



Old Elizabethan Forces Committee

Address (pro tem.) for letters:
Fenlake, 57, Byng Road,
Barnet, Herts.

August, 1942.

LETTER No. 2

Dear Old Elizabethans,

Our first effort, last May, poor though it was, was evidently appreciated. Here is our second News-Letter, slightly more ambitious than the first. Few probably realise the difficulty of keeping track of addresses or ranks. Rather than corresponding with service addresses, even though we may know them, we feel it preferable to use a home or other permanent address. Regarding ranks, please forgive us if we err—we do our best, but it is difficult to sort out information from the type of news which confuses "L.-cpl." with "Lt.-colonel"! Battling with rumour is likewise no picnic. We were informed, for instance, that a certain O.E. was missing in the Middle East; fortunately, as we knew he had visited the School that day, we realised the report was much exaggerated, if not definitely unreliable!

We have a number of names of O.E's., but lack information as to addresses. If any meet an O.E. in the Forces who has not received a copy of this Circular and the "Elizabethan," we will send them to him on hearing. Although supplies of the April issue of the "Elizabethan" are exhausted, any O.E. who failed to receive our May News-Letter can have a copy on application.

Elizabethans visiting the School are assured of a warm welcome. They should make a definite point of signing the Visitors' Book before they leave.

May the best of good luck go with you all!

Fraternally yours,

THE OLD ELIZABETHAN FORCES COMMITTEE.

PERSONAL NOTES AND NEWS

We regret to record an increase in the names of those officially described as "missing." J. E. BAILLIE (28-32), D. R. BARRETT (32-39), both Sgt. Pilots, R.A.F., and D. L. KNIBB (24-39), Sgt., R.A.F., are all missing after air operations over enemy territory. P. J. L. McQUILKIN (31-39), Trooper, R.A.C., and A. H. HAWKINS (17-23), L./Bdr., R.A., are both missing in the Middle East. R. W. HALLETT (30-35), Ldg. Seaman, R.N.V.R., who was first reported as missing, is now known to be a prisoner of war in Italy.

P. E. WAKELING (31-36) points out that his name was incorrectly included in the list of O.E.'s on active service, as actually he was rejected by a Naval Medical Board. However, from what he says, it would seem that he has had more "active service" than some more correctly entitled to the description, as he served with a stretcher party during the London "blitz," and is now a "B" Class member of the Royal Observer Corps. We hear also of other Old Elizabethans suffering at the hands of obstinate medical boards—P. S. JACKSON (33-37) was through his O.C.T.U., and about to be commissioned, when he had a bad car smash, unfortunately rendering him unfit for a commission in a fighting unit. J. L. PRICE (30-36) was similarly invalided from the Army, but has since volunteered as a marine radio operator, and is now serving in the Merchant Navy. As he was assured of a comfortable job after discharge from the Army, his gallant action is all the more praiseworthy. E. J. NANKIVELL (26-34) unfortunately had an accident whilst serving in the Army, injuring his right arm, of which he now has only partial use. However, his running is, happily, unaffected, as he has since turned out for the O.E. Athletic Club and won the mile, as in more peaceful pre-war days. It is rumoured that he may find time to help with School athletics.

It is stimulating to find Old Elizabethans in the Services keeping up the School's noted athletic tradition! The parents of P. J. MEAD (33-38), L.A.C. (u/t. Obs.), R.A.F.V.R., now in Canada, write, "whilst in camp in England he entered for his Station sports, and gained two cups, one for the 440 yards, the other for his share in the relay, also two other prizes for javelin and 100 yards." D. F. ABBOTT (13-20), Gunner, R.A., who will be remembered by elder O.E.'s as no mean performer in his younger days, has also been active. He says, "There has been quite an amount of sport here, and, although I have not done any for about twenty years, the results have not been too bad for an old man of — (deleted by 'censor!'). Yesterday, we went for a cross-country run of about 3½ miles. There were boys of 18 to men of 41, which included about forty men older than myself. I came in 41st out of 260!" After mentioning numerous other events in which he participated, we learn, with a certain amount of awe, that all this energetic activity is at "one of the hardest camps in the country, where we get up at 5.45 a.m., work at the double all day, and finish between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening." R. J. POPE (31-39), Sgt. Pilot, R.A.F.V.R., now back in England, played Rugby for an R.A.F. team in San Francisco in a temperature rather hotter than an English midsummer day. The opposing American team considerably kept to Rugby Union rules, except for having on tap a constant supply of reserves for use when any of their team looked tired. Pope, who spoke as so many do, of

the overwhelming hospitality of the American people, particularly of the film stars at Hollywood, coyly revealed that one of his "high spots" was when he danced with Hedy Lamarr at a party she gave for British airmen in California.

Apparently the hot weather in San Francisco is nothing to that being enjoyed (or, more probably, endured) by R. E. H. BARLEY (34-36), L./Bdr., R.A., stationed in "the hottest place in the world," in which temperatures of 120° in the shade are mentioned quite casually. The airgraph from this O.E. goes on: "A. M. SMITH (27-32) and J. PARTRIDGE (29-34) are out here in the same battery, also C. A. LEWIS (28-36). Quite often we run against some Old Boys and talk about old times." Actually, R. L. MAIDMENT (32-37), Aircraftman, R.A.F.V.R., is not far distant from this Old Elizabethan outpost. In an airgraph he describes the playful habits of the natives, who "steal the very food from your fork if given half a chance—Ali Baba and his colleagues have nothing on these blighters!" Maidment adds details of his journeys, in which he reckons to have covered "half the world's surface." The Navy used to be rather "cocky" about seeing the world, but the R.A.F. seem to do pretty well! We hear that L. J. RICHINGS (28-37), Aircraftman, R.A.F.V.R., after service in this country, went to Singapore, thence, via Java, to Australia, and is now serving in Ceylon. South Africa is, or has been, entertaining G. E. LINDSAY (27-29), L.A.C., R.A.F.V.R., who has had an operation for foot trouble in Johannesburg; C. P. ADAMS (36-39), L.A.C., R.A.F.V.R., training as a pilot; and E. E. FRISBY (29-34), L./Cpl., R.E., who apparently has been seen in Durban, having returned from more desolate spots, as he says he "has removed sand weighing some pounds from kit and person, but hesitates to consider what has happened to the quantity swallowed!" Further north, H. HARVEY WRIGHT (19-24), Lieut., R. Fusiliers, is Assistant Provost Marshal, and from the Middle East, J. H. SHARPE (29-34), Pte., R.A.O.C., writes of rapidly acquired knowledge of native customs—we suggest he compares notes with R. L. Maidment—whilst J. R. GROVE (31-37), L.A.C., R.A.F., reports amazing success in the cultivation of a luxuriant moustache!

From one of the growing band of those who have earned their wings, D. D. HALL (35-36), P./O., R.A.F.V.R. (others who have recently qualified include B. H. MARRIOTT (31-38), R. J. POPE (31-39), A. G. H. NICHOLS (25-33), Sgt. Pilots, R.A.F.V.R., P. G. JOHNSON (31-35), Sgt. Observer, P. J. RICHARDS (31-40), P. D. MACKIE (35-38), and S. A. J. KING (33-39) (Observer), Pilot Officers, R.A.F.V.R.), comes the story of a "u/t." Pilot, flying a Tiger Moth, who, unaware of his position, landed at a Fighter Station fairly bristling with Spitfires, Beaufighters, and other fearsome "kites" which mustn't be mentioned. Rather overawed, he taxied meekly to the control with the object of ascertaining his whereabouts, to be greeted cheerily by the Control Officer with, "Hello, old man, in trouble—bust your elastic or something?" Hall is a flying instructor in Canada, and this anecdote is presumably one of the politer stories told to keep pilots under instruction in their places. From L. J. HARDING (34-39), Aircraftman, R.A.F.V.R., who has just started at an Initial Training Wing, we learn that his particular section consists entirely of young gentlemen the initial letters of whose names run from A to H, with the startling exception of one named Phillips. So the R.A.F. are adopting phonetic spelling at last, apparently!

V. G. B. HILL (27-32), Pte., R.A.S.C., is now serving as a clerk in a Company office "where the more dreaded aspects of discipline are neglected." He was formerly on the editorial staff of the London "Evening Standard," who publish their own newspaper for their staff in the Forces, and, at the time of writing, Hill's name and photograph have been included in every issue since the inception. His brother, F. B. HILL (27-29), Pte., R.A.S.C., who has been a prisoner of war for over a year, according to a recent letter is in good health and spirits, but the strict German censorship allows of no really interesting news. Other letters to hand are from P. T. McCARTHY (32-38), 2nd Lt., R.E., then a cadet, who has met one of the twins of the three Gibbs brothers, who has since been commissioned. J. T. McCARTHY (34-38) is a cadet at an Anti-Tank O.C.T.U. S. THEAKER (20-29), L./Bdr., R.A., stationed "not a hundred miles from Barnet," when not acting as pay clerk, spends his time wrestling with technical calculations. He mentions that P. B. LOFTUS (30-34) was in Tobruk right through the siege, and is still out East. E. N. H. SHEARLY (29-40), Sub.-Lt. (A), R.N.V.R., is cruising around on an armed merchant cruiser, from which, at appropriate moments, he is catapulted in his aircraft. P. J. BELL (33-37), A.B., R.N.V.R., who, after a somewhat uncomfortable spell in small ships, has settled down at a base, where he looks after A.R.P. arrangements. Also other subjects receive his attention, as he writes, "I'm up to my neck in a mixed doubles tennis tournament with the Wrens." B. J. FULLER (31-37), Supply Assistant, R.N.V.R., sends details of many hours on a raft after the sinking of H.M.S. Cornwall. He says the sharks were quite tame, and that humour was provided by four lads straddle-legged on a spar, one of whom would go to sleep, thus falling off and rolling the spar, so tipping his confederates in the water. Other naval news comes from J. C. FARRER (05-08), Ldg. Sig., R.N.V.R., who visited the School recently. He will be remembered by elder O.E.'s as the Windsor-London Marathon runner, but more recently, and in different circumstances, he has put up another very good show. He was a regular member of the R.N.V.R. in peace time, and was retired honourably before the war as being over the age limit. When war broke out, the Admiralty having rejected his services on the grounds that he was too old, he did a wangle with the local recruiting officer whereby he didn't enlist, but rejoined, so that his age didn't matter. He was sent to one of the Gate Guardships in the Thames Estuary, which meant a pretty harassing time with air-raids and mines at one period, and eventually the authorities decided to give him a shore job in view of his age. Being thoroughly discontented with this, he generally pestered and wangled until he got himself sent to sea in a cruiser fitted for some rather special job which is distinctly hazardous but which mustn't be talked about!

Numerous Service visitors to the School last term also included C. R. MALLOCH (31-36), L./Sgt., K.R.R.C., for whom Army life is evidently suited, as there was no appreciable alteration discernible in his shape since leaving school; S. C. SMITH (28-34), Sgt. Observer, R.A.F., who acted for a time as observer to M. P. L. WALL (Asst. Master, 39-40), F./O., R.A.F.V.R., on the West African coast; R. G. ADAMS (31-36), Cpl., Reconnaissance Corps, who was just off abroad on an interesting job, a revelation of which might cause unpleasantness with the censor; H. G. HOLMES (27-33), A.B., R.N.V.R., wearing his D.S.M. ribbon and talking about Cape Matapan, the action at which he describes, amongst

other things, as a "magnificent firework display"; C. C. FOREMAN (26-33), Lieut., R.A., who, after being wounded by standing too close to a bomb in Libya, unfortunately contracted diphtheria whilst recovering in hospital. He had seen a good deal of action, and spoke highly of the South African and New Zealand forces.

As we go to press, notes are to hand from L. J. HOLLAND (26-31), Cpl., R.A.F.V.R., who is now an instructor in the new R.A.F. Regiment; also an epic, rather than a letter, from K. A. HENDERSON (32-39), A/C, R.A.F.V.R., describing, with a wealth of detail, his experiences since joining the R.A.F.

The Forces Committee send their best wishes to the following, who left School at the end of the summer term; they have been selected for the R.A.F. University Short Course, and will be commencing their training in October: G. J. ALWIN, B. F. EDWARDS, and D. E. A. POWELL. K. J. PARFIT (35-40) is just completing his course. D. J. ROBINSON (35-41), Cadet, Merchant Navy, is similarly finishing his training shortly, and expects "to get a ship at Christmas."

The following are additions and amendments to the O.E. Forces List published in full in the April "Elizabethan" (with first amendment in the July issue):

ADDITIONS.

Missing.

BARRETT, D. R.	32-39	Sgt. Pilot	R.A.F.V.R.
HAWKINS, A. H.	17-23	L./Bdr.	R.A.
KNIBB, D. L.	34-39	Sgt.	R.A.F.

Serving.

BAGGOTT, B. L.	33-39	Aircraftman	R.A.F.V.R.
BARNARD, E. W. E.	33-38	Aircraftman	R.A.F.V.R.
COLLINS, A. B.	33-36	Sgt.	R.A.F.
CRITCHLEY, T. A.	29-36	?	R.A.O.C.
HARDING, L. J.	34-39	Aircraftman	R.A.F.V.R.
HOLLAND, L. J.	26-31	Cpl.	R.A.F.V.R.
JEFFERIES, G. E.	21-27	O.S.	R.N.V.R.
LINDSAY, G. E.	27-29	L.A.C.	R.A.F.V.R.
McCARTHY, J. T.	34-38	Cadet	R.A. (O.C.T.U.)
McCARTHY, P. T.	32-38	2nd. Lt.	R.E.
MACKIE, P. D.	35-38	P./O.	R.A.F.V.R.
OSBORNE, S. J.	20-28	O.S.	R.N.V.R.

AMENDMENTS.

BURTON, J.	25-30	F./O.	R.A.F.V.R.
HALL, D. D.	35-36	P./O.	R.A.F.V.R.
JOHNSON, P. G.	31-35	Sgt. Observer	R.A.F.V.R.
LOCKWOOD, J. F.	28-38	Major	R.A.
O'LEARY, M. J., D.F.C.	24-29	Sq./Ldr.	R.A.F.
RICHARDS, B.G., M.B.E.	30-34	Sub.-Lt.	R.N.V.R.
THEAKER, S.	20-29	L./Bdr.	R.A.

Entry against the following should read:—

HOSSACK, A. P.	34-39	Aircraftman	R.A.F.V.R.
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SCHOOL RUGGER.

The following is a provisional list of 1st and 2nd XV home fixtures for Autumn term, 1942:—

Date	1st XV versus	2nd XV versus
Sat., Nov. 7th	..	Haberdashers
Wed., Nov. 11th	..	Cheshunt 1st XV.
Sat., Nov. 14th	... St. Albans	
Wed., Nov. 18th	.. St. George's	
Sat., Nov. 21st	.. O.E. R.F.C.	
Sat., Nov. 28th	.. Bancroft's	
Wed., Dec. 2nd	..	Watford
Sat., Dec. 5th	..	Royal Masonic
Wed., Dec. 9th	.. Bedford	
Sat., Dec. 12th	.. Eltham	
Sat., Dec. 19th	.. PAST v. PRESENT	

O.E. RUGGER.

At the time of going to press, only the two fixtures shown above against the School have been arranged. It is hoped to be able to play fairly regularly, and any O.E.'s. on leave who would like a game should contact K. J. McGREAL (Team Secretary), 82, Meadway, Barnet, who is usually telephonable on BARNET 2085, or, alternatively, L. R. HEARD, who can (sometimes!) be telephoned at ENTERPRISE 1234, Extn. 874.

OLD ELIZABETHAN ASSOCIATION.

Hon. Secretary: Cecil L. Tripp, Ganwick Corner, Barnet.

OLD ELIZABETHAN CRICKET CLUB.

Hon. Secretary: R. F. Haines, 29, Warwick Road, New Barnet.

OLD ELIZABETHAN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB.

(See above.)

OLD ELIZABETHAN ATHLETIC CLUB.

Hon. Secretary: A. P. Smith, 8, Granville Road, Barnet.