

*Stanley Acheson*

*1925*

*1985*

**BEDFORDSHIRE CRICKETERS INFORMATION FORM**

Surname: S Acheson

First names in full: Stanley

Date of birth: 12 January 1895

Place of birth: Liscard, Cheshire

Schools attended: Bedford Grammar School  
Dunstable Grammar School

Colleges/university: None

Left or right handed batsman: Right hand batsman

Type of bowler and arm/wicket-keeper: Wicket-keeper

Year of debut for Bedfordshire: 1925

Bedfordshire clubs played for: Beds Club and Ground

Other clubs: Army in Egypt

Other sports played: Hockey for Combined  
Services in Egypt

Occupation: Army Soldier - Col

Other information of interest: OBE  
At Bedford GS 1906-08  
Played for Bedfordshire  
when on leave from  
Egypt

Last known address: Heron's Way, King's Rd  
Swanage, Dorset

Date of death: 1985/1986

Place of death:

AJW : 2 March 1997

S. Acheron : Addresses in OBC Register

1947 c/o Westminster Bank, Bedford

1950 The Old Farmhouse, Shipton Bellinger, Tidworth, Hants

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number..... B002135

REGISTRATION DISTRICT **Birkenhead**  
 1895 BIRTH in the Sub-district of **Wallasey** in the **County of Chester**

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
 No. When and where born Name, if any Sex Name and surname of father Name, surname and maiden surname of mother Occupation of father Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar Name entered after registration

15	Joseph January 1895 5.15 a.m. Wollegin Liscard W.L.C.	Male	Male	Albert Edward Acheson	Rosetta Maria Acheson formerly Marshall	Master Mariner (Merchant Service)	R M Acheson Mother Wollegin Liscard	1895	Charles Stewart Registrar	
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 20th day of March 2001

BXBZ 156748

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M. J. Burke, O.B.E. (18-25), has just been made a Companion of the Institute of Hospital Engineers. He is only the third recipient of the award in this country. He began his career at the Royal Airship Works, Cardington, and eventually became a senior engineer at the Admiralty at Bath. After that came a number of appointments in the health service, including the training of hospital engineers at Keele University. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1983.

S. H. Carter (58-65) was recently ordained priest at Norwich Cathedral on 13 July, 1986. After leaving school he obtained a B.Sc. in electrical and electronic engineering, worked for British Rail, married, trained as a missionary and ran a repair workshop for church and hospital equipment in Tanzania, and returned to study theology at St. John's College, Nottingham.

D. A. B. Dance (67-73) is now in Bangkok. He has a post with the Department of Clinical Medicine, Oxford University, who have sent him to Bangkok to take charge of the laboratory of the Tropical Disease Research Unit run jointly by the Wellcome Trust and Oxford University.

He qualified M.B., Ch.B. at Bristol in 1979, M.Sc. with distinction in medical microbiology at London in 1984, and member of the Royal College of Pathologists in 1986.

C. J. Hattan (74-83) is working his way through a course at the City University, and hopes to graduate B.Sc. (Hons.) Management and Systems, and is looking forward to working in the City.

P. E. Erskine-Murray (36-45) is chief resident engineer on construction works at Damman Port, Saudi Arabia.

D. R. Johnston-Jones (40-45) has retired as head master of Merchant Taylors School, Crosby, and is now living at 12 Ferry Path, Cambridge, CB4 1HB.

Lieutenant-Colonel I. R. Haywood, F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C. (55-59) has been appointed to the Chair of Military Surgery at the Royal Army Medical College. He writes to say that about five weeks before he took up the appointment Brigadier M. Brown (44-48) relinquished his tenure as the Professor of Military Medicine in an office on the opposite side of the corridor, on his promotion as Consultant Physician to the British Army of the Rhine. The School just missed the chance of having O.B.s in the Chairs of Medicine and Surgery simultaneously.

Rear Admiral R. I. T. Hogg (46-51) is to be Chief of Staff to Commander-in-Chief Fleet in succession to Vice-Admiral Sir John Webster from 25 November.

D. C. Jones (56-63) has been appointed manager of the Midland Bank's branch at Dunstable Road, Luton.

The exploits of Simon Murray (49-58) are related in a long article in the February number of *Management Today*. To quote from an article six pages long: "Simon Murray is well-respected in Hong Kong—and he is also his own man. A fluent energetic 44-year-old, Murray has five years in the French Foreign Legion (and a graphic best-selling memoir of the experience) under his belt to underline his basic survival skills."

J. G. Ross, J.P., D.L. (35-39) has recently been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Gloucester. He is also Chairman of the Gloucestershire Magistrates' Courts Committee, as well as being a member of the Central Council of Courts Committees.

The late E. H. D. Sewell (86-91), who was Captain of Cricket in 1890 and Captain of Football in 1891, wrote a number of books on sporting subjects, among which was one with the title "The Rugby Internationals Roll of Honour". If any O.B. can lend us a copy of this we would be grateful.

J. R. Sharman (27-32) who has lived for many years at Mutare, Zimbabwe, is now living at 22 Shirley Drive, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6UD.

K. Srinivasan (47-54) has taken up a new assignment as Indian Envoy to the Netherlands. His new address is H.E. Mr. K. Srinivasan, Ambassador of India, Buitenrustweg, 2 The Hague.

J. B. Wiggins (49-60) who was once head of physics at the Frankfurt International School is now running the Baleares International School at Palma de Mallorca. He intends to widen the scope of the school by encouraging sporting activities and introducing the G.C.S.E. and expanding the scope of A-levels.

The Rev. D. T. Norwood (54-57) has been appointed Appeals Organiser for the Church of England Children's Society. His address is now Meadow View, Rectory Lane, Fringford, Bicester, Oxon., OX6 9DX.

The Rev. P. L. Pickett (41-47) writes to tell us that he was recently ordained at Chichester Cathedral, and is serving in the non-stipendiary ministry at Holy Trinity Church, Eastbourne while continuing to practise dentistry part-time. We are asked to say that O.B.s holidaying in Eastbourne will be warmly welcomed at Holy Trinity Church.

S. H. Reid (78-82) on leaving School entered upon a training course sponsored by Marley Roof Tile involving studies at Ealing College of Higher Education and industrial training by his sponsor. After obtaining a second-class honours degree he joined Marley Buildings at Guildford, and is now studying for the examinations of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants.

Dr. J. H. Rogers (48-59), the founding secretary of the Mountaineering Club, is the first Englishman to ascend Ojos del Salado (22,588 feet), the highest active volcano in the world. It is situated in the very remote and uninhabited high-altitude desert on the northern Chile-Argentina border called Puna de Atacama.

The ascent was completed in only nine weeks. With his companions, four Americans and two Chileans, he undertook two training walks over 19,000 feet—one a first ascent. The climbing of Ojos was not technically difficult but very exhausting due to the high winds.

## In Memoriam

As we go to press we have heard that Mr. V. F. D. Lee, who was a master at the School from 1922 to 1965, died on 14 November, 1986. He will be remembered by many as a great rowing coach.

### COLONEL STANLEY ACHESON, O.B.E.

Born 12 January, 1895  
At the School from 1906 to 1908  
Date of death unknown

LESLIE BRUCE BINGHAM  
Born 24 November, 1923  
At the School from 1937 to 1941  
Date of death unknown

DENNIS ROTHWELL BOWDEN  
Born 10 May, 1920  
At the School from 1931 to 1937  
Died 12 September, 1985  
Dennis Rothwell lived for many years at Keri-Keri, Bay of Islands, New Zealand.

Dr. TIMOTHY COBHAM BROWN  
Born 4 October, 1954  
At the School from 1970 to 1972  
Died 24 June, 1986  
Dr. Brown was killed in a car accident in Colorado, U.S.A.

LESLIE HOPE BUCKNELL  
Born 17 July, 1901  
At the School from 1913 to 1917  
Died in Australia 2 July, 1986

REGINALD ALEXANDER LISTER COLE  
Born 15 April, 1898  
At the School from 1913 to 1917  
Died 13 August, 1985

DENNIS WHITTLE FINLINSON  
Born 16 February, 1905  
At the School from 1912 to 1923  
Died 14 April, 1986

RICHARD FRYER-SMITH  
Born 1 August, 1894  
At the School from 1908 to 1911  
Died 17 February, 1986

Richard Fryer-Smith ran a farm in Western Australia for some fifty years.

WILLIAM HUGH GILLESPIE  
Born 18 September, 1910  
At the School from 1924 to 1927  
Died 23 March, 1986

WILFRID HOWARD GILLILAND  
Born 3 June, 1909  
At the School from 1923 to 1927  
Died 11 May, 1986

PETER JAMES GORDON  
Born 8 January, 1934  
At the School from 1944 to 1953  
Died 9 August, 1986

Peter Gordon practised as a solicitor in Bedford. He served on Bedfordshire County Council for twenty years. He rode with the Oakley Hunt, and was Joint Master for several years, and Master of North Bucks Beagles. He was also churchwarden at Melchbourne for twenty years.

ALASTAIR SIMON GREENE  
Born 23 May, 1966  
At the School from 1972 to 1983  
Died 11 August, 1986

Alastair Greene, a medical student, was killed in an accident with a machine on a farm on which he was working in his holiday.

ARTHUR WAY GUPPY, B.Sc., A.M.I.Mech.E.  
Born 5 April, 1904  
At the School from 1914 to 1921  
Died 5 February, 1986

Arthur Guppy was a much esteemed engineer who spent the whole of his working life with W. H. Allen Sons & Co. Ltd., of Bedford.

GEORGE CLIFFORD HARPER  
Born 8 August, 1900  
On the Staff from 1925 to 1932  
Died 3 August, 1986

Many O.B.s will remember Clifford Harper for his urbanity and wit.

HENRY JACK HARRISON  
Born 1 August, 1901  
At the School from 1913 to 1917  
Died November 1985

LT.-COL. MAURICE WINDHAM JAMES HIME  
Born 31 July, 1894  
At the School from 1912 to 1914  
Date of death unknown

## PALESTINE.

D.V.P.—Major J. H. BASKETT (19-23).  
c/o Police H.Q., Haifa.

The D.V.P. finds the *Ousels* most interesting, specially the O.B. news. He hoped to be home on leave in the summer, but the disturbances in Palestine prevented that from taking place.

His wife presented him with a daughter on V.E.-Day (this honour is shared with another O.B., but in his case it was a son.)

He sees very few O.B.s, and was sorry to hear that Roy Boutagy (36-38), was wounded in Italy.

## AFRICA.

## The Sudan.

Colonel S. Acheson, M.B.E. (06-08), originally went to Khartoum in 1925 as a Subaltern in the R.A.S.C. From 1927 to 1932 he was a Bimbashi in the Sudan Defence Force when Major General Sir H. Huddleston, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (88-91), now Governor-General of the Sudan, was Kaid El Aam. In June, 1944, Colonel Acheson returned as Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport, Sudan Command, which includes Eritrea, in which appointment he is now serving.

G. E. S. Price (20-31) writing from Police H.Q., Khartoum, where, with a shade temperature of 95 degrees, he was enjoying the "cold weather," as distinct from the hot weather with 117 degrees! He complained that he was always hearing of O.B.s as having been in the neighbourhood, but never seemed to see any. "We get lots of people flying north and south through here; and if possible I'd like it to be published in the *Ousel* that it would be a pleasure to welcome any O.B.s in transit if they'd give me a ring."

Since then he has been home on leave and turned out for the O.B.s XV v. the School in December, but unfortunately was hurt early in the match, and had to retire from the fray.

## EAST AFRICA.

## Kenya and Uganda.

D.V.P.—Captain D. C. TYSON (30-34).  
5th (E.A.) Inf. Bde. Workshops, E.A. Command.

R. W. Hooper (19-23) got back to Nairobi after a short spell in Madagascar. G. B. Mackintosh (16-25) holds an appointment as Police Officer in charge at Nanyuki, a delightful little health resort at an altitude of some 8,000 feet, with a fine view of Mount Kenya. J. A. Niblock-Stuart (25-29), until recently in the Army, has been appointed manager of Brakenhurst Hotel, Limuru, a pleasant meeting place about fourteen miles from Nairobi. M. S. Moore (06-13) v.c., has been confirmed in his appointment as Senior Game Warden, Tanganyika, and H. V. Fraser (17-23) is stationed in Dar-es-Salaam with an R.A.R. Unit. J. A. Golding (31-35), who has been doing

valuable service in Italian Somaliland, has returned to Nairobi. W. M. Saunders (18-23) has resumed work with the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company, and is glad to have time to play a game of cricket now and then. J. R. Sharman (27-32) was with an Army Petrol Unit in Mombasa; when the D.V.P. was there the two used to meet every week for a well-contested game of squash.

Lieut. J. R. Sharman had home leave during the 1945 summer, and enjoyed meeting old friends again. He arrived back at Mombasa in late September, and was demobilised in November. Before leaving the Army, however, he was posted to a General Transport Company at Kajiado on the Tanganyika Road, some sixty miles south of Nairobi. He was helping to demobilize Africans of service groups up to and including 7. There is good game country around Kajiado, and one Sunday afternoon four of them were chased by an elephant. Fortunately the elephant elected to go after two of the party who jumped down into a dry river bed, and climbed up the other side. The elephant stood on the bank and trumpeted at them, and did not worry any more about him. He had run for dear life, and heard the beast crashing through everything in its path. He has returned to his work with the Vacuum Oil Company in Mombasa, and has later moved to the Company's Branch at Dar-es-Salaam.

The D.V.P. sent news of a few O.B.s in his district. H. Davidson (15-23) is an Administrative Officer in Uganda, and had to deal with the Native strikes which took place there towards the end of 1944. The Hon. G. B. Hebden (01-03), C.M.G., has retired from the position of Postmaster-General of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, and returned to the United Kingdom. Captain E. H. Cowley-Lamb (11-18), is in the Command Pay Office in Nairobi. The D.V.P. met Captain K. J. Holt (32-35) before he left Nairobi to take up a position as Instructor in a Training Battalion.

Congratulations to S. Gillett (18-21) on his appointment to be acting Director of Agriculture in Kenya. Lieut. D. B. Coleman (24-33) was reported to be somewhere in the district, and the D.V.P. hoped to meet him.

T. N. Bomford (38-42) R.E., was serving in East Africa Command. He spent some time *en route* in the Rift Valley, practising Swahili on the native inhabitants and trying to keep the night-flying insects at bay.

The D.V.P. has arranged for an O.B. Dinner on January 26th, 1946, at the New Stanley Hotel, Nairobi. This will be the first post-war Old Bedfordians Club dinner. About a dozen O.B.s are expected.

## Tanganyika.

D.V.P.—G. H. SMITH (24-30).  
c/o Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.), Moshi.

A letter from this D.V.P. recorded his pleasure at meeting the D.V.P. of Kenya, who was on holiday. He himself had been on holiday in the Congo. He sailed up Lake Tanganyika from Kigoma, and up Lake Kinu from Costermansville, both trips being very pleasant.

28 February 1997

J P Ainscough Esq  
8 Shaftesbury Avenue  
BEDFORD

59c Mount Avenue  
Ealing  
LONDON W5 1PN

Dear Mr Ainscough

I am writing to you in connection with the compilation I am making in the form of a 'Who's Who' of Bedfordshire County Cricketers who played between 1919 and 1939.

One such player was J Ainscough who played one match for the County in 1931. As the only Ainscough in the Bedford telephone directory I am writing to you in the hope that you may be a relative of this player.

I have not been able to find out much about J Ainscough, not even his first name. He appeared to have come to Bedford around 1927 as an employee of Howard's Works, Kempston. He played for the Howard's Works team between 1927 and 1932. I suspect that he may have been a Lancastrian, given the surname and that the managing director of his parent company was a Mr C A Rowland who played one or two matches for the Lancashire County team.

The information I am seeking is:

- First names in full
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Left or right-handed batsman
- Any information about his career
- Date of death
- Place of death

I hope that you can help with this request or can suggest some leads to follow up. Even if you have no connection with the player it would be helpful to hear from you, as I will then know that I have to explore other avenues. A stamped addressed envelope is enclosed to facilitate your reply.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

*Tony Webb*

A J Webb

*We are not a local Bedford family, having moved here in 1991, so we have no information.*

*Coincidentally, our family name is also linked to Manchester.*

*Sorry we couldn't be of more assistance*

*Gill P. Ainscough*

**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKETERS : INFORMATION FORM**

Surname: Albon, E G  
First names in full: Ernest George  
Date of birth: 6 May 1884  
Place of birth: Arlesey, Beds  
Schools attended: Arlesey Siding School

College/university:

Left or right-handed batsman: Right-handed batsman  
Type of bowler and arm/wicket-keeper: Right arm medium off break  
Year of debut for Bedfordshire: 1919  
Bedfordshire clubs played for: Three Counties Hospital  
Arlesey

Other clubs:

Other sports played:

Occupation:

Other information of interest  
eg well-known relatives, awards, etc:

Last known address:

Date of death: 5 January 1975  
Place of death: Arlesey, Beds

AJW - 2 March 1997

# THE MAN BEHIND THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUEEN'S WORKS

## Death of Sir Richard Allen

**B**EDFORD this week mourned the death of a man who will long be remembered with affection and gratitude for an outstanding contribution to the industrial life of the town and for the noteworthy parts played in serving the civic authorities and helping to develop social and sporting activities in the town and county.

He was Sir Richard William Allen, chairman of Bedford's largest industrial firm, Messrs. W. H. Allen, Sons and Co., Ltd., of Queen's Engineering Works, Bedford, who died on Sunday at the age of 88, at his London home after a brief illness.

Indicative of the esteem in which he was held was the large attendance of past and present members of the firm at a memorial service at All Saints' Church, Bedford, on Tuesday, which coincided with the private funeral in London, and the widely-representative gathering at St. Paul's Church, Bedford, yesterday (Thursday), when a public memorial service was held.

### BUILT WELL

Sir Richard, born at Cardiff in 1867, was the eldest son of the late Mr. William Henry Allen, who founded the firm at Lambeth in 1880 and who removed the works to Bedford in 1894, when the site at Lambeth was bought by the London and South-Western Railway Company for expansion in the neighbourhood of Waterloo Station.

Sir Richard had been associated with the works throughout their time in Bedford and chairman of the company since his father's death in 1926. He was for 32 years the managing director.

Sir Richard played a major part in the successful development of the firm from a small concern employing approximately 400 people to its present status as the largest firm in the town with nearly 3,000 on the pay roll. He built well on the foundation so ably laid by his father, not at all unexpectedly, for he inherited many of his father's characteristics—foresightedness in business, directness in method, and a readiness to recognize and help initiative and enterprise among the young men in his service.

### NOT A LOOF FIGUREHEAD

But, perhaps, what appealed to his workmen most was that he was not an aloof figurehead. Like his father, he was regularly "on the ground floor" in the works and he knew and greeted his workers by name and discussed problems of the day with them as man to man.

Throughout this country and abroad are many men today ranking as first-class engineers who will readily acknowledge the debt they owe to their direct personal contact with Sir Richard, for the education and training of students, pupils, and

apprentices was a movement for which he always had a keen concern. His direct interest and personal supervision benefited many thousands who passed through his hands.

Despite his advancing years he maintained a lively control of the firm and was at the works until recent weeks. Up to his becoming indisposed ten days before his death he was carrying on his normal work and had been preparing his annual statement on the firm's progress for presentation at the annual meeting of the company in London on Wednesday.

### WIDELY TRAVELLED

Sir Richard's knowledge and wide sphere of interest in engineering had earned him repute not only in this country but also in international circles, and in consequence he was a widely-travelled man, having been round the world four times. The last occasion was in 1929, when he went to the World Engineering Congress in Tokio as British delegate for Cambridge University, London University, and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. His selection was indicative of the high regard in which he and his engineering attributes were held—a recognition he had earned through assiduous work and study from the time when he began his technical training with the Naval Construction and Armaments Co. (subsequently Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd.), and then the firm of John Elder, of Glasgow (now the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co.), and finally through his father's firm, after experience as an engineer on a Cunard liner.

Many other worthily earned honours came his way. In 1928 he was president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, which was founded by George Stephenson in 1847; had been president of Section G (Engineering) of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and an associate fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He had also been a member of the Institute of Marine Engineers, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Naval Architects, and the Iron and Steel Institute. He was a trustee of the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation.

### SPECIAL INTEREST

His especial engineering interest was in auxiliary machinery for the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine, and in this field he gained two notable successes. He designed and



The late Sir Richard Allen.

patented air-supply plants for the boiler rooms of ships of war, and, secondly, published a book on this subject entitled "The Air Supply to Boiler Rooms for Modern Ships of War," which became a standard work running into three editions.

As may well be supposed, his knowledge and ability led to heavy demands on his services as a lecturer by many engineering societies and he delivered a series of important papers and treatises and travelled to many countries, where he was hailed with high regard in engineering spheres.

### IN OTHER FIELDS

It was, however, by no means only in the field of engineering that Sir Richard won esteem and respect. He will long be remembered in the town and county for his public-spirited service to the community in civic, social, and sporting spheres.

Here again, honours and distinctions came his way. In 1909 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Bedford Division, and in 1918 was awarded the C.B.E., and then in 1942 he was knighted. It was a distinction well merited by a man who 34 years ago was serving the people of Bedfordshire as High Sheriff and at the time of his death this week was still in harness in the role of a Deputy Lieutenant for the County. For many years he rendered valued service as a member of the Bedfordshire County Council, and the Bedfordshire Standing Joint Committee.

### COUNTY CRICKETER

Two other County organizations which owe much to his energy and enthusiastic leadership are the Bedfordshire County Cricket Club and the Bedfordshire Musical Festival. He played a leading role in the establishment of both bodies. He was a founder member of the County Cricket Club in 1899, and, with the late Mr. W. W. Marks, was joint hon. secretary of the club from 1899 to 1919. He had been president

since 1953 and previously a vice-president.

In his younger days he was a player of no mean prowess for the County club and also used to appear with his works team. He had also been president of the Bedford and District Cricket League and was a member of the M.C.C.

He had a deep love of music and this no doubt led him to play a leading part in building up the Bedfordshire Musical Festival. He had been a vice-president of the Festival Committee.

Another great interest was a love of flowers, instanced by his appointment as a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society and membership of the Bedford Chrysanthemum Society, but this by no means ended his manifold pursuits. Active work for the Royal Agricultural Society brought him a governorship of that body and he was also associated with the Royal Zoological Society, the Royal Empire Society, the African Society, the Bedford Homing Pigeon Society, the Pilgrims, and the Anglo-Egyptian Society.

Sir Richard, who formerly had lived in Bedford, Clapham, and St. Albans, was predeceased by his wife, Lady Allen, and leaves two daughters, Mrs. E. T. Agnew, of London, and Mrs. Arthur Lang, of Rottingdean, and a grandson, Mr. Denis W. M. Allen, of Bedford, the son of the late Mr. Melville Allen, who was killed in 1917 whilst serving with the R.F.C. in the first world war.

He is also survived by four brothers and three sisters. They are Mr. G. P. Allen who lives in Bedford, Mr. Harold G. Allen of London, Mr. Rupert S. Allen of Turvey Abbey, and Mr. Glendower Allen of Vancouver, Canada. Mrs. Madeline Longhurst of Winchester, Mrs. Beatrice Sanders of Dawlish and Mrs. Gladys Hickey of Streatley (Berkshire).

### OTHER TRIBUTES

At Bedford Town Council meeting on Wednesday afternoon the Mayor, Coun. R. G.



Gale, said that it was with deep regret that he had to report the death of Sir Richard Allen.

After outlining Sir Richard's notable career, the Mayor added "We mourn his passing and extend to his relatives our sincere and deep sympathy."

The Council members and officials stood for a few moments in silent respect.

Presiding at the annual meeting in London on Wednesday of Messrs. W. H. Allen Sons and Co. Ltd., Mr. Rupert S. Allen expressed the sorrow felt by the board and their sincere appreciation of their late chairman, who had served the company so well for so many years. Before the official business, the directors and shareholders stood for one minute in silent tribute to his memory.

## A PUBLIC SERVICE

### St. Paul's Church Filled

St. Paul's Church, Bedford, was almost filled for the public memorial service yesterday, conducted by the Vicar (Rev. J. H. King).

Alongside uniformed Naval officers, representatives of industry, various trade associations and local bodies were persons chosen from every department of Messrs. W. H. Allen, Sons and Co. Ltd., and many of the firm's pensioners, apprentices, pupils and students, past and present.

Numerous personal friends also attended.

Representing the family were Mr. Denis W. M. Allen (grandson) and Mrs. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert S. Allen (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. George P. Allen (brother), Mrs. Harold G. Allen (sister-in-law), Mr. W. Kenneth G. Allen (nephew) and Mrs. Allen, Mr. H. Norman G. Allen (nephew), Mr. P. W. Hickey (nephew, also representing Col. and Mrs. Hickey, Streatley, Berkshire), Dr. H. Nash, and Mrs. Nash (niece).

In the unavoidable absence of the Lord Lieutenant (Lieut.-Col. D. C. Part) he was represented by the Vice-Lieutenant (Lieut.-Col. the Hon. T. G. B. Morgan-Grenville) and nine Deputy Lieutenants.

#### ADMIRALTY OFFICERS

High-ranking officers represented the Admiralty, with which Sir Richard had had a long and close association that led him to be able to claim to have known personally every Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet since the post was created. Rear-Admiral L. A. B. Felle, D.S.O., M.V.O., represented the Engineer-in-Chief and Deputy Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet. He was accompanied by Capt. W. F. B. Lane, D.S.O., R.N. (Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Admiralty), Capt. T. W. E. Dommett, R.N. (Admiralty Engineer Overseer, Southern Region), Mr. H. W. Thomas (Dept. of Electrical Engineering, Admiralty), Lieut.-Commander J. Hurworth, R.N. (Admiralty Development Overseer, at present attached to the Queen's Engineering Works); Messrs. G. L. D. Williams and A. B. C. Emery (both resident Admiralty Engineer Overseers, also attached to the Queen's Engineering Works).

Engineer Rear-Admiral A. W. J. Turner (Retd.) represented Admiral Sir Dennis and Lady Maxwell; Lieut.-Commander (E) W. G. Attwell, of Canada, represented the Royal Canadian Navy.

Mr. D. Parry, Chief Mech-

anical Engineer of the Ministry of Irrigation, Sudan Government.

#### CIVIC, POLICE, AND POLITICAL

The Chairman of Bedfordshire County Council (Sir Frederick Mander) was represented by Mr. Frank Crompton.

Other civic dignitaries who attended were headed by the Mayor of Bedford (Coun. R. G. Gale) and the Deputy Mayor (Coun. A. A. Jones).

Bedfordshire Constabulary was represented by the Chief Constable (Mr. H. R. Pratt), the Deputy Chief Constable (Mr. R. C. Machin), and Chief Supt. F. W. Kitchener. The Chief Constable also represented Lord Luke (Chairman of Bedfordshire Standing Joint Committee).

Mr. Christopher Soames, M.P. for Bedford, and Mrs. Soames were represented by Mr. C. D. Eaton.

#### WORKS OFFICIALS

Heading those present from Queen's Engineering Works—about one-tenth of the total employees—were Mr. P. C. Saltmarsh, secretary of the company; Mr. A. A. Coomb, assistant secretary; Mr. K. Rowell, commercial manager; Mr. A. H. Hooke, accountant; Mr. W. A. Train, works manager; Mr. R. R. Hutchings, deputy works manager; Mr. J. W. Boddy, personnel manager; Mr. C. H. Alsop, publicity manager; Mr. T. Golding, electrical manager.

There were also present: Mr. A. C. Wildman, former private secretary to the late Sir Richard; Mr. A. Aikman, retired chief of the drawing office; Mr. C. Lewington, retired buyer; Mr. W. G. Poole, former works manager.

Many notable figures in the engineering and shipping world represented the following organizations: The Federation of British Industries; Lloyds Register of Shipping; the Institution of Mechanical Engineers; the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation; the Engineering and Allied Employers' Bedfordshire Association; British Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers' Association; British Internal Combustion Engine Research Association.

#### INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS

Among the many industrial concerns represented were the Britannia Iron and Steel Works Ltd., Bedford; Grafton Cranes Ltd., Bedford; J. Hobkirk and Sons and Co.

Ltd., Bedford; Cryselco Ltd., Kempston; Samuel Williams and Co. Ltd., Dagenham; Skefko Ball Bearing Co. Ltd., Luton; Eastern Gas Board; W. H. A. Robertson and Co. Ltd., Bedford; W. H. Podd Ltd.; A. K. Diesel Ltd.; Cromglaze Ltd.; Diesel Trawlers Ltd.; Lowestoft Motor Trawlers Ltd.; Inshore Trawlers Ltd.

Among business firms represented were Deloitte Plender and Griffiths, of London; Rayner and Elkin Ltd., Bedford; F. Gamman and Sons, Bedford; W. T. Glass and Son Ltd.; W. Berrall Ltd., Bedford; Henry Burt and Son Ltd., Bedford; London and Lancashire Insurance Co. Ltd., Bedford; Car and General Insurance Corporation Ltd., Bedford; Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. Ltd., Bedford; Midland Bank Ltd., Bedford; Westminster Bank Ltd., Bedford; British Railways (London District); The Bedfordshire Times Publishing Co. Ltd., Bedford; Charles Franklin Ltd., Bedford.

Also represented were Bedford School; the College of

Aeronautics, Cranfield; Bedfordshire County Cricket Club; Bromham Hospital; Bedford General Hospital; Bedfordshire Hospital Services Association; the Ministry of Agriculture; Biggleswade Water Board; and Bedford Petty Sessional Division.

## Employees Pay Their Final Respects

While the vast expanse of the Queen's Engineering Works was stilled on Tuesday—they were closed from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.—as a mark of respect for the company's late chairman, more than 500 present and former employees and their relatives, together with parishioners, assembled at All Saints' Church, Bedford, for a special memorial service.

It was fitting that those who had been so closely associated with Sir Richard down the years should gather in this church, the foundation of which was largely due to generous benefactions of his father, the late Mr. W. H. Allen, and where he unveiled a memorial window to those who fell in the 1914-18 war. Sir Richard had followed his father's interest in and support for the church, providing additions to complete the building of the organ which was started by his father.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. E. Edmundson-Jones, Mr. J. W. Boddy, personnel manager at the firm, read the lesson, and the singing was led by the choir with Mr. D. W. Gooch at the organ.

Bowls of pink and white carnations stood on the altar, and in the choir aisle were vases of gladioli, stocks, and scabious.

The service coincided with the private funeral in London, but some members of the family attended this service in Bedford. They were Mr. George P. Allen (brother of Sir Richard) and the architect for the church building and Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Rupert Allen (sister-in-law), Mrs. J. Nash (niece) and Dr. H. Nash, Mrs. Kenneth Allen, and Mrs. Denis Allen.

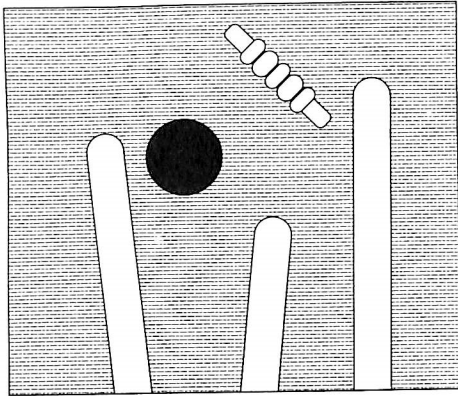
#### FAMILY SPIRIT

Paying tribute to Sir Richard's life and work, the Vicar said Sir Richard had a genius for being friendly, and that was one of the marks of a truly great man. It sprang from his sense of family spirit. He belonged to a most united family, and because he thought so much of his family he wanted to extend that ideal. The idea of a group of people was to him incomplete unless they formed a family.

The Vicar said that when he met Sir Richard for the first time he told him that in the works he liked to think they were a family, not only a family firm but that the whole place was one family from himself as chairman to the most junior apprentice. That was Sir Richard's idea and that

(Continued on back page)

# OBITUARIES



## REX ALSTON

by Christopher Martin-Jenkins

THE DEATH of Rex Alston on September 8 at the age of 93 leaves only E.W. Swanton, the *eminence grise par excellence*, to represent that attractive blend of voices which began to turn Test match commentaries on radio into an institution in the years after the Second World War. Calm, clear, precise and courteous, Alston was an almost permanent presence in the box between 1946 and the second half of 1964, missing less than a handful of Tests, although only because, as the staff commentator, he was required for other sporting events, notably athletics and tennis.

A man of great charm and integrity who set high standards for himself, **Arthur Rex Alston** was born on July 2, 1901, the son of the Rt Rev A.F. Alston, Suffragan Bishop of Middlesex. He was an outstanding games-player at Trent College in Derbyshire, and at Clare College, Cambridge won an athletics blue, finishing second in the 100 yards to the Olympic gold medalist Harold Abrahams in the Varsity match. At Wembley in 1923 he helped Oxford and Cambridge to defeat Harvard and Yale.

As a cricketer he played for the Cambridge Crusaders and for six years for Bedfordshire as a batsman who usually finished respectably in the middle of the aver-



Rex Alston, an all-round sportsman who became one of the outstanding all-round broadcasters of his day, who has died at the age of 93.

ages. He captained them in the 1932 Minor Counties Championship. In the winter he played wing three-quarter for Bedford, East Midlands and Rosslyn Park. His Bedford connection was the result of taking a job on the staff of Bedford School, where he ran the cricket between 1926 and 1941. 'We had some good cricketers in those days,' he wrote later, 'such as W.A. Sime, J.G. Cook and C.L. Oakley, but cricket had to wage a continuous struggle against rivalry from the boat club.'

The war brought the change to his life which led to a wider fame. Having been rejected for military service on grounds of age, he was recruited by the BBC as a billeting officer and at the end of the war was appointed by Seymour de Lotbinière, the renowned head of Outside Broadcasts, to supervise and commentate on cricket, athletics, rugby union and tennis. The job, said Rex, 'was heaven sent for me'.

He proceeded to prove it. Enthusiasm and a quick mind enabled him to commentate with apparently equal authority on cricket, athletics, tennis and rugby. He covered the All England Championships at Wimbledon with Dan Maskell and Max Robertson and many major athletics events, including four Olympic Games.

His thrilling eye-witness account of Roger Bannister overhauling John Landy of Australia for the Commonwealth Games gold medal in the mile at Vancouver in 1954 was one of those occasions when those who heard it can still recall where they were as the words came over the airwaves, 'he's done it!'

Johnston used to tell two stories of his cricket commentaries, both remarkable in that Rex seldom made a mistake on the air. The 1962 Pakistan touring team included a player called Afaq Hussain, whose name, pronounced correctly, caused embarrassment to some. During the MCC match at Lord's he allegedly surprised himself and his listeners by announcing, 'now this is interesting, we're going to see Afaq at the Nursery End'. After which he apparently compounded the felony by adding, 'what am I saying? He isn't even playing'.

According to Johnston, that notorious leg-puller, Rex also caused a stir during a riot by a section of the crowd in Trinidad when he told local listeners, 'this is disgraceful, they're behaving like animals'. Thereupon a shower of bottles rained in on the commentary box from which he was speaking.

In truth Rex Alston was the most efficient and benign of commentators and he continued to describe the game, and to write about county cricket for *The Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* well after his retirement from the BBC. He had only just stopped making occasional working visits to his favourite ground, Hove, when *The Times* erroneously published his obituary in 1985. It happened that he read of his premature demise in a hospital after collapsing because of food poisoning but he reacted with great good humour.

The last part of his life, indeed, was markedly happy; having lost his first wife Elspeth in 1985 he soon met and fell in love with the recently widowed Joan Wilson and married her in 1986. He happily adopted her family and they him.

He also leaves a son and daughter by his first marriage and fond memories of a life based upon Christian values and a strong self-discipline reinforced by cold baths taken every morning. 'He would splash around in them merrily,' Joan recalls 'until I finally persuaded him to give them up.'

**Wallis Mathias**, a gentleman of Pakistan cricket, died in Karachi, the city of his birth, at the Liaquat National Hospital where he fought the complications of diabetes mellitus for almost a month before succumbing to cerebral haemorrhage on September 1st, aged 59. He leaves behind a wife and three children.

Wallis was captain of St Patrick School during the golden age of Karachi schools cricket in the 1950s. Precocious talent like Khalid Wazir and Antao D'Souza from St Pat's, Mohammed Munaf and Hanif Mohammad from Sind Madressah, Intikhab Alam from Church Mission and Mushtaq Mohammad from Marie Colaco vied with one another in the Inter Schools Tournament for the Rubie Shield. Named after C.B. Rubie, appointed Manager of MCC to India on the abandoned 1939/40 tour and a pioneer of Sind cricket, this tournament attracted bigger crowds at the time than even the first-class fixtures held in Karachi.



Wallis Mathias, who played 21 times for Pakistan between 1955 and 1962.

Son of the groundsman of Karachi Gymkhana, Wallis became the first Christian to play Test cricket for Pakistan, when selected against New Zealand in 1955/56.

Essentially a middle-order batsman, he was brought into the side by the Pakistani captain Kardar, to strengthen the slips. Wallis obliged with 22 catches in his 21 Tests, some of which were breathtaking.

He went on to play against Australia, West Indies, India and England to total 783 Test runs. Despite his modest figures, he played some significant innings for his country, the best being against West Indies in 1958/59. In the Second Test at Dacca, on a tricky wicket, he scored 64 and 45 against the rampant Hall as Pakistan folded for 145 and 144. The West Indians in turn were dismissed for 76 and 172 with their best effort coming from Sobers who scored 29 and 45. It came to be regarded as 'Wallis's match' despite the brilliant bowling of Fazal Mahmood who took 12 for 100. When reminded of this match in later years, Wallis unselfishly preferred to credit Fazal for the victory. His opponents never forgot, however, how this modest man had single-handedly taken away the series from them.

# Obituary

## Rex Alston

ALTHOUGH his voice was lighter and crisper, and more the Home Counties variety, Rex Alston matched John Arlott in the *timing* of his delivery during cricket commentary. 'Lindwall comes in to bowl to Hutton,' he would intone. And the pause had listeners in agonies of expectation. What happened to that ball? What! Alston would come back unhurriedly with the information that the outswinger had flown harmlessly past and into Tallon's gloves.

Arthur Reginald — always known as 'Rex' — Alston was 93 when he died on Sept 8, nine years previously having read his own premature obituary in *The Times*. The blunder occurred only two months after the death of his first wife, Elspeth, and Alston, who was in hospital with food-poisoning, immediately rang the newspaper. 'Where are you speaking from?' enquired a cautious obituarist. The semi-amused 'victim' is said to have complained gently about the meagre space allocated him. In the following year he remarried, and even when his knees painfully restricted movement as he approached his nineties, he sometimes made his way into the lower reaches of the Warner Stand to watch Lord's Tests.

He was born in Faringdon, Berks on July 2, 1901, the son of a Bishop Suffragan of Middleton, Lancs. Educated at Trent College, Rex Alston then enrolled at Clare College, Cambridge, where he earned a half-Blue at athletics (finishing second to Harold Abrahams in the 100 yards), represented Oxford & Cambridge against Harvard & Yale at Wembley in 1923, and competed in the AAA championships. He also pursued rugby (wing three-quarter for Bedford, East Midlands and Rosslyn Park) and cricket, playing for Crusaders, Hastings, Sussex Martlets, Cryptics and Incogniti (for whom he made his career-best score of 168 against Old Bedfordians in 1928). He played Minor County cricket for Bedfordshire from 1927 to 1932, captaining the county in the last year, his highest score being 115 against Cambs at Luton in 1929.

By profession he had become a schoolmaster, serving on the staff of Bedford School from 1924 to 1941 and as master in charge of cricket for 15 years. Rejected for war service, Alston joined the BBC as a billeting officer, and began commentary duties which expanded until he was covering his four favourite sports, cricket, athletics, rugby and tennis. His first cricket commentary was delivered in 1943, and in 1945, having joined BBC Outside Broadcasts, he followed VE Night celebrations with description of the 'Victory Test' at Old Trafford. As the post-war years unfolded, his voice became nationally familiar in Test match, rugby (over 100 internationals) and Wimbledon broadcasts. He also had the



Rex Alston 1901-94: 'Lindwall to Hutton . . .'

pleasure of covering five Olympic Games between those in London in 1948 and Tokyo in 1964.

Among his tours were the 1956-57 MCC visit to South Africa and 1959-60 to West Indies — where police action was needed in Port-of-Spain when spectators attacked the commentary-box after remarks by Rex Alston were interpreted as provocative. There were inevitably other tense times, as when he struggled with the name of a Pakistan bowler, Afaq. A rugby gaffe was 'We've got it!' when Cambridge heeled from a scrum. 'We' is nowadays, of course, an accepted abomination.

Perfect diction and precision were his hallmarks, but there was always something of the schoolmaster about this believer in daily cold baths. In the 1950s, mildly indignant at criticism of the commentators' alleged verbiage, he described a Test match over or two with only the barest essentials. The switchboard, as they say, was jammed in protest.

Nobody objected, however, to his dramatic calling of the Bannister/Landy mile in the 1954 Empire Games in Vancouver, when the Englishman raced through at the end and Alston switched tack, forced happily to conclude: 'He's done it!'

Retirement in 1961 at 60 was by no means the end of his broadcasting (his last Test commentary was at Headingley in 1964 — 'Burge's match'), and he began writing for the *Telegraph*. He also wrote for *Playfair Cricket Monthly*, and took his book titles to four: *Taking the Air* (1951), *Over to Rex Alston* (the 1953 Ashes series), *Test Commentary* (1956 Ashes series), and *Watching Cricket* (1962). He also contributed to the large 1966 production *World of Cricket*, edited by his old co-commentator E. W. Swanton, who now remains, at 87, the last of the English giants of the Golden Age of cricket commentary on radio.

David Frith

## Donald Ramsamooj

AN ATTRACTIVE batsman who had far more success in England than in his native Trinidad, Donald Ramsamooj, who died after a heart attack in Toronto on May 24,

aged 61, played for Northamptonshire in 71 matches between 1958 and 1964, scoring 123 against Derbyshire in 1960 on his Championship debut. He batted for only 147 minutes and made 80 of his runs in boundaries. There were three other centuries before his contract was ended, the highest 132, again against Derbyshire at Northampton, in 1963, but in 129 innings for Northants he averaged only 20.74. With his stylish method in mind, Frank Tyson described Ramsamooj's county career as 'brilliantly disappointing'.

His debut for Trinidad had been against the 1952-53 Indian touring team, which was led by V.S. Hazare. Ramsamooj made only 8, falling lbw to Phadkar. By the time of his last appearance for Trinidad four years later he had managed a top score of 70, against Barbados. Often he had shown what he was capable of in Beaumont Cup matches. This applied, too, to his performance against E.W. Swanton's team in the Caribbean in 1956, when Ramsamooj stroked 24 and 52 off an attack which included Tyson.

In 1985, having lived in England for some years, he emigrated to Canada.

D.F.

## Maurice Robinson

FORMER Glamorgan and Warwickshire allrounder Maurice Robinson died, aged 73, in hospital in Birmingham on Aug 8 after being taken ill while on holiday in Portugal. Born in Lisburn, Co. Antrim on July 16, 1921, he made his first-class debut in 1942-43 in India while on RAF service. He played for Hyderabad, Madras and Europeans, for whom he took a career-best 7 for 51 against Indians at Madras in 1944-45.

The following year he was transferred to South Wales and thereby qualified for Glamorgan, who were rebuilding after the war. Johnny Clay was delighted to have Robinson's services, despite his military duties, and the young allrounder made his debut against the 1946 Indians at the Arms Park. Later that season he hit a maiden century against Derbyshire at Cardiff and was awarded his county cap. He also proved to be a useful seam bowler for Combined Services.

Robinson could be a dashing stroke-maker, and his finest hour with the bat came at Bournemouth in 1949, when he hit a career-best 190 against Hampshire, sharing a record fifth-wicket stand of 264 with Stan Montgomery. Robinson parted company with Glamorgan during 1950 after 66 appearances.

He moved to the Midlands and played eight times for Warwickshire in 1951 and 1952, leading the county in one match. He had aspirations to become a county captain, which remained unfulfilled, despite an approach to Glamorgan in the mid-1950s. Robinson played club cricket for Moseley in the Birmingham League and ran a sports shop for many years in King's Heath. His final first-class record was 2719 runs at 22.11, 34 wickets at 25.59, and 22 catches.

Andrew Hignell

Continued next page

# Rex Alston

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Arthur Rex Alston** (2 July 1901 – 8 September 1994) was a leading sports commentator for BBC radio on cricket, rugby union, athletics and tennis from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s.

Rex Alston was a considerable sportsman in his own right, obtaining a Cambridge Blue for athletics in 1923, captaining Bedfordshire County Cricket Club in 1932, and playing on the wing for Bedford and Rosslyn Park rugby clubs. He was a pupil at Trent College, Nottingham. He was a schoolmaster at Bedford School from 1924 to 1941, before joining the BBC. He was originally a billeting officer, but it was soon realised that his voice - a clear, light baritone - was too good for him to remain in an administrative role. He remained on the BBC staff until 1961, and continued broadcasting for a few years after that as a free-lance. He wrote on cricket and rugby for the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*, continuing to report on county cricket for the former until 1987. He also had a column in *Playfair Cricket Monthly*.



Rex Alston in the 1960s

His first major cricket commentary was on the Old Trafford "Victory Test" in 1945, as a deputy for Howard Marshall. He quickly became an ever-present in a Test Match commentary team which included John Arlott and E W Swanton, and also was the producer. He commented on about a hundred Tests in all, many of them after the launch of Test Match Special in 1957 expanded the coverage to include the full day's play rather than only portions of it. His last Test was in 1964.

He had the unsettling experience of reading his own obituary in *The Times* in 1985. A misunderstanding led to his obituary being published, instead of merely updated for the files. By an unfortunate coincidence, Alston had collapsed the previous evening at a dinner, and was a patient at the Westminster Hospital at the time. Next year he remarried, and so became almost certainly the only man to have his death and marriage reported in *The Times* in that order.

He wrote a number of books, including:

- *Taking the Air*, Stanley Paul, 1951.
- *Over to Rex Alston. A commentary on the 1953 Australian tour*, Frederick Muller Ltd, 1953.
- *Test Commentary: An Account of the Australian Tour of 1956*, Stanley Paul, 1956.
- *Watching cricket: An aid to the appreciation of first-class cricket, and a guide to the laws (Sports books)*, Phoenix House, 1962.
- *Rothmans Rugby Yearbook 1973-74*, The Queen Anne Press Ltd, 1974.
- *One Hundred Years of Rugby Football; a History of Rosslyn Park Football Club 1879-1979 (Editor)*, 1979.

His father was Arthur Fawssett Alston, the third Bishop of Middleton.

**Wahl, Bruno Wolfgang** **Smith—Toppin, 1891<sup>2</sup>—92<sup>2</sup>**  
*brother of above.*

Lower IV—Upper IV.

Balliol College, Oxford; Taylorian Scholar 1899; B.A. 1901; I.C.S. 1903. Great War, Lieutenant I.A.R.O. (28th Light Cavalry). Killed in action in Persia September 28, 1916.

**Walkley, John Sanders** **Foster, 1891<sup>2</sup>—92<sup>2</sup>**  
*s. of W. H. Walkley, 43 Bridge Street, Banbury.*  
 Shell.

**Welby, Francis Clare Atty** **Swann, 1891<sup>2</sup>—93<sup>2</sup>**  
*s. of Rev. A. A. Welby, Groveley Road, Bournemouth. b. 1876.*

Lower IV—Upper IV.

Tea planter in India; Planter in West Indies; now Produce Broker. Great War, London Motor Transport (home).

*Oaklawn, Queen's Road, Tunbridge Wells.*

**Wood, George Llewellyn** **Swann, 1891<sup>2</sup>—93<sup>2</sup>**  
*s. of J. G. Wood, 8 Lansdowne Crescent, Notting Hill, W. b. 1875.*

Shell—Lower V.

Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge; Assistant Master St. Joseph's College, Colombo; Mechanical Engineer. Accidentally killed at Victoria, B.C., October 5, 1923.

**Wright, William Hilton** **Swann, 1891<sup>2</sup>—97<sup>1</sup>**  
*s. of W. Wright, 3 Codrington Place, Clifton. b. 1878.*

III—VI. Minor Scholar. School Prefect. House XI Cricket and Football.

Oriel College, Oxford; B.A. (Second Class History) 1901; Assistant Master Merchiston Castle School 1902; Wellington College 1903—19; ordained 1905; Rector of Newick 1919.

*Rev. W. H. Wright, Newick Rectory, Lewes, Sussex.*

## **FIRST TERM, 1892**

*HEAD MASTER:*

REV. ARTHUR ST. JOHN GRAY

**Apthorp, Edmund East** **Faber, 1892<sup>1</sup>—97<sup>2</sup>**

*s. of Rev. G. F. Apthorp, Shrigley, Church Walk, Worthing. b. 1877.*

Shell—Lower VI. School Prefect. Head of House. XI Cricket 1896,97; XXII Football; Fives Pair; President of Athletics.

Queens' College, Cambridge; B.A. 1900; played Golf v. Oxford 1898—1900 (captain); Assistant Master Dunstable Grammar School.

*Ashton Lodge, Dunstable.*

Malvern

206

**Woodhouse, Sydney James** **School House, 1889<sup>a</sup>-92<sup>a</sup>**  
*s. of* A. Woodhouse, Dagenham, Newport, Mon.  
Junior School—Modern III.

### THIRD TERM, 1889

Mr. Huntington succeeded Mr. Bryans in No. 4.

**Aldren, Bertram Cecil Robert** **Spear—Day Boy, 1889<sup>a</sup>-92<sup>a</sup>**  
*s. of* J. B. Aldren, The Lizans, Malvern Link. *b.* 1874.  
Lower IV—Lower V. House Prefect. House XI Cricket and Football.  
Edinburgh University; M.B., Ch.B., 1897; M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 1900.  
*42 Bristol Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.*

**Apthorp, Marmaduke Gwyn** **Faber, 1889<sup>a</sup>-95<sup>a</sup>**  
*s. of* Rev. G. F. Apthorp, Shrigley, Church Walk, Worthing. *b.* 1875.  
Shell—Lower VI. House Scholar. Junior Chapel Prefect. Head of House. XI Cricket 1894,95; XI Football; President of Athletics; Fives Pair; Shooting VIII.  
Exhibitioner, Queens' College, Cambridge; B.A. (Third Class Classical Tripos) 1898; served with Kitchener's Horse in the South African War 1899-1902; Cape Civil Service; Secretary to Prime Minister, Cape Colony, 1909-10; Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate Glen Grey 1917, Kentani 1923. Great War 1916-17 (overseas), Major South African Forces.  
*The Residency, Kentani, nr. Butterworth, S.A.*

**Barnett, Bertram Leeds Thomas** **Foster, 1889<sup>a</sup>-92<sup>a</sup>**  
*s. of* T. Barnett, Nyton House, Chichester. *b.* 1875.  
Modern II—I.  
St. John's College, Cambridge; B.A. (Third Class Natural Science Tripos) 1896; M.B., B.C., 1902; St. George's Hospital; M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 1901; D.P.H. R.C.P.S. Lond. 1903; Inspector Public Health Department, Cairo, 1905-07; Medical Officer of Health, Hong Kong; Solicitor 1909; Medical Officer of Health, Isle of Ely. Great War, Captain A.S.C. Died April 18, 1915.

**Barran, Phillip Austyn** **Huntington, 1889<sup>a</sup>-91<sup>a</sup>**  
*s. of* J. Barran, Weetwood, Leeds. *b.* 1876.  
Modern III—II.  
Yorkshire College, Leeds; Christ's College, Cambridge; B.A. (Third Class Mechanical Science Tripos) 1900; Engineer and Managing Director, J. Barran & Sons, Leeds; Major 1st West Riding Brigade R.F.A. (T.F.). Great War, mobilised 1914 (overseas), Ministry of Munitions.  
*The Elms, Chapel Allerton, Leeds.*

**Bradley, Grove Smith** **Spear, 1889<sup>a</sup>-91<sup>a</sup>**  
*s. of* J. Bradley, The Oaklands, Droitwich.  
Modern II—I.

Received 28.3.97.

Thanked 27.4.97.  
W

BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKETERS : INFORMATION FORM

Surname: Arnold, J E  
First names in full: JOSEPH ERNEST  
Date of birth: 31.12.07.  
Place of birth: ? LINSLADE, BUCKS (now in Beds).  
Schools attended: ? BEAUESERT SCHOOL LEIGHTON BUZZARD.  
College/university: DUNSTABLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
THE CEDARS SCHOOL, LEIGHTON BUZZARD.  
THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES, IMPERIAL COLLEGE,  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.  
Left or right handed batsman: RIGHT  
Type of bowler and arm: RIGHT ARM - not sure of type - ? spin.  
Year of debut for Bedfordshire: 1935 - AGAINST NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.  
Bedfordshire clubs played for: Leighton Buzzard  
Beds Club and Ground

Other clubs:

Other sports played: HOCKEY

Occupation: RETIRED COMPANY DIRECTOR.

Other information of interest eg famous relatives, awards, etc: KEEN BELLRINGER, COMPOSED PEAKS.  
CHURCH ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER.

As you can see from his date of birth, my father is now 89. His sight is very poor and writing is very difficult for him. His inclination was to ignore this; but I felt it was a shame when you had sent an s.a.e. I brought this letter and filled it in without my father knowing. Maybe it would be best if sending anything further to send it c/o me: Mrs. F. Farnham, at 20, Church End, Redbourn, St. Albans, Herts. AL3 7DU.  
Best wishes for compiling your "Who's Who".  
Faint N. Farnham.

## BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKETERS INFORMATION FORM

Surname: J E Arnold  
First names: Joseph Ernest  
Date of birth: 31 December 1907  
Place of birth: [Leighton Buzzard]  
Schools attended: Dunstable Grammar School  
Cedars School, LB  
  
Colleges/university: Royal School of Mines,  
London  
Left or right-handed batsman: Right  
Type of bowler: Right arm medium  
Year of debut for Bedfordshire: 1935  
Bedfordshire clubs played for: Leighton Buzzard Town  
Beds Club and Ground  
  
Other teams played for:  
  
Other sports played: Hockey for Bedfordshire  
  
Occupation: Joint Managing Director  
  
Other information of interest: Member Beds CCC Selection  
Committee  
Member Beds CCC General  
Committee  
  
Last known address: Englewood, Bletchley Road,  
Stewkley, Leighton Buzzard  
  
Date of death:  
Place of death:  
  
AJW : 2 March 1997



**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKETERS : INFORMATION FORM**

Surname: August, G L B

First names: George Lawrence Bagley

Date of birth: 16 September 1917

Place of birth: Mymensingh, Bangalore, India

School attended: Bedford School 1927 - 1935

College/university: None

Left or right-handed batsman: Right-handed batsman

Type of bowler and arm: Right arm medium

Year played for Bedfordshire: 1935-1958?

Bedfordshire clubs played for: Bedford Town  
Beds Club and Ground  
Bedford School

Other clubs: Minor Counties XI  
(First class)  
MCC?

Other sports played:

Occupation:

Other information of interest: Secretary Bedfordshire  
CCC 1969-84  
Chairman MCCA 1982-89  
Member Test and County  
Cricket Board  
Obituary Wisden 1992

Last known address: 24 Furzefield, Putnoe, Bedford

Date of death: 13 October 1991

Place of death: Bedford

AJW : 2 March 1997

## A BEDFORDSHIRE PORTRAIT GALLERY



MR. G. L. B. AUGUST

**C**RICKET breeds characters almost as prolifically as it does statistics, and one of the best-known in Bedfordshire cricket is Mr. George Lawrence Bagley August, whose stocky figure has been descending the pavilion steps to open the County's innings for almost a quarter of a century.

That familiar August stance, cap pulled well down—as immovable and invincible as a Sherman tank—has confounded many a visiting bowler on a hot afternoon. Yet, if George August's forward defensive stroke is his own particular trademark, his attacking armoury is wide and powerful and seldom does he allow a loose ball to pass unpunished.

His imperturbable temperament makes him an ideal opener, and, come bouncer or barracker, he goes serenely on, doing his job of laying the foundations to another County total. He has appeared in 130 Minor Counties matches, scoring about 6,000 runs, including nine centuries. His highest score was 201 against Oxfordshire in 1947, but of even more value to his side were those more modest knocks made on sticky wickets when lesser men were struggling in the spinners' toils.

As a fielder he has become established at cover-point but he never meddles with bowling. "I used to bowl slow leg-breaks as a boy," he confides, "but my coach tried to teach me the 'googly', failed, and as a result I lost my leg-break, too."

George August's batting worth has been recognised by his selection for the full Minor Counties representative eleven and he has faced some of the finest cricketers in the world. Having experienced the hurricanes of Lindwall and Tyson, he considers the latter to be the quicker, but to Australia's George Tribe he awards the spinners' palm.

Born in India, where his father was a constructional engineer, George August came to England to be educated at Bedford School and he quickly established himself as a cricketer, progressing from the "Inky" eleven to the

School 1st XI, and first playing for the County at seventeen in 1935. While studying in London as a chartered accountant he continued to play for the County and also played club cricket for Hornsey.

During the war he served with the 14th Army in Burma, and, when he returned to Bedford with his wife and family in 1951, he was soon appointed vice-captain of the County XI, and skipper of Bedford Town C.C.

Local sportsmen may recall that August was also a useful rugby fly-half, playing for the Town and the Wanderers, having previously won his School colours.

When he retires from cricket he hopes to take up golf again—he once played off six. However, the family cricketing tradition is likely to be maintained by his sons, David (11) and Philip (9), who both show tremendous zeal for the game at the "Inky" where George made his early debut—as a tall-ender.

G.L.B. August - Addresses in OBC Register

1947 70 Village Road, Enfield, Middlesex

B. A. BABB

First names in full: BURLAND ARTHUR.

Date of birth: 1 JAN 1907

Place of birth: BRADFORD-ON-AVON. WILTS.

School: BEDFORD MODERN.

University or college: ST JOHN'S COLLEGE. CAMBRIDGE.

Left or right-handed batsman RIGHT-HAND BATSMAN.

Type of bowler and arm/wicket keeper: MEDIUM PACE. RIGHT ARM.

Year of first class debut: /

Teams played for:

First class - /

Second class -

Others - CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CRUSADERS.  
NORTHERN NIGERIA.

ZANZIBAR.

DAR-ES-SALAAM (CAPTAIN)

Other possible points of interest: (for example comparable success at other sports, famous relatives and so forth)

RUGGER FOR:- BEDFORD.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

EAST MIDLANDS.

SUSSEX.

FIVES FOR :- CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

POLO FOR :- MIDDLE EAST FORCES V EGYPTIAN ARMY.

Occupation: COLONIAL SERVICE NIGERIA, TANGANYIKA,  
ZANZIBAR. 1929 - 54.

MEMBER ZANZIBAR EXECUTIVE AND  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

Thank you for your help.

MOOR HOUSE  
HARDINGTON MOOR  
YEovil, SOMERSET  
WEST GLEN - 2892.

15/10/76.

Dear Mr Webb

I hope enclosed will  
be of some use, although I cannot  
see it will be of much interest?!!  
Funnily enough I <sup>recently</sup> came across a  
1925 photo of the Becks XI.  
The only member of that team I  
know anything of is E.D. Dynes  
who died 3-4 years ago when  
Secretary of the Ipswich golf club.  
He was a retired Brigadier  
& a one-time ADC to the Queen.  
He played regular first-class cricket  
for the Army for several years -  
also Rugby. Part of luck in your  
tremendous task. Yours sincerely  
B.A. Babb.

**BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKETERS : INFORMATION SHEET**

Surname: Bailey, C B

First names: Colin Brandreth

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Schools attended: Bedford Modern School 1924-1931

Left or right-handed batsman: ?

Type of bowler: ? fast medium

Year of Bedfordshire debut: 1932-1938 (Also played after 1945)

Bedfordshire clubs played for: Bedford Modern School 1928-1931  
Bedfordshire C and Ground  
Bedford Town

Other clubs:

Other sports played:

Occupation:

Other information of interest:

Last known address:

Date of death:

Place of death:

BAILEY COLIN BRANDRETH

PLAYED BEDS 1932-1949

BORN 26 NOVEMBER 1913

1949 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1950 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1951 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1952 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1953 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1954 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1955 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1956 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1957 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 :

1958 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1959 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1960 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

4Q 1957

Apr 48 Coln

Sheffield

2d

114

1961 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1962 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1963 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1964 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1965 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1966 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 ?

4Q 1966

Apr 58 Coln B

Stokeport

10a

592

(Certificate checked - not the contactor - not BRANDRETH.)

1967 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1968 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1969 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1970 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1971 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1972 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1973 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1974 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1975 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1976 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1978 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1979 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1980 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1981 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1982 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1983 1 X  
2 X  
3 X  
4 X

1984 X

1990 X

1996 X

1985 X

1991 X

1997 X

1986 ?

1992 X

1998 X

1987 X

1993 X

1999 X

1988 X

1994 X

1989 X

1995 X

1986 COLIN 26 Oct 1913 STOCHPORT 1286 39 1477



## BEDFORD SPORTSMAN MARRIED

**Kempston Bride for Mr. C.  
B. Bailey**

The marriage was solemnized at the Kempston Parish Church on Saturday morning of Miss Joyce Elizabeth Ford, second daughter of Mr. A. Ford and of the late Mrs. Ford, High Street, Kempston, and Mr. Colin Brandreth Bailey, O.B.M., younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Bailey, Bushmead Avenue, Bedford. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar, Canon T. H. W. Barker.



The bridegroom, who is an Assistant Relieving Officer in the service of the Bedfordshire County Council, is a popular all-round sportsman. He is best known as a cricketer, and his performances with bat and ball for the Club and Ground and the Bedford Town Cricket Club have been noteworthy for six or seven seasons. He has made several successful appearances for the Bedfordshire County Cricket Club, too, and is a County "colour". Mr. Bailey, a fast bowler and an aggressive batsman, is a product of the Modern School, where he was a member of the School eleven from 1928 to 1931 and captain in 1930 and 1931. He is an equally accomplished hockey player and for several seasons has been a first choice for the Bedford Club and County teams.

On Saturday his bride, given away by her father, was attired in a navy suit with accessories to match. The best man was Mr. P. Rawlins, a member of the well-known Bedfordshire family of sportsmen and himself a playing member of the Bedford Town Cricket Club.

The reception was held at 43 Bushmead Avenue, Bedford.

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey will reside at 27 Everard Road, Goldington.

# SPORTS PARADE

—BY "SPECTATOR"—



**O**FTEN Northamptonshire have looked south for cricket talent and found it within the borders of Bedfordshire. Going back through the years, there was Gordon Brice and Mick Allen. More recently, the cricketing Watts brothers—Peter and Jim—left their native shire to serve Northamptonshire well in the county championship. Now, another Bedfordshire-born man has emerged as a potential "star" of Northamptonshire. Twenty-year-old Raymond Bailey (pictured left) has hit the sporting headlines by taking five wickets in the first innings of each of the first three matches in which he has bowled in county cricket.

Born in Queen's Park, Bedford, Bailey learned his cricket at Queen's Park School and Harpur Secondary Modern. But his first professional coaching came at Cardington Camp from ex-Surrey cricketer Tom Clark, another Bedfordshire first-class cricket product.

A member of Bedford Boys' Club, Bailey had a couple of years coaching at Cardington and then took a course in the Northamptonshire winter indoor cricket school under chief coach Dennis Brookes. He made an impression with Northamptonshire club by taking five wickets in his second XI trial game and was taken on the professional staff last season.

It seemed that Bailey would have a long wait for a first-team chance with two or three other pace bowlers ahead of him in the queue. And the first-string seamers were going strong for most of the season.

By a strange coincidence, Bailey got his chance much earlier than he expected. One of the first-team bowlers went lame at Worcester. And the selectors looked to their reserves only to find that two likely deputies were also on the casualty list.

So they picked third-choice reserve Bailey among the 12 to play against Kent at Wellingborough on the following day. It was a big surprise to the fans to see Bailey's name in the team. But they soon heard more about the 6 ft. 2 inches tall swing bowler from Bedford.

Bailey made a five-wicket debut, taking his first wicket in county cricket with his fourth ball and claiming England batsman Colin Cowdrey as his second victim. Since then, Bailey has taken five for 72 against Middlesex and his best feat was five for 25 against Hampshire at Northampton last week.

During the winter, Bailey works as a clerk in Bedford. He is on the books of Bedford Town F.C. as a wing-half. If he does as well at football as he has done at cricket, Bailey will no doubt become a regular first-team man for the Eagles.

Now, however, he is not likely to jeopardise his cricket career by risking football injury with so few young fast bowlers making the grade in English cricket these days.

Bailey has a smooth and economic action and makes the ball swing away from the bat deceptively at times. He looks capable of keeping up a fair pace in long spells of bowling and could become even quicker through the air if used in short bursts.

# Ex-Headmaster Dies

## MR. F. BALL

Mr. Frederick Ball, a former Headmaster of St. Matthew's Church of England School, Luton, collapsed and died in Tooting on Tuesday last week while waiting for a bus back to Luton.

Mr. Ball, who was 79, was returning to his home in Highfield-road after spending a holiday with relatives.

He retired from teaching in 1944 after being associated with St. Matthew's School for about 50 years, first as a pupil and then as a pupil teacher, teacher and Headmaster. He was a widower.

Mr. Ball was keenly interested in sport and knocked up some big cricket scores for Luton Albion, Luton Highbury, and Luton Town clubs. He also played for the county on one occasion.

## FOOTBALL FOR LUTON AMATEUR

Football was another of his interests, and he gave good service for a number of years as a right-back with Luton Amateur F.C.

Mr. Ball was a former member of the National Union of Teachers, the Teachers' Provident Society, and the Luton Head Teachers' Association.

At the time of his death he was associated with Vesper and was an active member of All Saints' Church, Luton, where the funeral service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Robert Meredith, on Friday. Interment was at the General Cemetery.

Mourners were Misses Iula and Susie Arding, sisters-in-law; Mr. Frank Ball and Mr. Frederick Ball, nephews; Mrs. J. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. R. Mole and Mr. William Rosson.

## Deaths

**ABRAHAM:** On July 18, Albert (Bert) Edward Gregory Abraham, of 448, Forest-avenue, Rye, New York, U.S.A., late of Tilsworth, aged 66. n

**AMES:** On July 18, Herbert Arthur Philip Ames, of 53, Toddington-road, Luton, aged 74. n

**ATHERTON:** On July 16, Frederick George Atherton, of 14, St. Monica's-avenue, Luton, aged two years. n

**BALL:** On July 16, Frederick Ball, of 12, Highfield-road, Luton, aged 77. n

**BRAZIER:** On July 19, Emily n



## ASHLEY - BEAUMONT

was then an unusually high salary of five figures, and he repaid them handsomely with inspiring all-round cricket during his three years at the county. Taking over the captaincy midway through his first year, during which he hit 217 against Surrey at Ilkeston, he drove the team to new standards of fitness. When he left he had taken them to a final at Lord's, three of their players were in the England side, and the club was imbued with the spirit of success. Barlow was a vital member of the strong South African side during the 1960s, scoring 1,900 runs at an average of 63.33 on the tour of New Zealand and Australia in 1963/4. He scored 201 against Australia at Adelaide. In England in 1965, on a short tour, he made 971 runs (38.84) in 16 matches, but had a rather modest Test series. Back in England, however, playing for the Rest of the World in 1970 when the scheduled South African tour was cancelled, he was his usual dynamic self, doing the hat-trick and taking four wickets in five balls against England at Headingley. (His final figures were 7 for 64.) At Cape Town in 1966/7 he took 5 for 85 against Australia. On the field Barlow bubbled with self-belief and bristled with belligerence. Off it he is a modest and charming character who has been a great ambassador for the game and for his country. In 1984 he took up a post in London, promoting the cause of South African sport in the face of widespread political opposition. He stood unsuccessfully as an election candidate for the Progressive party.

career (1926-47): 2,696 runs (29.68)  
including 6 centuries, and 276 wickets (24.11)  
(9): 174 runs (14.50) including  
tury, 22 wickets (36.63) and 5 catches

**First-class career (1959-82): 18,212 runs (39.16)**  
**including 43 centuries, 571 wickets (24.14)**  
**and 335 catches**  
**Test matches (30): 2,516 runs (45.74) including**  
**6 centuries, 40 wickets (34.05) and 35 catches**

**Edgar John** (b.1940)  
*Eastern Province, Western Province,*  
*Derbyshire*

his youth as 'Bunter' because of his  
nd stout build, Eddie Barlow was sup-  
so short-sighted that he never saw further  
ont wheel of his bicycle when he rode to  
he developed into a magnificent all-round  
ho positively revelled in every challenge  
set him. Burly and strong, he became  
ed right-handed opening batsman with a  
ce, who was especially strong off the back  
at-hand medium-pace bowler who could  
all swing prodigiously, and a brilliant slip  
rn in Pretoria, Barlow first played for the  
in 1959/60. He later represented Eastern  
1 the Currie Cup from 1964 to 1965, before  
ck to Transvaal from 1966 to 1968, then on  
1 Province, where he also ran a pig farm,  
y, to Boland, a Province of only B class,  
influence brought swift improvements. In  
yshire invited him to join them, paying what

**BAUMGARTNER, Harold Vane** ✱  
(1883-1938)

*Bedfordshire, Orange Free State and Transvaal*  
A tiny but tenacious left-arm slow bowler, Harold  
Baumgartner scored 16 and 3, took 2 for 99 (clean-  
bowling Jack Hobbs and J.W.H.T. Douglas) and  
caught 1 in his sole Test, the first against England at  
Durban in 1913/14.

**First-class career (1903-14): 173 runs (7.86) and**  
**70 wickets (18.51)**

**BEAUMONT, Rolland** (1884-1958)

*Transvaal*  
When he played his natural game Rolland Beaumont  
would hit with positive brilliance but he tended to be  
over-cautious, especially in Tests, and failed to do  
himself justice. He came to England in 1912, playing  
against both England and Australia, and in the wet  
summer scored 510 runs (18.21) in all first-class  
matches. He also played against England in 1913/14.

Adopted the surname Vane - Pevey (his mother's  
maiden name) sometime after his Test debut. 291

# Henry Beasley

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Lieutenant Colonel **Henry Mountifort Beasley** DSO (1875 – 14 December 1949), known as 'Pops', was a British Army officer and a leading contract bridge personality in the early days of the game.

## Life

Born in Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, India, he was educated at Bedford School, and entered the Royal Military Academy (Woolwich) on leaving school. Beasley was gazetted to the Royal Artillery in 1896. He served in India, Burma and China, and took part in the Relief of Peking after the Boxer Rebellion. He served in WWI on the staff of the Anzac Corps. He was thrice mentioned in despatches and awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). After the war he served in Germany on the Disarmament Commission. He was an interpreter in French, German and Hindustani.<sup>[1]</sup>

Pops had played all forms of bridge from the days of bridge-whist and auction bridge. He wrote his first book on this game in 1906, *London bridge*, which "started the bridge craze in all the fashionable clubs of that day." (Beasley). Like many of the early contract bridge players, he had been an expert auction bridge player in the 1920s. In domestic bridge he was a leading organiser. He had been a member of Almacks club since 1901, and later was a co-founder and Chairman of two leading London card clubs - Crockford's (in St James' Street) and the Hamilton Club (in Hamilton Place). He was also a leading player in the 1930s, winning the Gold Cup in 1933, and playing in several international events. He was an author and bridge columnist, and the originator of a bidding system named after him.<sup>[2]</sup>



'Pops' Beasley during practice match at Grosvenor House, before the 1933 match v Culbertson. Right is probably the young Terence Reese.

"Pops was a brilliant player and a great psychologist. In his time he won most of the major tournaments and he captained England on numerous occasions". Ewart Kempson<sup>[3]</sup>

In bidding, Beasley adopted many of Culbertson's ideas, but was displeased with the strong twos and their negative response of two no trumps. As a result, so he claimed, he was the inventor (in 1936) of the artificial strong two clubs opening bid with its negative response two diamonds.<sup>[4]</sup> For many years all the British bidding systems used this method of dealing with strong hands: Acol (both standard and Benjaminised), CAB, Two Clubs and Baron systems all used it. However, it is fair to mention that others have also claimed authorship of this fruitful idea.

## Matches vs Culbertson

Beasley's bridge team played two matches against the formidable Culbertson team, losing both, but helping to develop the game in Britain.<sup>[5]</sup>

The first match, Crockford's v. Culbertson, took place in 1930, after the Buller–Culbertson match. The Crockford's team was Beasley, Sir Guy Domville (popular society and sporting figure), George Morris and Captain Hogg; the match over 200 boards was won by the Culbertson team by 4,905 points (total points scoring).<sup>[6]</sup>



Round the table from left: Ely Culbertson, Lady Doris Rhodes, referee GGJ Walshe, Josephine Culbertson, 'Pops' Beasley; left behind Ely is Hubert Phillips

The second match, for the Schwab trophy in 1933, was a more significant event, preceded by the usual brilliant Culbertson publicity. Played at Selfridges, it was widely reported in the press and on newsreel, and was attended by many spectators. A large periscope was used so that spectators outside the playing-room could glimpse the players. Play could also be followed on a massive electrical scoreboard ("the forerunner to Bridgerama")<sup>[7]</sup> in the Palm Court area. The teams were: Britain: Beasley & Sir Guy Domville; George Morris & Percy Tabbush; Lady Doris Rhodes & Graham Mathieson. America: Ely & Josephine Culbertson; Theodore Lightner and Michael Gottlieb. In both teams the pairs sometimes lined up differently.

George Morris and Percy Tabbush were an

interesting pair: according to Reese, Morris was "a famous gambler at every card game, and an athlete; he had made a Channel-swimming attempt and played marathon golf for big stakes. His health failed and he was a pitiable sight in later years. Tabbush followed a course that is not common amongst bridge players: he joined a religious sect and turned his back on the 'Devil's playthings'." <sup>[8]</sup>

Mathieson's part in the match was curtailed when he fell through a glass roof, to be rescued swinging from a girder above a 40-foot drop! The Culbertson team won by the decisive, but not overwhelming, margin of 10,900 points (total points scoring). Hubert Phillips, writing in the *News Chronicle*, put the reasons as superior teamwork, avoidance of unnecessary risks when vulnerable, and greater precision in slam-bidding.<sup>[9]</sup> The match was analysed in three books, and had a considerable effect on bidding methods in Britain and elsewhere.<sup>[10][11][12]</sup>



Round the table from left: Michael Gottlieb, George Morris, Mr Mundy (referee), Theodore Lightner, Percy Tabbush; behind table left: Hubert Phillips; behind Tabbush: Doris Rhodes.

E. BIRCUMSHAW

22. St Mary's Ave

Stowfold, n<sup>th</sup> Hitchin Herts. SG5. 4NF.

Phone. " 731129.

First names in full:

ERIC

Date of birth:

1910

Place of birth:

Loxwell, Derbyshire,

School:

Council School

University or college:

Left or right-handed batsman

Left

Type of bowler and arm/wicket keeper:

Medium pace R/Hand

Year of first class debut:

Teams played for:

First class -

Second class -

~~Sir Julian~~ Bedfordshire 1930<sup>s</sup>

Others -

Fairfield Hospital. Loan raised. Greenbourne Hospital until 1940?

Other possible points of interest: (for example comparable success at other sports, famous relatives and so forth)

Played soccer for ~~about~~ Hospital R/Back against Luton Police  
Norhamptonshire Police

Tottenham A Team

Various Mental Hospitals, Leazesden Hosp, Brentwood Hosp

Believed to have distant relative who played in Lancashire League Home of Parks, later went to ~~the~~ Fifehire.

Occupation: was Mental Nurse from 1930 until 1975  
Now retired

Thank you for your help.

First names in full: GEORGE ALLAN BIRCUMSHAW

Date of birth: 5. 8 1912

Place of birth: CRESWELL DERBYSHIRE

School: CRESWELL COUNCIL SCHOOL.

University or college:

Left or right-handed batsman LEFT-HANDED

Type of bowler and arm/wicket keeper: MEDIUM PACE (R ARM)

Year of first class debut: APPROX 1936 FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

Teams played for:

First class -

Second class - BEDFORDSHIRE

Others - (1) CRESWELL (BASSETLAW LEAGUE)

(2) THREE COUNTIES HOSPITAL (IN BEDFORDSHIRE)  
NOW KNOWN AS FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL

Other possible points of interest: (for example comparable success at other sports, famous relatives and so forth)

DISTANT RELATIVE. ARCHIE SLATER. PLAYED CRICKET FOR  
DERBYSHIRE

Occupation: MALE NURSE

Do you have the address of your brother who also played for  
the county? E. BIRCUMSHAW

22 St Mary's Ave

Stotfold, HITCHIN, HERTS

Thank you for your help.





Kevin Clement  
Cricket Archivist  
22 White Hart Lane  
Godmanchester, Cambs PE29 2DR  
email: [kpaclement@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kpaclement@yahoo.co.uk)  
twitter: @KPAC55

The School Archivist  
Downside School  
Stratton-on-the-Fosse  
RADSTOCK  
Somerset  
BA3 4RJ

14 January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**WILFRID JOHN BIRD**

I'm undertaking a project about Bedfordshire County Cricket Club which includes identifying details of everyone who has played for the County since 1895. This includes the above who, for the best part of 110 years, was merely known in records as WJ Bird until I discovered more about him.

Wilfrid served an engineering apprenticeship at Queen's Engineering Works in Bedford and I know from the company records that he was born in Natal South Africa, probably in Pietermaritzberg, on 12 October 1888. He entered Downside on 16 September 1902. Wilfrid's father was Principal Under Secretary for the Colony of Natal and his mother appears in the 1911 census living in Bedford with some of his siblings. Wilfrid obtained his engineering qualification in 1910 and the last I am able to establish about him is that he was working for Messrs Harvey & Co in Johannesburg in 1913.

Do you have any more information about Wilfrid that you could let me have? A date and place of death would be wonderful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Clement

SAE

## Wilfrid Bird

From: Steven Parsons (SParsons@downside.co.uk)

To: kpaclement@yahoo.co.uk

Date: Friday, 25 January 2019, 11:34 GMT

---

Dear Kevin,

Many thanks for your enquiry regarding an OG of Downside, Wilfrid Bird. I have got one of our archive volunteers to look through the school file of Wilfrid and she has provided me with the following relevant information from it.

Wilfrid John Bird 12.10.1988

He was at Downside Sept 1902 - July 1905.

Born in Pietermaritzburg South Africa to a prominent Catholic family. Two of his uncles also attended Downside.

His brother Christopher (born 1890) came to Downside at the same time.

August 1904 - school report mentions that he is making his mark at cricket - "the best bowler in school" Headmaster says he works very hard but early poor schooling means he is behind in standards. (Downside liked to have pupils from about age 10 so they could shape them as early as possible. As Wilfrid was already almost 14 when he arrived this would have set him back in Downside terms).

August 1905 - passes Lower Certificate (forerunner of GCSEs). Report says he is "the best all round man in the cricket team".

September 1905 - March 1906: in Bedford studying technical subjects in preparation for apprenticeship.

April 1906 - begins apprenticeship at Queen's Engineering, Crewe.

Plays well in Past v Present school cricket match. (No report available.)

27 May 1911 - passenger on liner to Durban, SA. Profession given as Engineer.

He served in the Great War as a private in the Mounted Rifles (Natal Carab<sup>1</sup>biniers) which served in German South West Africa during the conflict.

Unfortunately this is as much information as we have, but I hope it may be of some use to you and the archive you are compiling.

Do get in touch if I can be of any further help.

Best wishes,

Steve

# Louis Bookman

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Louis Bookman** (6 November 1890 – 10 June 1943), also known as **Louis Buckhalter** or **Louis Buchalter**, was a Lithuanian Jewish footballer and cricketer who represented his adopted country, Ireland, at both sports. The son of a Rabbi, his family emigrated from Lithuania to Ireland in the 1895 to escape antisemitism, and subsequently changed their name to Bookman.<sup>[2]</sup>

He represented numerous football clubs, moving from Belfast Celtic to English club Bradford City in 1911. Three years later he switched to West Bromwich Albion, before the First World War led him to return to Ireland to play for Glentoran and then Shelbourne. He won the County Antrim Shield with Glentoran and helped Shelbourne to a Leinster Cup and league win in 1918–19. He returned to the Football League of England to sign for Luton Town in 1919, and played over 100 games for the club before joining Port Vale in September 1923. He returned to Shelbourne the following year. He also won four caps for Ireland, and helped the Irish to claim victory in the 1914 edition of the British Home Championship.

In his cricket career, he represented the Railway Union Cricket Club, the Leinster Cricket Club, Bedfordshire, and Ireland. A left-handed batsman and left-arm spin bowler, he played in nine first-class international matches. After his career in sports was over, he worked in Ireland on the railways, and also entered the jewellery business.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Contents

- 1 Football career
  - 1.1 Club career
  - 1.2 International career
  - 1.3 Honours

## Louis Bookman



### Personal information

<b>Full name</b>	Louis James Arthur Oscar Buckhalter <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Date of birth</b>	6 November 1890 <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Place of birth</b>	Žagarė, Russian Empire (now Lithuania) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Date of death</b>	10 June 1943 (aged 52) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Place of death</b>	Dublin, Ireland <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Height</b>	5 <span> </span> ft 8 <span> </span> in (1.73 <span> </span> m) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Playing position</b>	Outside-left

### Youth career

Dublin Adelaide  
Frankfurt

### Senior career\*

Years	Team	Apps <sup>†</sup>	(Gls) <sup>†</sup>
1910–1911	Belfast Celtic		
1911–1914	Bradford City	32	(2)
1914–1915	West Bromwich Albion	16	(1)
1915–1916	Glentoran	23	(1)
1916–1919	Shelbourne	6	(1)
1919–1922	Luton Town	101	(8)

- 2 Cricket career
- 3 References
- 4 External links

1923–1924	Port Vale	10	(0)
1924–1925	Shelbourne	8	(2)
<b>Total</b>		<b>196+</b>	<b>(15+)</b>

#### National team

1911	Ireland amateur	1	(0)
1914–1921	Ireland	4	(0)

\* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only.

† Appearances (Goals).

## Football career

Louis Bookman came on the public scene as a teenager, playing football for the Dublin Jewish team, Adelaide, (named after the large Adelaide Road synagogue). Adelaide, captained by William

Woolfson (later founder and long time CEO of a prominent Irish industrial firm), were the winners of the All Ireland Under-18 Football Cup in 1908. It was from this beginning that Bookman went on to a career in professional football.

## Club career

Bookman began his senior football career in the Irish League with Belfast Celtic, before joining English side Bradford City in 1911. He failed to establish himself as a first team regular for the "Bantams", making just 32 First League appearances in three seasons.<sup>[2]</sup> During his time at Valley Parade, Bradford were a consistent mid-table team, finishing 11th in 1911–12, 13th in 1912–13, and ninth in 1913–14. Bookman joined league rivals West Bromwich Albion for the 1914–15 season, but found that his football career was interrupted by the outbreak of the First World War. During the war he departed The Hawthorns and returned to Ireland to play for Glentoran and Shelbourne.<sup>[2]</sup> The "Glens" finished second in the Belfast & District League in 1915–16, and were beaten by Linfield in the Irish Cup final; they did though lift the County Antrim Shield after a 1–0 victory over Lisburn Distillery. He then switched The Oval for Shelbourne Park, and helped the "Shels" to win both the Leinster Senior Cup and Leinster Senior League in 1918–19.

After the war Bookman was bought by Luton Town for £875, where despite being over thirty, he enjoyed the most successful spell of his football career.<sup>[2]</sup> The "Hatters" could only post a 20th place finish in the Southern League in 1919–20, but were nevertheless elected into the Football League. Luton then finished ninth in the Third Division in 1920–21, before reaching fourth and then fifth in the Third Division South in 1921–22 and 1922–23. He left Kenilworth Road in September 1923, when he was signed by Second Division side Port Vale for a £250 fee.<sup>[3]</sup> He lost his first team place in December that year, and was released at the end of the 1923–24 season.<sup>[3]</sup> Bookman then returned to Ireland and re-signed for Shelbourne.<sup>[2]</sup>

## International career

In 1911, while playing for Belfast Celtic, Bookman gained an Irish amateur cap.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1914, together with Val Harris, Patrick O'Connell, Billy Gillespie and Bill Lacey, Bookman was a member of the Ireland team that won the British Home Championship. He won the first of four caps for Ireland in a 2–1 win against Wales on 1 January. He then had to wait a further seven years for more international action, as he won a further three caps in 1921: a 2–0 defeat to Scotland on 26 February, a 2–1 defeat to Wales on 9 April, and a 1–1 draw with England on 22 October.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Honours

### with Belfast Celtic

- Charity Cup runner-up: 1911

### with Glentoran

- Irish Cup runner-up: 1916
- **County Antrim Shield winner:** 1916

### with Shelbourne

- **Leinster Senior Cup winner:** 1919
- **Leinster Senior League champion:** 1918–19

### with Ireland

- **British Home Championship winner:** 1914

## Cricket career

Bookman played cricket for the Railway Union Cricket Club, the Leinster Cricket Club<sup>[4]</sup> and Bedfordshire.<sup>[2]</sup> A left-handed batsman and left-arm spin bowler,<sup>[5]</sup> Bookman made his debut for Ireland in a first-class match against Scotland in July 1920, and went onto play for Ireland on fourteen occasions. He played in eight more first-class matches, including a match against the West Indies. His last match was against Sir Julien Cahn's XI in July 1930.

## References

- ↑ Sherwin, Phil (2010). *The Port Vale Miscellany*. Brimscombe Port: The History Press. p. 32. ISBN 978-0-7524-5777-2.

### Louis Bookman

#### Personal information

<b>Batting style</b>	Left-handed batsman
<b>Bowling style</b>	Slow left-arm orthodox

#### International information

<b>National side</b>	Ireland
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#### Career statistics

	First-class
<b>Competition</b>	
<b>Matches</b>	9
<b>Runs scored</b>	342
<b>Batting average</b>	20.11
<b>100s/50s</b>	0/1
<b>Top score</b>	53
<b>Balls bowled</b>	348
<b>Wickets</b>	3
<b>Bowling average</b>	63.00
<b>5 wickets in innings</b>	0
<b>10 wickets in match</b>	0
<b>Best bowling</b>	2/32
<b>Catches/stumpings</b>	5/0

Source: Cricket Archive

(<http://www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Players/26/26703/26703.html>)

## Louis Bookman biography

29 November 2012

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### Louis A Bookman (name at birth Buckhalter)

- Born 6 November 1890, Zagare, Lithuania
- Died 10 June 1943, Dolphin's Barn, Dublin
- Occupation Professional Footballer
- Debut 22 July 1920, v Scotland, Raeburn Place, Edinburgh
- Cap Number 296
- Style Left-hand bat, slow left arm
- Teams Railway Union, Leinster, Bedfordshire

Louis Bookman, the first player of Eastern European birth to play cricket for Ireland, was born in Lithuania, when that country was part of the Tzarist Russian Empire.

Zagare, a historic and, then, important city, had at the time a Jewish community of some 14000. However they were constantly persecuted by the Russian government, as successive Tsars found that provoking anti-semitism sometimes resulted in pogroms, and was a likely way of diverting their subjects from anti-government actions.

To escape this the Buckhalter family came to Ireland, in the 1890s. Had they stayed they would almost certainly shared the fate of almost all the Jewish population of the city, following its invasion by German forces in 1941.

With his family name changed to Bookman to fit in better to his new life, Louis became a skilful footballer and a good all round cricketer. Playing for Railway Union, when the Leinster Senior League began in 1919, he showed himself a fine batsman who often opened the innings.

Small of stature, and a brilliant off side player, he was very good against fast bowling, with his best stroke "a delightful slashing square cover drive." (Sean Pender in Leinster Cricket Club 1852 - 1977). He was not a strong driver but "perfect timing and skilful placing more than compensated for this." (Pender)

In the early years of the League he was easily Railway's best bat, though his slow left arm, orthodox, spin came in useful also. In 1923, he won the Samuels Cup for the leading all rounder in Leinster cricket with 288 runs and 40 wickets. This also gained him the O'Grady Cup for the leading bowler. However, in the words of the Railway Union website, "He went to Leinster after an unfortunate knock on the head." He remains one of the Park Avenue side's most distinguished players.

Between 1927 and 1934, he scored 1703 runs at 27.91 for Leinster with a highest score of 107 v Phoenix in The Park. However those who saw both innings rated his 102 v Dublin Univeraity at Rathmines in 1929 the better one.

For Ireland he was consistent and reliable, without being outstanding. He hit 4 fifties, besides making a vital contribution to the historic win over the 1928 West Indies side. He was not dismissed for a single figure score until his sixth innings. In his 25 innings for Ireland, he only failed to reach double figures on 7 occasions. His highest score was 77 against Wales in 1923 at Cardiff, the scene of his success now buried within the complex of the Millenium Stadium.

This helped Ireland to pass 400 as AP Kelly and Jacko Heaslip (96) also shone with the bat. In 1924 he made a second innings 50 v MCC in a tight draw at College Park, as Ireland, chasing 242, ended on 213-8. He was bowled when opening the batting, by Middlesex paceman HJ Enthoven, for one of his four ducks for Ireland, in the first innings. He helped his team close on the victory target in the second before falling to the medium pace of Oxford don and spymaster JC Masterman, who played tennis and hockey for England.

Louis hit 2 further half centuries, both in 1926: 53 in a drawn match with Oxford, and 74 in the second innings v MCC which allowed Ireland a comfortable win. The Irish batting was very strong and he was at

10 in the first innings, with Dublin University man Arthur Robinson at 9. They opened in the second knock and put on 83!

However Bookman's most valuable innings for Ireland was probably his 31 against the West Indies in 1928. He had been bowled second ball in the first innings, but now withstood the fearsome pace of Herman Griffith to blunt the attack and prepare the ground for George McVeagh's legendary hundred.

Bookman was always better known as a footballer: his career began with Belfast Celtic where he gained an Irish amateur cap. From 1911 to 1914, he was on the books of Bradford City, making 32 appearances. and playing for the full Irish team against Wales, winning 2-1, he helped Ireland to their first championship. He also, as far as is known, became the first Jewish football international.

Therafter he made a futher 98 league appearances, mostly for Luton Town, but also for West Bromwich Albion and Port Vale. He scored 7 goals in all and gained three more Irish caps. His Luton connection was also a cricket one as he turned out for Bedfordshire in the Minor Counties Championship in 1921.

That year Hertfordshire defeated the County at Luton by an innings and 21 runs. Louis, top scoring in each innings, with 49 and 48, did his utmost to stave off defeat. However, like most of his team mates, he fell to the pace bowling of occasional first class cricketer, Fred Burton, who had match figures of 14-139 including 9-67 in the second innings.

Bookman's final league football season was at Tolka Park in 1924/25 when he played 8 matches for Shelbourne. He was a remarkable all-round sportsman, who deserves to be better remembered.

## A COUNTY CRICKETER AND RUGBY PLAYER

### Death of Mr. William Bovell-Jones

A cricketer of quite exceptional talent and a stylish Rugby player will be recalled by the news of the death of Mr. William Bovell-Jones (O.B.), which took place on Wednesday.

Mr. Bovell-Jones, who was at Bedford School from 1919 to 1922, came from Christ's Hospital School, Horsham, where he gained a reputation as a batsman, having won a place in the XI as a small boy. At Bedford he played in the 1st XI in his second year, and captained the side in 1922, when his batting average stood at over seventy.

The late Mr. R. W. Rice, Bedford School master and Gloucestershire cricketer, regarded Bovell-Jones as the finest schoolboy batsman he ever saw. For several seasons Bovell-Jones opened for Bedfordshire, and his cultured batting not only assisted the County to numerous big scores but was always a delight to watch. One of his finest performances was an innings of 116 against Kent 2nd XI at the Goldington Road ground in 1925. The Kent team included such players as Ames and Todd, cricketers who were later to win fame, and in the first innings Bovell-Jones was bowled with the opening ball of the match. But he took his second chance to show what an accomplished batsman he was against all types of bowling, except perhaps the really fast.

#### Double Century in 105 Minutes

In that season he hit 211 out of a total of 283 for Bedford Ramblers against Railway Athletic in Bedford Park. He was at the wicket only one hour and 45 minutes, and his strokes included five sixes and 36 fours.

In 1923 he made 115 against Hertfordshire and 128 against the Gentlemen of Suffolk.

Mr. Bovell-Jones gained his Rugby colours at the School, and afterwards played fly-half or centre-threequarter for Bedford for a short period.

The younger son of the late Mr. William Bovell-Jones, of British Guiana, and of the late Mrs. Bovell-Jones, of Bedford, he spent some years in India.

The funeral takes place at noon to-day (Tuesday) at Bedford Cemetery.



## OUR CRICKET PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 4.—W. Bovell Jones.



BOVELL-JONES BEING STUMPED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS MATCH AT LORDS LAST SEASON.

W. Bovell-Jones, the subject of our gallery this week, is, as most Bedford cricketers are aware, one of the most stylish and polished batsmen ever turned out from Bedford School. Indeed, one could with safety make a much more sweeping assertion by placing him at the top of Public School batsmen throughout the country, especially last season. Unfortunately for the County Club, either through lack of practice or strange environments, he has displayed no form at all this season. May he run right into it during the Whitsuntide matches. Bovell-Jones belongs to the select band of boys who have appeared for their County whilst still attending school. He

made his first appearance for Bedfordshire in 1921, playing against Essex at Leyton. The writer had the pleasure of witnessing his 57 not out on that occasion, and the manner in which he made his runs would have been a credit to Reggie Spooner himself in his most polished days. The O.B. represented his School in the "Rest" team against London Public Schools at Lords last season, and on a wicket which was a bowler's gem stayed in with his captain for over an hour for 16 runs. He has left his mark on most of the School bowling, perhaps his best performance being his 176 not out against Wellingborough School last season. In the same season he also

took 149 off the Dulwich bowling, and a few days later he scored 97 against Leys School. 152 against Merchant Taylors in 1920 and 190 against St. Paul's in 1921 are the other three-figure innings of his career. Bovell-Jones is quite a fair bowler under ordinary conditions, but give him a now ball and a slight wind and he becomes at once a most difficult trundler for any class of batsman for a few overs. He is a footballer of no mean ability, and always displays his individuality in his play.

Next week we hope to hang in our gallery S. V. Graham, the Bedfordshire all-rounder.

"HOW'S THAT?"

9 February 2001

59c Mount Avenue  
Ealing  
LONDON W5 1PN

John Sylvester  
Secretary  
Old Bedfordians Club  
10 Glebe Road  
BEDFORD MK40 2PL

Dear John

### Research of Bedfordshire County Cricketers

I was most grateful for the way that you and Penny Cook received me on Tuesday. You really made me feel welcome, and both of you were most helpful in allowing me full access to your 'archive records'. It was very kind of Penny to provide some lunch as well.

It was excellent that I was able to track down the date of death of William Bovell-Jones - 15 December 1948 - which was in 'The Ousel'. Given that the last address given for him in the Register was in India, I had expected he died there, but I was wrong. A visit to the Family Record Centre in London yesterday revealed that his death occurred in England and is recorded as having taken place in the Saffron Waldron district.

In the not too distant future, I would very much like to return to carry on the work, and I will be in touch about that in due course. In the meantime, I enclose a cheque for £25 as a small contribution to the funds of the Club.

Thank you again to both of you for making me feel so much at home. Please do not acknowledge this letter.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A J Webb

J.S. Markensy

<sup>Belford</sup>  
H.S. School 1920-25

1947

111 West 7th Street, Los Angeles, California, USA

1980

Ditto.

W. Brent-Jones: Addresses in OBC Registers

1947 Champabani TE, Chandkehinia, P.O. South Sylhet, India.  
1950 No entry (c/o W. Sheldon Esq., Home Farm  
Cottage, Charesing, Nr Newport,  
Essex.)

## Old Bedfordian News

### In Memoriam

WILLIAM BOVELL-JONES

Born, 9th December, 1903

At the School from September 1919 to  
December 1922

Died on 15th December, 1948.

The Reverend

ARTHUR GEOFFREY BROWN

Rector of South Luffenham, Lincolnshire.

Born, 21st April, 1898

At the School from May 1912 to December 1916

Died at South Luffenham on 22nd December, 1948.

CHARLES CRIGHTON

Born, 30th December, 1868

At the School from September 1881 to July 1886

Died at Paignton on 19th January, 1949.

COLIN CAMERON DAVIDSON

Flying Officer, 39 Squadron, R.A.F.

Born, 4th January, 1927

At the School from September 1943 to March 1945

Killed while flying on active service at  
Khartoum, on 7th January, 1949.

KENNETH JAMES LEE

Colonel, M.C., late R.E.

Born, 17th October, 1893

At the School from May 1907 to July 1912

Died suddenly at Jersey on 29th January, 1949.

COLIN JAMES LEIGHTON

Director of Music at Sherborne School.

Born, 8th February, 1902

At the School from September 1916 to

December, 1919

Died at Sherborne on 1st January, 1949.

ARTHUR JOHN FROOD PERRIN

Born, 21st September, 1922

At the School from May 1936 to July 1940

Accidentally killed in a gun accident in Malaya  
on 19th October, 1948.

GUY SCOTT-COOPER

Born, 28th February, 1909

At the School from May 1918 to June 1923

Died, after an operation, on 28th December, 1948.

PHILIP ARMSTRONG SKIPWITH

Lieut.-Colonel, R.A. (retired)

Born, 28th September, 1867

At the School from January 1883 to July 1885

Died at Geneva on 2nd December, 1948.

FREDERICK STANLEY SMITH

Born, 16th October, 1893

At the School from May 1902 to July 1912

Died at Dulwich on 12th February, 1949.

HENRY GODWYN SUTTON

Lieut.-Colonel, I.A. (retired)

Born, 29th February, 1884

At the School from January 1899 to December 1901

Died at Ealing on 1st January, 1949.

SIEGFRIED RICKARDS WATKINS

Wing-Commander, A.F.C.

Born, 17th May, 1888

At the School from January 1901 to April 1904

Died in London, after an operation, on

19th December, 1948.

### New Year Honours

Major-General F. StD. B. Lejeune (07-16), C.B.E.,  
late Royal Artillery—C.B.

Group Captain B. C. Yarde (13-24), R.A.F.—  
C.B.E.

W. W. S. Robertson (15-25), M.I.MECH.E., Vice-  
Chairman of the Eastern Regional Board for  
Industry—O.B.E.

Flight-Lieut. P. Sherriff (29-39), D.F.C., R.A.F.—  
King's Commendation for valuable service in the air.

R.S.M. J. S. Blincow, Senior Instructor to the  
Corps since 1918—B.E.M.

It will also give pleasure to many Old Bedfordians  
to learn that Mrs. N. P. Symonds has been awarded  
the M.B.E. in recognition of her valuable services as  
County Organiser of the Women's Voluntary  
Services, Bedfordshire.

### News from our D.V.P.s

#### Cambridge University

C. S. Mortimer (33-41), our University Hon.  
Secretary, mentions in a letter dated 16th December,  
1948, that at present there are fifty O.B.s in the  
University (probably the highest number that we  
have ever had there). Pembroke alone has twelve  
O.B.s. On November 26th last a most successful tea  
party was held in the Vice-President's rooms in  
Sidney Sussex College, which was attended by  
twenty-four O.B.s actually in residence and P.  
Ralphs (39-43), who was in Cambridge on a business  
course.

Our Cambridge University branch have fixed  
March 3rd as the provisional date of their Annual  
Dinner.

\* \* \*

#### Dorset and Hampshire

S. G. Huntley (18-21) very kindly sent in two  
changes of address concerning O.B.s. In his letter,  
he mentions that our Gold Coast D.V.P. (Colonel  
B. A. Batchlor), who is at present on leave in  
England, is staying in Bournemouth, quite close to  
him. Therefore Huntley collected Mr. F. A. S.  
Sewell, and all three spent a most enjoyable evening  
together.

\* \* \*

#### Devon and Cornwall

H. E. E. Holladay (25-30) mentions in his last  
letter that he hopes to arrange an O.B. Lunch in  
Exeter on a Saturday during April or May. Will  
our O.B.s in Devon and Cornwall please take note  
of this.

\* \* \*

#### Paris

Our D.V.P. (A. R. Turner, 25-33), mentions that  
he is off to Bolivia on February 27th, *via* Buenos  
Aires, and expects to be away for about two months.  
He also mentions that there appear to be very few  
O.B.s in Paris. This is somewhat unimportant in  
this instance, because Paris is a focal point for people  
travelling to, or through, France, and with his

## "Philip Mead" Prize Bat.

Presentation by Mr. J. Arnold Whitchurch, J.P.



Photo]

[A. J. M. Hasenll.

Our picture shows Mr. J. Arnold Whitchurch presenting to W. Bovell-Jones, on behalf of the "Bedfordshire Standard," the first of the "Philip Mead" prize bats offered by this paper for the best score made in club cricket each month. A report of the proceedings appears on page 4.

### THE FIRST "MEAD" BAT.

Presented to W. Bovell-Jones.

Mr. J. Arnold Whitchurch on Saturday presented the first of the prize bats to be won by a Bedfordshire cricketer. The bats, which are presented by the Philip Mead Co., by arrangement with the "Bedfordshire Standard," have been on view in the windows of our publishing office for the last few weeks, and have been much admired. The presentation was made during the tea interval in the Beds. Club and Ground v. Beds. Farmers match, at Goldington-road on Saturday, before a large company of officials, players, and visitors, Mr. W. Bovell-Jones, last season's Bedford School captain, being the recipient.

Mr. Whitchurch said that one of the many good things that Captain Burke had done on behalf of cricket in the county was to persuade the Philip Mead Bat Co. to present three bats to Bedfordshire players who made the highest scores in the months of May, June and July. They were very grateful to Capt. Burke for the trouble he had taken. The first of these bats had been won by Mr. W. Bovell-Jones, for the splendid score of 91 not out which he made in the first innings for Bedfordshire against Kent II., and furthermore, that fine knock was followed up by an equally meritorious display in the second innings. It was a pleasure to him (Mr. Whitchurch) to make the presentation, for he was sure that that classic knock was the forerunner of other such fine innings. They who were the humble spectators saw some very fine cricket on Whit-Monday, and even the weather did its best on that day to assist them. The "gate" was a record one of £55. He was sure Mr. Willfred King and his merry men were going to give them many more such treats, and he knew the other players would forgive him when he said that the piece de resistance of the day was the great innings of Bovell-Jones. It was a pity there was not a batsman to stay with him long enough to enable him to get a century. It was a great pleasure to hand him the bat, and he wished him the best of luck. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Bovell-Jones thanked Mr. Whitchurch for making the presentation, and Captain Burke for obtaining the bat.

### In Memoriam.

CAREY JOHN AUBERTIN.

Born, 1st July, 1876.

Entered the School, September, 1887.

Left, July, 1895.

Died at Cherry Eyot, Twyford, Berkshire,  
on 20th April, 1932.

Mr. C. J. Aubertin was educated at Bedford School and became an Exhibitioner at Queen's College, Oxford. He began a journalistic career at Preston and later joined the Manchester office of the *Daily News* before going to London. Under the initials of "C.J.A." he wrote "Under the Clock" in the columns of the *Daily News* for ten years, and his witty and pointed comments provided one of the most enjoyable features of that journal. The column was discontinued in July 1930, but "C.J.A." still continued to contribute to the *Daily News*. One of his last articles was a graphic description of his adventures in the New Zealand earthquake last year.—*Bedfordshire Times*.

WILFRED KENNETH BETT.

A Member of Form IVii.

Born, 6th May, 1918.

Entered the School in September, 1931.

Died at 8 Bushmead Avenue, Bedford,  
on 16th April, 1932.

EDWARD MAURICE BOVILL.

Lieutenant, Royal Tank Corps.

Born, 14th May, 1908.

Entered the School, September, 1918.

Left, December, 1926.

Died of typhoid fever at Peshawar, India,  
on 26th March, 1932.

E. M. Bovill went to Sandhurst in January, 1927, with a Prize Cadetship, and passed out with an Army Cadet Scholarship. At School he was a Senior Monitor, Captain of Football, a member of the 1st XI., and a Sergeant in the O.T.C.

THOMAS BRITTEN, M.I.M.E., M.I.E.E.,

Chairman and Managing Director of the  
Hydraulic and Engineering Company, Cheshire.

Born, 23rd August, 1873.

Entered the School, September, 1884.

Left, December, 1889.

EUSTACE NEVILLE CRAIG, O.B.E.

Born, 29th May, 1870.

Entered the School, January, 1880.

Left, April, 1887.

Died in London on 14th May, 1932.

GEORGE MCLEOD DAKIN.

A Member of Form IIIii.

Born, 12th September, 1918.

Entered the School, September, 1927.

Died at 29 The Embankment, Bedford, on  
19th May, 1932.

It was with profound sorrow that the School heard that George Dakin had passed away on

Thursday, May 19th, after an illness of ten days. The last five years of his life had been spent at this School, and he had been a member of IIIii since last September. His loss will be deeply felt by his many friends, both masters and boys, who will remember him for his happy disposition, his whole-hearted keenness in all kinds of sport, and a charm of manner which was the outward expression of a very lovable character. But our loss, great as it is, must be small when we think of his sorrowing family. To his mother, who nursed him through his illness, and to his father, who received the news by cable in Siam, we extend our very deepest sympathy.—H.C.P.

HOWARD JACKSON.

Born, 11th November, 1886.

Entered the School, September, 1901.

Left, December, 1903.

Died in India, 1931.

RONALD MACLEAR.

Lieutenant-Colonel, O.B.E., M.C.

Hon. Secretary of the Old Bedfordians' Club.

Born, 16th June, 1877.

Entered the School, May, 1890.

Left, July, 1896.

Died, 31st May, 1932.

JOHN TALBOT, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Born, 4th February, 1868.

Entered the School, January, 1877.

Left, July, 1886.

Died at Hallwood, nr. Duncan, Vancouver  
Island, Canada, on 13th April, 1932.

Colonel Talbot was the son of Lieut.-Col. Henry Lynch Talbot, R.A., and was educated at Bedford and Sandhurst. He passed out into the Munster Fusiliers in 1887 and while serving with that Regiment in Burma, acted as "galloper" to Sir Garnet Wolsley. Later he joined the Indian Army and was gazetted to the 37th Bombay Lancers. He was for some years Political Officer in Kathiawar, India, and later was Military Secretary to Sir Archibald Hunter. Colonel Talbot served in France throughout the Great War and was mentioned in despatches. When he retired from the Army he went to Canada. He leaves a widow and two unmarried daughters to mourn his loss.

GEORGE ALLAN THOMAS.

Born, 27th February, 1879.

Entered the School, September, 1879.

Left, December, 1895.

Died, 11th March, 1932.

ROBERT TILLY, Lieut.-Colonel, M.C.,

Commandant 10th Bn., 6th Rajputana Rifles.

Born, 3rd June, 1885.

Entered the School, May, 1898.

Left, December, 1902.

Died of Pneumonia at the British Military  
Hospital, Nasirabad, on 5th April, 1932.

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Friends who ar  
Mr. EUGENE A.  
be glad to answer

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From G. C. H

CHARLES B. BOVILL

C.Eng. M.I.E.E. F.I.E.R.E. M.R.Ae.S.

12 GORSELANDS CLOSE  
DARTNELL PARK  
WEST BYFLEET  
SURREY KT14 6PU

BYFLEET 46163

Dear Mr Webb,

Thank you for your letter. I have filled in some details to the best of my ability. It is a long time ago since poor old Maurice was with us. He was about three years older than I am and at that age the difference is enormous and one is a world apart from the elder members of a family- or so it was then.

I will contact my younger brother, Oliver Bovill tomorrow and ask him to get into touch with you for further details. Looking through old team photographs this afternoon, I noted that Maurice also played for the Rugby team of Somerset. This must have been when he was with the Tanks at Lulworth. It is dated 1929/30 and this was after he had left Sandhurst.

I think that my brother chose the R.T.Corps as his regiment because there were a number of well known Rugby players in it such as Arthur Young who was murdered in a train in India in 1932 and Henry Rew and others of that epoch.

It was a great tragedy that he died so young - he was just under 23 - as he was an amazing allrounder not only in sport but also as a scholar as I have mentioned. It was particularly awful for my dear Mother who had lost my Father in 1918 when he was in the Coldstream Guards.

I took her away from Bedford after 1932 and she lived at Morden until 1957 when my brother and I got her a large flat in London. Her generation had a bad time as soon after Maurice died the next War showed up and my brother and I were away for very long periods, my brother Oliver in the Coldstream Guards in Italy and I was with the RAF and later with the Balkans Air Force. Looking at the present Quisling Government I wonder if all the sacrifices of our parents were worth it.

If I can be of any further help please let me know. I have my laboratory here so call any time you like.

Yours sincerely,



28th May 1977.

PS. If you get into touch with the Old Bedfordians Club c/o Bedford School, I am sure that they have more details. Especially T.P.Moll who was a close friend of Ox.



E.M. BOVILL

First names in full: Edward Maurice BOVILL  
Date of birth: 14th May 1908  
Place of birth: London.  
School: Bedford  
University or college: Sandhurst, Royal Military Academy.

Left or right-handed batsman Right handed  
Type of bowler and arm/wicket keeper: Left handed slow.  
Year of first class debut: 1926 /27  
Teams played for: Bedfordshire.

First class -

Second class -

Others -

Note I have not a very good recollection of this period as I was abroad for a lot of the time in question

My brother "Ox" Bovill, a nickname derived from Bovril and also his large size was notorious for his habit of bowling with a monocle in his right eye.

Other possible points of interest: (for example comparable success at other sports, famous relatives and so forth)

Rugby. Captain 1st fifteen, Bedford School during its long period of being unbeaten by any other public school.

Cricket. 1st eleven, Bedford School.

Rowing. Bedford School, first Eight.

Boxing. Bedford School.

Rugby played for Public Schools fifteen.  
played for Sandhurst and Army . Forward.

Considered to be one of the more brilliant classical scholars at Bedford School and was in 6th Form at age of 15. Passed third into Sandhurst and winner of a Kings' Cadetship.

*Occupation:* Lieutenant Royal Tank Corps.

*Date of death:* 26th March 1932 in India whilst on active service

*Place of death:* Peshawar.

Thank you for your help.

## MOVE TO NEW PREMISES FOR KEMPSTON BANK

To meet the growing demand for banking services in the area the Kempston branch of Barclays Bank will be moving to spacious new premises at 189 Bedford Road on Monday, March 7.

These new premises illustrate Barclays concern to provide adequate banking facilities for its customers throughout the country; for while the basic functions of the Bank remain unchanged the services available to customers and the premises in which they are carried out are constantly under review.

This modern branch bank, architect-designed by Deacon and Laing of Bedford, is housed at the east end of a row of shops set back from the main road allowing limited car parking facilities immediately outside, and adequate parking within easy walking distance. The Bank frontage is comprised of blue bricks, plate glass, hardwood window frames and doors, and a mosaic tiled panel which contrasts with the hardwood and brickwork. Across the frontage is an illuminated "Barclays Bank" fascia. The branch will be open for business during normal banking hours, and a night safe has been installed for the use of customers.

Internally, the banking hall is decorated in a bright but simple style and provides accommodation for three cashiers and a separate position for enquiries and statement distribution. A suspended acoustic ceiling (designed to reduce the noise level) has been fitted and contains re-



Mr. F. K. Breeze

cessed fluorescent light fittings.

In charge of the branch will be 41-year-old Mr. Frederick Kenneth Breeze. Mr. Breeze began his banking career with Barclays in 1941 at 111 High Street, Bedford, and later served in branches at Newport Pagnell and Olney before being made First Clerk at Town Bridge, Bedford, in 1961. The following year he was promoted Chief Clerk. He served in the RAF from 1942 to 1947.

A married man with a son and a daughter, his main interest is cricket. He is a member of the Bedfordshire County Cricket Club and is Honorary Treasurer of Bedford Town Cricket Club.

The branch will remain under the control of Town Bridge, Bedford, branch, where the manager is Mr. Maurice Denning.

### Brice (O.B.M.) Gets Bedford School Appointment

Gordon Brice, 31-year-old Fulham centre half and Bedfordshire county cricketer—and an Old Bedford Modernian—has been appointed cricket coach at Bedford School for next season. It is understood that his appointment takes effect from May 1.

Mr. Brice was an all-round athlete when at school, and was captain of cricket, rugby, fives, and boxing. On leaving school in the early years of the war he went into the Royal Marines and gained a commission.

He played for Northamptonshire for four seasons, and is a fast-medium bowler and batsman. He gave up cricket with that county three years ago because he found that it interfered with his preparation for football. He has, however, continued playing cricket, and this season has assisted New Malden where he now lives with his wife and three children.

In 1953 he was engaged by the County as a professional, but because of an injury played in only one match. This season he also played once against Lincolnshire at Luton in July.

He is perhaps better known as a professional footballer for he has played for a number of clubs and also for the England "B" XI against France. His first club was Luton, whom he joined as a centre half. He later moved to Wolverhampton and from there went to Reading. He is now in his third season with Fulham.

He is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Brice, of 143 Howbury Street, Bedford.

## OLD BEDFORDIAN NEWS

### In Memoriam

JAMES BRANSON

Born, 9th October, 1872

At the School from September 1883 to July 1891

Died on 15th November, 1952.

HAROLD RAWDON BRIGGS

Lieut.-General, K.C.I.E., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.

Born, 14th July, 1894

At the School from May 1902 to December 1912

Died at Nicosia on 27th October, 1952.

Lieut.-General Sir Harold Briggs, whose death occurred at the end of October, after a sudden illness, was Director of Operations in Malaya during the critical period of 1950-51.

He was the son of Mr. H. E. Briggs, a Yorkshire banker, and was born on July 14th, 1894. He was educated at Bedford School and at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was gazetted in 1914 and after attachment to The King's (Liverpool) Regiment joined the 31st Punjab Regiment early in 1915. He served with his regiment in France, Mesopotamia and Palestine during the 1914-18 war and in 1923 was transferred to the Baluch Regiment, with which he served in the Waziristan campaign of 1930. When war broke out in 1939 he had been in command of the 2nd Battalion, the Baluch Regiment for some two years, and in 1940 he was promoted to the command of 7th Indian Infantry Brigade.

He led his brigade with distinction in the campaigns in Eritrea and in the Western Desert until 1942, receiving mention in dispatches and the D.S.O. and bar. Further promotion came in 1942 when he was given command of 5th Indian Infantry Division, which he led first in the Western Desert, then in Iraq and finally in Burma. He was again mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the rare distinction of a second bar to the D.S.O.

Until then his career had been exclusively military, but when early in 1946 he succeeded Lieut.-General (now General) Sir Montagu Stopford as Commander-in-Chief, Burma, at a time when the country was still suffering from the effects of the Japanese occupation, he gave the first indication that he had a broader view of his duties than that of administering the military machine by dissuading the Governor from attempting to suppress the rising tide of nationalism. He retired from the Army in 1948, and settled in Cyprus, but his handling of the situation in Burma marked him out not only as an outstanding soldier, but as one who understood the Oriental mind and could be relied upon to act in a difficult situation with tact and wisdom.

Accordingly, in 1950 he was brought out of his retirement and appointed Director of Operations for the Federation of Malaya. From the first he advocated the recruitment of Malaysians with a knowledge of the jungle to help in the campaign against the terrorists and a month after his appointment he formed a "war cabinet" of Army, Air Force, and Police chiefs to plan the campaign. His original appointment had been for 12 months, but his methods had begun to have such a favourable effect upon the situation that his term was extended by six months. When he retired last year and was succeeded by General Sir Rob Lockhart, his work had

certainly had a considerable effect, though he made no secret of the fact that he was not altogether satisfied with the powers that had been given him. Yet, though the situation remained critical, he could look back on solid achievement, especially in the improvement of intelligence and mobility of troops and police.—*The Times*.

FRANK BERTRAM BROOKS

Born, 10th September, 1894

At the School from September 1897 to July 1902

Died at Salisbury, Rhodesia on 19th August, 1952.

Mr. Frank Brooks was a member of one of Southern Rhodesia's greatest sporting families.

One of the best all-rounders of his time, and Rhodesian representative in cricket, rugby and tennis, his brilliance on the sports field was only outshone by that of his brother, the late Freddie Brooks, who represented England at Rugby.

Frank Brooks is probably best remembered for his tennis, at which game he reigned supreme. Described by C. L. Winslow, one-time South African tennis champion, as the finest men's doubles tennis player in South Africa, he retained the Rhodesian championship for 21 years—from 1910 to 1931.

Mr. Brooks rose to be Under-Secretary of Lands before he retired. He was the first chairman of the Farmers' Debt Adjustment Board, and manager of the Land Bank. After retiring from the latter post, he became a member of the Land Bank Board, and retired from the Board on March 31st.

—*From a Rhodesian newspaper.*

ALFRED JAMES CHASE

O.B.E., late Indian State Railways

Born, 15th September, 1875

At the School from January 1889 to July 1891

Died in London on 1st December, 1952.

GEORGE AYSROUGH CLARKE

Born, 23rd January, 1875

At the School from January 1883 to July 1892

Died on 14th December, 1949.

ALLAN STUART CURRY

Born, 9th September, 1894

At the School from May 1903 to July 1906

Died in November, 1951.

JOHN RENSHAW GEORGE

late of The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China

Born, 10th June, 1881

At the School from May 1897 to April 1899

Died at Tunbridge Wells on 28th November, 1952.

ARTHUR JAMES HAZELL

Born, 22nd April, 1881

At the School from September 1895 to April 1900

Head of the School, 1899-1900

Died in Port Elizabeth on 30th September, 1952.

Born in Kimberley in 1881, Mr. Hazell was educated at St. Andrew's, Grahamstown, and

## The Gymn. Club

### Boxing

The result of the Junior House Boxing was as follows :—

1st	St. Cuthbert's	4th	Paulo-Pontine
2nd	St. Peter's	5th	Crescent
3rd	Bromham	6th	Ashburnham

The "Anderson" Trophy for the best Junior boxer was awarded to E. T. Shorrocks i. J.K.C.

### Lawn Tennis

This summer, R. B. Morton (O.B.) again brought a team of well-known tennis players to give an exhibition. The weather was kind this time and two singles matches and a doubles were played by the following: D. Slack, C. F. O. Lister, P. E. Hare and R. Morton himself. The afternoon's play was most enjoyable to watch and did much to stimulate interest. We are most grateful to the players for coming long distances to give us this exhibition.

There was a match in O.B. Week between the O.B.s and the School, which was won 5-4 by the O.B.s.

During the holidays a pair from the School did particularly well in junior tournaments. P. R. Payne won the Priory Junior Tournament, while he and A. R. Morton were in the final of the Public Schools Tournament at Queen's Club. In September the same pair reached the semi-final of the All-England Junior Championships at Wimbledon. As they are still young, they should do very well in the future.

P.K.B.

## Old Bedfordian News

### In Memoriam

#### FREDERICK GEORGE BROOKS.

Born, 1st May, 1883

Entered the School, September, 1897

Left, July, 1902

Head of the School, 1901-02

Died in September, 1947.

We have received the sad news from an O.B. in South Africa that F. G. Brooks died suddenly at Hermanus, Cape Province, in September.

"Freddy" Brooks was one of the greatest, if not the greatest athlete turned out by Bedford School, which he entered in 1897. He was in Bromham House, and became a Senior Monitor in the Easter Term, 1901, and Head of the School in September of the same year. On leaving School, he went straight to South Africa, where he spent most of his life.

When the writer of these notes joined the School, the name "Freddy Brooks" was a kind of legend—and not without reason.

He received his colours in the XV, as a wing-threequarter, in 1900. In 1901 and 1902 he was Captain. That great judge of Rugby football, the late E. Hastings Dasent, considered that he was the fastest wing-threequarter playing. Whilst still at School he played for the East Midlands. On leaving School, he received his South of England cap, and would have certainly have received his England cap, but for the fact that he was obliged to sail for South Africa before the International matches took place. Shortly afterwards, he returned

to this country with the South African team, but he could not play for them in the international series, as he had not got the necessary qualification. However, he played for England *versus* South Africa, and scored the only England try. The result of this match was a draw. Brooks not only had great speed, but also a most deceptive swerve.

He first played for the XI in 1899. He obtained his colours in 1900, and headed the batting and bowling averages. In 1901 he was Captain of the XI, and made his highest score (196 not out, *versus* the Authentics). He was again Captain in 1902, when he again headed the batting averages. He also played for Bedfordshire while still at the School.

He was also a member of the School Fives IV.

In athletics, he won the long jump and 100 yards in 1900; in 1901 he again won these events, and the Championship Medal with five firsts. In 1902 he again won the Championship, winning the long jump, the 100 yards (in 10½ seconds), hurdles and high jump.

The Marquis of Graham, who knew Freddy Brooks for a number of years, wrote a contribution to the South African Press on how to play tennis, which was given by Brooks, and which he feels typified the whole of Brooks' life. Let me quote from the Marquis of Graham. "Don't try and hit too hard. There is really no need to slog; first, make up your mind what you think is the right thing to do, and do it. See that you are standing properly, and well-balanced, and then just hit the ball straight and with a flat racquet. No need for any 'cuts' or 'top spin.' Just follow through, and hit it just hard enough to make sure it is not a 'lolly-pop'."

"That," writes the Marquis of Graham, "backed by his faith in God and his trust in men, epitomises Freddy Brooks. Few men will be more missed by a great company of friends."

#### BERTIE CAREW CORRY-SMITH

Born, 15th September, 1878

Entered the School, September, 1894

Left, July, 1896

#### CHARLES STANHOPE CRAMPTON

Born, 6th November, 1873

Entered the School, January, 1889

Left, December, 1891

Died at Twickenham on 7th November, 1947.

#### REGINALD CHARLES GRELLET

Lieut.-Colonel, D.S.O., late Yorkshire Regt.

Born, 23rd October, 1880

Entered the School, May, 1894.

Left, July, 1899

Died on 29th November, 1947.

Lt.-Colonel R. C. Grellet, D.S.O., late Yorkshire Regiment, of Lartington, Yorkshire, came of a Hitchin family and was educated at Bedford School and at Oxford University. While at School he gained his colours for rugger and cricket, and captained the XI in 1898 and 1899, when B. L. Peel and F. G. Brooks were in the side. He was a good forward in the XV of 1898-99 (which was captained by Basil Maclear), and later he played in the Oxford University XV from 1899 to 1902, being captain in the latter year.

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- QUINTON—BRINDLEY. On 11th July, 1947, at St. John the Baptist Church, Newport, Barnstaple, Peter Ralph Quinton (35-42), son of Major and Mrs. R. H. Quinton, of Hurlingham, London, to Janet Redpath Brindley, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Brindley, of Barnstaple.
- ROEBUCK—RAINS. On 20th December, 1946, in Kensington, Major David Harold Roebuck (32-36), to Dorothy Rains.
- RUSSELL—DICKER. On 1st November, 1947, at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham, Eric William Russell (31-40), elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Russell, of Bedford, to Vera Dicker, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dicker, of Fareham.
- RYLES—TUMBER. On 1st March, 1947, at St. Peter de Merton Church, Bedford, by the Rev. F. Cottam, Capt. Michael John Hope Ryles (28-35), son of Colonel C. S. Ryles, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., and the late Mrs. Ryles, to Joan Margaret Tumber, younger daughter of Major and Mrs. T. A. Tumber, of Bedford.
- SALISBURY—ALEXANDER. On 5th July, 1947, at Harpenden Parish Church, Gareth Cockshott Salisbury (21-23), eldest son of the late Mr. J. E. Salisbury and of Mrs. Salisbury, of Harpenden, to Joan Elizabeth Alexander, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Alexander, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.
- SIMPSON—WALLACE. On 6th December, 1947, at St. Jude's Church, London, John Bell Simpson (09-18), third son of the late Mr. C. Y. Simpson and of Mrs. Simpson, of Bedford, to Marjorie Wallace, widow of Dr. Kelvin Wallace, and elder daughter of Dr. F. J. H. Coutts, C.B., and Mrs. Coutts, of Canford Cliffs, Dorset.
- SMITH—BARBER. On 6th September, 1947, at St. Peter's Church, Bedford, by the Rev. F. Cottam, Peter Wallis Smith (36-41), twin son of Mr. and Mrs. V. Smith, of Bedford, to Veronica Betty Barber, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Barber, also of Bedford.
- STEPHENS—JOHNSTON. On 25th October, 1947, at St. George's Church, Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia, Edward Josselyn Stephens (34-39), elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Stephens, of Bedford, to Dorothy Eileen Johnston, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Johnston, of Hayes, Kent.
- SUMMERS—THIRY. On 23rd November, 1946, at Holy Trinity Church, Brook Green, Major Francis Basil Summers (30-34), only son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Summers, late of Peking, to Eleanor Helen Thiry.
- THICKNESSE—KEENE. On 15th February, 1947, at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Berlin, by the Rev. G. F. Dick, Chaplain to the Forces, Colonel Ralph Nevill Thicknesse (18-19), The Royal Ulster Rifles, second son of the late Lt.-Colonel J. A. Thicknesse, to Junior-Commander Patricia Mary Loy Keene, A.T.S., only child of Mr. and Mrs. R. Loy Keene, of Leamington Spa.
- TRUNCHION—ARMOUR. On 11th December, 1946, at Bunyan Meeting House, Bedford, John Fawdon Trunchion (25-35), elder son of Mr. W. T. F. Trunchion (86-87) and Mrs. Trunchion, of Bedford, to Maude Camac Armour, younger daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Armour, of Ballymoney, Co. Antrim.

OBC Year Book 1948

- VAUGHAN—WORMELL. On 26th June, 1947, in London, John Godfrey Vaughan (25-32), son of Captain C. G. and Mrs. Vaughan, of Offley Hoo, near Hitchin, to Barbara Wormell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Knowles, of Boscombe.
- WHITE—THOMPSON. On 1st February, 1947, at the Chapel of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, Capt. Dennis Birch White (29-35), R.A., second son of the late Mr. W. F. White and of Mrs. S. Kesley, to Cynthia Mildred Eanswythe Thompson, elder daughter of Major Ralph R. Thompson, M.C., R.A.M.C., and of Mrs. Thompson.
- WISE—GEORGIADES. On 6th January, 1947, at Teignmouth, James Patrick Gerald Wise (28-39), youngest son of Captain and Mrs. J. B. Wise, to Flori Georgiades, of Greece.

\* \* \*  
Golden Wedding.

- BAINES—BECK. On 27th September, 1897, at St. Mary's Church, Merton Park, by the Rev. E. D. Shaw, Alfred George Pisani Baines (87-88), to Gertrude Emma Beck.

## IN MEMORIAM.

- WILLIAM SINGER BARCLAY, F.R.G.S., General Secretary to the Tower Hill Improvement Trust. Born, 15th June, 1871; entered the School, May, 1885; left, July, 1889; died in March, 1947.
- ROBERT WALTER BARNES, fourth son of the late Rev. H. W. Barnes (sometime School Chaplain and Housemaster of Merton House) and of Mrs. Barnes. Born, 14th February, 1907; entered the School, January, 1916; left, April, 1920; died at Penmaenmawr on 30th May, 1947.
- FREDERICK HENRY EWART BRANSON, O.B.E. Born, 18th May, 1878; entered the School, September, 1886; left, July, 1896; died at Sherborne St. John, Basingstoke, on 15th December, 1946.
- FREDERICK GEORGE BROOKS. Born, 1st May, 1883; entered the School, September, 1897; left, July, 1902; head of the School, 1901-02; died in September, 1947.
- We have received the sad news from an O.B. in South Africa that F. G. Brooks died suddenly at Hermanus, Cape Province, in September. "Freddy" Brooks was one of the greatest, if not the greatest athlete turned out by Bedford School, which he entered in 1897. He was in Bromham House, and became a Senior Monitor in the Easter Term, 1901, and Head of the School in September of the same year. On leaving School, he went straight to South Africa, where he spent most of his life.
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"That," writes the Marquis of Graham, "backed by his faith in God and his trust in men, epitomises Freddy Brooks. Few men will be more missed by a great company of friends."

WILLIAM JOHN BURTON, Captain, M.C., Bedfs. and Herts. Regt. Born, 31st October, 1911; entered the School, September, 1923; left, July, 1930; died at Barakat, Sudan, on 30th December, 1946.

THE REVEREND DOUGLAS FALKLAND CAREY, D.S.O., late Vicar of Biddenham, sometime Dean of Guernsey and Chaplain to H.M. Forces. Born, 10th January, 1876; entered the School, February, 1889; left, July, 1895; died at Frinton on 2nd January, 1947.

On leaving the School, Mr. Carey went to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, with an open Classical exhibition, and took second class honours in the Classical Tripos. In 1898 he gained his B.A. degree and three years later took his M.A. degree.

He was appointed deacon in 1899 and priest the following year. He began his clerical career as curate of St. Matthew's, Forest Gate, London. Two years later he was transferred to the curacy of All Souls', Harlesden, N.W.

Later he became acting Chaplain to the Forces, and served during the South African War. For those services he was awarded the Queen's Medal with three clasps. As Chaplain, he served with the Aldershot Command, at Gibraltar, and at Sandhurst.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, Mr. Carey was in Jamaica, and, from 1915 to 1918, in France. In 1916 he was appointed Assistant Chaplain-General, and in 1918 won the D.S.O. He was also twice mentioned in dispatches and received the 1914 Medal, British War Medal, and the Allied War Medal. In 1921 he was principal Chaplain to the troops in Palestine and Egypt, and in 1922 he retired from the Army.

From 1922 till 1931 he was Dean of Guernsey, and Rector of St. Peter Port, in the Diocese of Winchester. He then went abroad again, to become Civil Chaplain at Maadi and Helouan, Egypt. On his return to this country he was Vicar of Stanstead Abbots, Ware, before coming to Biddenham.

Mr. Carey was appointed Rural Dean of Bedford in 1941, and resigned from that office in 1943, when the Reverend H. C. Perry succeeded him.

*Bedford Record.*

WALTER HAROLD COKE-KERR, D.F.C. Born, 22nd August, 1921; entered the School, September, 1938; left, July, 1940; died in New York on 11th March, 1947.

TERENCE MOSTYN COLLINS, C.I.E., Inspector-General Police, Central Provinces. Born, 21st March, 1894; entered the School, May, 1911; left, July, 1913; died at Nagpur, India, on 9th March, 1947.

BERTIE CAREW CORRY-SMITH. Born, 15th September, 1878; entered the School, September, 1894; left, July, 1896.

GEORGE FREDERICK COTCHING. Born, 7th July, 1878; entered the School, September, 1894; left, December, 1896; died at Worthing on 10th January, 1947.

CHARLES STANHOPE CRAMPTON. Born, 6th November, 1873; entered the School, January, 1889; left, December, 1891; died at Twickenham on 7th November, 1947.

GEORGE CRAMPTON. Born, 30th March, 1875; entered the School, September, 1889; left, July, 1894; died at Kimberley on 27th December, 1946.

WILLIAM EDWARD DARBISHIRE. Born, 23rd March, 1875; entered the School, January, 1885; left, April, 1888; died in Australia on 13th April, 1947.

SIR CYRIL JOHN DEVERELL, Field-Marshal, G.C.B., K.B.E., formerly Chief of the Imperial General Staff, President of the Old Bedfordians Club, 1933-37. Born, 9th November, 1874; entered the School, September, 1887; left, on passing into Sandhurst, July, 1893; died at Lympington, Hampshire, on 12th May, 1947, after a visit to The West Yorkshire Regiment, of which he was Colonel.

Since the publication of the last *Ousel*, in which appeared tributes to the late Sir Cyril Deverell, the following appreciation has been written

# 100 years — the Internationals

<i>J. G. Milton</i>	<i>V. J. Lyttle</i>	<i>R. D. Hearn</i>
<i>F. G. Brooks</i>	<i>G. A. Kelly</i>	<i>J. J. Page</i>
<i>E. L. Chambers</i>	<i>L. F. L. Oakley</i>	<i>J. P. A. G. Janion</i>
<i>D. M. Grant</i>	<i>A. C. Towell</i>	<i>W. C. C. Steele</i>
<i>R. C. Stafford</i>	<i>J. F. Bance</i>	<i>A. M. Jorden</i>
<i>C. R. Davies</i>	<i>St L. H. Webb</i>	<i>W. N. Bennett</i>
<i>J. G. Cook</i>	<i>D. P. Rogers</i>	<i>R. M. Wilkinson</i>
<i>D. L. K. Milman</i>	<i>D. G. Perry</i>	<i>D. M. Wyatt</i>
	<i>G. P. Frankcom</i>	

**T**wenty-five players have represented their country while a member of the Bedford club making a total of 129 international appearances. Leading the list is D. P. Rogers with 34 for England. He is followed by D. G. Perry, 15. W. C. C. Steele, 13 for Scotland, J. P. A. G. Janion, nine. R. D. Hearn and R. M. Wilkinson, six. R. C. Stafford, D. L. K. Milman, J. J. Page, G. A. Kelly, St L. H. Webb, all made four international appearances. J. G. Milton, E. L. Chambers, V. J. Lyttle, for Ireland, G. P. Frankcom and W. N. Bennett made three. D. M. Grant, for Scotland and A. M. Jorden both made two and F. G. Brooks, C. R. Davies for Wales. J. G. Cook, L. F. Oakley, A. C. Towell, J. F. Bance and D. M. Wyatt all made one international appearance — while members of the Bedford club.

## **J. G. Milton, England**

“Jumbo” Milton was a member of the Bedford club while still a pupil at Bedford Grammar School. He was captain of the school team in 1903-04 and played four times that season for Bedford, scoring a try against the Racing Club De France on December 28 and playing against Marlborough Nomads on October 10. Northampton on February 27 and Park House on March 26, 1904.

He made his England debut as a forward against Wales at Leicester on January 9, 1904, a 14-14 draw, and was capped twice more that season and then twice more while at the Camborne School of Mines.

His brother, C. H. Milton, was captain of Bedford Grammar School in 1902-03 and he too played for the Bedford club while he was there. He was capped for England against Ireland in 1906 while at the Camborne School of Mines. A three-quarter, some reports credited him with scoring a try in England’s 16-6 defeat. A third brother, N. W. Milton, won an Oxford Blue in 1905-06-07 after leaving Bedford Grammar School.

The Milton family is unique in the history of English rugby since the father of two international brothers also played for England. Sir William Henry Milton was capped twice at half-back, in 1874 and 1875, and later, in 1888, captained the South African cricket team.

J. G. Milton’s Bedford career was played four, scored three points in 1903-04. His full England record is v Scotland 1904 and 1905, v Ireland 1904 and 1907 and v Wales 1904 — five caps. He died in 1915.

## **F. G. Brooks, England**

Freddie Brooks was born in India, of a Rhodesian family and educated at Bedford Grammar School. He was captain at the school in 1900-01 and 1901-02 and played three times for Bedford in each of those seasons. Three other brothers were at the Grammar School as well. At least two of them played for the Bedford club.

F. G. was an outstanding winger and a phenomenal athlete as well. In 1902 he won Public School titles at the 100 yards, high jump, long jump and hurdles. In 1902-03 he played twice for Bedford and in 1903-04 five times. He returned to southern Africa and according to the “History of South African Rugby Football 1875-1932” he played in the Curry Cup competition of 1906 and so impressed, that he was invited to join the Springbok touring team scheduled to visit Great Britain that year.

However, the invitation was withheld because it was realised that he didn’t meet the five year residential qualification “being a few months short”. So F. G. returned to England “on holiday” and resumed his career at Bedford, playing four more games and scoring four tries in one match against Hampstead Wanderers on November 3, 1906. He played for the South in the England trial against the North and was then selected to play for England against South Africa.

F. G. Brooks gained his one and only England cap against the first ever Springboks at Crystal Palace in front of 40,000 people on December 8, 1906, and scored the second half try that earned England a 3-3 draw. According to the Beds Times of August 28, 1910, he played for Rhodesia against England at Bullawayo on July 30, 1910, a match Rhodesia lost by 24-11. More likely “England” were the fourth British Isles tourists to South Africa. F. G. Brooks became a high ranking civil servant and refereed rugby up until his death in 1948.

His full Bedford record is played 17, scored 6 conversions and 19 tries, for 69 points. His full England record is, v South Africa, 1906, scored one try.

## **E. L. Chambers, England**

Ernest Leonard Chambers was educated at Bedford Grammar School and twice, in the season 1903-04, played for the Bedford club while he was there. He won a rugby and an athletics Blue at Cambridge in 1904 and then seems to have joined Blackheath and played county rugby for Kent.

He became an assistant master at Uppingham Preparatory School before returning as a master to Bedford Grammar. He played once, officially, for Bedford in 1908-09 and once in 1909-10 but he played for England in 1908 and 1910 and for the East Midlands in 1909. His debut was in the pack in England’s 19-0 win over the French at the Stade Colombes, Paris, on January 1, 1908.

His second international appearances was in one of the most famous matches of all time. That was the game when England beat Wales, by 11-6, for the first time since 1898, but the game is most remembered as the first international to be played at Twickenham, Billy Williams’s Cabbage Patch, now the headquarters of the RFU. He also played in the second match at Twickenham, in front of the Prince of Wales and 20,000 people, a 0-0 draw with Ireland on February 12, 1910.

E. L. Chambers served in the first world war as an officer in the Bedfordshire Regiment, the Northumberland Fusiliers and the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was awarded the MC and mentioned in despatches in 1917. He died in 1946. His full Bedford record is played four times. His full England record is, v France, 1908, and v Wales and Ireland in 1910.



Elected by the Sixth:—H. Kerr, P. Abigail, L. A. Hawes, C. H. Laver, H. P. Henderson.

The following are School Members of the General Games Committee:—Head of the School and Captain of Boats, F. Williamson; Captain of Cricket, Fives and Football, G. N. Allen; Captain of Swimming, M. T. L. Newington; Cricket Secretary, G. P. Armstrong; Football Secretary, R. C. Stafford.

Elected by the Big Side Levée:—H. Kerr, H. G. Lansberry, G. G. Whitby, H. P. Henderson, C. H. Laver.

#### VALETE.

The following members of the Sixth have left:—

E. L. Ricketts.—Entered School, May, 1900. School Monitor, Sept., 1908; Cricket, 2nd XI., 1905, 1st XI., 1906-7-8; Football, 2nd XV., 1906, 1st XV., 1907-8; Fives, 1st IV., 1907-8-9. Head of the School House.

E. H. Binyon.—Entered School, May, 1902. Football, 2nd XV., 1907, 1st XV., 1908; Cricket, 3rd XI., 1907, Capt. 1908. School Monitor, May, 1908.

P. H. Diemer. Entered School, May, 1900. School Monitor, Oct., 1908. Head of West House.

Any Old Boy who wishes to join the Old Boys' Club should forward his name, address, and subscription of 10s. (which constitutes him a member for life), to Mr. A. W. Allen, 6, Lansdowne Road, Bedford.

Old Boys are requested to forward photographs of themselves to Mr. E. M. Langley, for insertion in the School Album.

The Headmaster will be very glad if Old Boys will send him notice of their successes of any kind gained after leaving School. Such information is always of interest, but without the help of the Old Boys themselves it is impossible to make the records at all complete.

THE REV. L. G. BROWN, LONGTON.

(By "Wanderer," in the *Staffordshire Sentinel*.)

We are sure that the following article will interest not only those who are acquainted with the subject, but also those who are not. It is often said that sport bulks too largely in the estimation not only of school boys but of the British public generally. It may be so, but, if it is, this very fact places one who is a sportsman in a position to influence for good those with whom he comes in contact, which others, who are not, can only attain to with difficulty. But it is surely no small thing to teach others to "play the game," both in sport and in other things. It does not lessen our esteem for the Rev. L. G. Brown that he has, we believe, denied himself the pleasure of taking part in the Old Boys' cricket week for the last few years because the fixture clashed with the duties he undertook in connection with a boys' seaside camp.—*Editor.*

When a captain of a team is admired as much by the members of other clubs as he is by those fellow-cricketers who come in almost daily contact with him, one has no hesitation in saying that that captain is a very popular man. This is the position in which the Rev. Lionel George Brown, the enthusiastic and able leader of the powerful Longton side in the North Staffordshire League. Those with whom he regularly plays and practices think the world of him as a captain and colleague, but their regard for him cannot be greater than is the appreciation of those who are happy in being opposed to him on the cricket field. Hence a little sketch of the most interesting career which he has followed must be intensely interesting to all devotees of the summer pastime throughout the district. He was born on April 23rd, 1872, at Ancaster Hall, in Lincolnshire, and is the son of Major Francis Brown, 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers). His school life began at Lancing College, but he left there in 1883 to be under the eye of doctors, and then in 1884 he went to the Bedford Modern School. In 1887 he gained his first eleven colours, and played in the team for four years under the captaincy of A. O. Jones, the present Notts skipper.

The reverend gentleman matriculated at Merton College, Oxford, in 1891. He played in all the cricket trial games and assisted Oxford University against the Gentlemen of England as wicket-keeper. He was captain of the Merton College cricket team in 1894, and also played both games of football for the College, but shone most as a full back in connection with the Rugby code, playing in several trials for the 'Varsity. He won the University championship billiard cue in 1894, representing Oxford v. Cambridge the

same year in the four-handed billiard match, in which Oxford were victorious.

Mr. Brown took his B.A. degree in 1895 and his M.A. in 1901. He went to Cuddesdón Theological College in 1895, was ordained deacon in 1895, and priest in 1896, by the Bishop of Oxford. For two years he held a curacy at Woodstock, and was captain of both cricket and football clubs. Then he went to St. Mary's, Reading, in 1897, and to Lowestoft in 1902. He played for the Bedfordshire County Cricket Club from 1891 to 1902—being their wicket-keeper—except in the season 1901, when playing for Berkshire as batsman and lob bowler. Then he gave up wicket-keeping owing to failing eyesight.

It was from Lowestoft that he came when he took up his position at SS. Mary and Chad, Longton, as assistant priest, in May, 1904, having known the Vicar, the Rev. J. L. Murray, when they were boys together at Lancing College, 21 years previously. His fame as a cricketer had already preceded him, and he was promptly asked to join the Longton Club, which he willingly did. The good work that he did for the club was speedily recognised from the fact that, after his second season, he was asked to become captain. This post he accepted in 1908 and still holds. He was a member of the team which carried off the League Championship in 1905. During this season he scored 52 against Leek Highfield, 52 against Crewe, 42 against Norton, and his crowning effort came in the play-off at Stoke, against Burslem, for the championship, when he contributed 45 out of the 105 obtained by his side. He also, during the same year, made a great effort, along with many others, to make the bazaar in connection with the club a great success, and in consequence the old debt was wiped out, and the last balance sheet showed a balance of £29 in hand. Two nights each week along with his namesake, the professional, he is devoting to the coaching of young players who are not at present members of the playing elevens, and by this means he hopes to possibly discover some hidden talent that otherwise would not have been found.

But not only in cricket did he interest himself, not merely was he good at handling the willow, but equally good at holding the cue. He takes a great interest in the North Staffordshire Church Institutes' Billiard League, and by his own sportsmanlike playing, his thorough knowledge of the game, and his outspoken criticism against "pot hunting," and joining church clubs merely to play billiards and win medals, while taking no interest in the work of the church to which the club belongs, he has been greatly instrumental

in transforming the League and creating a right spirit amongst its members. He is a vice-president of the North Staffordshire Church Football League, and has done much, not only to help on the clubs in the parish, but to make the League what it exists for—a League for bona-fide Church-going members, who will play a straight and clean game for the game's sake.

But Mr. Brown's energies have not stopped there. For four years he has been captain of the parochial company of the Church Lads' Brigade, and has brought his company into an excellent condition. He has, moreover, taken charge of the parochial swimming club, which numbers some 90 members, and many are the men and lads who owe their knowledge of this most important art to his instruction.

In short there is no branch of manly sport in which Mr. Brown does not take the liveliest interest, and he has done much to raise the whole tone of sport, not merely in his parish, but in Longton and the district. Says one of his friends and admirers of him: "A parson and yet a sportsman! a man! an example of muscular Christianity; a living lie to those who say that religion is good enough for women and children, but is not for men. A parson, too, who is a Churchman, and not ashamed to be known as such—practising his religion on the field of sport as well as preaching it in the pulpit. A parson whose type we may well wish could be multiplied indefinitely."

#### MIHI COMES ADSIS!

Adsis usque comes! Properat descendere vesper,  
 Densantur tenebrae. Sis mihi, Dive, comes!  
 Cum fugiunt jucunda, nec est qui praebeat alter,  
 Qui praebes inopi, Tu, comes adfer opem!  
 Parva dies hominum rapido delabitur aestu;  
 Gaudia deficiunt, et decus omne perit.  
 Omnia marcescunt, mutantur et omnia circum:  
 Qui non mutaris, Tu mihi semper ades!  
 Te quot praetereunt horas ego, Dive, requiro.  
 Quid nisi Tu praesens falleret hostis opes?  
 Quis nisi Tu dux adstaret? Sit nubibus ater,  
 Sitve polus clarus, sis mihi, Dive, comes!  
 Nil hostes timeo faveas modo. Fletus amari  
 Nil habet, affligunt nec mala mole sua.  
 Quid nocet insultans Letum? Num victor abibis,  
 Orce? At ovans gradior, sis modo, Dive, comes.  
 Languenti praetende crucem morientis ocello!  
 Per noctem fulge, monstra et ad astra viam!  
 Lux caelestis adest, vana et simulacra recedunt.  
 In vita, in leto, sis mihi, Dive, comes!

## He once took 7 wickets against 'W.G.s' team

FATHER of a great Hitchin sporting family Mr. Sidney Brown, of 69 Grove-road, Hitchin, died at his home on Wednesday, aged 80.

Mr. Brown, who was born at Arlesey, lived most of his life in Hitchin and was well-known for his connections with Hitchin Cricket Club, being head groundsmen there for a number of years. For his services he was made a vice-president.

He began his cricket career with a match for Arlesey against Hitchin and after the first two Arlesey bowlers could not get a wicket, he came on and took six wickets for 23.

He also figured in a match against W.G. Grace's team, scoring 40 and taking seven wickets and in later years played for both Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

His five sons, Stan, Sid, Ken, Reg and Claude, have all made their names in local sport.

Sid, of course, organises his own eleven to play local club sides and Claude, a former playing member of Hitchin Football Club, now looks after Hitchin Reserves. Claude was the only schoolboy football international that Hitchin has ever produced.

Mr. Brown is survived by his wife. Cremation is on Monday at 3 p.m. at Stopsley.

**A FAMILY TRADITION**

I hear that young Ken Brown has followed in the footsteps of his father, Mr. Sid Brown, and of his elder brothers, Stan and Sid, and taken up cricket professionally.

He has been appointed groundsman of Broxbourne Cricket Club.

**FOOTBALLER FIRST**

Young Brown made a name for himself in sport while still at school. Playing in the Hitchin British football team in 1926, he scored all four goals when his side beat Earnet 4-1 in the Wix Trophy. In the 1926-27 season he was a member of the Hitchin and District XI, that did well in the English Schools Shield competition.



**KEN BROWN**

During the season now drawing to its close, Brown has made many appearances with Hitchin Town Reserves in the centre-forward position.

**FATHER THE COACH**

After leaving school Brown took up cricket, and, under the able guidance of his father, became a useful player in the Hitchin Town C.C. elevens.

Mr. Sid Brown, sen., is a real sportsman of the old school, and it is no wonder that his sons have become so well known in sports circles of North Hertfordshire.



**SID BROWN, SEN.**

Mr. Brown has not only been an all-round player for Hitchin Town C.C. for many years, but is also the club groundsman and professional.

He is also the popular coach of the boys of Caldicott School,

to whom he is known as "Bruno."

**FOOTBALLERS—CRICKETERS**

The careers of his two sons, Stan and Sid, have been almost identical. Both did well in schoolboy football, and, while still in their teens, were among the most prolific goal-scorers of the Hitchin Blue Cross F.C.

Both learned their cricket on the London-road ground in the Hitchin Town elevens, and played for the Hitchin Town F.C. soon after its revival.



**STAN BROWN**

Sid Brown, jun. is now groundsman for Hertford C.C. and plays for the county town in both winter and summer games.

(Continued in Next Column.)

**OTHERS TO FOLLOW**

Yet another member of this famous Brown family is R. Brown, known to his friends as "Babe." He has shown promise as a footballer, and on Wednesday was a finalist in the Hitchin Boys' Club billiards tournament. I am told there is still one or two more "chips off the old block" coming on.

**ROAMER.**

**T A Brown – Bedfordshire 1895 and 1900 to 1907; Northamptonshire 1897 to 1899 (born 11 April 1863; died 12 March 1930).**

Played 81 Minor County Championship matches for Bedfordshire and 24 for Northamptonshire. For Bedfordshire he scored 2335 runs averaging 19.45 including scoring two centuries, his highest score being 126 against Hertfordshire on the Bedford Grammar School Ground in 1905. He held 68 catches and took 329 wickets at 17.55, his best innings bowling performance being 8 for 27 versus Buckinghamshire at Aylesbury in 1903, when he took 14 wickets in the match for 72 runs. He took 10 wickets in a match on 7 occasions and 5 wickets in an innings on 24. For Northamptonshire he scored 601 runs averaging 25.04, his one century being 123 versus Durham at West Hartlepool in 1899, held 25 catches, and took 46 wickets at 23.21, including taking 6 for 34 against Berkshire at Northampton also in 1899, his best innings bowling performance. His combined minor counties record is 105 matches, highest score 126, 2936 runs at 20.38 with 3 centuries, 11 fifties and 13 ducks. He held 93 catches and took 375 wickets at 18.25. Tom Brown came to notice in 1890 when he made his debut for Northamptonshire having qualified for that county by moving to Wollaston when he was around 20. He played for Northamptonshire pre-championship in 1890 and 1891. He played for Bedfordshire from 1892 to 1895, the last year being when the latter county made its Minor County Championship debut. With the Bedfordshire Club folding, he played for Northamptonshire in the championship between 1897 and 1899 under his residential qualification but returned to Bedfordshire when the county club was resuscitated in 1900. He played but one match for that county in 1907 before deciding to concentrate on his umpiring career. With the exception of 1909, he was on the first class counties umpires list from 1907 to 1922. It is estimated he umpired close to 250 first-class matches. Tom Brown was a member of the Lord's ground staff from 1894 and is possible he played one hundred matches for that club. His 12 first class matches between 1894 and 1901 were all played for the MCC. His first-class record was 333 runs at 17.52 with his highest score being 64 not out against Leicestershire at Lord's in 1894, his debut match, and 12 wickets at 28.50, with 6 for 82 against Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1900 being his best innings bowling performance. During his career he coached at Wellingborough Grammar School where he first came into contact with Lionel Thring, the master in charge of cricket at that time. He moved to Dunstable GS when Mr Thring became their headmaster and also coached at Bedford GS when county professional. Thomas Austin Brown was born at Podington, a small village in Bedfordshire close to the Northamptonshire border, and not at Wollaston as some reference books suggest. His birth certificate misspells the village as 'Puddington'! He was educated at the village school at Podington. He died at the family home 24 Winfield Street, Dunstable on 12 March 1930, his death being caused by a combination of pneumonia and multiple sclerosis. One or two newspaper reports had suggested he had suffered 'fits' both on and off the field when a player.

## Obituary.

**MR. T. A. BROWN.**

The death was announced this morning, at his residence, 24, Winfield Street, Dunstable, of Mr. Thomas Austin Brown.

Mr. Brown, who was 66 years of age, was formerly one of the best-known county cricketers the Bedfordshire Club ever possessed. "Tom," as he was familiarly called in cricketing circles, was one of the most popular professionals in the game, and for many years was a tower of strength to the county. He was not only a fine bat and a good fielder, but a deadly bowler, always bowling a good length. In his early days he played in village cricket, and he was given his chance when he was chosen to represent the County Club. He figured prominently 30 to 40 years ago in practically every game the county played.

He was also on the M.C.C. staff at Lords, and frequently represented that Club in home and home matches. For a considerable period he was cricket coach to the Dunstable Grammar School, particularly during the Headmastership of Mr. L. C. R. Thring. He able tuition is well exemplified in the splendid cricketers the School has turned out.

Many of the old county cricketers will regret the death of a popular sportsman.

## CRICKET PREPARATIONS

### FOUNDRY UNITED'S PROSPECTS

The Foundry United Cricket Club held their annual meeting on 27th March, Mr. C. Page presiding. The meeting was well attended and the keenness shown augured well for the fortunes of the Club in the coming season. The prize given by Mrs. Keep, the "Globe" Inn, for the highest batting average was won by Mr. H. Pouter, the captain. Mr. T. Morris won Mr. Limestone's prize for the second best average. The prize given by Mr. J. Smith for the best bowling average went to Mr. A. Twell, and a prize given by Mr. A. Mercier was won by Mr. F. Parker. Mr. C. Hartwell, the wicket-keeper, won Mr. J. Moule's prize for the highest individual score, and the prize for consistency, given by Mr. Prigmore, was awarded to Mr. M. Jeffs.

Capt. Claude E. Clark was unanimously re-elected president, and the Chairman, Secretary, and Committee were elected en bloc. The teams to be played this season include Ampthill Town, Bedford Barracks, Kempston, Messrs. Hays and Larkins, Letchworth, Eaton Socon, Bedfordshire Times C.C., Queen's Works 'B', and Milton Ernest.

### WOOTTON HALL END

The annual meeting of the Wootton Hall End C.C. took place on 28th March. Mr. H. Copperwheat presided, and the report given by Mr. H. C. Gilbert showed a satisfactory state of affairs, the Club for the first time having secured a trophy, as the second eleven was successful in the Bedford and District League (Division III). The first side had finished second to Clapham in the Second Division. There was a small balance on the season's workings of £1/17/74. It was again decided to enter Divisions II and III. Mr. C. Granby and Mr. H. C. Gilbert were elected captain and vice-captain of the first team. Captain and vice-captain of the second team are to be selected later. Mr. H. Copperwheat was elected chairman of the following Committee: T. Jiggles, W. Fuller, J. Hale, C. Burraway, E. Curtis, A. Curtis, and L. Jessopp.

Harrold Cricket Club requires fixtures for coming season.—Apply Secretary (Mr. D. Pakes). 19/396a5

### "TOM" BROWN

With regard to the late Mr. "Tom" Brown, the former Bedfordshire cricket professional, whose death was reported in these columns last week, Mr. F. G. Crouch, of Harrold, writes:—

"As a Bedfordshire man I feel that we ought to give honour where honour is due. Although I have read reports in both Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire papers that this renowned cricketer died and was buried in his native town of Dunstable, not one has honoured the village of his birth. "Tom" was born at Podington, a small Bedfordshire village on the extreme edge of Northamptonshire, noted principally for its large number of Browns, most of whom were relations to "Tom". He was educated at the village school, and early showed talent as a cricketer with the local team. He was a sturdy typical country lad. I met him at cricket quite 45 years ago at Podington, Carlton, and Harrold. He removed just over the border to Wollaston, Northamptonshire, when he was about 20 years of age. His talent developing, he was engaged as coach at the Wellingborough Grammar School, where Mr. Thring was a master. He qualified for Northamptonshire and played for that county. On Mr. Thring removing to Dunstable Grammar School "Tom" accompanied him there as coach, and later played for Bedfordshire and M.C.C."

### BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Net practice, which will take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 5 p.m., will commence on Tuesday, the 15th April.—F. Crompton, Hon. Secretary.

## FORTY YEARS OF CRICKET

### LUTON SECRETARY'S MEMORIES

#### Partnerships with Bert Holdstock

YESTERDAY marked the completion of another year in the life of the man who has probably done more than any other to further the interests of Luton cricket. Ever since he first handled a bat, his heart and soul have been in the great summer game, of which he has been a competent exponent for well over forty years, and on Saturday he took the field as usual with the Luton team.

It would, indeed, be difficult to imagine a Luton side without him, and this statement makes it almost superfluous to add that he is Mr. William Brown, of High Town-road, Luton, better known to his contemporaries as "Tip." Well-known in younger days as one of the best of the county's batsmen, he did sterling work as a medium-paced, right hand bowler, and was the hero of many a hard fought fray. Even now he is a useful batsman, and he has entered upon his twenty-eighth year as hon. secretary of the Luton Town Club.

After such a long association with the game, it is hardly surprising that he has an inexhaustible fund of reminiscences, and the other day he looked back, with a "News" representative, upon some of the more memorable games and experiences. In particular, he recalled many lengthy batting partnerships with Bert Holdstock, the former Luton professional, and it is possible that this pair have been associated with more first-wicket stands of over a hundred than any others playing in club cricket.

#### EARLY ASSOCIATIONS

Though in these days better known for his cricket, in his younger days "Tip" was also a professional footballer of merit, and served Luton Town and Watford. He was an outside-right, very speedy, and as good with the big ball as with the red pill. Incidentally, it was through another famous footballer that he got the nickname "Tip." When Luton were in the Second Division of the Football League they were bound for Chesterfield one bitterly cold morning. "Tip" turned up at the station, where several of the players were already waiting, and Tommy McInnes—still with us in Luton—remarked, "Here comes 'Tip the daisies,'" and Tommy's explanation was that Mr. Brown was so short that as he pranced down the wing a certain part of his anatomy brushed the daisies.

After "Tip" had left the Town Club and joined Watford, the name was in abeyance for some time, but when he joined the Liberals' Cricket Club a brother player in Fred Dawson, who was a member of the Town Football Club, re-introduced the familiar appellation, and it has stuck ever since. Probably a good number of people who are not intimate enough to use "Tip," call Mr. Brown by the name "Roland," and it is interesting to know how he came by that name. He had an elder brother named Roland, and when he was quite a boy a friend of the family called him "Young Roland," and in that simple way he was given a name that never did belong to him except by custom, though distinct from a nickname in the usual sense of the word.

He first joined the ranks of the Town Cricket Club shortly after they had made their headquarters at People's Park, and when the club disbanded he threw in his lot with the Liberal Club, though he rejoined his old club when it was re-formed in the early part of the century.



"TIP" BROWN

#### HOLDSTOCK AND BROWN

The day of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was when they were first together in a Luton side. It was also the first time that Mr. Brown opened Luton's innings, and he continued to do this regularly for over thirty years.

Once, playing at Leighton Buzzard, he helped Holdstock to put on over 300 runs for the first wicket, his own contribution being 132 not out, and another of his feats as a first-wicket batsman was in a match at Townley Park, when again, with his usual partner, he was prominent in a partnership which yielded 87 runs in twenty minutes. "Tip's" contribution to this was 54, and the figures against his name in the score-book were 1 1 4 4 4 4 4 4 1 1 4 4 4 4 4 1 1.

#### A RECORD PARTNERSHIP

Curiously enough, he was not batting with Holdstock when he helped to make the record partnership of Luton. The professional had left his cricket kit in Luton, expecting that someone else would bring it to Wardown for the annual August Bank Holiday match with St. Albans. Unfortunately for him, no-one had the forethought to do this, and as Holdstock had no flannels, Mr. Arthur Mander opened the innings with "Tip" when the home team won the toss. While they held the fort, Holdstock was to fetch his equipment and get back as soon as he could.

But he need not have hurried. The batsmen scored 308 without being separated, and Mr. Brown put up a magnificent score of 170 not out. Later in the match he bowled 26 overs without a rest, to complete what he described as "a fairish day's cricket."

Yet another of his achievements as first man in was at Toddington, where he had the unusual distinction of scoring 49 of the first 50 put on the board, the other run being an "extra."

#### BEATING BUCKS

He remembers, too, when Gilder, Holdstock and himself were invited to play for an eleven which Mr. Tarver, the then agent to Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, collected to play a team composed almost entirely of Buckinghamshire county men, at Ascott. Gilder and Holdstock took all the wickets between them, to dismiss the opposition for 150, and then, just to prove that Luton could win the day by itself, Holdstock and "Tip" hit off the runs necessary for victory.

#### BEST CONTEMPORARIES

He made frequent appearances for the county before and after the war, and he was fifty years old when he last turned out for the Bedfordshire eleven, but that did not deter him from scoring as many runs as his years.

He can claim the acquaintance of a number of famous Bedfordshire cricketers, including H. Orr, E. E. Anthorp, L. C. R.

Thring, Charlie Brown (his cousin), Tom Small, and numerous others, and among his Luton colleagues in early days were J. M. Dow, who, he thinks, was a great fast bowler, E. Gilder, "a fine skipper," W. R. Jeakings, W. Foxley, G. U. A. Read and H. Newman.

He considers Holdstock undoubtedly the finest batsman who has played for Luton since his own association with the club, and he would pick the best bowler from W. Crawley, J. Dow, E. Gilder, J. Durrant and Holdstock.

Mr. Brown's opinion that the standard of club cricket in this district since his prime has sunk considerably, will be echoed by many of the older generation, and he looks back with greater affection upon the days when teams travelled to fulfil away fixtures in horse brakes than he will ever do upon these modern times of sumptuous charabanc and buses.

His philosophy regarding the policy of a Saturday afternoon batsman is one from which all cricketers who aspire to become cricketers in the truest sense of the word might learn a lesson. "I always believe," he said, "in getting on with it, and giving the other chaps a chance. Averages are the last thing to consider."

#### VIEWS ON BODY-LINE

The views he expresses on the body-line controversy, which is at present providing the cricket world with food for thought, are typical of the old-fashioned school to which he belongs. He is of the firm opinion that rising balls on the body should be hooked hard to the long-leg boundary. By making this stroke, he says, the batsman automatically moves his head out of danger, so that, if he misses, he will not suffer.

"I have hit more sixes off that sort of bowling," he declared, "than off any other. It is only because a number of fieldsmen are placed short on the leg side that the batsman is frightened to make this shot properly, and is caught because he makes it half-heartedly."

Humour is another factor which has played its part in his cricketing career, and if you ask him nicely, he can tell amusing tales of brakes overturning on the homeward journey, and of walking thirteen miles on a hot day to have a game. True, he only made three runs on the latter occasion, but he would walk thirteen miles again to play his beloved cricket, and even if he only made a "duck," the game would still have been worth the walk.

As long as King Cricket holds sway in Luton, it will be indelibly associated with the name "Tip" Brown.

What more could he—or would he—ask?



# BEDFORDSHIRE

1940 Notes

William Brown, aged 65 died at 142 High Town Road, Luton on 6 January 1940. Mr Brown, known as 'Tip' was 33 yrs hon. secretary of Luton Town cricket club. Opened innings for more than 30 yrs. Mr Brown played regularly for Bedfordshire both before & after the war & was 50 when he last toured out for the county. He represented the Town Club on the Beds CCC committee & the Club Cricket Conference. At one time a footballer of note, he played outside-right for Luton Town & Watford & it was during his football career that he earned the nickname 'Tip'. By profession he was a hat manufacturer. Died after only 2 days of illness. Member of Special Constabulary. Good batsman & medium-paced right arm bowler. Vice-President Beds CCC (Luton News 11 January 1940).

Dunstable Capt: T.G. Payton V. Capt: P.C. Howes.

Vanehall Capt: C.J. Bartlett V. Capt: F.G. Russell

Luton Capt: W. Hobbins V. Capt prob E.A. Fryer.

Leighton Capt: A.B. Poole

## DEATH OF MR. W. F. BROWN

FORMER MASTER AT  
DUNSTABLE SCHOOL

County Cricket Enthusiast

Many Old Boys of Dunstable School, and others interested in cricket in Bedfordshire, will learn with regret of the death of Mr. William Francis Brown, who was associated with the School for thirty years, and throughout that period took an active interest in the County Cricket Club and other sports organisations. Mr. Brown left Dunstable in July, 1924, and had since been living in retirement at Chudleigh, Devon, where he died on Monday.

Born at Ancaster Hall, Lincolnshire, in June, 1868, Mr. Brown was one of three brothers, all over six feet in height, and sons of the late Major F. Brown, of the 6th Dragoon Guards. He commenced his career as a master at Dunstable School in 1893, having formerly been at Bedford School, and shortly afterwards became senior assistant master. His influence in



the class-room was a source of inspiration, and many generations of boys who passed through his hands will, in particular, have the happiest recollections of his methods of teaching Latin and Scripture, especially those who were under him in his Second Form days. Of his devotion to the School and the scholars themselves, old boys speak with unqualified admiration.

Mr. Brown's influence was by no means confined to the class-room. A born cricketer, he controlled the cricket at the school throughout his long association with it, and gave himself up to this labour of love with a zeal and devotion which characterised his valuable work in all departments of the life of the school. To him cricket was as the salt of the earth among recreative pursuits, and the many good cricketers turned out by the school testify to his wonderful ability as a coach, and his sound judgment on all points connected with the game.

It could scarcely be otherwise with one who was, in his playing days, a really excellent left-hand bowler and also a good batsman. "W. F." or "Belgie," as he was usually known, played regularly for the county from 1891 to 1902 in the days when Bedfordshire was captained by Mr. L. C. R. Thring, the Headmaster, under whom he served at Dunstable for so many years. Many were his fine performances for the county, and one vividly recalled by the older generations of cricketers in the southern part of the county was a famous last wicket stand in which he took part with the late Mr. G. H. (Tom) Small, of Luton fame. Beds. were playing Oxfordshire at Bicester, and the last pair put on 156 runs before Tom Small was run out when within nine of the coveted century. "W. F." was not out 80.

Mr. Brown's keen interest in county cricket and the county club did not dim

with his retirement from the playing arena, for he continued a member of the committee while he remained at Dunstable, and his counsel and help in "spotting" talent in South Beds were always welcomed.

Upon his retirement, the Old Dunstablians' Club joined with the staff and scholars of the School in presenting Mr. Brown with a motor-driven bath chair. He went to live with his sister at Chudleigh, and on one or two occasions afterwards he visited the School he loved so well, but infirmity prevented him travelling up to Dunstable as frequently as he would have wished. His memory is perpetuated at the School by one of the Houses having been named after him when a re-arrangement of the membership of the School Houses took place a few years ago.

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Captain Charles Hunter Browning, 124th Btty, 28th Bde, R.F.A.

**Remembered Today:** Private William Alfred GILBERT, 13th Battalion Training Reserve who died on 2nd November 1916, Rugely Cemetery

## Captain Charles Hunter Browning, 124th Btty, 28th Bde, R.F.A.

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Started by Old Owl, 26 August , 2014

[Killed in Action 26/8/14](#)

1 post in this topic

### Old Owl

Major-General



Old Sweats

3,818 posts

Gender:Male

Location:West Yorkshire, uk

Posted 26 August , 2014

ID: 1

Remembering today Captain Charles Hunter Browning of the 124th Battery, 28th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, who was killed in action at Le Cateau on the 26th August, 1914, when his battery came under a very heavy enemy fire. Age 36.

He was born at The Woodlands, Clapham, Bedford on the 9th April, 1878. Son of Captain Hugh Edmond Browning, late The Royal Scots Greys, of Clapham Park, Bedford. Educated at Eton, where he was Captain of the School in 1897, and in the Eton XI (kept wicket) in 1896 and 1897. Proceeded to the R.M.A., Woolwich, where he obtained his commission in the Royal Field Artillery in June, 1898, becoming Lieutenant in February, 1901, and Captain in March, 1908. He served in the South African War, taking part in operations in the Orange Free State, including engagements at Poplar

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# Captain Charles Hunter Browning (<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/565400>)

Date of Birth: 9/04/1878 – Date of Death: 26/08/1914

British Army, Royal Field Artillery

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o 1878



**BIRTH** 9th April 1878

Charles Hunter Browning was born in The Woodlands, Clapham, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom in 1878 to Mary and Captain Hugh Edmond Browning.

*Brother: Walter B Browning*

*Sister: Lilian Browning*

*Brother: Hugh C Browning*

*Brother: Herbert B Browning*

*Sister: May H Browning*



1923  
WINCHESTER v. ETON, at Eton, 29, 30 June

Match drawn

1st Innings		WINCHESTER	2nd Innings	
D. W. Hoare, c	Thursby, b			
Inclendon-Webber		13	b Bridgeman	5
R. H. Horsley, run out		26	run out	18
C. W. Thring, b Cobbold		31	c Thursby, b Bridge- man	9
E. H. L. Sinclair, c and b Bateson		79	b Kennerley-Rumford	17
C. E. Frazer, c Inclendon-Webber, b Newman		35	not out	39
P. G. T. Kingsley, c Inclendon- Webber, b Bridgeman		0	b Kennerley-Rumford	25
B. M. McGowan, b Bridgeman		51	not out	18
G. E. H. Palmer,* not out		73		
C. E. Awdry, c Inclendon-Webber, b Cobbold		19		
G. S. Grimston, c Kennerley- Rumford, b I.-Webber		13		
D. G. Stewart, c Newman, b Bate- son		14		
Byes 7, lb 10		17	Lb 2, w 1, nb 1	4
		371	For 5 wkts	135

ETON

E. W. Dawson, run out	113
W. P. Thursby, b Grimston	5
F. G. B. Arkwright, b Stewart	175
G. M. Crossman, b Sinclair	12
G. S. Inclendon-Webber, c Palmer, b Stewart	21
J. E. Hurley, c Kingsley, b Stewart	1
R. G. M. Kennerley-Rumford, b Sinclair	4
R. H. Cobbold, not out	33
G. C. Newman, b Sinclair	22
M. R. Bridgeman,* b Stewart	3
D. M. Bateson, c and b Stewart	1
Byes 35, lb 4, nb 2, w 2	43

433

ETON BOWLING					WINCHESTER BOWLING				
O.	M.	R.	W.	O. M. R. W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
Bridgeman	37	14	83	2	15	4	37	2	
Kennerley- Rumford	17	3	60	0	18	5	50	2	
Inclendon- Webber	14	0	63	2	12	5	20	0	
Cobbold	19	9	38	2	7	1	24	0	
Bateson	12.4	3	51	2					
Hurley	2	0	9	0					
Newman	14	1	50	1					
					Stewart	47.1	7	138	5
					Grimston	30	7	76	1
					Awdry	20	6	41	0
					Sinclair	23	3	86	3
					Kingsley	10	2	29	0
					Hoare	2	0	20	0

1923

GEOFFREY MARK CROSSMAN (Bro. of R. D. C., XI 1914), Hertford Coll. Oxford. Brewer.  
RALPH HAMILTON COBBOLD (S. of Lt.-Col. R. P. C.), Capt. XI 1925. Magd. Coll. Cambr., Univ. XI 1927. Wine Merchant.  
GEO. CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN (S. of F. N.), Ch. Ch. Oxford, Univ. XI 1926. Middlesex XI. Land Agent and Surveyor.  
DAVID MAYHEW BATESON (S. of E. B.), Capt. XI 1924. Univ. Coll. Oxford. London Stock Exch.

F. L. HARVEY. ETON v. WINCHESTER 1909

Frank Lennox Harvey, eldest son of the Rev. E. D. L. Harvey, of Beedingwood, Faygate, Sussex, entered Mr. L. R. Byrne's House in September 1904, and was later on in the Rev. G. J. Chitty's. He played cricket against Winchester in his last season, 1909; was in the Field XI 1907-8, being Junior Keeper in the latter year, and was in Oppidan Wall XI in 1908; he also won the School Mile in 1909. Leaving that same year, he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1912. He joined the 9th Lancers in 1913, and was promoted Lieutenant in the following year. The Regiment was ordered to the front in the autumn of 1914, and Lennox Harvey was killed in action at Messines on 30th October, his brother Douglas, also in the 9th Lancers, having fallen in the first battle of Ypres.

One of Lennox Harvey's House-masters says of him: "He was one of the nicest boys I ever had," and the other writes as follows: "Lennie Harvey was one of those rare boys who never had an enemy, and yet never swerved from the strictest path of virtue. He had perfect manners, not acquired, but by nature, a gentle voice and persuasive influence for good, not by precept, but by example. Blows were falling just then (in the autumn of 1914) with such stunning rapidity that the mid was deadened; but now that I can look back, it is hard to say that I have missed anyone more than the subject of your enquiry."

Ed.

CAPT. C. H. BROWNING. ETON 1896-7

Capt. Charles Hunter Browning, son of Capt. H. E. Browning, of Clapham Park, Bedford, passed into College at Eton in the summer of 1891, being third on the election list. He did well, both in work and in athletics. In 1897 he was one of the Select for the Newcastle Scholarship and the Tomline Prize. He played in the cricket eleven in 1896 and 1897, and proved an excellent wicket-keeper; and he became a very useful and reliable batsman. His most plucky stand with G. Robarts in the second innings of the Winchester match of 1897 will not be forgotten by those who witnessed it, the last Eton wicket adding some 50 runs. He played in College Wall Eleven in 1895 and 1896.

He was Captain of the School in 1897, and very popular, extremely tenacious of the rights of his fellow collegers, and possessing a keen sense of humour. He left in 1897, having passed into the R.M.A. Woolwich, and joined the R.H.A. in 1898. He served in the South African War 1899-1902, and was promoted Captain in 1906. He went out to France with the Expeditionary Force, and was killed in action at Le Cateau on 26th August 1914.

Ed.

**BROWNING****Charles Hunter**

Captain, 124th Battery, 28th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action Wednesday 26th August 1914. Age 36. Son of Capt. Hugh E. Browning, late of Clapham Park, Beds. Served in the South African Campaign. Buried in Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Nord, France. Plot III. Row B. Grave 5. See also [Lord's Cricket Ground Members World War 1](#).

From Andy Pay's research into the *Marquis de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour* the following:

Volume 1, Part 2, Page 44.

**BROWNING, Charles Hunter.** Captain, 124th Battery, 28th Brigade, R.F.A.. Son of Captain Hugh Edmond Browning of Clapham Park, co. Beds, late 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys). born Clapham aforesaid 9-4-1878, educated Eton and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. gazetted 2nd Lieut, R.F.A. 24-6-1898; promoted Lieutenant 16-2-1901; and Captain 13-3-1906, served in the South Africa War 1899-1900; took part in the operations in the Orange Free State Feb to May 1900, including actions at Poplar Grove and Dreifontein (Queens medal with 2 clasps); served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was killed in action at Le Cateau 20-8-1914.

Extract from *The Bond of Sacrifice Volume 1*:

**CAPTAIN CHARLES HUNTER BROWNING, 124th BATTERY, XXVIIIth BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY**, son of Captain Hugh Edmond Browning, late of the 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) of Clapham Park, Bedfordshire, was born at The Woodlands, Clapham, Bedford, on the 9th April, 1878.

He was educated at Eton, where he was captain of the School in 1897, and in the Eton XI (kept wicket) in 1896 and 1897. Proceeding to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, he obtained his commission in the Royal Field Artillery in June, 1898, becoming Lieutenant in February, 1901, and Captain in March, 1908. He served in the South African War, taking part in operations in the Orange Free State, including engagements at Poplar Grove and Driefontein, from February to May, 1900, subsequently receiving the Queen's medal with two clasps.

Captain Browning was killed on the 26th August at Le Cateau, while his battery was under very heavy fire.

He was the prospective Liberal candidate for Windsor at the next election.

**BLAND****Charles Alfred**

Private 30560, Bedfordshire Yeomanry. Died of wounds Friday 18th January 1918 in France & Flanders. Age 23. Enlisted Bedford, resident Clapham. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bland, of Rabanna Terrace, Clapham, Bedford. Buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Plot IV. Row G. Grave 7.

**BOWYER****Leonard Edwin**

Lance Corporal, 5008, 1st/5th battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Died of wounds Thursday 2nd December 1915 in Egypt. Enlisted Bedford, resident Clapham. Buried in Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt. Section B. Grave 79.

**COLBERT****Charles**

[Spelt COLBURT on SDGW and CWGC] Rifleman B/200426, 10th Battalion, Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own). Killed in action Monday 19th February 1917 in France & Flanders. Formerly 29853, Bedfordshire Regiment. No known grave. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 16 B and 16 C

**COLBERT****R D**

No further information currently available. Cannot locate in 1911 census.

**CRADDOCK****Albert**

Private 33614, 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action Tuesday 9th October 1917 in France & Flanders. Born and resident Clapham, enlisted Bedford. Formerly 2020 Bedfordshire Yeomanry. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 48 to 50 and 162A

ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE CB2 1RL

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*Dr C J R Thorne*  
*The Senior Tutor*

*Thanked 27.4.97*

01 April 1997

A J Webb  
59c Mount Avenue  
Ealing  
LONDON W5 1PN

Dear Mr Webb

Thank you for your letter of 15 March. I apologise for this late reply, but I have been away.

We have only a little information on Messrs Browning and Traill. This is as follows:

1. Norman Edgar Browning  
Born 17.6.1908 Gloucester  
Father Edward Charles Browning, a "custodian"  
Matriculated 2.11.1927  
Read Mathematics, then Geography  
BA 24.6.1930  
MA 28.4.1934  
Last known address: 43 Greensome Crescent, Doxey, Stafford, ST16 1EX  
(He was recommended for cricket by Col. D C Robinson, Capt, Gloucestershire County XI)
2. Robert Alfred Edmond Traill  
Born 21.3.1912 Rafaela, Argentina  
Father Robert William Traill, a "rancher"  
Matriculated 3.11.1931  
Read Law, History and Economics  
BA 16.6.1934  
No address held

I hope this is of use.

Yours sincerely,



C J R Thorne

59c Mount Avenue  
Ealing  
LONDON W5 1PN

23 January 1997

W Armingier Esq  
Headteacher  
The Crypt Grammar School  
Podsmead  
GLOUCESTER GL2 6AE

Dear Mr Armingier

**Norman Browning**

I am compiling a 'Who's Who' of Bedfordshire County Cricketers for the period 1919-1939. One such player, a former pupil at the Crypt School, was Norman E Browning who played for the County between 1935 and 1939 while a teacher at Bedford School.

My purpose in writing is to ask whether your School records have any information about Mr Browning.

I know he was up at Cambridge between 1928 and 1930 so it is likely that he left the School in 1927 or 1928.

The kind of information I am seeking is:

- First names in full
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Details of his career after the War
- Date of death
- Place of death

I do hope you can help by providing at least some of this data.

I look forward to hearing from you and a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed to facilitate a reply.

Yours sincerely

A J Webb



Surname Browning Christian Names } Norman Edgar Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Father or Guardian } Charles G. Browning Postal Address 21 Wellington St.

1. Date of Birth. Day Month Year <u>17</u> <u>7</u> <u>08</u>			2. Date of Admission. Day Month Year <u>17</u> <u>9</u> <u>19</u>			3. Date of Leaving. Day Month Year <u>28</u> <u>4</u> <u>27</u>			4. Position on Admission. <u>II up A</u>			5. Position on Leaving. <u>VI</u>			6. Boarder or Day-Scholar <u>Day</u>			7. Terms kept. Autumn: Spring Summer <u>19</u> <u>20</u> <u>20</u> <u>20</u> <u>21</u> <u>21</u> <u>21</u> <u>22</u> <u>22</u> <u>22</u> <u>23</u> <u>23</u> <u>23</u> <u>24</u> <u>24</u> <u>24</u> <u>25</u> <u>25</u> <u>25</u> <u>26</u> <u>26</u> <u>26</u> <u>27</u> <u>27</u>		
8. Place of Residence. County Borough <u>Gloucester</u> or County and (a) Borough or (b) Urban District or (c) Rural Parish						9. Occupation of Father. <u>Foreman</u>			10. Place or places of previous education during the two years preceding admission. <u>Northgate Council School</u>											
11. Particulars of any exemption from Tuition fees. (a) Total exemption. <u>Granted from (Date) Sept 1919</u>  <u>Granted by (Body awarding) School for ever</u>  <u>Tenable for School life</u>						12. Particulars of any Public Examinations passed or Certificates obtained while in the School, with dates. <u>Cambridge School Certificate July 1923 (Pass)</u> <u>Cambridge Higher Certificate July 1926 &amp; 1927</u>			13. Date of Recognition as Bursar or P.T. in the School. <u>Bursar.</u>  <u>Pupil-Teacher.</u>											
14. Scholarships or Exhibitions for further education. <u>£30 per annum exhibition for 3 years at St. Cath. Coll. Camb.</u> <u>Dame Joan Coote leaving exhibition £80 per annum for 3 years</u>						15. Place of further education. <u>St. Catharine's College Cambridge</u>			16. Occupation taken up after leaving.			17. Remarks.								

enthusiastic Siphonapterist . . . he has been studying fleas for 24 years . . . He once counted 3,340 in one quarter of a squirrel's nest".

One of the most outstanding – perhaps the most outstanding – of all Crypt sportsmen was to become Lt-Col. Grahame Wilshaw Parker, M.B.E., Mentioned in Despatches (1921-31). He distinguished himself on all games fields at The Crypt, and proceeded to Cambridge, where he gained a 'Double Blue', at Cricket and Rugby, and, in 1935, was Captain of Cambridge University Cricket Club – as well as playing many times at Full Back for England. Between 1932 and 1951 he played 112 innings for Gloucestershire, taking 32 wickets, and scoring a total of 1,954 runs, including four centuries, one being a double century of 210 against Kent. After a spell as a teacher at Dulwich College, he became commissioned in the R.A.S.C., transferring to the infantry; he attained the rank of Lt-Col., and was appointed M.B.E. for courage in the Italian Campaign. He then returned to teaching (Geography) and to Cricket and Rugged at Blundell's School. After twenty-one years, in 1968, he left to become Secretary of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, from which he retired in 1977.

Howard Meadows (1933-41) was another fine games player; he was Captain of Rugged from 1939 to 1941, and Captain of Cricket and Head Prefect in 1941 and 1942; he won the Townsend Scholarship to Pembroke College, Oxford. Later, he became a Captain in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and fought at Anzio and in Palestine. Back in Oxford, he won his Rugby Blue in 1948, then taught at various schools, becoming Headmaster of Barnstaple Grammar School, and finally of St George's, Harpenden.

Many other Cryptians also became schoolmasters: John Stangroom (1936-41) entered teaching by a devious route – he was first in a Solicitor's office, then in the Local Taxation Office; at seventeen he entered the R.A.F., and became Signals Officer at Blackpool, before transferring to minesweepers; after demobilisation he took advantage of the Emergency Training Scheme – and spent the rest of his working life at Kingsholm Secondary Modern School and at Beaufort Comprehensive School. Norman E. Browning (1918-26), one of the finest cricketers the Crypt has produced, was Head Prefect in 1924, and gained an Exhibition at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he took his Degree in Maths and Geography; he joined the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, and in 1943 was appointed M.B.E. Later he became Assistant Education Officer for Secondary School Education, and finally Chief Education Officer, in Staffordshire. Eddie Day (1925-34) became a Lecturer in Business Studies at The North Gloucestershire Technical College; and Cyril Genge (1919-25), a regular correspondent to *The Cryptian*, became a Classics Teacher at the University School of Victoria, British Columbia – one of the many O.C.'s to take up teaching posts overseas.

# THE CRYPT SCHOOL

Podsmead, Gloucester. GL2 5AE.  
Telephone: (01452) 530291  
Facsimile: (01452) 530292  
Headmaster G. D. Fisher, M.A. (Oxon)



3 February 1997

*Thanked by  
postcard  
11/21/92.*

Dear Mr. Webb,

I always dread having to visit the archives, not because I find it a chore, simply because the old records are so fascinating that it is never a two minute task - it is so difficult to drag myself away !

I am sure the enclosed will be of help to you. The details of Mr. Browning's time at The Crypt are taken from the admissions register. The other information is taken from a History of the Crypt School written by Charles Lepper in 1989. Charles, who now lives in Bath, was an English teacher here at school between 1954 and 1967.

Mr. Browning's place of birth, date of death and place of death are not available but maybe Staffordshire Education Department can help further.

I hope you are able to find all the pieces of information you require.

Yours sincerely,

*Eugene Burgham*

Headmaster's Secretary

Mr. A. Webb  
59C Mount Avenue  
Ealing London  
W5 1PN

37 Greensome Crescent,  
Doxey,  
Stafford. ST16 1EX.  
21st March 1997.

Dear Mr. Webb,

Your letter of 21st February regarding my husband, Norman Browning, has been passed to me by the Chief Education Officer for Staffordshire, as he is unable to answer the questions you pose.

I find the questions you ask somewhat personal & as you are a total stranger to me, I feel I am unable to answer them.

However, if you were to get in touch with the Secretary of Bedfordshire County Cricket Club, he, or the Club's historian, would be able to give you details of Norman's career with the Club.

His name and address is:-

Mr. D. J. F. Hoare,  
5 Brecon Way,  
Bedford, MK41 8DF.

Yours sincerely,  
Kathleen Browning

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## Death of Mr. J. H. Buckley

A former deputy chairman of the Biggleswade Bench of magistrates, Mr. John Henry Buckley, 48 Hitchin Road, Arlesey, died on Sunday at his home, aged 84.

Mr. Buckley was appointed a JP in 1933, and was elected a deputy chairman in 1957, in succession to Mr. J. E. Fisher. He retired from the Bench in 1961, and when he completed 25 years as a magistrate, he was entertained to dinner by his fellow magistrates.



For many years he was employed at Three Counties Hospital (now Fairfield Hospital). He was a keen cricketer in his younger days, playing for the Hospital side and for Bedfordshire. A fast bowler, his best figures were 9 wickets for 18 runs in a game against Hitchin. While with the hospital team, he helped set up some club records batting partnerships.

Mr. Buckley came from Yorkshire, and served in the Royal Marines during the 1914-18 war. He was a prominent member of the Mid Beds Labour Party, holding a number of offices in earlier years.

The funeral service is at St. Peter's church Arlesey at 2.15 p.m. today (Friday), followed by cremation. He leaves a widow and four sons.

## Our Cricket Portrait Gallery.

### 9.—Capt. Percy Burke.



Photo) [A. J. M. Hassall.

The subject in our portrait gallery has been a personality for the past five years both in the cricket and the musical worlds of Bedfordshire; indeed, I believe that cricket and music are his two great joys in life. He is conductor of the Bedford Free Church Choral Union, which owes much of its present efficiency to his enthusiastic and capable leadership.

Burke was born, May 28th, 1883, at Lewfaham, Kent, and educated at Roans' School and Goldsmiths' Technical Polytechnic, where he learned all his cricket, working his way from the 5th to the 1st XI. After leaving as a day student he continued playing for the evening side for many years, meeting all the best London clubs. His best score for this side was 103 against Reigate Priory, who had Harry Budgen, many years famous for Surrey. Those who watch Burke batting now can hardly realise that 15 years ago he was looked upon as the fastest scorer of his side. As a proof of this statement, in July, 1907, against "Ibis" 1st XI., he carried his bat through the innings for 115 out of a total of 151. His slowest innings was his recent effort against Kent on Whit-Monday, 48 in three hours and 25 minutes. Burke was first invited to play for Kent Club and Ground in 1899, later for the 2nd XI. In the embryo stage then were Collins, Hardinge, C. N. Woolley (now of Northants.), L. H. W. Troughton (who captained the 2nd), Morfee, and Hickmott (now of Lancashire League). Burke and Hubble alternately "kept," and, invited to become professional, Hubble accepted, with the result which is generally known to-day.

#### A Frollic Run-Getter.

Burke has played a great deal of cricket with Mr. Milner Gray, of Luton, and a Bed-

fordshire County Councillor. In his younger days Milner Gray was a most brainy slow bowler. For five years prior to the war P. Burke and A. Jeacocke (of Surrey) were White House Cricket Club's regular first wicket pair, and many a hundred partnership can they claim. Their record was made in 1912 against Spencer, with V. J. Woodward, the famous Soccer player, "Keeping," and Surrey's E. C. Kirk bowling, when they collected 263 before being parted, Jeacocke 143 and Burke 107. During that year Jeacocke scored over 3,000 runs for White House, but although the Beds. man only totalled 1,830 in comparison, he headed the averages with 54. For seven seasons prior to the war, and once since, has Burke scored over a thousand runs, the year just recorded being his best. Playing for Hastings for three weeks every year in holidays, Burke never would keep wicket at the seaside town. He often captained the home team against touring sides, such as M.C.C., The Wanderers, Brixton Wanderers, "Blue Mantles," etc., and was looked upon as a first change bowler. Perhaps his best bowling performance was for the South Coast town against "North of the Thames," when on a true wicket, with the aid of a cross wind, he took 8 for 23.

#### W. G. Grace's Tribute to Burke.

The record which Burke prizes more than any other is the fact that he made the last century innings W. G. Grace ever saw, and received the final congratulations the great cricketer ever gave to another cricketer. In 1915 A. C. Maclaren, who was then a Lieutenant in the A.S.C., got together a side which included Jack Hobbs, F. Woolley, G. Thompson and himself, to play an XI. Kent, in aid of the Red Cross. "W.G." himself promised to turn out, but went round the crowd with a collecting box instead. Kent included Alec Hearne, George Hearne, Colin Blyth. Maclaren's XI. having made 380, of which Jack Hobbs made 118 and "Mac" 63, considered the game was well won, but Burke and Alec Hearne put up 105 for the first wicket, and a total of 242 for five wickets was reached, 103 of which came from the bat of the Beds. left-hander. W. G. Grace publicly presented Burke with a bat at the close of the match. Of course, no first-class cricket was played that year. In wicket-keeping Burke once stumped five men and caught two.

#### An Ideal First-Wicket Batsman.

Since coming to Bedford, Burke has proved an ideal first-wicket batsman, both for the County and the Club and Ground, and on many occasions his sound defence has been a factor in laying the foundation for a big score by his side. His highest score for the County was a brilliant 87 against Herts., at Watford, in 1921, and other scores which come readily to mind are, 75, 59, 46, and 40 against the same county, at Bedford; 47 and 45 against Norfolk; 39 and 48 against Bucke.; 45 and 36 against Kent II.; and 46 against Mr. Murray's XI. (captained by A. C. Maclaren). Four times for the Club and Ground he has topped the century. In the administrative work of the County Club, Percy Burke has rendered great help as assistant hon. secretary to Mr. W. W. Marks, and during his connection with the Club the membership has increased from 90 to 300. He has been intimately connected with the Shilling Fund effort, "created" the Philip Mead Bat Competition, and has unbounded energy and ambition for anything which appears to him will be for the good of the grand old game in the county of his adoption.

Since the above notes were written Captain Burke compiled a brilliant not-out score of 124—the best of his career—against Kent II. on Tuesday.

Next week Captain A. D. Gays will be seen in the Gallery. "WESTERNER."

### Cricket

## CUP ORGANIZERS PREPARE

The annual meeting of the Bedford and District Cricket League Hospital Cup competition will be held at St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Bedford, on Saturday, 17th April, at 6.30 p.m., when the draw for the first round is to take place.

Closing date for entries is Friday next, 16th April. Several new clubs have applied to enter, and it is hoped that the number taking part will be even bigger than the record one of 93 last year.

Mr. A. F. Parrish, of The Cottage, Colmworth, is the Secretary.

## AUSTRALIAN TEST CRICKETER HERE

Jim Burke, the New South Wales and Australian Test cricketer, who is a great-nephew of Captain Percy Burke, of Castle Road, Bedford, arrived in England last week to take up an appointment as professional to Todmorden, the Lancashire League club.

Jim broke his journey at Bedford to spend some time with Capt. Burke—the old County batsman and wicket-keeper—and in a quick look round the town was particularly impressed with the Bedford School field. He considered it far in advance of any grade cricket grounds 'down under' except Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide.

Capt. Burke has become a member of the Todmorden Club and intends to go and see his nephew play. He also hopes to meet there Johnnie Ratcliffe, the former County and Queen's Works player, who was always difficult to dislodge from the crease.

Jim Burke is the youngest player to make a century in his first Test against England. He scored 101 not out in 1951. Aged 22, Jim returns to Australia in September ready (he hopes) to meet the England side again.

### THURSDAY C.C. WANT NEW MEMBERS

Bedford Thursday C.C. held their annual meeting recently, when Mr. T. L. Rose (Secretary) reported a successful season. Mr. E. D. Rainbird (Treasurer) said that expenditure exceeded income by £16 1s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £4 6s. 1d..

Owing to pressure of business Mr. Rose reluctantly relinquished his duties as secretary, a position he has held since the formation of the club seven years ago. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Rose for his untiring work in the affairs of the club.

Mr. R. L. Milman was elected the new Secretary, and other appointments were: Captain, W. G. Poole; Vice-Captain, E. D. Rainbird; Chairman, Mr. R. Pratt; Treasurer, Mr. E. D. Rainbird; President, Mrs. F. F. Haddon.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of the late Chairman, Mr. E. G. Lilley, who had been associated with the club since 1947.

New members will be welcomed, and they should contact Mr. Milman (Bedford 3346).



## SPORTING AND MUSICAL OCCASIONS RECALLED

### Capt. and Mrs. Percy Burke Celebrate Golden Wedding

One of three men sent by the Admiralty to Bedford in 1916 to open up an airship station which later became the great Cardington base and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Boxing Day.

They are 72-year-old Capt. Percy Burke, a well-known Bedford personality, and Mrs. Louise Alice Burke, 75, of 49 Castle Road.

Then a warrant-officer in the Royal Navy, Capt. Burke came to Bedford as a fabric overseer.

At that time Cardington was in its infancy, work having only just begun on one of the massive hangars. In 1917 he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the R.N.V.R., and when the R.N.A.S. and R.F.C. amalgamated in 1919 he became a Captain in the R.A.F.

Capt. Burke has combined with great success a lifetime of sporting accomplishment with his gifted musical ability, all in addition to his full-time employment as Clerk of Works (First Grade) with the London County Council for fifteen years, and then as a building inspector with the Ministry of Works. He retired from the latter post this year.

#### CRICKET FOR COUNTY

From about 1919 to 1925 he played as wicket-keeper and opening batsman for Bedfordshire in fifty matches, and he also represented the North Minor Counties against the South at the Oval in 1923. On a sticky wicket he made 25 runs, the top score. He has also played for the R.A.F. at Lords and the Oval against the Army and the Navy.

"The greatest thing I pride", he said, "was that I made the last century W. G. Grace saw, and I received the last congratulations he ever gave a cricketer. That was at Catford in 1915, a week before I joined up."

A few weeks ago Capt. Burke had a letter from Jack Hobbs recalling the Catford match, and hoping that Jim Burke, the Australian cricketer (Capt. Burke's great-nephew), would be included in the Australian touring team coming here shortly.

Rugby is also among Capt. Burke's sporting interests, and he is Chairman of Bedford Rugby Followers' Association.

#### SUCCESSFUL CHOIR

While at Cardington during the 1914-18 war, Capt. Burke became conductor of the Aerodrome musical society, and more than 150 joined. After the war he became conductor of the Free Church Choral Union in Bedford, and he also formed the Bedford Ladies' Choral Society.

It was this Society that won numerous trophies competing against many other choirs from

all England, the Society was so successful that they won the "Dawney" Shield in three successive years at Westminster Hall and were promptly banned from entering the contest again.

"We used to practise from seven to eight in the morning for a fortnight before we went in for a competition", said Capt. Burke, "and there was always a 100 per cent attendance. That was our secret, you see."

Recently, Capt. Burke formed the Bedford Male Voice Choir, and already it is proving a great success.

#### EMBANKMENT CONCERTS

For 32 years he taught music at evening classes for the London County Council, and he was Musical Director at Wandsworth Technical Institute for ten years. In 1925 he held a similar post with Exmouth Urban Council.

After the 1914-18 war, when Bedford Town Council organized musical concerts on the Embankment, Capt. Burke was appointed Honorary Musical Director, and it was often common to have audiences of two or three thousand people.

He recalls with pride the day he was presented to Queen Mary, when she opened the London County Council's Rachel McMillan Children's Home. He had been in charge of the rebuilding of the Home.

Mrs. Burke, who is the third member in her family to celebrate a golden wedding anniversary has not entered the limelight so much, but working quietly at home she has been behind much of the success of her husband's life.

Capt. and Mrs. Burke were married on Boxing Day, 1902, at the South Street Baptist Church, Greenwich, by the Rev. Charles Spurgeon, son of the famous C. H. Spurgeon. Capt. Burke was choirmaster and organist of the church at the time. They had two sons, both Old Bedfordians. One of them, Leonard, died suddenly in 1926, at the age of 19 years. The other, Maurice James, is Regional Electrical Engineer to the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board, and there are two grandchildren.

On Boxing Day the whole family attended a carnival dance at the Bridge Hotel, Bedford, where they were presented with a special programme and cake.







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