

# 1-STORIES OF KGV THE MILLWARD YEARS 1920-1949

Southport Municipal Secondary School for Boys was founded in September 1920 and occupied a building named 'The Woodlands', along with some disused Army huts, at the north end of Lord Street where the Law Courts now stand.

There were 110 boys in the School and the Headmaster was George Millward MA, assisted by six teachers. In May 1921 four Houses were formed to cater for the individual supervision of boys' progress, as well as for social and athletic purposes. They were Charnley-Edwards', Grear's, Mason's and Rogers-Spencer.

## THE STAFF IN 1920

### **Headmaster:**

G A Millward MA (Cantab) 14th Wrangler Mathematical Tripos, late Scholar, Queens' College, Cambridge

### **Staff:**

J Charnley MA Manchester University (French)

J Edwards MA Manchester University (Geography)

A T L Grear MA (English and Latin)

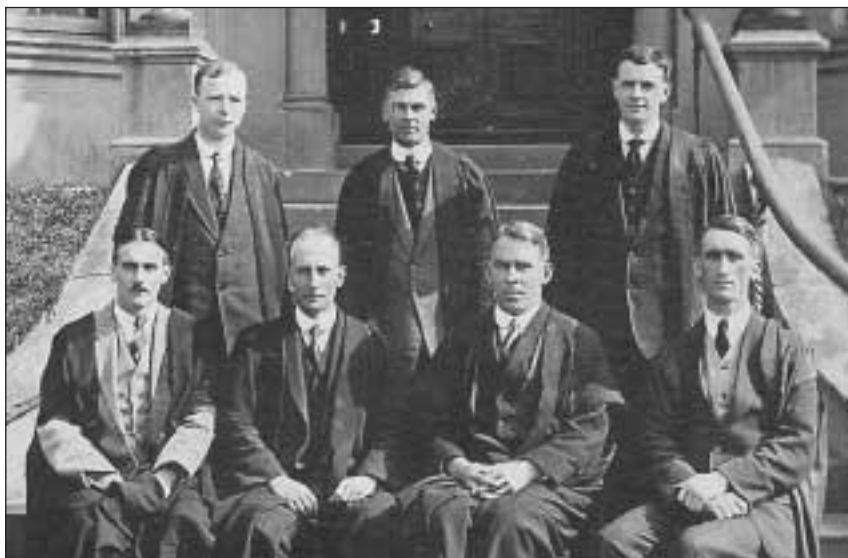
G C D Mason M.Sc Liverpool University (Physics)

J W Rogers M.Sc Liverpool University, BA London (Mathematics)

T P Spencer MA Manchester University (History and English)

## THE FIRST RED ROSE

In December 1921 at 'The Woodlands', there was feverish activity in the Office, a small narrow room with a wooden counter, which had to serve the clerical requirements of both the Technical school and our own institution in their primitive stages. A new magazine was in the process of publication, and publishing day was at hand. There was no money, but we had a sturdy independence in those far-off days and preferred to build up a fund by home industry. So several stencils were prepared and checked, and copies rolled off the duplicating machine with no less enthusiasm than muscular energy. We should express our deep gratitude to Miss Craig for her strenuous exertions, and to Mr Merchant for designing the distinctive red and green cover that appeared from 1922. The first number of The Red Rose was delivered, at the price of fourpence, into the hands of the expectant multitudes.



WOODLANDS TEACHING STAFF  
Mr Edwards, Mr Mason, Mr Spencer  
Mr Gear, Mr Rogers, Mr Millward, Mr Charnley



THE WOODLANDS

**The Red Rose, April 1950**

Copies of the Red Rose, the Georgian  
and the College magazine are held  
in the reference section of the  
KGV College Library

## **FROM WOODLANDS TO FINE JANE**

Extract from the KGV Golden Jubilee Book

**A quotation from the first issue of the Red Rose in December 1921  
set the standard for the new school:**

*'A reading of this first number will suffice to show that activity abounds in all branches of School life. A public spirit is growing rapidly. House movements are flourishing and competition is keen in work and games. We are forming, in our present modest surroundings, the school which is to be worthy of a larger well-equipped home. The present generation of older boys will set a standard to be maintained and improved upon if possible. It is necessary for them to take the responsibility seriously and to give themselves without thought of self to the work before them.*

*The tradition already established here is that the school is led rather than driven, but the school also remembers the supreme value of obedience to authority, without which our ideal will be seriously impaired.'*

The first three numbers of the magazine were typed and put together in the school office. From December 1922 the Red Rose appeared in print and, with that number, the Editor's office was filled by a select committee of boys - a custom which still continues.

Discipline in the School was maintained largely by Prefects, the first appointment being made in April 1923, and by detentions after school and on Saturday mornings in the famous A2. Industrious pupils were rewarded with an extra half day during each half-term. It is doubtful whether this system of merit holidays was successful, as few boys were involved because of some difficulty in defining 'industrious', and because one House did not wish to be thought worse than another.

In 1923 school dinners were provided in the basement at 1s 0d per head to some 30 boys. Mrs Threlfall, one of the stalwarts of the day, was the

cook, and excellent were the meals presided over by the genial Mr Henry Merchant. This was a private venture, and the writer well remembers going round cap in hand to friends for subscriptions.

The Old Boys' Association started in early 1924 with the Headmaster as President and the first Rugby contest with the School in April of that year. In 1925 the Old Boys had a strong Rugby XV and played neighbouring clubs. A Scout Troop was formed in January 1923 and, at the end of the Woodlands era, was in a flourishing condition.

The foundation stone of the School's present home was laid by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres on 13th January 1925. On the day before the end of the summer term of 1926, the Great March took place. The whole school marched in Houses, with seniors carrying trophies won in sport and led by Housemaster, along Lord Street, over Eastbank Street Bridge and so, by way of Scarisbrick New Road, to the very fine buildings which, at that time, were the best in the country.

Thus was had a preview of the new home, which we entered with great hopes of future successes in the world of scholarship and sport, and results in the years since have shown how abundantly justified were those hopes. Lord Derby officially opened the new building on 16th October 1926. The Boys' Secondary School, Southport ceased to exist, and King George V School was born.

**W L Mayne, KGV Master 1922-52**

## **RED ROSE 1922**

*Until this term we had to be content with the public playing fields, but now we have a large field of our own at Blowick, where three Rugby pitches have been marked out. True, there are ridges and ruts of every description to catch the feet of the unwary, and cold baths may be had at all hours of the day. But, on the other hand, there are many delightful mounds, which add not a little to the scene, while in the distance the delicate spikes of barbed wire are silhouetted against the sky. Already, our stalwarts have begun to get the ground in order, but it will be a long and heavy task, and the help of every boy is needed if we are to have a sports ground worthy of the School.*

From the second issue, the Red Rose included advertisements from local firms, in order to help subsidise costs:

**SMALLWOOD & ANDERSON**  
**SPECIALISTS IN SCHOOL CLOTHING FOR**  
**YOUNG GENTLEMEN OF ALL AGES**

Hold a Generous Stock of Sports Wear  
at Reasonable Prices

---

**INSTANCES**

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Grey Flannel Cricket Shirts  | 7/6 & 8/6   |
| White " " "                  | 8/11 & 9/11 |
| Super " " "                  | 13/6 & 14/6 |
| Grey Flannel Knickers        | 8/6 to 11/6 |
| White " "                    | 8/6 to 11/6 |
| Grey " Trousers              | 15/6 Size 6 |
| White " " rising 6d per size |             |

Grey Flannel Suits (Jacket & Knickers)  
Cut for Freedom. Made for Service. Washable.  
All Sizes for Boys 6 to 14 Years  
One Good Shade One Price 18/9

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EVERY ARTICLE SOLD IS WARRANTED  
TO BE OF DEPENDABLE QUALITY

Only Address: Smallwood & Anderson,  
471-3 Lord St., (Opposite  
Southport. Palladium)

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**SMART WEAR DEPOT**  
FOR ALL KINDS OF MENS AND BOYS UNDERWEAR  
SHIRTS  
PYJAMAS  
COLLARS

Fredk. Jinkinson  
44, Chapel Street.  
**BOYS CAP AND BADGE DEPOT**

Contemporary criticism of the 1922 First XI Cricket Team pulled no punches, as the following extracts show:

- Schofield      His batting has been disappointing. He starts too carelessly. His bowling has been erratic and ineffective. As vice-captain he has been too irresponsible.
- Bertenshaw    He must try to stand up to fast bowling. He can field well, but does not concentrate enough.
- Griffiths      At present he pushes the ball instead of hitting it. He is very slow in the field.
- Kelsh          He gained his place in the team as a hitter, but has refused to hit.
- Dixon G L      His batting is very weak, and he is slack in the field.
- Tyson and      They have both been tried as wicket keepers, but are too prone to  
Hayward      rely on a Long Stop to stop their balls for them.

**Nothing like a little encouragement to spur you on to greater things!**

## **MEMORIES OF WOODLANDS STAFF**

I came to have high regard for the Headmaster, G A Millward. On our Sixth Form Lakeland holidays, he and his wife, whilst they did not walk with us, met us at strategic points with acceptable refreshments. It was on my first furlough after the Second World War that I stayed with Hubert Long's brother, Tom, in Manchester. Tom took me to the Eye hospital where George Millward was undergoing cataract surgery. When we entered the ward, Tom did not announce me by name, for he wanted GM to guess who I was. He had my name and initials in a flash - and that was with just one eye!

Rogers was nicknamed 'Lord Eight' because he pronounced 'eight' with a very broad accent from the side of his mouth. Spencer was a lay preacher whose father, a minister, assessed my own sermon at Chorley. He often sang solos from 'The Mikado'. Woodham must have had shares in Cadbury because he always chewed their tupenny bars. Mason took us for P E and made us run along the Promenade. Charnley was called 'Froggy', presumably because he taught French. He always had a handy biblical quotation.

Vestor showed interest in a Swiss lady and, during one of our holidays in the Lakes, we teased him by singing 'I miss my Swiss, etc.' Higham was given the nickname of 'Jesse', derived from 'Je suis' (I am). Dobson was a tall Latin teacher who had suffered from gas poisoning in the First World War. He had the habit of testing us by having us stand around the classroom. Leech, another lay preacher, took us for Ruggier, and Payne, a likeable fellow, gave us a love of English Literature.

**Rev W A Holden, Mason's 1921-26**

## RED ROSE 1924

A well-known retail shop advertised as follows:

*'Boys are invited to walk around the shop and examine the goods displayed for sale. They will not be pressed to buy, nor interfered with in any way, so long as they conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly fashion.'*

The arrival of the School wireless:

*'A large number of boys have found their way this term to the Wireless Room, where occasionally their astonished ears have been greeted by the strange modern invention called 'Jazz'. Before long we hope that a large number of boys will be able to listen in at the same time - the governors have granted us a loudspeaker.'*

Founding of the Old Boys' Association:

*'At a meeting of Old boys called by the Head Master, held on the 16th February at the School, R R Lea proposed and J C Schofield seconded the motion that an Old Boys' Association be formed forthwith. The Head Master was elected President and the following were elected members of the Committee: K B Aitken, W Beetham, A V Cunliffe (Secretary) and J C Schofield. A Committee Meeting was held on March 1st to draft rules, fix the amount of subscriptions, arrange for Old Boys' events at the Sports, and choose an Old Boys' XV to play against the School on April 5th'.*

**The subscription was fixed at 2/6 and the Old Boys' won by one point.**

## EXTRACTS FROM A DIARY

Success in the scholarship examination resulted in an award of £18 per year, sufficient in those days to pay the travelling expenses, fees and cost of books at Bootle Boys' Secondary School. So in the Autumn of 1919, along with three other boys from Southport, I became a pupil at this school, where I remained for the next school year.

I think of that school with no affection whatever; it seems to me to have had no soul. The teaching was fairly competent, but lifeless. There was not one member of staff I found attractive as a person or inspiring as a teacher. The only lessons which I remember as giving me any pleasure were certain English periods in which we read aloud 'Julius Caesar' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', but it was Shakespeare who provided the pleasure, not the master. I left the school in July 1920 with no regret.

In the September of 1920, a new boys' secondary school was opened in Southport. This was to develop into, and become known as, King George V, when, after six years, it transferred to a new building. At the outset the school classrooms were in wooden structures put up as temporary hospital wards in the extensive grounds of a large old house called 'The Woodlands'. The original building contained the headmaster's room, the staff common room, administrative offices and a rather splendid room used by the Sixth Form, when it came into being, and in which they sat round a horseshoe-shaped table.

There could hardly have been a greater contrast between two schools intended to supply a similar standard of education to boys of similar ability than there was between the solid but dull building in Bootle and the makeshift accommodation and old mansion surrounded by green grass and trees a few hundred yards from the Southport shore. The new school opened with one hundred and ten boys of whom I, at the age of just thirteen, was one of the eldest, and my brother Ernest, aged ten years and five months, the youngest.

The headmaster was only about thirty-five years of age and most of the staff were much the same or younger. With the small number it was possible for each master to know every boy and for the boys to know all the masters. There were no rules at first and none were needed. There was no school uniform during my whole time at the school; a school cap was introduced fairly soon and, in those days when all boys wore caps, no-one objected to wearing it. Instead of the usual rectangular paved school playground, we had the grassy grounds of the old house to roam about in. The whole atmosphere was one of freedom. There was respect for authority, but no fear.

The Headmaster, G A Millward, was a commanding figure who had been a Major in the Royal Artillery during the First World War. Over six feet tall, broad-chested, with a large head and already greying hair, he inspired a certain awe, but not fear. I remember the first time he spoke to me and just where I was standing at the time. He addressed me by name, and I thought to myself: 'How do you know my name?' The fact that I have remembered the incident shows its importance for me, that I felt I was known and belonged. Mr Millward seemed just to live for his school. In those days, at least, he was always on the touch-line at the home Rugby matches. He took great interest in every aspect of school life.

There was one master whom I particularly admired, Mr A T L Gear. For most of the first three years of the school, he was my form master, until he left for a headship elsewhere. When the house system was introduced, my brother and I were in Gear's, much to my pleasure. It was he who formed the school scout troop, in which my brother Hubert became a leading member. But most important for me, and remembered with most gratitude, was his concern when I fell ill in the Autumn of the third year at the school. On the evening of the day I entered hospital, Mr Gear called at our house to enquire about me. How he knew that I was so ill I don't know, but the very next day he came into the hospital ward to see me.

Before I was out of hospital, Mr Gear had left the school for his new appointment, but a young master who succeeded him as housemaster and scout troop leader continued to visit me. This was Mr Mayne, a man with none of Mr Gear's charm, strict and aloof in manner and by no means popular with the generality of boys, but he had a wonderful sense of duty, and he did very unobtrusively individual acts of generosity where he saw a need, to various boys, including me.



During my time in the Sixth form, my opinion of two of the masters greatly improved. The first of these was our English master, Mr Payne. He was a very pale man of poor physique, who had difficulty with discipline when he began at the school. However, he was an excellent teacher for boys of our age and a cultured man. He taught us to be critical and if, under his guidance, I did not learn to write well, at least I think I began to write better and to recognise good writing from bad.

The other master, Mr Woodham, I came to appreciate for a very different reason. He was the Chemistry master, unsuccessful in firing me with any enthusiasm for this subject. He just dictated notes which, with my poor handwriting, I had great difficulty in taking down, let alone reading afterwards. But, Charles Woodham, admired by me neither as a teacher of Chemistry nor as a form master, you have my eternal thanks for the two visits to the Lake District for us sixth formers, which you so splendidly organised and led in 1925 and 1926. I value with pleasure that lasting memory of our lakeland visits, enjoyable indeed for we were young and vigorous, tireless in our walking, well pleased with the company of one another, and well able to entertain ourselves back at the hostel at the end of the day.

**Tom Long , Grear's 1920-26**

## **THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE**

On January 13th 1925 there was written the preface to a new volume in the history of the School. The previous day and the morning were occupied in practice for the great event, until every boy understood his part thoroughly. At 1.15 pm the School began to trickle in, every boy dressed in his best suit. The Prefects - a body bearing a remarkable likeness to the Royal Artillery - acted as stewards, and in ten minutes the whole School was neatly packed. The masters then arrived, resplendent in mortar-boards and degree-hoods, and were greeted by admiring cheers.

During all this time the general public had been arriving until, by 1.30 pm, everything was complete, with the exception of the Earl of Crawford and the other luminaries. About that time one or two motor cars drove up to the entrance and a party of gentlemen descended. A wave of disappointment swept over the assembled school. Many of the smaller boys had expected a noble lord clad in scarlet and ermine and crowned with a golden coronet. And lo! there descended a tall dark-haired gentleman wearing a long green overcoat.

The Earl placed an oak box and a glass cylinder in a cavity beneath the stone. The foreman gave a signal to the gentleman who worked the crane and the great stone descended slowly and dropped into place. Lord Crawford patted it lovingly with a mallet and smeared the edges round with putty. The Mayor introduced to the assembly the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres who, in a happy speech, said that the School was a symbol of hope, endeavour, ambition,

confidence and rectitude. The School received this paeon coldly, but were aroused to enthusiasm by his request for a holiday.

After Councillor Brook had spoken, Mr J. J. Cockshott made a moving speech of great length. These perorations done, the School trickled away more swiftly than they had trickled in. So ended this inspiring ceremony and, while the mighty ones went to kill the fatted calf, the School hastened to spend the rest of the day, as befitted such an august occasion, in supplication and abstemiousness.

**The Red Rose, April 1925**

## **SOUTHPORT VISITER 1926**

On Tuesday and yesterday, parents of the scholars attending the King George V Secondary School were permitted to inspect the new premises in Scarisbrick New Rd, and many took the opportunity. The forthcoming opening of the new school on October 16th by the Earl of Derby will constitute one of the most important events, certainly from an educational point of view, in the history of the borough of Southport.

The selection of the architects for the new building was decided in open competition in 1920. Mr Maurice Webb DSO FRIBA placed first the designed submitted by Messrs W F Granger and J R Leathart AARIBA, and they were subsequently appointed as architects to carry out the erection of the school. The site chosen for the purpose of the competition was adjoining the Municipal Golf Links in Park Road, but at a later date a new site was purchased in Scarisbrick New Road.

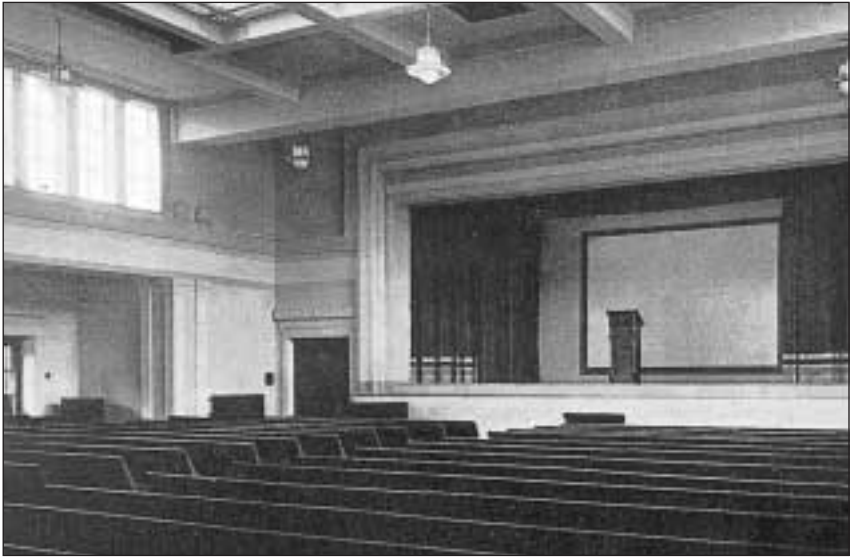
The building, when completed, will consist of three sections. The main central school block contains the administration offices, assembly hall, classrooms to accommodate 600 boys, laboratories, library, art section, changing rooms, cloak rooms and heating chamber. The second section will include the dining hall and kitchen and handicraft workshops. The third section will comprise a swimming bath and a gymnasium. The conditions of the original competition asked for a system of common rooms and house common rooms, and these are incorporated with the present building. The laboratory suite includes a large lecture theatre with stepped seating and is top lighted.

King George V School is undoubtedly the last word in modern school arrangement and equipment. No expense or thought appears to have been spared in providing every up-to-date contrivance for the convenience of the staff, the comfort of the boys, and the satisfactory working of the school generally. In one respect the Committee, which has occasionally been criticised for failing to keep abreast of the times in these matters, has for once, at any rate, wisely legislated in advance of the times. Realising the value of the cinema as a means of education, and the possibility of its utilisation in the future in



*King George V School*

*Southport*



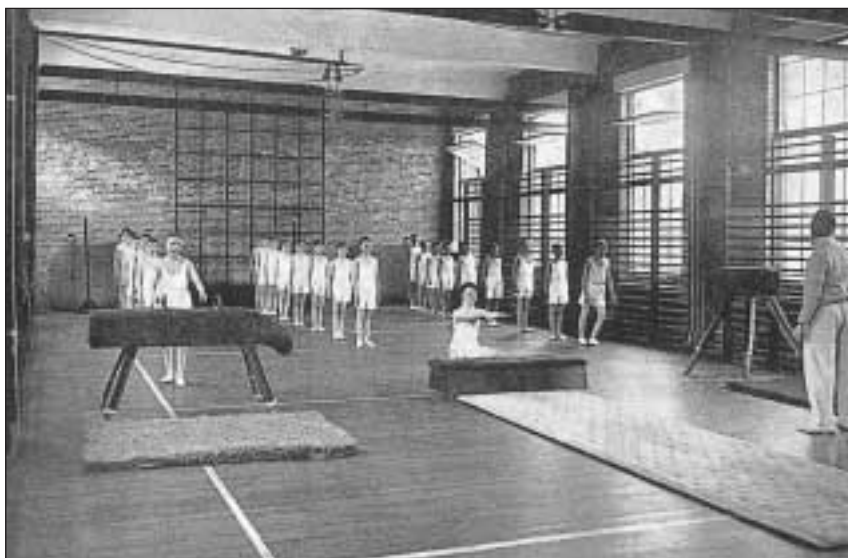
*King George V School*

*The Hall*



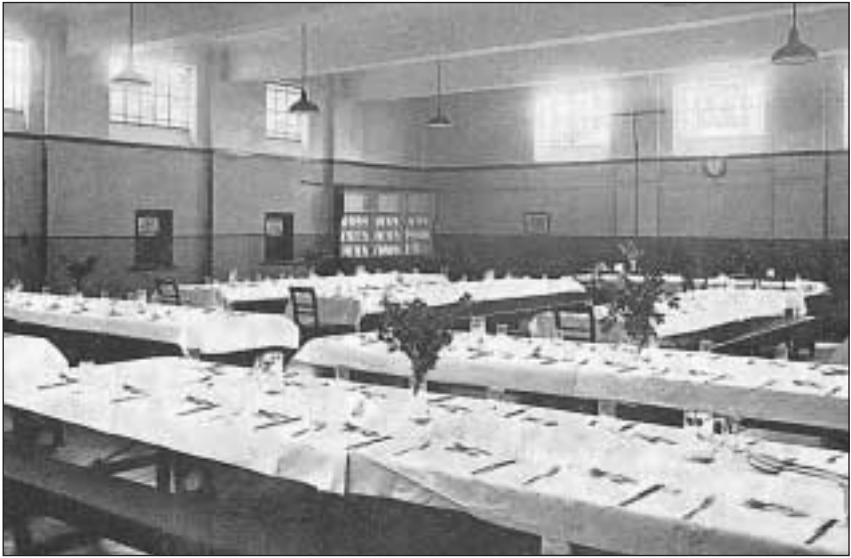
*King George V School*

*The Chemistry Laboratory*



*King George V School*

*The Gymnasium*



*King George V School*

*The Dining Hall*



*King George V School*

*The Workshop*

connection with the school curriculum, provision has been made for cinematograph exhibitions to be given in the assembly hall, which has been equipped with a cinema projection box. This hall has tip-up chairs of ash and birch, and is capable of seating nearly 600. Excellent staging, with retiring rooms on each side, also make it admirably suitable for theatrical performances and concerts.

The new school is a steel frame-work building, and one of the girders in the assembly hall is estimated to weigh about six tons. The scheme of decoration throughout is quiet but effective, and the lighting and ventilation arrangements are unique, while the woodwork and general furnishing are of the very best. The cloak rooms have been fitted with a hot pipe for the drying of clothes, and the boys will no doubt revel in the showers baths with their hot, cold and tepid water supply. A feature of the Southport Secondary School from the start has been the 'House' system, and by means of folding partitions in several of the class-rooms - a suggestion of the local Director - ample scope will be available, while at the same time economising space, for the meetings and activities of the different 'Houses'. The Headmaster's house, now being erected, is designed to conform with the architectural character of the main school block.

## KING GEORGE V SCHOOL

Plans were being made for a new and splendid building. The foundations were eventually laid (though not very well laid) and the building, which was to be a model for much other school building in the following two decades, was completed in 1926. It was opened by that most genial of Englishmen, Edward Stanley, seventeenth Earl of Derby, the intimate friend of King George V, six times winner of the St Leger and twice of the Derby, Secretary of State for War under three prime ministers, and ambassador in Paris after the First World War.

Lord Derby was able to confer the name of King George V on the school. It was a unique distinction in England, though four other King George V Schools were eventually to be found scattered around the world in Hong Kong, Malaya, South Africa and the Windward Islands, and it was a distinction shared with one of the Royal Navy's greatest battleships and one of the Great Western Railway's most splendid engines. When he did so, he also left the boys of the school with an exhortation to 'Aim High!'

These were the days when the grammar school was widely seen as a means of social mobility, a means by which a working-class boy could start climbing the steps of the educational and social ladder. The Sixth Form was its crown and glory, and from there it was but a short step to university. King George V School was a model of such a school and, by the 1930s, there were more than 500 boys in the school, more than fifty in the Sixth Form, and about ten moving to university each year. This was also a remarkably stable period

when, in the seven years from 1932 to 1939, apart from one man killed in a car accident, no master left the school. By the end of the Second world War numbers had risen to over six hundred and, of those, more than one hundred were in the Sixth Form and nearly twenty went annually on to university.

**David J Arnold, Headmaster and Principal of KGV 1976-83**

## **ON THE LAMENTABLE CRACKS NOTICED OF LATE IN THE WALLS OF THE SCHOOL**

All through the day wildly the wind sweeps through the window chinks;  
Wide are the cracks rent in the walls as the school building sinks.  
Soil cannot hold learning so great, nor can all strength avail;  
Under such lore, wisdom so wide, strongest foundations fail.

Doubtless you ask, 'Why does the rear wing of the school not sink?  
Why does it stay steady and firm, held from destruction's brink?'  
That is because gases are kept trapped in the science rooms,  
Gases so light that all the wing floats on the loathsome fumes.

Nor will the Earth take to herself matter and smells so vile,  
Only the sweet does she desire back in her arms awhile.  
School says to Earth, 'You must have all,' but she desires the best;  
Half is her love, half is her hate, thus at the slant we rest.

**G E Long, Grear's 1920-28**

## **EARLY KGV DAYS RECALLED**

I have a few personal recollections which may jog the memories of contemporaries of seventy-odd years ago, who must be a diminishing band of stalwarts from the late Twenties and early Thirties. I recall the horror of the Springtime cross-country race with, to my shame, only meagre training and the aftermath of aching muscle-bound legs on my daily walk to school from St Luke's Station. Also, a First XV match with Fatty Hoyle playing full back, and his effortless ballet-like place kicks delivered with unerring accuracy, as well as a Boys versus Staff contest one Saturday when Wacker Hardacre lost his shorts.

I remember, too, admiring open-mouthed the comely female cast of the Comedie Francaise rendering 'Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme', and Bud Payne discoursing on 'Paradise Lost' in the Library, casting doubts on the moral propriety of the use of a bungalow on the far side of Scarisbrick New Road. Finally, I can see now Joe Mayne's Armstrong Siddeley parked by the wall of the cloakroom opposite the dining hall, a vehicle totally suited to Joe's rather reserved mannerisms. I enjoyed my KGV days; long may its name and fame last.

**Cyril F Ince, Woodham's 1928-35**



## KGV TEACHING STAFF 1931

### Headmaster

G A Millward MA (Cantab) Late Scholar of Queens' College, Cambridge

### Staff

R Billington BA Queens' College, Cambridge (French and Latin)

H Booth BA Liverpool (History and Physical Training)

J Charnley MA Manchester (French)

G L Cooper BA London (English and French)

J Edwards MA Manchester (Geography)

H Evans BA Wales (English, French and Physical Training)

I Evans MA LL.B St Catharine's Coll, Cambridge (English, History)

C W Hardaker B.Sc Manchester (Geography, Mathematics, Physics)

L C Hargreaves B.Sc Manchester (Science and Mathematics)

H Higham B.Sc Liverpool (Chemistry, Physics and Geography)

H H Hillman BA Late Exhibitioner of Selwyn College, Cambridge  
(Mathematics and Science)

E S Kidd MA Late Scholar of Caius College, Cambridge (Classics)

A G Lessiter MA Downing College, Cambridge (Mathematics)

G C D Mason M.Sc Liverpool (Physics)

W L Mayne BA Balliol College, Oxford (Mathematics)

A W Payne BA London (English and French)

J I Peatfield B.Sc London (Physics and Mathematics)

J W Rogers M.Sc Liverpool, BA London (Mathematics)

T P Spencer MA Manchester, FRHS (History)

B E Taylor MA Liverpool, LRAM (French and Latin)

R J Thompson BA London (French)

C Woodham B.Sc Manchester (Chemistry)

### Visiting Masters

C J Thompson ARAM (Music)

H Merchant (Art)

### HOUSES IN 1931

Edwards'   Evans'   Gear's   Leech's  
Mason's   Rogers'   Spencer's   Woodham's



## THE EARLY THIRTIES

In about 1934 the School opened its first gymnasium and the Gym master was a Mr Jones. 'High Knee Raising!' in a Welsh accent led to the following song, sung to the tune of 'NcNamara's Band':

His name is Heinee Reinee.  
He revels in the Gym  
And, if you want your muscles up,  
You'd better go to him.  
He gets you on the wallbars,  
He gets you on the beams,  
He lines you up inside the Gym  
In apparatus teams.

The author is unknown, but I suspect that the late Tommy Dutton was involved. The class once performed the song in a Music lesson with Chas Thompson. During an Art class with Mr Merchant - 'Von Tosh' - a proverb had to be written in old script. Tommy Dutton's contribution was not well received: 'A stitch in time saves an old pair of pants!' In my school years, Edwards' always did well in the 4x100yds Relay, mainly because of the baton change-over system taught by 'Teddy' Edwards. At the appropriate moment, the front runner started off with his left arm outstretched, palm up and looking forward. The runner with the baton in the right hand simply placed the baton in the palm of the hand. We never dropped a baton and gained feet at every change-over.

**K M Smith, Edwards' 1931-36**

## RED ROSE ADVERTISING 1935

Just as in the early years, the magazine's finances were supported by local advertisers. This issue contained messages from:

R W ALDRIDGE  
Radio & Records

THE CENTRAL GROCERY  
& PROVISION STORE

SMALLWOOD & ANDERSON  
Quality Clothing

ROBINSON'S  
Belfast Linen Warehouses

SEAL & BALL  
Bicycles

T WALSH  
Rings & Watches

R E SANDERSON  
Estate Agents

LONDON TEA CO.  
Provision Merchants

JAMES FAY LTD  
Athletic Outfitters

GORE'S  
Motor Saloon Coaches

|   |  |
|---|--|
| W H SMITH & SON<br>Books & Pens         | SOUTHPORT & BIRKDALE<br>Carpet Beating Company |
| W A RIMMER & BROS LTD<br>Hairdressers   | FORMSTONE & COTTERILL<br>Ladies Outfitters     |
| ENGLISH LEATHER CO.<br>Boots & Shoes    | RAYNORS<br>Fish Game Poultry                   |
| IDEAL LAUNDRY LTD<br>Washing & Cleaning | ALLENSCOT LTD<br>Fruit & Flowers               |
| W D STOTT, KEW FARM<br>Milk & Eggs      | WOODHEADS CAFES<br>Wholesome Food              |
| GIBSON MADEN LTD<br>Family Butchers     | THEO J GIDDEN<br>Art, Framing & Photography    |
| W E PRESCOTT MPS<br>Chemist             | STIRRUP'S<br>English & Empire Fruiterers       |

## SCHOOL FIRST XI v MASTERS' XI CRICKET MATCH

At School on 3rd June 1935

| SCHOOL                                 |    | MASTERS                                       |    |
|--|----|---|----|
| Barnes, lbw b Mr Hargreaves            | 9  | Mr I Evans lbw b Riddlesworth                 | 1  |
| Riddlesworth c Wilkinson<br>b Mr Giles | 20 | Mr C W Hardaker c Barnes<br>b Kirkman         | 23 |
| Pennington lbw b Mr Hargreaves         | 5  | Mr Higham run out                             | 2  |
| Pearson st b Mr Hargreaves             | 0  | Mr A E Giles st Periam b Rigby                | 12 |
| Highton run out                        | 25 | Mr L C Hargreaves st Periam<br>b Riddlesworth | 27 |
| Kirkman lbw b Mr I Evans               | 10 | Mr A Wilkinson lbw<br>b Riddlesworth          | 10 |
| Periam b Mr I Evans                    | 10 | Mr R Billington c Barnes<br>b Riddlesworth    | 0  |
| Pennell run out                        | 0  | Mr J Edwards not out                          | 1  |
| Townsend b Mr Giles                    | 0  | Mr W L Mayne not out                          | 1  |
| Rigby not out                          | 0  | Extras  | 7  |
| Bond lbw b Mr I Evans                  | 3  |   |    |
| Extras                                 | 1  |   |    |
| Total                                  | 83 | Total for 7 wkts                              | 84 |

Mr H Evans and Mr H Booth  
did not bat



*Characters at the cricket match*



*First XI 1935*



*First XV 1940-1*

## BOWLING

|                   | O   | M | R  | W |
|-------------------|-----|---|----|---|
| Mr I Evans        | 8.4 | 2 | 12 | 3 |
| Mr L C Hargreaves | 12  | 4 | 21 | 3 |
| Mr H Higham       | 3   | 1 | 6  | 0 |
| Mr A Giles        | 10  | 2 | 22 | 2 |
| Mr R Billington   | 4   | 0 | 21 | 0 |

## BOWLING

|              | O  | M | R  | W |
|--------------|----|---|----|---|
| Rigby        | 12 | 3 | 20 | 1 |
| Riddlesworth | 13 | 0 | 37 | 4 |
| Kirkman      | 5  | 0 | 11 | 1 |
| Bond         | 2  | 0 | 9  | 0 |

Masters won by 3 wickets

## SCOUTING AWARD

The Silver Cross of the Boy Scouts' Association was presented to a member of King George V School Scout Group - the 31st Southport - by Acting County Commissioner Stanley White at a ceremony in the School Assembly Hall on Friday March 20th 1936. The recipient was Scout G K Bridge, aged 15, of 140 Sussex Road, Southport, son of Mr and Mrs R Bridge. The Head Master, Mr G Millward, presided, and others on the platform included ACC White, Commissioner Davies, District Commissioner E G Poole, Assistant District Commissioner Captain Crawshaw, District Scoutmaster W M Towers, Patrol Leaders, Scout tutors and examiners, members of the School staff and others.

Mr Millward said the occasion would always live in their memory, because the meeting had been expressly convened to mark an event which had never before occurred in the history of the School. Scout Bridge was one whose proficiency had been the means of saving life. He had just finished bathing at Rossall Beach, Lancashire, when he heard a cry for help on the other side of the breakwater. Two girls, aged between 11 and 12 were seen in difficulties and were being dashed against the breakwater. Bridge jumped in and swam out to the girls and succeeded in bringing them towards the shore, when others came and helped to give assistance.

The gallantry of Bridge had been recognised by the Chief Scout by the award of the Silver Cross. He felt proud, and he was sure every Scout and every member of the School felt proud of being present that day to witness the award.

Extract from the *Southport Visiter* of March 21st 1936

## OLD BOYS' PROBLEMS

By 1937, there were clearly problems in sustaining a fully-active Old Boys' Association, as the Secretary's Report reveals:

*The Old Boys' Association has embarked upon a new period in its history. During the last few years, a lack of enthusiasm had become increasingly evident, and*

*dissatisfaction spreading through the Association rapidly caused disintegration. The officers made a determined effort to stop the decline and, with this object in view, finally summoned a meeting of representative Old Boys to discuss the future of the Association. The general feeling of the meeting was that the fall in the numerical strength was due to the lack of co-ordination between the Old Georgians and the School, and a desire was expressed that, in the future, the two organisations should be more closely connected.*

*At the Annual General Meeting, which was subsequently held, it was decided to reorganise the Association. The results of the Committee's efforts in this direction are not yet apparent, but it is hoped that, by the end of the year, the Association will once more play a very active part in the life of the School.*

**F Humphreys, Hon. Secretary of the Old Boys' Association, May 1937**

**Only a short time later, it was clear that the hopes had faded:**

*Unfortunately, the optimistic spirit with which the Association was imbued at the beginning of the year appears to be evaporating. An attempt was made by the Committee to form a Gym Class and a Badminton Club, but both schemes collapsed owing to lack of support. I should like to thank Mr Jones for his offer to act as Gym Instructor. The Annual Dance was held at the Palace Hotel on November 4th and, although the attendance was not a big as had been hoped, it was a very enjoyable evening.*

**F Humphreys, December 1937**

The OBA went into hibernation from 1938 until its re-emergence in 1947, although the Red Rose still reported Old Boys' news. Sadly, some of this news told stories of boys who had been killed in action or taken prisoner.

## **A SCHOOL AT WAR**

Our family bungalow at Thorpe Bay in Essex was locked up in September 1939 and, within a few short weeks, we had a war bunker in a furnished home in Ormskirk. My father had an important assignment at the Port of Liverpool. A kindly Mr Millward took me in at KGV, although I was weak in Maths and suffered a total ignorance of Physics and Chemistry. I began a secondary education in January 1940, pedal-cycling to and from Southport, except when the weather was very bad and a seriously overfilled Ribble bus was the only option available.

I have clear recollections of a school at war. Classrooms, corridors and stairways were colour-coded to facilitate an orderly but speedy evacuation in the event of an air raid. The underside of stands in Southport soccer ground were sandbagged to create a blast shelter. KGV accommodated several classes of Bootle Grammar students and, for a while, the two schools had half-days rostered at The Tabernacle, a warren of a building nearer to Lord Street.

When caretaker 'Little Willie' had no more coal to shovel into the huge boiler under the rear of the building, the classroom radiators went cold for the duration of the war. The dining room ladies worked miracles to prepare wholesome hot lunches in the face of food rationing and chronic shortages of many ingredients. Rarely a week passed without 'The Boss' having to announce to us solemnly the names of Old Boys killed in action, or missing believed killed or taken prisoners of war. There were occasions when the list sadly included names that the majority of boys knew as fellow-pupils only a year or so earlier.

In happier moments the School Song was given full treatment, its inspiring words and strident melody guaranteeing we would make the rafters ring. It was a stroke of luck that the titles of all but one of the eight houses spanned two syllables, otherwise we could not have substituted Roger's, Spencer's, etc. for the intended Mason's, Gear's and the rest of them! On reaching fifteen, several of us older lads became involved in Civil Defence duties, which made big inroads into free hours that might have been given to study, but my School Certificate year scored a 100% pass rate, despite so much loaded against all teachers and pupils.

I left the King George V School Sixth Form and served in the Royal Navy until January 1948, Our family moved Down Under later that year and, in due course, we took out Australian citizenship. I chose a commercial career and target shooting for sport. But for World War II and my father's occupation, I could never have attended KGV to receive such a high quality education. The War changed the direction of my life and put me on track for objectives that were merely capricious nonsense in the days of a shaky peace.

**Ian A Young, Rogers' 1940-44**

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHPORT  
**SOUTHPORT AIR TRAINING CORPS**

|                              |                                   |                  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Chairman of Committee</i> | <i>Vice-Chairman of Committee</i> | <i>Secretary</i> |
| Councillor W Paulen JP       | Councillor W Geldard JP           | Capt J W Knowles |

OFFICE OF COMMITTEE,  
EDUCATION OFFICE,  
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,  
SOUTHPORT.

'PHONE: 5523 (Extension 240)

1/7

11th July 1942

Dear Mr. Hargreaves,

**A.T.C.**

The Town Council, in confirming the Minutes of the Governors and the Education Committee, added their own congratulations on the outstanding achievement of King George V School Flight, in the results of the Proficiency Examination, and they instructed me to convey these to you.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

**Jas W Knowles**  
**Hon. Secretary.**

Mr. L.C. Hargreaves,  
King George V School,  
Scarisbrick New Road,  
SOUTHPORT.



## MEMORIES OF WARTIME YEARS

Leisure time for the teenager of the wartime years was much restricted and relatively unsophisticated compared with life today. Recalling the ways in which we occupied ourselves out of school hours once homework had been dealt with reminds me that much spare time activity was influenced by the war itself. At sixteen we were required to register with the authorities, to the effect that we were engaged, in one way or another, in some sort of service that made a contribution to the War Effort, albeit minor, in preparation for the age when we would be called upon to serve King and Country. Thus, many joined the Air Training Corps or the Army Cadet Force, which made demands on one's spare time.

Squadron 652 of the ATC was established at KGV under the command of Flight Lieutenant L C Hargreaves, assisted by Messrs Rollinson, Tysack and Taylor. We cadets were on parade each Monday, Thursday and Friday after school, and also on Saturday mornings. During holidays we were encouraged to engage in working in the fields, picking peas or potatoes, helping to keep the country fed. At Christmastime we were enlisted by the GPO to help in delivering letters and parcels around the town.

Much of one's reading was devoted to books related to the war, describing the exploits of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and many of the films on show at the several cinemas in the town contained reference to the situation of the time. Five of us from KGV - Barry Morris, Eric Newton, Bob Badley, Scottie Russell and Stuart Wilby - would, as young teenagers in the early days of the war, imagine our bicycles as Spitfires or Hurricanes, but never Messerschmitts! We five enjoyed many a pleasant evening making small scale wooden warships from the plans published in 'Jane's Fighting Ships'. This book was in the proud possession of Barry Morris, who produced well in excess of 100 models, most of which still survive.

From time to time, a week was nominated to persuade the populace to buy National Savings Certificates, and a theme was given to the occasion, such as 'Salute the Soldier Week', 'Wings for Victory Week' or 'Warship Week', the last of which was held in Southport from 14th February 1942, heralded by a rousing speech from the First Lord of the Admiralty, A.V (later Lord) Alexander, who addressed us from the Cambridge Hall balcony. It was deemed appropriate that our 200 model warships be displayed in Alexander's window on Lord Street for the two weeks of the campaign, after which life returned to normal. Lessons continued in preparation for School Certificate later in the summer, when one day I was summoned to appear before 'The Boss' - G A Millward himself. I met up with my four friends and we entered the study full of contrition and concern, only to be shaken warmly by the hand and commended for our contribution to the Warship Week activities. Thereafter, we knew how fortunate we were to be under the guidance of so experienced and encouraging a headmaster.

For all that, though, these were tragic and awful years full of violence, destruction and sadness of which, to a greater or lesser extent, all of us at KGV were aware. There are, no doubt, others like me who can still see Flight Lieut. Kenneth Jack Foster (Woodham's 1929-33) standing on the hall stage, having been introduced by G A Millward to the entire school who had been summoned to a special assembly. Standing upright and speaking in calm tones, in his blue uniform with its Observer brevet, he described his experiences and feelings high above the earth in his aeroplane as he sustained the ordeals of the bombing campaign over occupied Europe. There was no stamping of feet or cheering or hurrahs after his discourse; only a respectful applause for what everyone felt was an acceptance of life as it had to be lived then if we all were to survive.

He returned once more to remind us that there was serious work to be done but, unsurprisingly, there was not to be a third occasion - in 1943 he was called to greater things - but his spirit was forever secured in the annals of KGV, together with those other Old Georgians who lost their lives. The inspiration engendered by such individuals ensured that the many who passed through KGV during the war years were sufficiently ready to take up the demands of the situation at that crucial time - a great tribute to the teaching staff of that era.

Sadly, Barry Morris, who became principal bassoonist with the BBC Scottish Orchestra, passed away far too soon a few years ago, as did Scottie Russell who practised locally as a dentist. Eric Newton became Senior Partner with a firm of Solicitors and has been retired for some years. Bob Badley now lives in Vancouver after a worldwide career as a Chartered Accountant, and I live in Surrey, having spent my working life as a Shipbroker. The remaining three keep in close touch.

**Stuart Wilby, Mason's 1940-44**

## **THE END OF THE WAR**

In May 1945 the war in Europe ended. The night of victory was celebrated on Lord Street by most of Southport's population, so much so that an elderly Alderman was heard to exclaim, 'It is just like Mafeking'. Members of the School were well in evidence, forming part of a conga which had attached itself to a landau, and later to a Corporation bus. Up and down Lord Street it went for a very long time. Occasionally there were breaks for refreshments at Fozzard's the herbalist in King Street, where milk shakes were drunk, the more sophisticated going for rum flavour. On went the celebrations into the small hours. Unfortunately, it was the School Sports heats the next day. Never were so many hurdles knocked over, or times so slow.

The end of the war came during the summer holidays and, although most pupils went on to National Service, careers could be planned again. Those Old Georgians who shared this period at school saw many changes, but we were fortunate in the staff who steered us through them, who overcame the problems as they arose, and cushioned us from them. We are ever grateful to them.

**W Hayden, Rogers' 1937-45 Extract from the Golden Jubilee Red Rose**

**KING GEORGE V SCHOOL,  
SCARISBRICK NEW ROAD,  
SOUTHPORT**

July 26th, 1948.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your boy will be admitted to this school from the beginning of next term which opens on Wednesday, September 8th. I shall be glad if you will arrange for your boy to present himself at the main door in the front of the school at 9.15 a.m. on that day.

I enclose:

1. A Health Certificate which you should complete if the boy has a clear bill of health, and has been free from infection during the holidays. The boy should bring this certificate with him when he attends on September 8th. If the boy has been in contact with any cases of infectious disease I must ask you to obtain a medical certificate before sending him to school.
2. A permit which when presented at Messrs.Smallwood & Anderson, Lord Street, will enable you to purchase the school cap and school tie. The school cap costs 5s 6d and the school tie 5s. It is desirable that these should be worn by all boys.

If your boy is passed fit by the doctor to take part in games and physical exercises the maximum benefit will be derived if it is possible for you to purchase for him the following articles of clothing. I am aware the stocks are short and would advise you to make early enquiries from the school outfitters mentioned above.

(1 white rugby shirt (specially close fitting)

(1 maroon rugby shirt 9s 11d

1 pr. football shorts approx 7s 6d

1 gym vest " 3s 6d

1 pr.white shorts " 7s 6d

He will require also 1 pr.gym shoes and 1 pr.football boots.

At the beginning of next term your boy will be placed in one of the 8 Houses, and you will then be able to purchase the necessary House ribbon for the gym clothing. As every boys who plays games, and takes physical training, has to make a complete change of clothing for these periods it is essential that those articles of clothing which he leaves in the Changing Room during games and drill should be clearly marked with the boy's name and initials.

I would therefore ask you to co-operate with us by seeing that the boy's school cap, tie, overcoat, gym clothing, football boots, sports clothing, towel, and ordinary clothing, are marked with the boy's name and initials. It becomes practically impossible to restore a boy's lost property if parents omit to carry out this simple precaution. It is particularly important that your boy should attend on the first day of next term when he is placed in his Form and House and receives the books and stationery.

**Yours faithfully,  
G.A.MILLWARD  
HEAD MASTER**

Supplied by Mike Thompson, Edwards' 1948-56



*AIR TRAINING CORPS*

*Mr F Rollinson (front, third from left) Mr L C Hargreaves (centre)*



*Prefects 1949*

## GEORGE MILLWARD

To George Millward I owe more than I can say, and I remember him, not only as a great educator, but also as a most kindly and staunch mentor and friend. He had a deep, instinctive respect for each pupil who came under his aegis, and his commitment to them was total, beyond the confines of the school.

He retired to Oxford, and those OGs who went up to what, to him, was 'the other place' often met him casually in the Union or, by mutual arrangement, over Dinner in Hall on Guest Nights; always he made us feel that he was the one honoured. Nothing could have been farther from the truth. We were honoured by his kindly acceptance. His wisdom was at our disposal still, and his gentle chiding, for he could be blisteringly insightful, but kindly in exposition.

I owe him, on a personal level, more than can be expressed. Having been stricken with an illness during my second year in university, I was hospitalised over the Easter vacation and he, ill man that he then was and with failing eyesight, visited me twice a week - when all my peers were away, of course - crossing Oxford by two buses. He sat with me and was welcome. He had the gift of not speaking if speech was an intrusion. Just for him to sit with me gave strength, and he did not diminish that effect by needless moralising nor empty chat! I think that aspect of his great character should be included in the account of his stewardship of the School.

Christopher Dyer, Mason's January 1949-53

KING GEORGE V SCHOOL, SOUTHPORT

Dedication

of War Memorial

In Grateful Remembrance of Those  
Who Gave Their Lives On Active Service  
During the World War 1939-45

IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Saturday, 16th July 1949 at 3 p.m.

## Roll of Honour

ROBERT HUGH ABRAM  
ERIC HAROLD ACKROYD  
HOWARD LESLIE ASHTON  
HERBERT LESLIE BALDWIN  
NORMAN CASSON BANISTER  
THOMAS BATEMAN  
HARRY BINNS  
EDWARD HUNTER BOND  
HENRY BUCKLEY  
ROBERT HENRY CARR  
EDWARD ROY CLOUGH  
LAWRENCE STEELE COLLINS  
DENIS AUSTIN DENTON  
JOHN HOLT DICKINSON  
WILLIAM DOBSON  
JOSEPH HART DOWNS  
CLIVE ENTWISTLE  
CHARLES ERIC EVANS  
JOHN RICHARD FENTON  
KENNETH JACK FOSTER  
WILLIAM GORDON  
ARTHUR GREEN  
DONALD HALSALL  
DENNIS HARGREAVES  
FRANK HARRISON  
FREDERICK BAILLIE HARTLEY  
ERIC WILLIAM HEATON  
THOMAS HEMRY  
MAURICE HEYES  
JAMES ALFRED BENIS HIGH  
GEORGE NEIL HIGHAM  
FRANCIS PETER HILL  
ALBERT THOMAS ROSS HOGG  
LESLIE JENKINSON  
FRANK SUMNER JENNINGS  
PHILIP LANCASTER  
JOSEPH JACKSON LAPES  
ALBERT EDWARD LAW  
FREDERICK LIPROT  
REGINALD ERIC LORD

GEORGE ARTHUR MAIDEN  
ALASTAIR DAVID MALCOLM  
JOHN DEREK MARSHALL  
ROBERT MARSHALL  
KENNETH REAVLEY MASON  
ERIC KENDRICK MELLODY  
ARTHUR DENIS MUNSLOW  
LAWRENCE EDWARD OSBORNE  
KENNETH CRAVEN OSWALD  
FOLLETT MATTINSON PENNELL  
VICTOR THOMAS PENNINGTON  
KENNETH POTTS  
ERIC PRICE  
HOWARD WILLIAM RAMSAY  
ALLEN FAIRHURST RIDDLESWORTH  
KENNETH CRAIGLAW RIGBY  
GEORGE RIMMER  
JOHN FRANCIS ROBERTS  
IVOR HAROLD MITCHELL ROE  
JOHN ARTHUR ROGERS  
RONALD EDWARD ROLISON  
GORDON RUSSEL  
WILLIAM HENRY SEALE  
THOMAS SEDDON  
HARRY SEED  
JEREMIAH SHIRM  
JOHN HALL SIMPSON  
JOHN PICKSTONE SINGLETON  
ROYSTON SPERLING  
GEOFFREY STEEPLES  
ERIC JOHN STREET  
HAROLD SWEET  
RICHARD TAYLOR  
DOUGLAS POLLOCK TOUGH  
ALAN VICKERS  
GERALD WHELAN  
HARRY WHITEHEAD  
RICHARD ALAN WHITTAKER  
JOHN JAMES WRIGHT  
JOHN RIPLEY WRIGHT