

some good "pot hunting" but alas our hopes were dashed to the ground and we were beaten in both final matches by a narrow margin. In our game against Collingwood we were hoping for the services of a twelfth man called "German Measles" but our rivals must have struck their quarantine flag and appeared on the field as strong as ever! Even some pretty enthusiastic bellowing from the touch line on a wet and miserable Sunday afternoon failed to secure success.

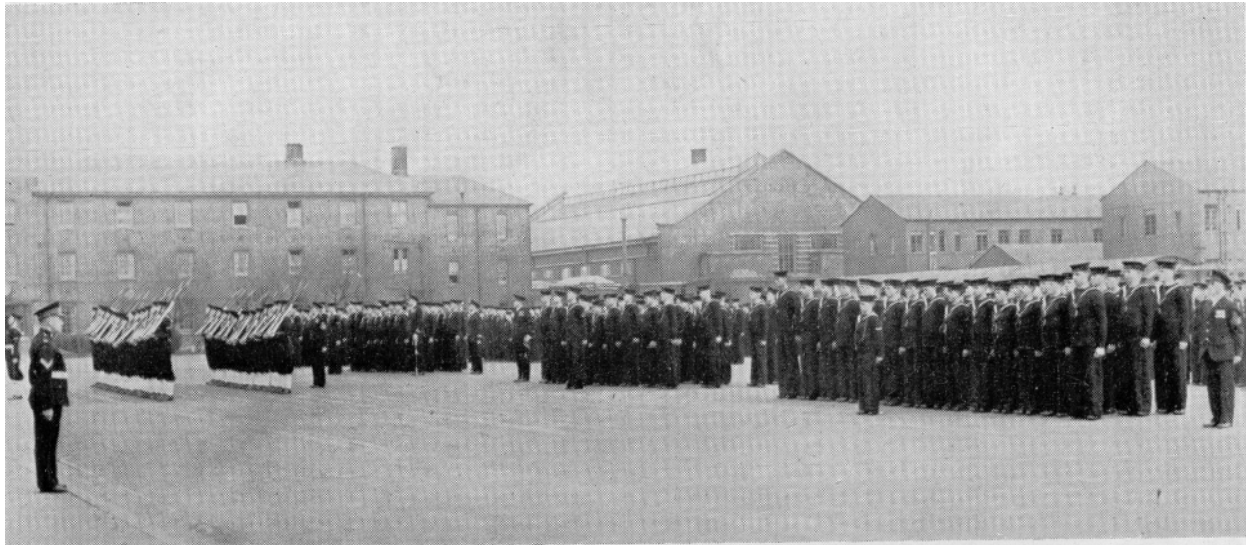
The sudden death of His Majesty the King on Wednesday, 6th February, came as a great shock to Officers, Instructors and Boys, all of whom were deeply affected by this national calamity. Five Badge Boys from the Division were privileged to pay their last respects and attended the funeral in London.

Soon after the beginning of the term we found we were obliged to brush up our O.T.C. days at school and take to amateur soldiering. In our first efforts to defend the realm we found ourselves embroiled in a brief encounter with the none too sympathetic owner of a party of pigs which our so-called army were alleged to have disturbed from their afternoon nap. After this incident and several others of a similar nature, we unanimously decided that soldiering was neither popular with us or with the local population.

On Wednesday, 5th March, 174 and 175 Classes had a most interesting and entertaining day's Sea Training in H.M.S. "Bleasdale." After the normal forenoon and afternoon sessions of dropping the sea-boat, anchoring, taking the wheel and touring the ship, we suddenly found ourselves steering south at 22 knots to a position seven miles south of the Kentish Knock Light Vessel where an M.T.B. bound for Harwich had broken down. The Boys of 174 and 175 Classes, thanks to the excellent co-operation of the "Bleasdale," had some first class practical experience in preparing to take another vessel in tow and were allowed to perform almost all the tasks under the watchful eye of Lieutenant Wainwright, the First Lieutenant of the "Bleasdale." The first attempt to take the M.T.B. in tow ended in failure and the tow parted. The second attempt was successful and we turned towards Harwich at 7 knots, finally handing over our charge to an M.L. off the Sunk Light Vessel at approximately 2130. The boys were royally entertained by the "Bleasdale's" ship's company, being lashed up to a supper fit for a king, and a cinema show on the Stokers' Messdeck, before securing to the buoy off the "Ganges" Pier at 2200. As "Bleasdale" returns to Chatham to pay off, may we extend our sincere thanks to her Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Commander C. E. M. Thornycroft, R.N., and his Officers and Ship's Company for the excellent cooperation and kindness shown to the boys, who were privileged to go out Sea Training in H.M.S. "Bleasdale."

We would like to congratulate Petty Officer Boy Beddall for his outstanding boxing achievements this term. In addition to captaining the "Ganges" boxing team and receiving his "Ganges" Boxing Colours, Petty Officer Boy Beddall went on to win his weight in the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Boys' Championships, the Inter-Services Boys' Championships and the Suffolk County Boys' Championships. Congratulations also to Acting Leading Boy Miles for receiving his "Ganges" Boxing Colours, and to Petty Officer Boy Adams for ably earning his "Ganges" Cross Country Running Colours and coming first in the Suffolk Youths' Cross Country Run and also being the first boy home in the match against H.M.S. "St. Vincent."

The efforts to improve ourselves in the Mess Rounds Competition this term have again been disappointing and once again it would appear that we are going to end up in the last three. Thanks to the unstinted efforts of Yeoman Collins and Yeoman Surridge, 4 Mess have come up trumps this term and look like being easy and deserving winners of the Carrington Cup for the cleanest Mess in the Division.



Head of Parade. 341/351 Guard.

On the parade ground we have been far more successful and the Division is now lying a very close second to Hawke in the Parade Efficiency Competition. With only one Sunday to go we have only .7 of a point to gain over our keen rivals in this sphere. Our Class Guards have also done well. 174/175 Classes gained 41 points as also did 341/351 Classes. The latter's effort was most commendable for a pair of Communication Classes.

The Divisional Basketball team, ably led by Boy Tibbles, came a 'close second to Hawke in the league and on paper would appear to be fairly hot favourites for next term. Judging by the amount of practice put in by Boy Brakewell during the term he should by now be fit to represent his country at Basketball! We also scored a good win over Woolverstone, beating them by 26-10.

As the term reached its climax towards the end of March, we found ourselves embroiled in a perfect vortex of hockey, rugby, style cutter and many other activities all taking place concurrently. So complex became the struggle that our



P.O. Mellors to Skylark and Dance.

enthusiasm got the better of us and quite unconsciously, though no one will believe us on that point, we fielded sixteen players in the 2nd XV Rugby Semi-Final against Hawke. This oversight, and again no one will believe us, was only discovered at half time by our opponents. Uproar ensued and indignant Hawke supporters screamed for justice and contrary to all the rules of the Rugby Football Union our score of 14 points was declared null and void and we had to start the match again. However, we still managed to score another 8 points with the right number of players. After this incident we found ourselves unwillingly promoted to first violin in the Divisional orchestra! Our Rugby 2nd XV, thanks to the excellent services of Boy Purchase, went on to beat Grenville in the final to win the shield.

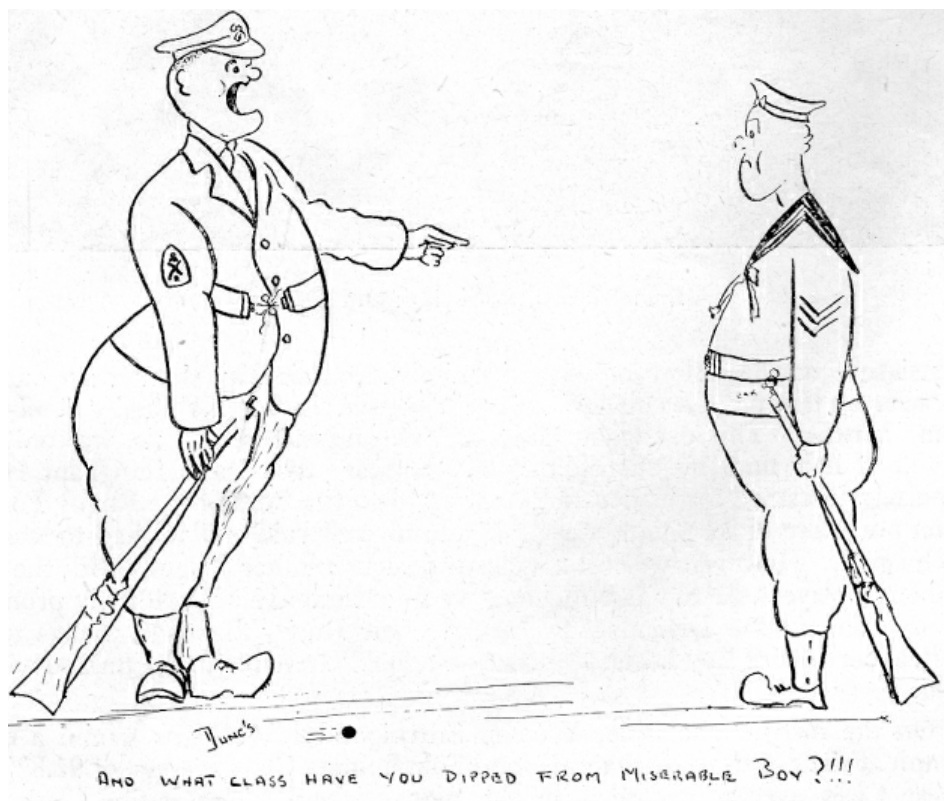
On the instructional side, Yeoman Surridge and 341 Class scored a major triumph at their 25th week examination in obtaining a Class average of 91.8%, the highest Class average recorded in the Signal School. The entire Class were awarded badges.

Several weeks ago a strange document appeared in the Divisional Office in the form of an illuminated parchment. It took us nearly two weeks to find out from whence it originated and after considerable investigation we found that it had been unearthed from the depths of some unplumbed cupboard in the School. The message on the parchment forms an appropriate slogan for the Division.

"REST IN PEACE
THE SACRED DUST
OF VALIANT BLAKE
THE GOOD, THE JUST.
BELOVED OF ALL
ON EVERY SIDE,
ENGLAND'S HONOUR
ONCE HER PRIDE,
ROME'S TERROR
DUTCH ANNOYER,
TRUTH'S DEFENDER
SPAIN'S DESTROYER."

In conclusion, we commend the fortunes of the "Blake Ship of State" into the hands of Lieutenant C. F. James, R.N., our most worthy successor, and trust that all Blakes will give him the whole-hearted co-operation- and support that he will need to tide him over the first few difficult weeks in office. The Division is well on the up and up and here's hoping you hit the "Jack Pot" next term.

M.S.F.



Benbow Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant G. L. B. Gossage, R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Mr. W. T. McNeill, Commissioned Gunner, R.N.

34 Mess P.O. Garnham P.O. Cannon	171 Class P.O. Boy Harvey, Ldg. Boys Norton, 4 Class Cole, Penney, T. L. Russell T. H. Russell.
33 Mess C.P.O. Tel. Cottam P.O. Tel. Briggs	353 Class Ldg. Boys Purkiss, McGeown. 352 Class Ldg. Boy Carr.
32 Mess Yeo. Slaughter	331 Class Ldg. Boys Wilson, Brennan, Murray.
31 Mess P.O. Bryant C.P.O. Veal	25 Class P.O. Boy Purvis, Ldg. Boy Cuthbert. 26 Class A/Ldg. Boy Hodge.
30 Mess P.O. Blizard C.P.O. Boddy	10 Class P.O. Boy Witts, Ldg. Boy Davies. 11 Class Ldg. Boy Smith.

"GANGES" PLAYERS-

Rugger-Paddick.

Soccer-Lunness, Cole, Mayoh, Cadd, Pryke..

Hockey-White, McGeown. Basketball—

Ferguson Twins. Cross-Country-Dack,

Simpson. Boy Coxswains-Godden, Norton,

Taylor.

ADDITIONS AND SUBTRACTIONS_

IN.

25/26 Classes.

185/32 Classes.

OUT.

164/91 Classes

171/4 (Early next term).

"Oh to be in England now that April's there."

It's almost that now, and yet in true Shotley style, the winter has not finished with us yet; there is a real blizzard-snow and all-going on as I write these notes. I suppose that our ration of summer sunshine and heat is being stored up for the Queen's Birthday Review.

SPORTS REPORT.

The first competition to come upon us this term was the Basketball. We started with high hopes of pulling it off again, but Grenville put a spoke in our wheel from which we did not recover. We finished fifth with four wins and three losses.

The standard of Water-Polo has improved greatly, and though we were overshadowed this term by better teams, though not by much mind you, we reckon that we'll be quite something next term. We were in a position to win the second league, providing we could win against Rodney who, in a most exciting game, managed to hold us to a draw, and win the competition by one point.

In the Cross Country we came fourth; a grand effort especially by 331 Class. I think the result would have been very different if we had not been the only Division to run a single Class. Our thanks to P.O. Tel. Briggs for his keenness, and our congratulations to Dack for being the first home.

Our first Soccer team played hard and drew for third place with Hawke. The second team-enough said!

Rugger and Hockey were played simultaneously with the Style Cutter employing the rest of the Division. Though we ran rather true to form in the rugger, we congratulate the second XV on winning one of their games! The Hockey teams were of a different calibre though-the 1st XI coming a close second and the 2nd XI drawing for 5th place.

The Style Cutter leaves us with rather mixed feelings; while we must congratulate 171/4 and P.O. Garnham on a very fine show (confidentially we thought



Benbow Dance.



Benbow Piping Team.

that they deserved better than 4th place) 10/11 should have produced a much better answer-fancy being beaten by Junior Comms. boys! Never mind, I know that you have done very well in most other things.

Shooting was run on different lines this term. Even though "Man Mountain MacConnachie" swore that he felt like a Commando on the day, and 3 Section knocked down 12 tiles with 17 shots, we finished well down the list. However, "More grist to the mill" and we shall do better next time. The .22 was a different story though; well done No. 9 Section, who won.

We tried yet another scheme in an endeavour to win the swimming relays this term, and had our three long shots had more luck, we should have pulled it off. It was not to be, however, but we were still in the upper bracket. 30 Mess represented us in the inter-Class relays, and made fourth place-well done.

When P.O. Garnham opened the gilded cage once more and entered our prize canaries for the Piping, his special brand of bird seed again bore fruit-and for the third time running. Where he grows it nobody knows, but I believe that he has turned the secret over to P.O. Blizzard for next term. The two specially groomed canaries did well in the Silver Call, Maycock coming third, and Taylor fifth-a good effort, and we reckon that the younger bird should be in his prime by the time the next competition comes along.

On the parade, we just do not seem to be able to keep a decent standard. After quite a good start, came "Black Sunday" which lost us a great deal, and though we have caught up one place since then and- are now lying a close sixth, the marching as a whole has not been good, and I shall be pressing this one next term. A bright interval in this rather gloomy subject was the performance of 10/11 Class guard, who at the moment are equal top-and very well deserved. Better luck next time Rodney! -

The Messes on the whole have been kept at a very satisfactory standard, and although it looks as though we shall have to concede the Commander's Cup to Hawke, we ought to manage 2nd place. I would mention particularly 34 and 30 Messes, who have really outshone the others-well done indeed.

Sailing-3rd at the time of writing, and mostly due to Godden who is in a very good position to win the Enright trophy (if he continues to listen to good advice!) Congratulations to him and the other Boy Cox'ns for bringing Benbow to the fore.

GENERALLY SPEAKING.

In that Grand National of competitions-the Aggregate Cup-we lie 4th as I write, and the tipsters say we will be 4th at the end of the term, unless we take a toss at the last fence. A satisfactory position in the upper bracket.

On the last day of this term, we shall welcome to the Division 185/32 Classes, and C.P.O. Cubitt and P.O. Samuels, who will, I know, more than maintain the prestige of Benbow. This happy thought is clouded, however, by the imminent departure of 171/4 and those pillars of the Division-P.O. Garnham and P.O. Cannon, whose standards have been most creditably high. All I can do is wipe away the tears, thank them for the "Efforts," and wish them all the very best of luck in their next appointments.

Having heard some peculiar rumours from the Training Squadron, of how the "Ganges" boys were not up to standard, slovenly dressed, lacking in interest, etc., it was with great curiosity -and a small chip on my shoulder that I recently paid a visit to H.M.S. "Indefatigable," for there was 91 Class ex Benbow just about to finish their time in the ship. In the short time I was there, I could see that these rumours were false. Far from dropping back, they had definitely progressed, and were described to me as a good bunch, not necessarily very clever, but keen to learn, willing to work hard, smartly turned out - AND THEY WERE HAPPY.

Think about it Benbows, for you will leave here every bit as good as 91 Class. What happens afterwards is UP TO YOU.

Have a good leave.

G.L.B.G.



Benbow at Sea.

Collingwood Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant Commander P. C. Carpenter, R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Mr. D. G. Broom, Commissioned Gunner, R.N.

36 MESS.

312 Class. C.P.O. Tel. Lusted.

291 Class. C.Y.S. Potter.

41 MESS.

362 Class. C.P.O. Tel. Chadwick.

363 Class. C.P.O. Tel. Townsend.

42 MESS.

184 Class. C.P.O. Cole.

29 Class. P.O. Heading.

43 MESS.

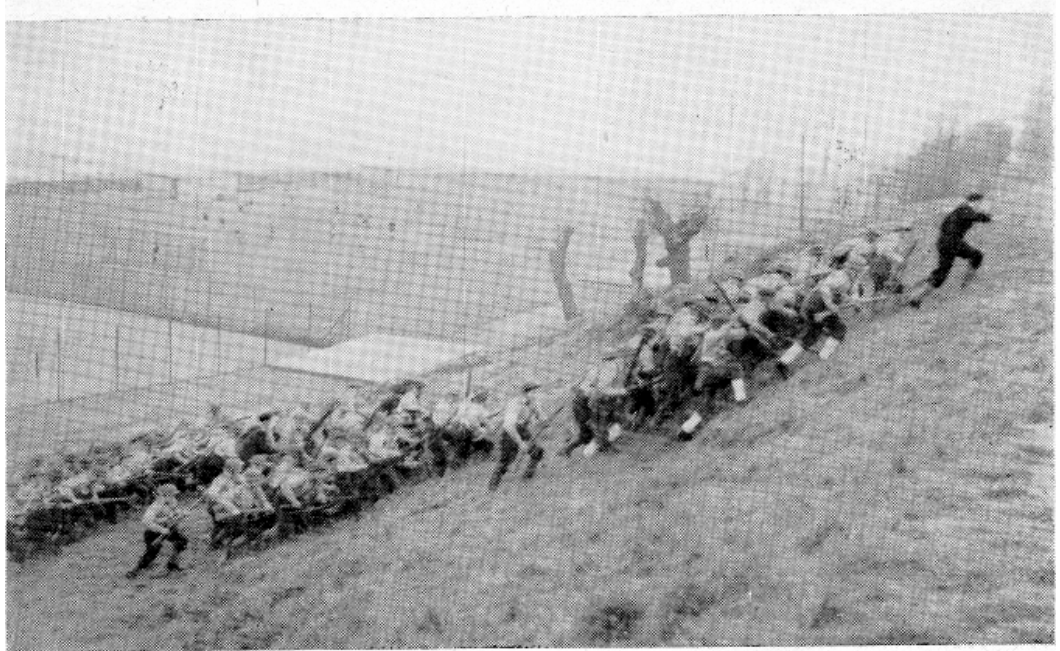
172 Class. P.O. Backhouse.

7 Class. P.O. Criggie.

44 MESS.

23 Class. C.P.O. Howard.

24 Class. C.P.O. Rose.



Collingwood Company Under Training..

It is my humble duty to place on record the doings of Collingwood Division during this the Spring term of the year 1952. As I write, a mighty wind full of snow swirls outside, reminding one rather more of Christmas season than Easter.

Being the honourable Duty C.O. for this 24-hour period, my musings are frequently interrupted by calls to attend on waterlogged boats at the pier, followed in rapid succession by a summons to inspect grubby heaps of clothing scattered around the floor of the careers room by boys under Special Kit Routine. The gasoline stage coach from the ancient city of Ipswich has embedded itself in a drift and blocked the highway; boys are stranded in the city; workpeople are, stranded in "Ganges" even a mother-in-law of one of the staff is prevented from reaching her goal—why does this happen to me ? Come gale or snow the Divisional Notes must go through, and thus we press on.

The term has been busy, mightily so. Picture the Divisional Officer and his staff trying to sort out two Soccer elevens, two Hockey elevens, two Rugger fifteens,

Style Cutter Crews, supposed to be all different chaps, and then for a company of "soldiers" to be found and trained to shoot, some Classes not even having fired a rifle. Each competition was designed to carry points for a Divisional Cup, hence to supply the right boy in his strongest activity was most important. How often poor boys would find themselves detailed to take part in three games at the same time. Great credit is due to instructors and boys for the patience shown toward the poor demented three, considering in triplicate how best to make use of the talents of Boy "Snodgrass."

The gale continues to hurl vainly its fury at our "stone frigate" as one reflects over recent weeks and recalls to mind the frantic team selection conferences, between instructional sessions, with the Instructors responsible for each particular activity. "Who shall we play in goal?" "Snodgrass?" "He's sick, tonsilitis,



To be or not to be! Collingwood Staff consider in triplicate.

might be able to persuade the Sister to push him back to duty in time but can't risk it, women are so unreliable you know. Who else?" "Bloggs?" "Nonsense, he's under punishment, you ought to know, you ran him in." So the awful jig-saw is pieced together. My humble thanks to those Instructors who painstakingly followed each boy's progress in their particular sporting responsibility, thus enabling our stalwart friend and advisor, Mr. Gilroy, to make up so many victorious teams.

A special bouquet is due to C.P.O. Tel. Ellison who, although not of our Division, took so much interest in our water polo teams that they proved victorious in the 1st League and were well placed in the 2nd. Well swum, little fishes.

Whilst directing salvage operations of sunken boats in biting wind and stinging sleet one's mind drifts back only a short space to style cutter practice. Of boys with boathooks and fenders, of Instructors with patience infinite and of D.O.s in despair often plunged. Would boys never stop climbing up boathooks, would puny arms never toss oars, would Instructors never remember the patter? Bless their hearts, all came right on the day!

A strong icy wind now seems out of place, yet a few weeks back it was commonplace. Those Saturday afternoons when our Boy Coxswains set forth with the spirit of old Collingwood beside them to hold fast the honour of the river, that which has been ours by conquest throughout these winter months. Well done, Sadler, Vanderson and Goodburn. You held the fort, assisted by Heffer when released from the debatable pastime of cross country running. You individually earned for the Division some valuable points towards our goal—the Cup!

This evening there is thick wet slush over the parade ground but it hasn't been there so very often this term. Class Guards have crushed every pebble encountered and despite ravages of measles and tonsilitis, managed to do their stuff. Particularly well did 312 Class, who, being so small, had to cope with Guard and Style Cutter training in the same week despite the fact that some of their number were playing Hockey and Rugby for the Division at the same time.



1st Water Polo Team.

Stevens, Cooke, C.P.O. Tel. Ellison, Pryer, Bidwell.
Woodhead, Baker, Hales.

With reference to the Divisional Cup, you will remember our stated policy at the beginning of the term "To win this cup we must strive to achieve a 2nd or 3rd place in every competition, with an occasional win for good measure." This has been almost accomplished and we stand in a strong position challenged only by Rodney and Hawke. The result is not yet decided but we face the outcome with sober confidence. Although I am disappointed with our "Parade Efficiency" and "Mess Rounds" results I have hopes of a better show next term.

In the Service one meets many new messmates, and farewells are numerous, but we can never easily say goodbye to a shipmate who has been such a friend and helper as Mr. Broom. We wish him the best of fortune and good sailing wherever he may be called upon to serve. May we have the luck to serve with him again in the future. Mr. Hathaway relieves him as Collingwood 2nd Divisional Officer and has sailed with me before. We hope our partnership here will be as successful as the previous one was in a wartime destroyer.

A word of thanks is due to 281, 291 and 95/96 Classes for their assistance to the Division this term, before leaving for sea. We will miss you.

There is little more to add other than to complete this narrative with the Divisional Results of Competitions to date, and to thank the Instructors, Instructor Officers and all who have helped us this busy but successful term.

Have a good leave and return with the determination to make a success of whatever you are called upon to do. Only in this way will you reap full value of your year's intensive training here in "Ganges."

"Up the Wily Woods."

P.C.C.

COLLINGWOOD COMPETITION RESULTS TO DATE.

Style Cutter ...	2nd	Rugby 2nd XV's.	... 3rd
Pulling Cutter	2nd	Shooting 6th
Cross Country	2nd	Piping 6th
Soccer 1st XIs	1st	Basket Ball	6th
Soccer 2nd XIs	4th	Water Polo 1st VIIs	1st
Hockey 1st XIs	1st	Water Polo 2nd VIIs	4th
Hockey 2nd XIs	3rd	Swimming Relays ...	2nd
Rugby 1st XV's	2nd		

The Divisional Cup, as I Remember It

The Scene: Any Divisional Office.

Time: Saturday morning, the day after returning from Easter Leave, 1947.

The Divisional Office is full. Only a thin partition separates the various Divisional Offices upstairs over the Q.M.'s Lobby and the D.O. is about to address the assembled Instructors.

D.O. whispers: "Chief, just check up if there is anyone in Blake's Office." Chief hisses: "No, Sir."

D.O. (voice becoming normal): "Good. Now let's get down to the Term Card and the question of winning the Divisional Cup; and mark my words, we will win it."

Instructors, in chorus: "Yes, Sir!"

At this moment the outer door opens and Blake's D.O. walks in.

He turns left and moves into the Blake Divisional Office behind the thin partition.

D.O. whispers: "Blast, now we shall have to keep our voices down. Now, here is the position. Chief Yeoman?"

Chief Yeoman, as though he was ordering Turn nine in a hurricane: "Yes, Sir?"

Chorus from all: "Sssssh."

Chief Yeoman in hoarse whisper: "Sorry, Sir."

D.O. still whispering: "How is your Class shaping for the Flag Hoisting Competition? It carries 36 points, you know."