe you could still see them running with wheelbarrows instead of walking.

These workers were paid barely enough to live on, and it showed. They walked around in

torn rags and some children did not even have any shoes. They lived in mud huts, and collected their water from a bowser that was driven to the compound daily.

In contrast to this subsistence lifestyle we visited the orphanage. This was like 5 star accommodation compared to where we were now living - near the compound. The orphans were provided with everything they could possibly want - they had houses, water on tap, real beds, television, a play park, good food - and lots of it. The contrast with the township made this complex look put of place.

Our greatest achievement on this phase was building a playground for the children. We threw together some basic frames and dug tyres into the ground. Before we left the site we watched the children happily play in our little park. We also painted a mural on the walls of the creche. We could not see the benefit of all the work we did, but to see those children so happy really made you feel that you just did something that was really needed.

Our final project ended us up in Gonarezhou National Park. Our task this time was to finish off the construction of a game viewing platform. A task, that by this time, was not beyond any of us. The platform was a comfortable 9.8m above the ground. Many of us had fun swinging from the rafters trying to nail chicken wire up for the thatching. The actual thatching was left for the experts as, if we had attempted it, we would still be there now. There was little work to be done by the time we arrived. We nailed up all the side panels and prepared the roof for thatching.

During this phase we saw a lot of game. Elephants wandered not 20m from our campsite, a lioness was spotted limping across the pan and was

later shot on the grounds of safety. We saw the lioness after it had been shot. A poacher's snare had torn the lioness's paw off and it had degenerated into a skinny lump of bone. We also had regular visits from Hyena that thought our campsite would make a great playground for them to fight with the baboons. Things became quite scary at times when you were lying in your tent and you could not tell where the conflict was taking place.

We also spotted a giraffe and a very wild dog. Hippos and crocodile were a common sight in the big pools all over the park. This phase provided the real experience of Africa. We were out in the middle of nowhere surrounded by wild animals. The shortage of water made this a more demanding task. We had \$.%km to walk to get to our water. This meant we were frequently on water rationing.

The trip home was one full of emotion. After 11 weeks of living so close to so many other people, no-one wanted to leave. There were many tears at the airport, and many promises of reunions. It was a situation where the friends you made will be your friends for life.

Raleigh was an adventure well worth taking on. I not only had a great time but I have seen how other cultures work and live. I have been amongst a society that has so many extremes, it is hard to believe they are all in the same country. The expedition provided a great opportunity I would advise anyone to take if they get it. It is also well worth sponsoring. A sincere thanks to all those who supported me, and I hope you will be able to do the same for others in the future.

Philip Coupar

Literary and Debating Society

Debating activities really took off this year with a respectable interest in the debating hobby being shown from S1 to S6. Autumn term saw a gentle build-up of experience within English classes, and the competition season opened in the Christmas term with QVS well-represented in the Bank of Scotland, the TSB / Dundee Courier and the English-Speaking Union Competitions.

Bank of Scotland Competition

Ross Innes and Jason Morrison (S2) took on five other teams at Morrison's Academy debating the weighty motion "This House calls for a United States of Europe". Speeches were carefully prepared and practised, but the team were pitted against their seniors in age and experience, pupils from S4 to S6, and so the contest could be fairly described as a little uneven. That round was won by teams from Glenalmond and Monifieth, but the QV boys (who were, as usual, the suppliers of a lively floor debate) acquitted themselves well.

TSB / Dundee Courier Competition

Two teams drawn from the enthusiastic S2 contingent sallied forth to engage all-comers in this popular competition. Ross McKenzie and Ross Biggart debated the motion "This House believes that soap operas insult the intelligence". The venue was Stirling High School. This became a War of the Rosses as they both vied to interrupt other speakers with Points of Information, and they certainly put up a most vigorous contest.

The next week saw Robert Adams and Alan Whiteford oppose the motion "This House believes that

poetry is no longer useful". This was a fascinating evening which heard ideas such as "Shakespeare wrote plays, not poetry" (!) Our lads again performed valiantly against such absurdities, but - again - lack of experience told. But next year, beware...

The English Speaking Union

This charitable organisation runs two competitions - Public Speaking as well as a National Debating Competition. These are mainly the province of senior pupils, and this year we saw last year's dynamic duo, Alastair Thomson and Paul Sowton appear again as the "A" Team. This "fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants" pair appeared in the first round at old stomping ground, Glenalmond. "This House believes that the British Press is too free" was the topic, and while probably the best researched of the teams, we drew first blood to QV. The next round took place at Kilgraston. "This House believes that William Wallace would be proud of Scotland" was contested by Perth, Kinross and Kilgraston, and we came croppers in this round. The two remain undaunted however, and as we left Kilgraston in the frosty moonlight that night the words "We'll be back!" were heard to echo from the minibus.

Kinross High School was the venue for the launch of the "B" Team's sparkling career, already through to Round 3 with a bye. The same motion, "This House believes that William Wallace would be proud of Scotland", was ably opposed by Paul Matuszczyk (S6) and Craig Donnelly (S5). Their poise, their arguments, their thoughtfulness captivated the judges and they scored second blood to QV. This put the team into the area semi-final and we

journeyed to Lawside Academy in Dundee to hear ideas about how "This House would rather be beautiful than clever". Experience proved itself a fickle thing, however, and this marked the end of this year's participation in debating competitions.

The Public Speaking Competition heard talks on "Stupidity" (at Stirling High - Craig Donnelly, Alastair Thomson and Paul Sowton) and "Santa Claus" (at Strathallan - Alastair Thomson, Paul Sowton and Craig Donnelly). No prizes were gathered in this arena, but Craig ("I've actually spent some time in Hong Kong...") Donnelly surely deserves mention as "The Most Convincing Liar in a Vote of Thanks".

In addition, Haig House held a Christmas debate, in the Chapel, in which it was agreed that Santa Claus does in fact exist, and the legend himself was gracious enough to put in a personal appearance, much to the audience's surprise! Rumours that Santa was a certain S6 pupil are totally unfounded.

With the ending of the debating season, the Lit & Deb Society turned its attention - at the Headmaster's request - to production of the School Magazine - the product you now hold between your fingers. By the time you read this, members of this rather flexible group will have changed again in Summer Term to put on a production of "The Cinderella Story", which we hope will be as enjoyable as last year's "A Day in the Mind of Tich Oldfield".

Many thanks to all those who made the Lit & Deb such an interesting society this year.

Music Department

The music department has seen several changes this session. Most notably, the school said goodbye to Mr Geoffrey Halyburton, Principal Teacher of Music, who had developed music in the school with such dedication and enthusiasm for several years. The most remarkable of his achievements was surely the very successful swing band which became such a feature of the musical life of the school and was the backbone of many fine concerts. In these, boys of all levels were able to demonstrate their abilities publicly.

During the interregnum, the department was skilfully managed by Mr Martin Jones who held the fort from August to December. Under his leadership, a small brass ensemble provided the daily accompaniment for morning chapel. The term culminated in a celebration for Christmas at which the Wavell House Singers gave a memorable performance of the Carol of the Drum. Leigh Bissett also sang excerpts from Les Miserables, ably accompanied by Paul Matuszczyk.

In January, Mr Peter Onslow joined the school as Principal Teacher of Music and the department is beginning to take a new direction. The brass ensemble has been joined by woodwind and meets regularly to rehearse a varied programme. Two members have, as last year, attended Central Area Windband rehearsals, and, with the re-organisation of the regions, played at the band's farewell concert in Stirling. The

programme was excellent and included music from Cats, Les Miserables and Wood's Fantasia on British Sea-Songs amongst other superb pieces. This band has been a great experience over the years for our young players and we owe a debt of gratitude to our own peripatetic woodwind teacher, Mr Alan Bell, who has been its conductor. We can only hope that some means of reviving it may be found.

Technology is beginning to make its mark in music and there will be considerable expenditure on new equipment to take advantage of new developments. With the increasing number of courses and careers open to technologically minded musicians this will be very important as time goes on.

Finally, it goes without saying that our peripatetic teachers make an enormous

contribution to music in the school. Apart from Mr Bell mentioned above, they are Ruari Donaldson, percussion; Miss Angela Ferguson, piano; Mrs Ruth Jones, brass; and Mrs Rosemary Series, guitar. We thank them most sincerely for their hard work and dedication.

PETER ONSLOW
Principal Teacher of Music



Chest in the Foaming Surf A Cliff-Hanger Short Story

Liam Dowdeswell

It all started when two very good friends, Andrew and Jordan, went on holiday to Jamaica with their families. One day, halfway through the holiday they decided to go to the beach. The sand was a bright, golden yellow and the sea a sparkling blue. Putting on their scuba gear they went out into the foaming surf and dived down towards the exotic sea life.

While they were admiring the fish, Andrew banged his leg against a solid object. Turning he could make out a faint, chest-like object through the disturbed sand.

Urging Jordan to the surface, Andrew told him about the faint object. After going back to the hotel they decided they would return at low tide to find out what the object was.

It was low tide and there was a cool sea breeze and a clear red sunset when they returned. The object had been close to shore so they waded in to look for it. After a few minutes they found what they were looking for. It was a steel chest, made water-tight and held closed by a padlock.

It was heavy and rather difficult to take to the top of the beach. The padlock had a combination lock and after ten minutes they had worked out the combination.

"That was tough," said a wary Andrew.

"You're telling me!" replied Jordan. "What was that combination again?"

"Er.. 4, 7, 1, 9..." said Andrew, but he was interrupted.

"Quick! We'd better get into that cave with the chest!" exclaimed Jordan. "Somebody's coming!"

Quickly they picked up the chest and started to run as fast as they could to a small cavern not much higher than a shed, but it was well hidden behind a cluster of palm trees.

On the beach they could hear footsteps moving through the sand. They could see

the outline through the trees of three men. Two were wading into the water toward where they had found the chest.

Andrew, meanwhile, had opened the chest for the first time and on seeing what it contained, whispered to Jordan: "Guess what's inside the chest!"

"Don't know," replied Jordan, and he would never have guessed what he was about to see.

"We're dead if they find us!" he exclaimed.

"You're telling me!" said Andrew taking out a -

Gasp! - What's going to happen next?

Chest in the Foaming Surf - Part 2

The men were now frantically looking for the chest, but without luck. Then suddenly one of them shouted -

"It's not here, it must be somewhere else."

"You're right, let's get out of here before someone gets suspicious."

Quickly, and looking around to make sure nobody was there, the three men walked away with a sense of urgency in their walk.

While this had been going on Andrew was busy counting the money.

"How much is there?" inquired Jordan.

"It's in piles of £1,000 and so far we've counted £60,000," replied Andrew, "and there's lots more! Look!"

"Where do you think they got it?" questioned Jordan.

"It could be stolen, from things sold on the black market for drugs," answered Andrew.

(And so Andrew and Jordan and their families became some of those extremely rare people - they come back from a holiday without having to worry about paying their next electricity bill! - Ed.)

Poetry Poetry Poetry

Storm

The wild wet waters rushed by from the
west
The stong winds blowing like they had
been possessed
And heaven's glare looked at you with
despair
And you thought please God, get me out
of here.

Edward Porter

Deadly Dentist Dean

I was waiting in the queue to see
Deadly Dentist Dean.
And I don't really want to know
him from the people that have
been.
But I just walked in cool and calm
and sat down in the chair.
And all that he seemed to do is
stare and stare and stare.
He pricked and prodded at my
teeth with tools as sharp as knives.
After all the prodding he
eventually said "I will have to
take a tooth out Ned".
He started to rip and shred at my
gum and suddenly everything
started to go numb.

ARRRRGH!

Nicholas Brown



Winter

Children having sledge races
Each one waiting to win.
Parents standing at the bottom,
Whilst sledges speed right past them.

Robins singing to themselves,
Rabbits hopping on the snow
Trees with no leaves and snow
Covered branches. Winter is back !

The snow starts to melt and
Plants start to grow, children
Aren't happy -
"WHERE'S ALL THE SNOW"
Winter is gone and Spring is here
Have to wait another year.

Poetry Poetry Poetry

Sometimes

Sometimes I think I'm happy,
When I find I'm sad.
Sometimes I'm being good,
When I end up being bad.

Sometimes I try to be sporty,
And every one laughs at me.
Sometime I want to be lonely,
Then I cry when there's no-one around
me.

Sometimes I try to be helpful,
Then It all goes so wrong.
Sometimes I wish to do all this at once,
Sometimes I realise I...
WON'T.

Nicholas Brown

Cold Frosty Autumn

Vision
Brown leaves, fallen trees
Trees are dying one by one
Children playing in the park

Touch
Frost nose nippin' toes
the grass slippery underfoot
boy, I hate autumn

Hearing
Bird on trees singing
cars go speeding down the road
crunch of leaves from trees

Smell
Wood smell rotten hell
smell the cold air nice fresh air
smell fumes of the cars

S. Gregory

Winter

Icy as ice the icicles stood
The snow was crystal clear
The lakes were frozen and the air
was cold it chilled you through and
through
And during the morning as I stood
outside the wind it blew and blew.

James Donald

GRAND DAY 1996

Inspecting Officer and Prize-Giver
GENERAL SIR MICHAEL ROSE, KCB CBE DSO QGM ADC Gen
Adjutant General

PRIZE GIVING

Prize Giving takes place in the Marquee at 1130 in the presence of Her Majesty’s Commissioners, distinguished guests, parents, staff and boys.

PARADE

Parade Commander, Senior Monitor	John Nelson
Guard Commanders:	
No 1 Guard	John Leitch
No 2 Guard	Alexander Smith
No 3 Guard	Paul Kane
No 4 Guard	Alistair MacKinnon
No 5 Guard	Geoffrey Greenhowe
No 6 Guard	Andrew Blackhurst
No 7 Guard	Mark Harris
No 8 Guard	Barry Ramsay
i/c Colour Party	James Cornelius
Ensigns	Richard Givens
	Thomas MacDonald
Escorts	Matthew McLeish
	Ian Stewart
Orderlies	Stuart Ruthven
	Gareth Martin
School Sergeant Major	Mr D Duthie (late SG)

The Parade

The School will march on and the Colours are marched on with the parade at the Salute.

The Inspecting Officer will be received with a General Salute at 1500; he will then inspect the Parade.

The Parade will then March Past in Slow Time, break into Quick Time, Reform Line and Advance in Review Order. After the General Salute the Parade will form a Hollow Square for the Inspecting Officer’s Address and the Presentation of Prizes culminating with the Prince Philip Medal. The School will then give 3 Cheers and reform line. Having sought permission to march-off the Senior Monitor will lead the Parade off the field in Column of Route.

All spectators are asked to stand when the Colours are marched on to Parade, during General Salute and when the Colours pass during the March Past.

Tea

After the Parade Tea will be served for HM Commissioners’ Guests in the Marquee behind Enclosure A.

Refreshments will be available on repayment in the Playhall for all other spectators.

RETREAT

At approximately 1610 the Buglers will sound the 5 minute call. 5 minutes later the Pipes and Drums will march on to Beat Retreat which will include a display of Dancing. Spectators are asked to remain to watch this display which will last approximately 20 minutes. Spectators are asked to stand during the sounding of the Retreat Call and lowering of the Union Flag.

PARADE MUSIC

March on to Parade	Within a Mile O’ Edinburgh Toon Caber Feidh
March on the Colours	The Victorians
General Salute	Loch Leven Castle
Inspection	The Mist Covered Mountains The Dark Island The Highland Cradle Song The Skye Boat Song
March Past in Slow Time	Westering Home My Home
Break into Quick Time	Bonnie Dundee
Advance in Review Order	Scotland the Brave
General Salute	Loch Leven Castle
March off in Column of Route	Highland Laddie

RETREAT MUSIC

March on	Bugle Horn Hot Punch Bonnie Dundee
Retreat Call	
Drummers Call	
Retreat Marches	After the Battle The Green Hills of Tyrol Cullen Bay
Dancers March on	I am a Young Man That Lived Wi’ My Mother
Strathspey	Loudon’s Bonny Woods and Braes Orange and Blue Braes of Mar
Reels	The Ale is Dear The Piper of Drummond
Dancers March off	The Victorians
March off Parade	Scotland the Brave/Black Bear
Pipe Major	Mr A T Dippie BEM (late BW)
Drum Major	Mr H W G Tomkins (late Gordons)
Dancing Instructor	Mrs E MacDonald AUKA
Boy Pipe Major	Paul Matuszczyk
Boy Drum Major	Daniel McDade
Senior Dancer	Paul Kane

In January the Headmaster heard from Mrs Jillian Spittles, one of two daughters of Norman Ryan (1303), an Old Victorian who passed away on 15 December 1995 aged 76. He had been ill for only a few days before his death at home. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and two daughters, Mrs Jillian Spittles and Mrs Fiona Winter and four grandchildren.

Mrs Spittles enclosed in her communication an extract from her father's personal autobiography, which, as it may be of interest to Old (and present) Victorians to recall how things were in the 1930s, is reprinted here.

Looking back to those early days, bedevilled by hardship and too young, at that time, to appreciate the reason for it, we appeared to live in a continual state of crisis. No doubt our circumstances were common to many families up and down the country. "The land fit for heroes" promised by the politicians was, like so much of the hot air which drifted out of the Parliament buildings, a pure myth.

My father, who served with the Scots Guards during World War I, suffered terribly from the severe wounds which eventually laid him to rest but, until that happened, he worked for Tate & Lyle Ltd. It speaks volumes for the guts and sheer willpower that kept him at work in order to provide for a wife and four children. But provide he did until finally the strength ran out, taking to his bed and enduring many months of continuous suffering until mercifully released from this world.

It was always a matter of lasting regret that I never knew my father well, for he was undoubtedly a man of great wisdom and courage, from which we could have learned a great deal. What I inherited at that tender age of seven, however, was a sense of discipline, honesty and, whilst not appreciated at the time, consideration for fellow beings. Little did I know how important that was to be for the future.

I have little recollection of

the weeks that followed, apart from the misery associated with them. My elder brother, John, with a maturity beyond his years, took charge of us children whilst my mother found a job. Despite their efforts, there was no denying that the ship had lost its anchor and

A Schoolboy in the Thirties Norman Ryan

was in danger of foundering.

It is difficult, under the auspices of a welfare state, to appreciate the hardships endured by a fair proportion of the country in those years following the war. The slow industrial recovery, massive unemployment and wages for those in work just above subsistence level. What was more devastating, there seemed to be no way ahead which gave promise of a better future, only the threat of World War II provided that.

Our own particular darkness was lightened by the generosity of the Directors of Tate & Lyle Ltd who, in awarding my mother a pension of ten shillings a week, put food into our stomachs and clothes on our backs. Those who made that decision will never be aware

that, after close on sixty years, their act of kindness is still remembered with gratitude.

The chance of a better life was, unknown to us, already underway and eventually brought to fruition by the perseverance of two men, Mr McKinnon and our neighbour, a school master and a dour Scot into the bargain and a Mr Morley of the Scots Guards whom I never met. If this epistle should ever be completed, it would be fitting to dedicate it to those two gentlemen and the Tate & Lyle Company who, in varying stages, took our hands and guided us out of the wilderness.

Arrangements were made for my brothers and I to go to school in Scotland, whilst my sister went to a similar establishment in Wandsworth. This piece of news took some digesting. To one who had never journeyed further than a public park one mile distant, Scotland, when located seemed to be at the other end of the world. Speculation was to be short-lived in my case: too young to go at the moment, I would have to wait a year before being accepted. It was to be a very long year.

At the end of the summer of 1927 John and Harold left for Scotland and, shortly afterwards, my mother secured employment with the Hon Bowes-Lyon and went to live at Cadogan Square, leaving me in the clutches of a grandmother and her son, Arthur. It was incredible that two people, fully grown, could get so much satisfaction from persecuting one small boy. As I said, it was a very long twelve months.

During the summer of 1928, John and Harold came back on holiday with much to tell about the school. I fear that I became enchanted with Scotland long before I ever set foot in it. The mountains, rivers and wide open spaces gripped the imagination; the seeds of adventure were planted. It was in this frame of mind that one small lad, with two big brothers, stepped on to the night

train at Euston. Without knowing it, those first tentative footsteps set a course which would determine my future for the next twenty years, six of them with the country in a state of war.

The railway station at Dunblane was small, tidy and not excited by the arrival of the night train from Euston which, having disgorged its passengers and a various assortment of parcels, steamed slowly away to Perth. Watching it disappear, I thought briefly about the journey, wishing it could have gone on forever. In time I would get accustomed to the hills, rivers, the sheep and cows and the eternal greenness of the countryside but, on that morning, I was stunned by its magnificence.

With an effort and prompted by the movement of my brothers, I came back to reality. The ticket collector didn't give us a second glance as we filed out of the station, clattering over the cobbled street on the mile and a half walk up to the school. There was no hurry and it was a glorious morning with the sun shining every step of the way. Flanking the cobbles were houses with a difference, mainly built of stone, solid looking buildings, designed to withstand the rigours of winter, giving the impression of strength rather than grace. All were well cared for with painted doorsteps and shining brass letter boxes.

Leaving cobbled Ramoyle, we joined the Great North Road, which wound its way to Perth and on to Inverness, and came to open country. Gaining height, and as splendid views unfolded, my brothers patiently curbed my questions to point out the landmarks. Over to the right the Ochils - a gaunt barren range of hills mellowed only by the purple hue of the heather. On the lower slopes, and hidden from view, Sheriff Muir with its gathering stone, where the clans joined to embark on the bloody battles of the 1715 rebellion. Way over to the left and thrusting into the sky, the

distant peaks of Ben Ledi and Vorlich, forming the southern point of the magnificent Grampians. A staggering panorama of wild beauty.

Suddenly it was over, ahead and perched on a slight hill was the school - a tall grey building, partly covered with creeper to soften its stern lines. Set back from the road far enough to suggest isolation and bounded by a stone wall which was a feature of the Scottish countryside. It was served by a main drive bordered with tall trees and shrubs, which gave it an almost stately appearance. On one of the pillars with supported the massive iron gates, was a large decorative board which carried the inscription: "Queen Victoria School, for the sons of Scottish Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen". It was splendidly done in big, bold letters and, as I was to learn over the next six years, reflected the high standards set by the staff and the dedication by them towards them towards the pupils.

Viewed four feet from the ground, the size of the building was awesome, its four floors seemed to dominate the surrounding area. No thing of beauty, it looked as intended, a place of character, strength and purpose. The Union Jack flying briskly from its pole, flanked by two ancient artillery pieces, provided a martial flavour, but apart from that gave no hint of its special qualities.

Founded in 1908, one could say that the school was recognised as part-payment of a debt which the country owed to those who served it well. To the sons of those men who were accepted there was a unique opportunity for the development of mind, body and character and perhaps more important, for their widows it represented a relief from financial strain and worry.

The School was state funded and, having experienced in more recent times the Scrooge-like control of the purse strings, one

can appreciate the effort of those who administered so efficiently and saw to it that the budget was sufficient to maintain standards. Those standards, of course, were set by the staff and if I have given the impression of a luxury establishment, nothing could be further from the truth. Everything was developed on British Army lines and was as basic. A bed to sleep in, plain but wholesome food to eat and a uniform to cover the nakedness. There was very little waste.

There must have been a Board of Governors but the Commandant, Colonel Innes, formerly of the Black Watch (RHR) - the County Regiment, was responsible for the running of the school, with a structure that was not unlike that of an infantry battalion.

The four companies had a Sergeant Major in charge, with the Regimental Sergeant Major being responsible to the Commandant for all matters apart from education. All five were drawn from the various Scottish Regiments and had completed twenty-one years with them. They were the backbone of the Army, dispensing a mixture of discipline, guidance, encouragement and beatings as and when necessary. Their influence was the prime mover in the moulding of characters but if one had to pinpoint achievement it was the balance they struck in instilling discipline without breaking the spirit.

Each company had its quota of monitors, Sergeants, Corporals and Lance Corporals based on a promotion system of ability and the boys who earned these ranks had power and privilege. Rivalry between the companies was intense and the driving force behind it all stemmed from the apparent untiring energy of these NCOs. They ensured that the competitive aspect never went off the boil, particularly when applied to sport. Very quickly one learned pride in achievement, the

sweetness of success and the bitter dregs of defeat. In such matters the theme preached by the school was "Modest in Victory - Generous in Defeat". What it actually produced, however, was a determination to do better. In such an atmosphere young boys thrived, with the progressive development of mind and body.

If company activities underlined teamwork, education gave individuals a chance to shine. For most boys of that age, school lessons were matters to be endured, not enjoyed. Great emphasis was placed on the importance of learning, with that responsibility being undertaken by Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Army Education Corps. The Headmaster held the rank of Captain.

Altogether they were a no nonsense fraternity, applying themselves with intense energy and demanding a similar response from their classes. One quickly learned that there were only two ways to absorb masses of detail - willingly, via the brain, or painfully, via the bottom, with the liberal use of a pliable cane, an import from India. Needless to say that, apart from a few lapses, we worked hard and, over the years, emerged with a fair standard of education.

The final aspect towards self-reliance was the learning of a trade. Initially during periods set aside for trades, all new boys were herded into the sewing room and acquired the knack of darning socks. There was no escape from this chore and only a competence of a standard to satisfy the sewing mistress earned one's eventual release. From there, one was faced with the choice of opting for either the pipe band, the military band or, for those without such talent, the tailor's or shoemaker's shop. Trade sessions were compulsory, two hours daily and, as I found in the tailor's shop, beneficial.

It was in this atmosphere that six of the most influential years of

my life slid away almost noticed. Unnoticed because natural progression clouded the reality. One accepted as part of the system that, in due course, you would represent the school in one sport or another, or as a member of the pipe band entertain the Murrayfield spectators at an International Rugby match.

It came as something of a shock when I was summoned to attend an interview with the Commandant to discuss my future.

It may surprise people that after all those years of training there was no pressure to join a regular Army unit. Every lad who attended interview had the choice - a number opted for civilian life but the majority followed a career in the Army. I with them. My father's regiment was the natural choice but there were no

vacancies. The Colonel offered to contact the 2nd Battalion of his old regiment stationed in Glasgow, to see what was available.

During the course of the interview, one important factor emerged - the 2nd Battalion were due to commence their overseas tour of the Empire in two years time, an ambition I had cherished for years. Two weeks later I heard that the Black Watch would have me on the 5th January 1935.

So, having taken the Oath of Allegiance to the Crown, received the King's Shilling and satisfied the medical standards, I found myself on the platform of the railway station awaiting the Glasgow train. My brother John, now Senior Monitor, and set to join the Royal Signals on his eighteenth birthday, saw me off, tears not far away.

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OLD VICTORIANS ASSOCIATION

President: Lt Col Ron Smith

Secretary: Peter Gilchrist

Treasurer: Gordon Griffiths

My review of the past year must start with a reference to the Dunblane Primary School tragedy in March. This dreadful event touched the heartstrings of people across the World and none more so than Old Victorians. The School and the OVA received many messages of condolence plus flowers and gifts from Old Victorians proving that our links to the Dunblane community continue and indeed grow stronger as the years pass. My sincere thanks go to all Old Victorians who have shown such concern for all of those affected by the events of 13 March 1996.

The feelings of Old Victorians for the School were very clearly expressed through the attendance at the Nova Scotia Tattoo of 4 members of the OVA. Bill Hagan (1359) from Seattle, Jim Wiseman (2158) from New York, Robert Manson (2231) from Colorado and Bob Alexander (2450) from Ontario travelled thousands of miles to share in the experience of seeing "their boys" stealing the show. Many thanks to Colonel Tapp, the staff and boys for making them so welcome and for the excellence of their performance.

The membership of the OVA now stands at 907, an increase of 51 over the year. We average 50 new members per year, a good mixture of new leavers and the older generation. The 900th member is Murray MacDonald (4114) and other new members of interest include Bill Armstrong (1313) and Len Stark (2504) from Australia, Paul Docherty (2943) from Moscow, James Brown (2720) from Oman and Len Bovill our latest Honorary Life Member. I would ask our readers to promote membership amongst any friends or relatives who are qualified. One aspect of our membership is that Staff Members are deemed to be Honorary Members for the duration of their employment in the School. I do extend to them the fellowship of the OVA and hope that they can play their part within the organisation.

The Annual Reunion in March was attended by

over 60 members. For a change, a sailor was invited to take the salute at the Parade Service. Lieutenant Commander Ian Kempell (3213) travelled up from Plymouth to do the honours and we were delighted to have him with us, particularly as he will be leaving the Service later this year. The AGM was dominated by the debate forecast in last year's Victorian in respect of the future of the Reunion. A questionnaire requesting members' views had been sent out with the Annual Newsletter and the response, although not enormous, came down heavily in favour of retaining a Reunion Weekend separate from Grand Day. Discussion at the AGM confirmed that view, although there were various proposals with regard to improving the content of the event. The Committee will be considering these suggestions for next year. Despite wishes to the contrary, a School v OVs rugby encounter cannot feature on the programme. The recent litigation in the High Court must surely convince those still arguing for it that it would be wrong to continue. This year we were spectators at a School v Robert Gordon's College match which was most entertaining and was won convincingly by QVS. I believe that Old Victorian support for a good School fixture is the basis for future sporting activity plus Old Victorian action in non-contact competition.

Regrettably our Treasurer, Bill Carruthers (2073), resigned his post due to ill-health at the AGM. His successor is Gordon Griffiths (3337). Thanks to you Bill for all your efforts in the post, and welcome Gordon. Next year Peter Gilchrist (3104) will give up the duties of Secretary and we will be looking for a local replacement. Any volunteers?

Good news from both London and Australia. Bob Gill (2900) and Ian Lorimer (2759) are invigorating the London and South East Branch as Chairman and Secretary respectively. A letter from Ian Lorimer is included in this edition. I hope Old Victorians will respond. In Australia, Alex Hamilton (2522) is engaged on a similar exercise and hopes to generate much more interest in communication by correspondence than has been possible previously.

Our next commitment is to Grand Day, and it is hoped that many will attend, particularly those who joined the School in 1966 for whom John Sutherland (3228) is organising a "30 Years On

OVA News ≈ OVA News ≈ OVA News ≈ OVA News ≈ OVA News ≈ OVA News

Reunion". I am sure that once again the welcome and hospitality accorded to us by the School will be of the continuing high standard that greets all Old Victorians whether visiting individually or in groups. No wonder we are proud to be Old Victorians.

OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that I have to report the deaths of the following Old Victorians:

166 E McKenna

Edmund, one of our oldest surviving Old Victorians died aged 94 on 11 December 1995. He joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers aged 14 and served in the Military Band. On leaving the Service he returned to Northern Ireland and was accepted for the Band of the RUC in 1926, eventually retiring as Band Sergeant in 1956. He then had a short second career with the Northern Ireland Ministry of Agriculture before finally retiring in 1964.

456 G Anderson

George, Boy Drum Major 1920-21 and Father of Bob Anderson (2414) died on 9 February 1996, aged 89. He had served in the Seaforth Highlanders and, although a member of the 51 Highland Division in France in 1939-40, he avoided capture at St Valery and eventually escaped back to the UK after 9 months behind enemy lines. Consequently he spoke fluent French!

771 A Bulloch

One day short of his 87th Birthday, Alistair died on 13 January 1996. His working life had been spent as an Engineer's Patternmaker in Edinburgh 1925-37, Peterborough 1937-47 and back to Edinburgh in 1947 with Scottish Power until his retirement. A very strong supporter of the OVA, he was Secretary of the Edinburgh Branch for many years and, when in Scotland, rarely missed Grand Day or the Reunion.

891 J L Learmonth

James died on 10 January 1995 - as he would have wished, playing golf. He was 82 years old. He had originally been a Railwayman but had

emigrated to Australia in 1958 and owned his own cattle farm.

973 R S Watt

One of 5 brothers who attended the School, Robert died on 4 June 1995 in his 82nd year. He had enlisted as a boy in the Royal Engineers in 1929 and served in Palestine. He left the Army in 1937 joining the City of Glasgow Police. He was recalled in 1939 and served with 3 Commando on the Lofoten Islands raid. He rejoined the Glasgow Police in 1941, remaining with them until 1968. He was a keen supporter of the school and a valued contributor of information on its history.

998 M Lovatt

Murdo, known at School as "Bean" was a drummer in the School Pipe Band in 1927 which almost (!) went to Canada. He contributed to the article on that ill-fated venture in the 1995 Victorian. Bean was one of 4 brothers at the School and he was one of the lucky boys readmitted (as 1263). He left School in 1929, enlisting into the Royal Scots Fusiliers, serving until 1954. He then continued service in the Royal Signals TA for 12 years. Bean died on 28 November 1995.

1507 A Marr

Archie Marr died on 18 May 1995. He was Boy Pipe Major and joined the Army through Army Technical School, Chepstow and then saw Service throughout 1939-45 War. He was awarded a C in C Certificate for outstanding military service in Malaya.

1875 E T Potter

Eric left the School in 1943 and served an apprenticeship as a joiner. He served in the Parachute Regiment from 1950-52 in the UK, Cyprus and Egypt. On completion of his National Service he returned to the building trade and progressed from joiner through the system to be Clerk of Works. A comparatively recent strong supporter of the OVA, he died unexpectedly on 20 May 1995.

2134 T Young

Tom died on Good Friday, 14 April 1995. He had emigrated to Rhodesia and was a Major in the

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Rhodesian Army, serving with his brother Bill (1856). Tom was buried in Harare beside his late wife who had been killed in a car crash some 15 months previously.

2449 A Tulloch

Alistair, who had the unusual distinction of playing in both the Military and Pipe Band as a drummer, left school to join the family Painter and Decorator firm in St Andrews. He ran the business, J & W Tulloch, from 1975. A member of the local Round Table he held the School in high esteem and much prized his days here. He died after a long illness on 10 June 1995.

WOT - NO EDUCATION?

Lt Col Ron Smith

I wonder how many people look at the Honours Boards in the Central Hall and question the seeming lack of educational honours in the first half of School Life to date - the first degrees in 1928 (R Bayne 512 and M Shearer 400) and not another until 1948 (W Rennie 1410). Given the subsequent proliferation of such honours, why the lack compared with the current success rate - was the education provided to our predecessors and indeed to my own generation so inferior to that today?

Let us return to the original scheme for the school. It sought to provide a thorough elementary education at the close of which boys could be placed either as apprentices or otherwise as was best suited to their abilities. Alternatively, but only with their free consent, they could join the Army or Navy in Boy Service. Boys with exceptional ability could be passed into a Study Class for preparation for an appointment as an Army Schoolmaster. This scheme was developed into the Royal Warrant which set the pattern for a system which was not only educational but also social and philanthropic, providing care and shelter as a prime need.

As our founders thought along military lines, the School was developed as a mini-army unit with an

establishment of four companies, run by retired officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs. A photograph of the original staff (1909) shows a highly be-medalled group of Scottish soldiers of whom only three, the Headmaster Lt W L B White and two young Army Schoolmasters seated on the flanks (Mr Birkett (left) and Mr Bairstow (right)) were teachers. Birkett supervised the elementary education and Bairstow the Study Class. The "non teacher" element of the military staff were



Military Staff 1909

responsible for trade training which included music of a military nature (pipes and drums of a military band), tailors (snips) and cobblers (snobs), thus providing training of a more practical nature. The pipes and drums are the only element of this trade training remaining today. Snobs disappeared in 1935, snips in 1944 and the military band (sadly from a personal point of view) in 1956. Within the companies, the retired colour sergeants (later to be company sergeant majors) conducted further training of a military and social nature, drill, personal maintenance and housekeeping, ie boys kept themselves, their uniforms and their dormitory/ablution areas clean! How many boys today can darn their own socks, I wonder. Thus the education provided the basic 3 Rs plus a trade and the discipline and skills required for group living.

As school numbers grew from the original 50, so did the teaching staff. By 1915 Lt White supervised 7 members of the Corps of Army Schoolmasters plus 3 civilian teachers, the latter teaching Science, drawing and woodwork. It may be that this civilian element was required due to the requirements of the Army in World War I as, until the 1950s, the only civilian teacher listed subsequently was the Woodwork Master of the 1930s - 1940s (Mr MacKay). The Study Class

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was certainly effective in producing Army Schoolmasters. Out of the first 6 winners of the Primus Medal, 4 progressed to become members of what was to become in 1920 the Army Education Corps. (Sadly the other 2 were killed in action.)

A deficiency within the education system became apparent after World War I and continued to be recognised subsequently in reports of inspections both by Army Education Inspectors and those from the Scottish Education Department. The basic education provided was satisfactory for those entering the services but not recognised by authorities in civilian life. An attempt to overcome this appears to have been made in 1919 by despatching five 12 year old boys (Oliver 474, Clayton 496, Bayne 512, Higginson 574 and Fennessey 623) to McLaren High School daily over a 3 year period as a means of providing education outside the military system for promising boys. With the exception of Bayne, as previously mentioned, the OVA records do not show the success or otherwise of this action.

The second edition of "The Victorian" (December 1923) lists Captain A F Barnes AEC as Headmaster, supported by 4 x WO1, 2 x WO2 (including W Hawkins who retired in 1943 as Commandant), 3 x Sgt Instructors plus Mrs Blair, a Queen's Army Schoolmistress (QASM). This is the first mention of a woman teacher, her function being to teach the youngest boys. "The Victorian" provides some indication of the education at that time and provided a pattern which was followed (with one exception) through the 1930s and 1940s. Boys were prepared for the Army Certificate of Education (2nd Class, 1st Class and Special) and for entrance exams for the Services. To cater for civilian life the Queen Victoria School Leaving Certificate was introduced embracing the entire course of work covered between the ages of 14-15. It included compulsory tests in Maths, English, Geography and History, Elementary Experimental Science, Drawing or Woodwork. A language was optional (Latin having been introduced to replace French!). Subsequent editions of "The Victorian" lists boys who were awarded this Leaving Certificate but there is no mention after July 1929.

The Army Examinations however, continued right through to the end of the 1940s. They were very important for anyone joining the Army, particularly as they provided the educational

qualification for promotion at various rank levels - ACE 2/Corporal, ACE 1/Sergeant and ACE Special/Warrant Officer. Indeed my own Special Certificate indicates that (at the tender age of 15 years and 4 months) I was of matriculation standard for various universities - how strange that there was no careers advice to suggest how to follow this up! Education within the School concentrated on presenting boys for these Army Certificates and with considerable success. This was despite a lack of continuity within the teaching staff. A normal AEC tour of duty was a maximum of 4 years and thus resulted in continual turnover of staff. Archie Barnes established a fine reputation as a Headmaster - particularly in the prestige gained for the School through his coaching of the rugby team and for his musical accomplishments (he composed the hymn tune "Dunblane Cathedral"). Nevertheless, on leaving in 1926, he bemoaned his failure to introduce an English Public School System to QVS.

English certainly not, nor Scottish, since in 1930, 37 and 38 official Scottish Education Department Inspectors suggested changes to the system to bring it more into line with that of the SED. Nothing happened and an army system continued, very successfully, providing educationally qualified boys for the Services right through the 1940s, with a small element of older boys staying on to take ACE Special.

World War 2 created more upheaval in teaching staff but my own experience suggests that the AEC WOs and Sergeants did an excellent job in coaching even more boys for their Army exams and those for entry to all 3 services as apprentices. The number of AEC teacher (plus a QASM) continued at around 10, this for approximately 250 boys. An excellent photo of the teaching staff being inspected by the CIGS, Field Marshal Montgomery in 1947, shows this staffing level.

A significant change occurred in July 1945 when the Perth and Kinross Education Department awarded their Junior Secondary Certificate to 3 boys. This was the first national recognition of the successful completion of the first 3 years of secondary education. The end of World War 2 saw even more disruption amongst teaching staff, thus creating more problems for the small element of senior boys requiring secondary education through to their Highers (a new word for those of us involved!).

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FM Montgomery in 1947

In late 1948 the Headmaster, Major DG Washtell RAEC, arranged that daily tuition at McLaren High School could commence in January 1949 for 5 boys. This was increased to 9 in August 1949. Thus the senior element of the school disappeared on a daily basis do "enjoy" the delights of a co-educational day school. Thirty years on, the experiment worked. We began to collect Scottish Leaving Certificates in 1950, the first ever for QVS, proving that, given the opportunity, a full, successful secondary education was possible. Success was also achieved in both Sandhurst and Cranwell entrance examinations.

The RAEC was becoming an all Officer Corps and, in 1950 with the exception of Old Victorian WO1 Peter Taylor (582) all the teaching staff of QVS were officers. An interesting arrival that year was one 2nd Lt I (Bill) Williams RAEC. Could he have guessed how many years he was to be here? Officerisation resulted in a change in the company structure. Officers became Company Commanders and were assisted by the CSMs. Thus for the first time teaching staff were directly employed in the management of life outside the classroom. Then, in late 1951, four civilian masters joined the staff (Messrs Sutherland, Hughes, Le Maistre and Bowen).

Thus, within a 3 year period the army based system of education had changed with entry to the Scottish Education Department system and the start of civilian teaching. It would be wrong to imply criticism of the army system in its practice - the record of the many commissions gained starting in

1915 and boosted enormously during World War 2, and the successful careers in the Services derived from military music, and the development of apprenticeships, argue to the contrary.

However, in principle, it had been evident for many years that the system should change to benefit all boys. I and my friends in 1949 were lucky to be the first to benefit from the change. Yet even in 1951 there was more to come and this should be the subject of a future article written by someone else involved in it?!

WOT - NO EDUCATION? YES, BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT!

Old Victorian's Association London And Southern Counties Branch.

The branch continues to flourish. The membership on paper is on the up and up but we would like to do more. At present we are updating the membership list and entering the data onto computer. Once this has been done everybody on the list will receive a newsletter.

Four or five members and their wives and friends attended the O.V.A. weekend in Dunblane which was a success. Scottish hospitality was evident at the school and at The Stirling Arms. The church on Sunday at the school was packed to bursting point and the pipe band gave a wonderful performance as always. May I take the opportunity to thank all the staff at the school on behalf of all the old boys, their wives and friends who attended, for making us so welcome.

However, the weekend was overshadowed by the tragic event that occurred in Dunblane the following Wednesday. A donation fund has been set up by the school and O.V.A. combined and this is being arranged by the Bursar of Queen Victoria School. Once again, the branch wish to thank the staff who have obviously helped to deal with this tragedy.

If you live south of the Border and wish to become a member of the London & Southern Counties Branch or if you wish to make a small donation to the London Branch O. V. A., please contact me, Ian Lorimer, stating where possible your School Number and the name of the House

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you finished in when you left the school. Perhaps you would just like to contact friends you may have lost touch with over the years; whatever your reason please feel free to phone or write.

Just to let you know Bob Gill, Chairman, who has for several years now held a garden party and raffle at his home, would like to extend an invitation to any of you who are able to attend this year's garden party and raffle. It will be held on Saturday 7th September 1996. Further details will be given on request. Bob and his wife have worked hard to set up and keep this association going and it would be a way of appreciating their efforts by attending this years 'do'. We would also like to thank Colonel Ron Smith who has put so much time and effort into the association and without him we would certainly not exist.

If you would like to drop me a line, may I ask you to enclose a stamped addressed envelope in order to keep the cost of postage to a minimum. I would be happy to deal with any enquiries you may have or to give you further information about our association. You can contact either myself or Bob Gill at the following addresses:

Ian Lorimer, Bob Gill,
Secretary, O.V.A.,
London & Southern Counties
5 Oakwood Court,
7 Avenue Road,
London,
Addlestone
Se25 4EQ

Chairman O.V.A.,
Branch,
Winton,
Westwood Avenue,
Woodham
Surrey KT15 3QF

Tel/Fax 0181 771 9112
019320351360.

Tel/Fax

Best wishes, Ian Lorimer.

STOP PRESS

Pipe Major John Mackenzie
BEM FSA (SCOT)

The School regrets to announce the death on 12 June 1996 of John Mackenzie who was Pipe Major at the School from 1964 to 1987. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Margaret, and their family.

A proper tribute will be printed in the next issue of The Victorian.

With the arrival of girls in August in mind, this composition gives an insight into how boys felt - and feel - during their first day at QV.

The preparation for my new school started in February of that year, when I attended the interviews at Queen Victoria School, accompanied by my parents. Although I was nervous about the interview, I was also excited by the prospect of seeing my brother and his friends whom I had got to know over the years, when my parents and I attended the various functions at the school, namely Grand Day.

After my acceptance by Queen Victoria School as a new pupil, the preparation began at home. New clothes were bought, new shoes, rugby boots, pens, pencils, calculator, toiletries - you name it, we did it. In due course my mother spent several evenings marking my new possessions. Although I was excited about my new school, there was an element of sadness because I was leaving some of my friends at home. I would be attending a boarding school.

When I arrived at the school looking as smart as a new pin, with shiny new shoes and a smart jacket, I was met by a second year, a boy called James Kelly whose duty it was to familiarise me with my new surroundings. My first task was to unpack my suitcase in my new dormitory, which was called Baird. My first surprise was the small size of my locker - it would barely hold all my belongings and possessions no matter how tidy I kept it.

At this point, there were so many thoughts and feelings going through my head. There was excitement and sudden pangs of fear about saying good-bye to my mum and dad; I even thought quietly to myself "how will I manage?" I quickly pushed those negative thoughts away. There was so much to see and do that I was carried along by the momentum.

The visit to the stores took up a great deal of the time in the morning, where I tried on school uniform and was fitted up and measured for my kilt and green jacket and not forgetting the navy blue raincoat, which I thought would do nothing for my "street cred". I tried on shoes, brogues and "harders", I thought it would never end. There was a pleasant break when we stopped for lunch, and like all boys, my hollow legs required filling, and

My First Day at My New School

D. Greenhowe

the prospect of eating was far more interesting than uniforms.

It was at this stage I said my good-byes to my mum and I felt a little flutter in my throat, and it brought me down to earth with a bump. No more home comforts for six weeks, it was for real this time.

The afternoon soon passed and, with the help of James, I collected all the items of uniform that I was issued with in the morning. Each item had been marked with my name and number, I was a "Rookie" now. James and I carried my kit to my bunk. After my kit had been put into my locker, I had some time on my own, when I sat down on my bed with my own thoughts and had no time to reflect on my new school, and what lay ahead of me.

James took me to the sportsfield where some second years were playing football. I was impressed with the friendliness of the boys in general - there seemed to be a good team spirit, we were all the same. I was glad to be attending the same school with my older brother.

In the evening we had a house meeting where we met our respective Housemasters and introduced ourselves to each other, and the rules and regulations were made clear to us, as well as the do's and don'ts.

It was a very busy day, with so much to take in and think about.

Lights out at nine o'clock brought some relief, when I was able to climb into bed and switch off. I was a weary ten year old, on my own for the first time.

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Another session has reached its end and Wavell House finds itself on the threshold of major changes next term. This session has seemed particularly long: the winter seemed to drag on interminably. Despite the vagaries of the weather, however, the staff and boys of Wavell House have enjoyed a successful year. The atmosphere has been cheerful and busy and the boys have enjoyed many varied activities throughout the year.

Groups have been to all the Murrayfield internationals, to the Olympia Leisure Centre in Dundee, ice-skating, ten-pin bowling and laser quest zones among other things. All of these activities help to foster a positive atmosphere within the house and also enriches the boys' lives. Our trip to Les Menuieres, in the French Alps at Easter was a great success, as you will read in the account of two boys further on in the magazine.

We have enjoyed success in rugby, football, cross-country and gymnastics throughout the year and this has helped to encourage the team-spirit which is vital in our situation as it contributes to a sense of togetherness amongst the children.

However, none of these achievements would be possible without the dedication and co-operation of the staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of my house team for all their hard work, and extra work, throughout the year: Miss Chalmers, Mrs Webster, Mrs Blyth, Mr King, Mr Dale, Mr Hannah, Miss Blackwood, Miss Milligan, Mr Onslow and Mr Saunders.

You will no doubt be aware that Mr and Mrs Dow's son Matthew has been very ill since October last year. All the staff hope and pray that everything will work out for Matthew and that Iain and Nancy and their family can resume a normal life very soon.

In December last year our G.A.P. student Malcolm Ferguson returned to New Zealand. His year with us was mutually beneficial and we all wish him every success. In his place Alistair Saunders joined us from Australia. He has settled in quickly and he contributes whole-heartedly to the life of the house. We also welcomed three new members of staff - Miss Eileen Blackwood, Miss Carolyn Milligan and Mr Peter Onslow. They all settled in very quickly and I hope they enjoyed their first year in Wavell.

I began working at Queen Victoria School on 1st February 1979 - yes, twenty years ago! During all that time I have always worked in Wavell House. However, nothing ever remains the same, and it is with great sadness and a degree of trepidation that I leave Wavell House after Grand

Wavell

Day to take charge as Housemaster of Trenchard House. Miss Chalmers, my House matron, will stay in Trenchard also and I value her loyalty. I hope she will be happy 'across the square'. I hope that Miss Murdoch, the new Housemistress of Wavell House, will be as happy in the years to come as I have been in Wavell. I give my best wishes to her, her staff and the forty new girls for the future.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my wife Maureen for her continued support and understanding.

Finally, good luck for the future Wavell House, may it continue to be a happy and secure place for children to learn and grow up in.

Graham Carroll

Badminton and Squash

Badminton on Mondays and squash on Tuesdays for secondary school attracted enthusiastic groups who improved their play and enjoyed games against their fellow pupils and Miss Blackwood. New players made significant progress.

E.B.

Indoor Bowling

Every Tuesday night in the winter and spring terms twelve P6 and P7 boys have made their way in all weather to the upper floor of the MacMillan sports hall to have a go at indoor bowling. For most it was a new experience but as time went on much fun was had as everyone mastered the skills of line, weight and bias. A knock out competition was fiercely contested each night and our thanks go to Tom Macdonald and Craig Simpson, Form V, who, armed with the necessary measuring tape, proved invaluable in calling close decisions.

House

On the last evening we tried out our skill at a different type of bowling - ten pin at Hollywood Bowl in Stirling and we thank Mr Beattie and Mr Howie for joining us on this happy occasion.

We look forward to another season on the green mat next session.

J.H.

Wavell House Rugby

Rugby is alive and well in Wavell House. It has been another year of steady improvement in the players' attitudes, technique and results. The players have been more committed than in the past, and as a result, we have seen some excellent performances this season against teams who have previously viewed a match against QVS as an easy game. It took a while for the final line-up of the back division to emerge. There were a number of versatile and talented players available and as a coach it was a difficult task to get the right blend of size and pace in the key positions.

Up front it was a different story with a solid front row of Spence, Niven and MacDonald, second row Roessler and McGinty, with Gareth Hall an ever present threat at No 8. It was a highly mobile pack but its lack of menace in the ruck in particular let us down at times. I felt that we allowed the opposition to get ball which they had no right to win. If only we had been hungrier to win possession it would have been a different story. Often the team as individuals would make surging runs up the field, only to become isolated and have the ball taken from them because it wasn't passed on quickly enough. It was only in the latter part of the season that we managed to develop an element of continuity in our play.

One area that I was very pleased with throughout the season was the set piece re-start, penalty and free kick situation. We had a number of ploys which were used successfully throughout

the season, resulting in quite a number of tries being scored. The boys worked very hard at perfecting these ploys and I'm sure took a great deal of delight when their hard work was rewarded by a try or a significant territorial gain.

Although it was a team effort I feel that I should focus on one or two individuals who were consistently outstanding throughout the season. Stephen Gawler emerged as a talented stand-off. Adam Bott at centre, was a powerful runner and an excellent captain who led by example. Matthew Roessler, Alistair Spence and Gareth Hall were always in the thick of things. Colin Armstrong tackled like a demon throughout the season.

The Primary Six team, despite losing the majority of their matches, were extremely unlucky on many occasions. All three coaches were happy with the enthusiasm shown by all their players and I am sure that there are a number of players who displayed great potential for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Carroll, Mr Beattie, Miss Milligan, Mr Ferguson and Mr Saunders for their unending enthusiasm and commitment throughout the season.

Thomas King

Football

I think that last year the team was outstanding with many excellent performances. Some of the best performances go to the following: Kenneth Finnegan, Simon Patience, Ben Hawksford, Chris Harris and myself. I thought that the two rookies that made the team (Stephen Gawler and Chris Edwards) played well considering they were playing with new players for the first time.

Player of the season goes to Alan Gault for an excellent performance on the right wing. I would also like to express my thanks to Mr Beattie, the coach.

Gary Houston (Captain)



Wavell House

Haig House



Haig House Babylon

From the kick-off in late August, it was obvious we were fielding a team containing a number of love-struck teenagers all wanting free transfers to Canada. With the amount of money that disappeared into the pay phone/stamp box, I could have bought Gianluca Vialli for the school 1st XI.

We had 39 new signings this season, and despite the 76 players (six on loan to Trenchard and Cunningham) we had no red cards, although the usual number of yellow cards were shown for professional rather than cynical fouls.

As always I was backed up by Assistant Coach Graeme Beattie and linesmen Jill Howie, Alan Kirk and John Silcox (free transfer from Wavell) with John Martindale coming off the substitutes' bench when David Garden was stretchered off for an early bath. We are hopeful that David will be fit enough to take part in this summer's pre-season training.

Matron Kath Tompkins was always on hand with the magic sponge and worked hard with Mrs Duthie to ensure the team kit was always well turned out. And Mrs Cullen continued to maintain the pitch in ship-shape condition.

Kath and husband Bert accompanied the boys to Highland Balls at St Denis and Cranley and Kilgraston where they could show off their fancy footwork which was also in evidence at the Haig discos where we saw some very interesting formations of the 2-2-2 nature. Thanks to everyone without whom these auspicious occasions would not take place, and the boys would be sick as parrots.

We had cinema trips to Goldeneye, Apollo 13, and Braveheart, the latter giving the Manager some good ideas for dealing with errant players. Pinning their entrails to the noticeboard should do it.

On the kulcher side of things, we took in the Phantom of the Opera and vast quantities of Mrs MacKinnon's chocolates and Mrs Muirhead's liquorice comforts. The adults on the trip proved to be very excitable, just falling short of the streamers out the bus windows and the saucy rugby songs. Luckily the more mature young men on the trip kept them under control. What Mr Beattie thought of the Phantom, however, can only be repeated in the boot room.

The Grand Slam rugby international provoked more excitement and a blanket ban from the chairman on kilts and funny wigs, so the Manager had to sleepily return to Flat 1 to put

his away.

Thanks to Ron Turner for the canoeing, Jim Hay and Caroline Milligan for the Lifesaving, Tom Shannon for putting up with Tom Wilson, and for organising expeditions, Ping-Pong Tomkins for producing the Dream Basketball Team and Paul Warner and Dave Gilhooly for their input into the football. And thanks to John Alexander for the refereeing.

Captain John Nelson proved very competitive, especially in the comestibles division. His weight training consisted of carrying smecks (smoked sausage suppers) and the other moveable feasts from Papa's van, up the stairs to Haig. After all **WHEN SATURDAY COMES** so does the Papa's Pizza van with such delicacies as Pizza Cardiacarresta - triple cheese and double pepperami with large chips and mayonnaise. Vice-captain Bardie MacKinnon was a stranger to Gillete, but was an excellent midfield general with the other monitors and prefects sweeping up well behind him.

It has certainly been a game of three halves with not too many penalties but plenty of indirect free kicks that keep the manager on his toes. At the end of the day, a good season and a' the boys done weel, by the way. They think it's all over - it will be soon - stroll on June!!

SL

Contingent Commander's Report

CCF

Combined Cadet Force

Contingent Commander
J R Silcox TD

Royal Navy Section 26 Cadets
Officer Commanding
Lt Commander T Shannon RNR
Sub/Lt G Borking

Army Section 89 Cadets
Officer Commanding
Major J R Silcox
Major L Clark Section Officer Infantry
Capt D Garden Section Officer Recruits
Capt G Carroll
WO1 D Duthie SSM

Royal Air Force Section 28 Cadets
Officer Commanding
Flt Lt M J Boast
Flt Lt J Martindale on attachment RAF
Reserve

I have the honour to report upon another very busy year in the life of the Cadet Force at Queen Victoria School. Perhaps the easiest way to convey to the reader just what the cadets have

been doing over the past twelve months is to record some of the courses, camps and weekend training days run by the three sections.

Pipes and Drums

This is also the correct place to record the work of the CCF Pipes and Drums as they have taken their place in the Scottish Schools CCF Parades and Practices. Drum Major Tomkins and Pipe Major

Dippie have never ceased amidst their own exceptionally busy Piping Programme to devote much time and effort in teaching the Band the necessary tunes and, as always, ensuring that the Band are smartly turned out for every event.

Highland Tactical Competition

This is a Tri Service Cadet competition sponsored by the Army each year, seeking to test individual Cadets in the Advanced APC Syllabus, Military Skills. The squad is run by a member of 23 Cadet Training Team, Sgt Steve Coneelly who sets high standards of performance. The competition in 1995 was held at Cultybraggen and the team was led by CSM Barry Ramsay with Mr Duthie casting his professional eye over all the many and varied stands.

I was privileged to see the Team compete in the 'Stretcher Race' at Whiteston Range just after the shooting competition where they displayed tremendous strength, stamina and courage coming in second in the CCF element of the competition. Their final position after all the stands over the two days was seventh. Well done.

Target Rifle, Full Bore Shooting

We competed in all the Scottish Schools events this past year: the District Rifle meeting, the Blair Atholl Cup, and the Scottish Schools Ranking Trophy. All competitions were shot using the 5.56 Military Cadet Rifle. The 7.62 Target Rifle replacement is not due for service until 1997.

It was a source of regret that we were unable to get a team to Bisley for the 1995 Ashburton but

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>No. of Cadets</u>
Cadet Leadership	RN	1
Cadet Leadership	Army	2
Physical Training Instructor	Army	1
Physical Training Instructor	RAF	1
Land Command Leadership	Army	1
Land Command Leadership	RAF	1
Signals Training , Blanford	RAF	1
PYA Power-Boat	RN	2
Air Acquaintance	RN	2
Sports Course	RN	4
Royal Marine Training	RN	3
 <u>Camps</u>	 <u>Section</u>	 <u>No. of Cadets</u>
Cultybraggen (Military)	Army	20
Shooting Camp, Lauder	Tri Service	4
Adventure Training	Tri Service	8
Leuchars	RAF	16
Germany	RAF	3
 <u>Whole day training</u>	 <u>No</u>	 <u>Section</u>
Sailing	12	RN
Canoeing	12	RN
Field Trips	3	RN
At sea days	2	RN
Hill walking	4	RN
Self Reliant	2	Tri Service
 <u>Shooting</u>		
Full bore	8	Army
Small Bore	8	Tri Service
Competition	3	Tri Service

we are determined to try again this year.

Signals

Sgt Ian Ramsay is to be congratulated in his organisation and running of the Signal Section over the past year. Ian, who hopes to either fly in the services or communicate in the Signals, is a most professional signalman who had attended Blanford with excellent results.

*

All of this training would not be possible in the three sections without a very dedicated band of senior NCOs who can seemingly do anything they are called upon to do. I would take this opportunity to express the thanks of their Officers and my personal thanks for all their hard work, preparing military lessons week by week, in addition to their own school studies.

I would take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my fellow CCF Officers who every Wednesday, at Field Days and Camps during the holidays, give freely of their time and very professional skills in their various positions of responsibility within the CCF.

I am sure that I express the feeling of the whole Corps when I extend to Captain Garden our best wishes for a complete recovery from his present illness.

Finally, but by no means least, may I thank my long suffering Headmaster, who is of course the Head of the CCF, for all his patience when I have brought to him the many day-to-day problems in administrating the Corps.

Major John R Silcox TD
Contingent Commander



Contingent Commander's Report

Staffing

The Corps has lost several good officers and potential officers since the last Biennial Report due to

Queen Victoria School Combined Cadet Force Biennial Inspection. Wednesday 15th November, 1995. Inspected by Captain A G McEwan Royal Navy, Captain of the Port, Naval Base, Portsmouth.

increasing commitment by staff in other areas of school life. At present there are members of the school staff who would make excellent officers but they are prevented from doing so by other duties.

Most urgent attention should be given to new members of staff at their interview to ascertain whether they would be interested in a CCF commitment. They should then be allowed enough time within their school responsibilities to make that commitment and contribution.

At present there is no OC Army. The task is currently being undertaken by myself. This is not satisfactory since the Army section is by far the largest group of cadets and the work of a Contingent Commander will always be subordinate to the weekly running of the training

and the more immediate needs of the Cadets and Cadet Instructors.

Should there be a further reduction in the present staffing levels, and it is possible, with no immediate replacements, it would be foolish of me as CC if I did not express grave concern about staffing in this report. There is an urgent need for a further Officer in the R.A.F section, a Section Commander for the Army section and a lady officer for 1996 when girls will join the Corps.

Biennial Inspection

Finance

The Headmaster has agreed to the Corps being granted Budget Status within the agency of the School. This, with its extra funding, will greatly help the quality of the boys' training in the small but very important areas of camp, weekend and day exercises. The cadets do not pay any contribution towards the running of the corps or their weekly training. I hope that the present delay in implementing the agreed proposal will not be lengthy.

Facilities

The provision of an entire self-contained centre through the generosity of TAVRA and the school is much appreciated, as is the School's decision to relocate the Highland Dancing classes in a separate building other than the CCF Centre.

We in the CCF are actively working with our ACF colleagues to share resources for the greater benefit of both units. It is anticipated that this will continue and increase as time goes by.

TAVRA's agreement to take over the internal maintenance of our School Range is welcomed as their proposal to build an extra area separated from the Firing Point. There is need for a toilet and washing facilities in the range extension.

Assistance

The assistance given by the Tri Service supporting units; the Liaison Staff; 23 CTT; Administrative assistance by Highland Brigade and the wise counsel and active encouragement of S02 G3 Trg Cadets are all greatly appreciated and highly valued.

Reviewing Officer's Report

"The CCF was well presented by an enthusiastic staff on a thoroughly inclement day. Notwithstanding the need for a revised programme I was shown a wide range of drills and training evolutions. I was particularly impressed by the way in which the lead was being taken by the cadets themselves. Furthermore, when questioned, they spoke up well, answered



clearly and were plainly knowledgeable about the matters in hand.

Several impromptu tests were set, ranging from asking the Pipe Band to perform a previously unscheduled march to an examination of the Signal Section's knowledge of voice procedure and tactical hand signals. They were passes with a refreshing degree of assurance.

Whilst the strength of the contingent may be the upper limit for available numbers of supervisory staff, it is efficiently run and well led. It is to be hoped that with continued support an appropriate level can be provided.

In summary a fine unit whose officers and cadets are a credit to the school.

The Contingent Commander and his team must be congratulated on a most successful review."

I would most heartily endorse the Reviewing Officer's last comment about the "Team". The Cadets of all three sections, their NCOs and the Officers are all to be congratulated and thanked for their much appreciated and greatly valued contribution to the Biennial review of 1995.

*Major J R Silcox TD
Contingent Commander*

Infantry Report

Last year was an enjoyable year in the Infantry section. Sgt. Mark Sutherland did all the work while I sat back and watched. This year, however, Mark has thrown it all onto me, and what fun too.

Major Clark and myself looked upon our cadets with disbelief. They were all walking around with their hands in their pockets, boots dirty, and talking to each other while getting ready for parade.

However, not all was as bad as it appeared. Major Clark gave me orders to march the 30+ section into 'Wavell Wood' for their first lesson in the Infantry section - Camouflage and Concealment. The cadets did so well that Major Clark stumbled on one of the cadets and less than half were found. Nevertheless we still continued with our lesson and I demonstrated how to apply 'cam cream' but when I asked for volunteers no hands were raised. However, I managed to persuade three unfortunate souls that it would come off with a quick wash with soap and water - little did they know that they would spend a half hour trying to get the stuff off. We have had no more volunteers since.

The CCF Adventure Training week in Newtonmore this year went exceptionally well and to the surprise of Major Clark and myself we realised that every boy on the camp was in our Infantry section - except one....(no names Geoff....Oops!). Well done all!

Oh, and by the way the parades are a tad better these days.

Sgt. Peter Clark



Naval Section

The new CCF building houses all three sections and is a great asset to our accommodation. The RN section has its office and naval store as well as a dedicated naval classroom used mainly for navigation and seamanship training. Each week the three service sections can muster here for parade giving use a more combined identity.

The first major event of this session was the CCF Biannual inspection which was held on the 15th of November. Captain A.G. McEwan RN was the inspecting officer. After a review of the new recruits the Captain visited the three service sections under training. The naval section had two demonstrations ran by senior cadets. Coxswain A. Blackhurst and PO M Harris gave practical instruction to younger cadets on rigging wind surfers and dinghy, while PO R Givens and PO C Kennedy taught a class coastal navigation. The Captain was very pleased with his visit to the school, he enjoyed the company of the cadets and was happy to see QVS CCF running well.

Over the Christmas period our Parent Establishment Lesion Officer, Lt Cameron, was moved on to other duties. Unfortunately he as yet has not been replaced. This has increased the workload of the area chief, CPO Kay. We now have no direct contact at our Parent Base so rely on Chief Kay to help and support the section. A job he carries out very well and the section would like to thank him for that.

During the winter term CCF RN HQ offered the section an additional bosun dinghy which we gladly accepted. CPO Kay also offered us a Topper dinghy, which he liberated from the RN section of Daniel Stuar's Melville college as it was not being used, again we gladly accepted. This means we have an impressive dinghy training flotilla comprising of four Topper dinghy, two bosun dinghy and a Dory Rescue Boat. Together with our wind surfers all these boats are parked at Lochore Meadows Country Park in Fife. The sailing centre at Lochore is an RYA recognised centre and provides us with an ideal venue. To add to our training aids we have just received a wind surfing simulator which will allow more extensive training over the winter months.

A large vote of thanks must go to Major W Cunningham of ABRO and Colonel McGowen who enabled the section to have

our smell McWester day sailor moved from the school to a mooring on Loch Leven. The cadets have been working on the boat over the last two Winters and are delighted to have their labour rewarded by seeing the boat afloat on Loch Leven. The section is looking forward to our first sailing camp on Loch Leven.

Two cadets LS J.Blackhurst and LS M.Sherwood went on an Easter course. Both cadets went on the General Camp based on board HMS Bristol and Both enjoyed their week. The same two cadets are off for another adventure this week in the summer to act as crew on board the Ocean Youth Training Yacht Tycoo.

Summer term means sailing and wind surfing and with all our equipment up and running this year we expect a successful and fun season. The cadets and the awards they are training for are:-

Coxswain A Blackhurst	RYA Windsurfing Level 3
LS J Blackhurst	RYA Windsurfing Level 1-2
AB E Kuczerepa	RYA Windsurfing Level 1
AB C Bissett	RYA Windsurfing Level 1
AB I Smith	RYA Windsurfing Level 1
AB L Jones	RYA Windsurfing Level 1

PO C Kennedy	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 3
LS L Bissett	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 3
LS M Sherwood	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 2
AB E Porter	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 1
AB I Watt	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 1
AB S Dunsmuir	RYA Dinghy Sailing Level 1

The field day on Tuesday 11th June will be assessment day and I am sure each of the cadets listed will attain his target.

The future of the RN section is looking good,



although our roll stands at twenty two, a number of first year boys are expressing an interest in the RN section together with the introduction of girls into the school I expect a keen group of naval recruits next session. Sub/Lt Borking and myself are investigating the possibility of running the first national CCF RN Windsurfing Course at Lochore Meadows next Summer.

O.C. Lt Cdr T Shannon.

Duke Of Edinburgh Award

To date there are forty-two boys participating in the award scheme at the school, at bronze, silver and gold level. On the 1st of February this year Queen Victoria School had the largest group of award achievers at the Central Region awards Ceremony held in the Hillpark Education Centre: six silver and twelve bronze.

Outdoor Pursuits
T Shannon (Director of Outdoor Pursuits)

The award scheme is open to any pupil at the school aged fourteen or over. It comprises three levels, bronze, silver and gold of which each level has four elements to complete before moving on to the next level. The elements are:-

Service, Expedition, Skill and Physical Recreation.

Full details of the scheme are explained in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Handbook, copies of which are held in each of the four houses, the library and by myself.

Already this session we have carried out:-

1. Gold four day practice canoeing expedition on Loch Lomond. The boys on this wet and windy expedition were: R.Givens, T.Wilson, A.Morton, S.Murray, M.Harris and J.Nelson.

For their qualifying expedition they intend canoeing the Great Glen from Fort William to Inverness.

2. Silver three day practice expedition in the Trossachs. The boys on this tough, wet expedition were; L.Bissett, B.Wood, S.Morton and T.MacDonald.

For their qualifying expedition they will be joined by; C.Kennedy, K.Macfarlane and A.Denholm. They intend an expedition in the Lochaber region circumnavigating Ben Nevis.

3. Bronze two day practice expedition in the Ochil hills. The boys on this expedition, during which we saw both blue sky with sunshine and horizontal snow and hail, were; R.McConnell, M.McLeod, M.Knowles, R.Fleming, J.Sutherland, J.Campbell, J.MacFarlane, K.Davidson, I.Watt, I.Stewart and I.Murray.

For their qualifying expedition they will be joined by some other boys. They intend another expedition across the Ochils.

All the qualifying expeditions should be completed by the end of this term leaving only the other three elements of the award to be completed,

of course a large number of these elements have already been achieved over the winter months during Hobbies. Thanks to the help of a large number of staff.

The future DofE at QV looks set to flourish with more and more pupils showing interest and more staff becoming involved

Watersports

Sailing and Windsurfing

After the last two seasons where we had problems with parking our dinghies and windsurfers at Lochore, and had to transport them each time, I am happy to report that this season has started well. We have: four Topper Dinghies, two Bosun Dinghies and eight windsurfers.

All of these boats and boards are parked for the season at Lochore Country Park Water Sports Centre which is an RYA recognised centre. At the school we have our 420 and rescue Dory ready to go to Loch Lomond for more advanced sailing training.

The pupils training for RYA qualifications this season are:

Windsurfing

A Blackhurst, J Blackhurst, E Kuczerepa, A Laws, S Ruthven and M Harris

Sailing

C Kennedy, L Bissett, M Sherwood, L Dowdeswell, J Sutherland, I Watt and E Porter

All of these pupils will achieve one of the RYA Levels available by the end of this term allowing another eight pupils to be trained next term. My aim is to qualify between eight and ten dinghy sailors and eight and ten windsurfers each year.

Canoeing

Once again Ron Turner has been running his canoeing coaching in the school pool and later this term we will be taking the boys out to Loch Ard for their BCU Star Award assessments. Last year fifteen boys attained their Two Star Award. Six of these boys are now using their canoeing skill to complete a four day canoeing expedition as part of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

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Later this term the school is going to replace our old canoe trailer with a new one with a larger capacity.

Names of boys going for star awards this term:

M McLeish	M McLeod	P Crawford
P Sowton	R McConnell	S Morton
S Page	B Wood	R Milne
C Cunningham	J Matthews	S Connelly
R Jerr	L Bissett	



*Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
Ochil Hills*



*Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
Ochil Hills*



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Arran



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Arran

Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports

Skiing – The Slippery Slopes

Scottish Schools Dry Ski Slopes Championships

Scottish Schools Dry Ski Slopes Championships Hillend, Edinburgh, Saturday 7th October 1995. Boys competed for the first time at this level and, considering two boys had to rush from a rugby match, they performed very well.

On a sunny day the 14 gate course with a vertical drop of 73m caused some problems but all the QVS racers completed the course to finish 12th team out of 22 schools.

Individual Results -	36th	Iain Murray	22.49
	40th	Callum Kennedy	22.87
	43rd	Scott H. Murray	23.17
	56th	Geoff. Greenhowe	25.00

(88 competed)

Team Result -	12th	68.53
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Central Region Skiing Event 1995

The last championships under the Central Region banner were held at Firpark Ski Centre on Saturday 11th November.

The tricky middle section of the course, with vertical gates caused problems for many top skiers. Iain Murray skied aggressively to secure 3rd place as a first year senior. Brother Scott had the fastest second run after losing his way on the first and was unplaced.

Results: Juniors -	Gary Houston	19.92	& 18.12	7th
	Edward Porter	19.58	& 19.16	8th
	Alastair Porter	20.86	& 25.03	13th

Seniors -	Iain Murray	14.24	& 13.99	3rd
	Douglas Greenhowe	17.32	& 16.60	10th
	Jason Bruce	17.81	& 17.67	11th
	Daniel O'Connell	18.92	& 18.64	12th
	James Martin	19.44	& 18.38	13th

Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports

Senior School Ski-Trip

Les Deux Alpes, France, 22nd-30th March 1996

Twenty boys and two staff left school at 0830hrs on the last day of the Easter term bound for York. We combined with St. Olaves school and travelled to resort via the Dover Calais Ferry.

The weather in the resort was very warm all week and we were fortunate to be at a high level resort with a glacier. At 3600m the snow on the glacier remained in excellent condition although on two days the visibility was not so good.

The boys had the opportunity to do the usual activities - ice skating - bumboarding, etc, as well as the disco at the Avalanche Disco - aptly named as the weather conditions prompted the authorities to make controlled avalanches throughout the week.

The following awards were gained:

FIS Giant Slalom: Silver — Iain Murray

Bronze — Douglas Greenhowe, Donal MacDiarmid,
Andrew Moffat, James Donald

Flechette — Ross Innes

ESF Ski Tests:
Gold — Douglas Greenhowe, Donal MacDiarmid,
Andrew Moffat, Iain Murray, Edward Porter.
Silver — Robert Adams, Robert Blackwood, James Donald,
Paul Fleming, Ross Innes, Graham King,
Richard Macauley, Sheldon Macauley, Alastair Porter,
Jamie Williams, Colin Wood.

Bronze — Fraser Dewar, Robert Stevenson.

Debutant Skier — John Irvine, Craig Murphy

Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports • Sports

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ATHLETICS 1995

Penthalon Championships - Grangemouth - June 10 1995

Darren Robertson and Barry Prowse performed very well to come 4th and 5th respectively in the Under 15 competition.

Results	Darren Robertson		Barry Prowse	
	Perf.	Points	Perf.	Points
80m Hurdles	12.9	588	14.6	430
Long Jump	5.02m	386	4.31m	257
200m	26.6	460	26.9	437
Shot	8.26m	388	8.38m	389
1500m	5 : 33 . 5	382	5 : 06 . 3	524
Total Points		2204		2037
Position		4th		5th

Track and Field Championships - Grangemouth - June 17 1995

Ryan Kerr in the 15-17 Pole Vault narrowly failed to win the title clearing the same height as the winner. Unfortunately, he was not able to take up an International place as he was over in Germany.

James Matthews, Iain Murray and Fraser MacKinnon all performed very well, winning gold medals.

Results				
15-17	Pole Vault	Ryan Kerr	2nd	3.40m
		Graeme Hancock	6th	2.60m
Under 15	Pole Vault	James Matthews	1st	2.20m
Under 14	Pole Vault	Iain Murray	1st	2.20m
	Hammer	Fraser MacKinnon	1st	26.98m

NB: Alan Smyth (an ex-pupil of the School) representing Greenfaulds High School, won the Over 17 title with a height of 3.60m in the Pole Vault.

1995 Sports Day Results

1st Year

Event	Winner	House	Time/Distance
100m	E. Kuczerepa	C	14.7 sec
200m	S. Noy	C	32.46 sec
400m	R. Mackenzie	C	75.58 sec
800m	N. Dunnachie	T	2:53.90
Long Jump	N. Seaton	C	4.01 m
High Jump	R. Innes	C	1.30 m
Shot Putt	A. Bott	C	7.93 m
4 x 100m Relay	Trenchard	T	63.61 sec

Points	1. Trenchard	44 points
	2. Cunningham	42 points

2nd Year

Event	Winner	House	Time/Distance
100m	J. Williams	T	14.11 sec
200m	I. Smith	C	29.76 sec
400m	B. Gault	T	73.18
800m	G. Cornelius	T	2:36.10
Long Jump	D. Robertson	T	3.73 m
High Jump	A. Nelthorpe	C	1.35 m
Shot Putt	J. Sutherland	T	7.70 m
4 x 100m Relay	Trenchard	T	57.19 sec

Points	1. Trenchard	49 points
	2. Cunningham	44 points

3rd Year

Event	Winner	House	Time/Distance
100m	B. Ridley	T	12.86 sec
200m	L. Blake	C	29.26 sec
400m	B. Prowse	C	64.91 sec
800m	C. Kintrea	T	2:26.70
Long Jump	M. Logue	T	4.57 m
High Jump	R. J. Kerr	T	1.50 m
Shot Putt	A. Boyle	T	10.08 m
4 x 100m Relay	Trenchard	T	54.52 sec

Points	1. Trenchard	53 points
	2. Cunningham	40 points

Overall Points	1. Trenchard	146 points	2. Cunningham	126 points
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COMPETITION PIPING PRIZES 1996

Wavell House – Chanter Competition (presented by Piob Mhor)

Slow March:	1st: M. McLeod (42)	2nd: G. Kerr (40)	3rd: J. Donohoe (39)
March:	1st: G. Kerr (41)	2nd: M. McLeod (4)	3rd: C. MacDonald (39)
Prize Chanter:	Highest Agg. Score:	Winner: M. McLeod (42)	

Junior Piping Competition – C. Class Pipes

Slow March:	1st: S. Tierney (44)	2nd: G. Kerr (40)	3rd: J. Donohoe (38)
March:	1st: S. Tierney (46)	2nd: M. McLeod (4)	3rd: C. MacDonald (39)
Group Captain	T. Kean CBE AFC Prize Highest Agg: S. Tierney (90)		

Intermediate Competition – B. Class Pipes (II & III Yrs)

Slow March:	1st: J. A. Cox (44)	2nd: S. M. Cairns (43)	3rd: S. R. Watson (42)
March:	1st: S. R. Watson (46½)	2nd: S. M. Cairns (45)	3rd: J. A. Cox (44)

The Gordon Stobo Cup Highest Agg: S. R. Watson (88½)

Senior Competition – A. Class (IV & VI Yrs)

S.M. and March:	1st: C. Kennedy (47)	2nd: R. Kerr (46½)	3rd: C. Kerr (46)
Str. and Reel:	1st: C. Kennedy (44)	2nd: R. Kerr (43)	3rd: P. Matuszczyk (42)

The Piping Shield “School Champion”: Highest Agg: C. Kennedy (91)

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL, HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION, 14th March 1996

Competitors Names and Numbers

Numbers	Name	Number	Name	Number	Name
1	Paul Kane	14	James Donald	26	John Stevenson
2	Andrew Denholm	15	Andrew Moffat	27	Adam Tose
3	Mark Harris	16	Dean Aitkin	28	Alexander Trousdale
4	Richard Givens	17	Cameron Dewar	29	Christopher Boyle
5	Alistair MacKinnon	18	Christopher Harris	30	Liam Bridgeman
6	Peter Clark	19	Stuart Ruthven	31	Dean McMenemy
7	Scott Connelly	20	Ross Stevenson	32	Darren Muir
8	Craig Cunningham	21	Barry Gilles	33	Christopher Noble
9	Gary Cornelius	22	Damian McDade	34	Kris Ried
10	Douglas Greenhowe	23	Andrew McNally	35	Kyle Solway
11	Darren Robertson	24	Christopher Niven	36	David Walker
12	Colin Wood	25	Jamie Smith	37	Jamie Campbell
13	Robert Blackwood				

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL, HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION, 14th March 1996

RESULTS

Beginners Competition:	1st: Liam Bridgeman	2nd: Kris Reid	3rd: Christopher Boyle
Junior Competition (Most Promising Dancer Cup)	1st: Damian McDade	2nd: Jamie Smith	3rd: Barry Gilles Adam Tose
Intermediate Competition:	1st: Stuart Ruthven	2nd: Christopher Niven	3rd: Christopher Harris
Senior Competition (Winner Senior Scottish Prize)	1st: Paul Kane	2nd: Andrew Denholm	3rd: Darren Robertson
Junior Seann Truibhas:	1st: Christopher Harris	2nd: Christopher Niven	3rd: Jamie Campbell
Senior Seann Truibhas: (Winner Seann Truibhas: Shield)	1st: Craig Cunningham	2nd: Darren Robertson	3rd: Alistair MacKinnon
Victorian Broadswords:	1sts: Richard Givens : Colin Wood : Peter Clark : Scott Connelly		
Interhouse Reel:	1st: Cunningham House		

QVS DRUMMING & BUGLING COMPETITION 14TH MARCH 1996 A CLASS SENIOR

Side Drum:	1st: A. Boyle (46)	2nd: S. MacKinnon (45)	3rd: R. Ker (44)
Tenor Drum:	1st: J. McQuade (50)	2nd: A. Morton (49)	3rd: N. Kerr (48)
Bugle:	1st: S. MacKinnon (49)	2nd: R. Kerr (48)	3rd: A. Kintrea (47)

B CLASS INTERMEDIATE

Side Drum:	1st: G. Ferguson (49)	2nd: A. Whiteford (48)	3rd: R. Biggart (47)
Tenor Drum:	1st: W. Ratcliffe (49)	2nd: S. Dunsmuir (48)	3rd: G. Henderson (47)
Bugle:	1st: M. McConnell (49)	2nd: G. Henderson (48)	3rd: P. Fleming (47)

C CLASS WAVELL HOUSE

Side Drum:	1st: S. Gawler (48)	2nd: K. Edwards (47)	3rd: D. Haldane (46)
Tenor Drum:	1st: A. Spence (49)	2nd: C. Armstrong (48)	3rd: J. Kuczerepa (47)
Bugle:	1st: D. Haldane (49)	2nd: A. Spence (48)	3rd: J. Kuczerepa (47)

Farewell to the Class of '96

As another Grand Day passes so, too, does another group of Sixth years into the "big-wide world".

Lasting the course at Q.V. is, in itself, an achievement for, after eight years at the school, it can become rather trying; however I'm sure there will be more than a few relieved teachers now that the Class of '96 is finally taking its last poignant walk down the drive - and straight to the Stirling Arms!

For example will Mr Laing be sad to see the back of John Nelson and his legendary powers of clearing out his fridge in half an hour - I don't think so, nor will Mr Duthie be mourning the fact that James Cornelius' and Alex Smith's sidies will be out of his, er, hair - I doubt it!

We in Sixth year have many good memories of the school and of each other from our days at Q.V. From Tom Wilson's afro in Wavell to James Speirs getting K.B.'d from A.T. Jays in Sixth year, Q.V. has left its imprint on our minds.

Being at Q.V. has also affected many of the boys' sanity - to such an extent in some cases that the damage is irreparable. For instance Baz Ramsay really does think he's the best looking guy in the universe; Steve MacKinnon is convinced he is God's gift to the world of rugby and Tom is so confused he thinks he is actually his brother Jamie.

Queen Victoria School has taught us many useful things which will enable us to survive in the dangerous world of "real life". Geoff Greenhowe has become so good at complaining and whingeing that he could compete for Scotland in this art, and Corny is surely the world's greatest at sleeping - while in stark contrast Chris Kerr can't go anywhere without telling you of his biceps, triceps and other conquests (or "con-ceps"?) in the "multi". John Leitch's prowess on extending "that" bellie means he is now only just behind Nellie for the Giant Waistline of the Year Competition. Meanwhile Andrew Blackhurst continues to grow towards the heavens. Soon he will be so high he might even manage a slam dunk.

This year's Pipe Band has been led by Boy Drum Major Danny McDade and myself, Boy Pipe Major Paul Matuszczyk. Danny doesn't actually do anything (except get everything wrong!) whereas many people seem to find fault with the fact that "Band practice is on as usual" - well not any more.

Seriously though - Q.V. has given us plenty of good memories and has prepared us well as individuals for our lives ahead. Our last day will be a joyous, but at the same time sad, occasion. As we go forward we will always be able to look back and remember our time at the institution that is Queen Victoria School.

Farewell Q.V. - from the Sixth Year



End Of An Era

As we reach the end of another school year we also say a sad farewell to school tradition. As from the new school year, we change over from being an all boys school to a co-educational school. Which means the end of the traditional "Queen Victoria School - for the sons of Scottish soldiers, sailors and airmen"

We now await the arrival of girls, and the major changes that this will bring in a school like "ours". We do hope that the ethos of the school remains, such as the ceremonial aspect - parades, the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers and of course our main event - Grand Day.

We welcome the arrival of girls and hope they settle into life at Q.V.S. and enjoy all the opportunities offered to them here.

John Kidd (S1 Cunningham House)



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