

The Haltonian Magazine - Easter 1925

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"PER ARDUA AD ASTRA"

THE
HALTON
MAGAZINE

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VOL. II No. 1
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EASTER 1925

J. Dukes 337



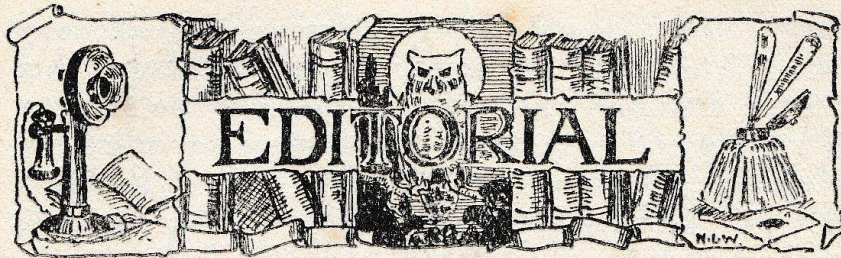
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CAPTAIN A. B. FANSTONE, A.F.C., M.A.—It will be a matter for universal regret that with the completion of the first volume of the *Halton Magazine*, our friend and colleague, Capt. A. B. Fanstone, has felt it necessary to resign from the Editorship. It has been a year of unqualified and triumphant success for which he has earned the thanks and gratitude of every one in any way connected with the Service. No one will ever be able to realise to the full extent the enormous sacrifice in time, trouble, and energy which he expended in making the Magazine what it is to-day. It is a record of willing service of which he may justifiably be proud, and he has nobly earned the increased leisure and the freedom from its many anxieties which his retirement now brings to him.

Captain Fanstone is handing over a going concern. With the appearance of this issue the *Halton Magazine* enters upon the second year of its happy young life. It is vigorous and healthy. It has a bank balance on the right side. It has earned the confidence of its ever-growing circle of readers on the one hand, and its advertisers on the other. To the incoming Editor, however, the former successes carry with them one disadvantage. It is always difficult to follow in the footsteps of a successful predecessor of high ability. We take up our task, nevertheless, assured of the good wishes and continued support of all our friends. With the team of willing helpers whose names are indicated on page xxvii, we look forward with hope and confidence to the future.

PROSPECT AND PRICE.—The *Halton Magazine* “politics” of the past year, if we may so refer to them,

have centred round the question of the sixpenny issue. The experience of the first three numbers has proved definitely, however, that, given the support of readers and advertisers, at this very low price the Magazine can balance its budget. Indeed, if Nos. 2 and 3 of Volume I had merely kept to the standard of the first issue, there would undoubtedly have been by now a substantial balance that would have freed us from financial anxieties for some time to come. Fortunately, the policy of "marking time" has never appealed to our predecessor. Number 2 was better than Number 1, and Number 3 was better than Number 2. The cost of production has in consequence grown very considerably since the first number was issued.

We venture to hope that this opening number of the new volume will be found to have maintained the general excellence of the last issue. Nevertheless, we feel that the time is now ripe for an effort to build up that financial reserve against future contingencies that it must be the policy of all sound businesses to develop. The whole matter has received the most earnest consideration of the Magazine Staff, and the conviction has been forced upon them, most reluctantly, that the present state of affairs, whereby the total cost of printing is considerably in excess of the maximum possible receipts for sales at sixpence per copy, is bound to be unsound in the long run. With such a policy we can only live from hand to mouth. We feel strongly that the rôle of advertising receipts should be that of an accumulative reserve, and not of a rescue from debt.

The conclusion is inevitable. The price must go up. In a vain endeavour to avoid this, we sent out some 2,000 letters to parents, urging them to order copies in advance independently of their sons. We are grateful to the 100 or so parents who very kindly responded to this appeal, but clearly it has barely justified the cost of printing involved. In deciding, however, that the next and succeeding issues will

be sold at one shilling instead of sixpence, we are fortified by two considerations. Firstly, we know that the Magazine is well worth the money, and secondly, such large numbers of aircraft apprentices have urged this course upon us that we feel confident that we shall lose none of our supporters through this decision.

OUR OLD BOYS.—With the posting of a number of ex-A.A.'s of the January 1922 Entry to various R.A.F. units throughout the country (whose farewell dinner is recorded elsewhere), Halton Camp as a training centre enters upon a new phase in its career. We now have our Old Boys. Our heartiest good wishes go with them all. They have helped splendidly in building up a Halton tradition, and it is their privilege to be the first to carry that tradition away with them, and to spread it far and wide. They will not fail us. We hope every one of them will look forward to receiving their copies of the Magazine with as great a pleasure as it will be for us to send them. We hope, too, that they will write to us frequently, send us contributions, and keep us informed as to their movements, experiences, and progress. We look forward in the future to an "Old Boys' Notes" page as a regular feature of future issues. It is, however, only the Old Boys themselves who can supply us with the necessary matter for such a page.

OUR NEW BOYS.—From the Old to the New. At the beginning of the present term we were able to welcome some 330 new A.A.'s as the Fifth or January 1925 Entry. The strangeness of it all has by now worn off. They have settled down, happily we hope, as members of our community. Nevertheless this is our first "editorial" opportunity of wishing them well, and of hoping that many of them will work off their literary and artistic exuberances through the medium of the Editor's post-bag.

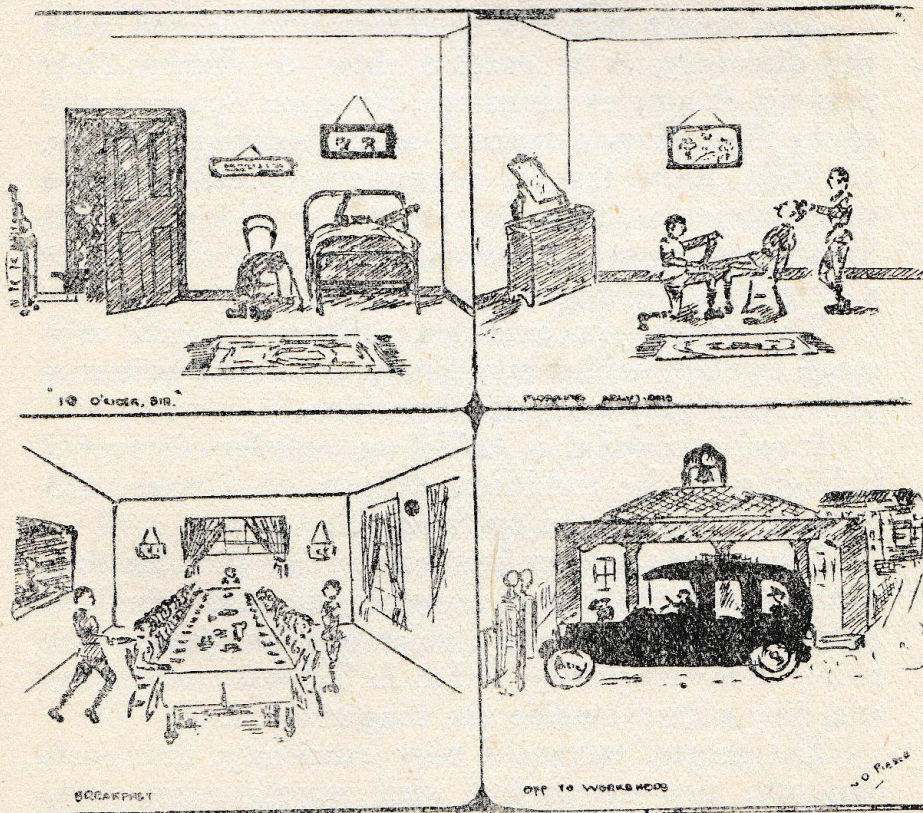
OUR ADVERTISERS.—In thanking our advertisers, old and new, for their support, it is fitting that we should remind our many readers that this support

must necessarily depend for its continuance upon the support we give them in return. We are glad to think that their names and record can speak for themselves. It has always been the aim of the organisers of the Magazine to make the advertisement pages as attractive as possible—a word of thanks in this respect, as in others, is also due to our printers, Messrs. Hunt, Barnard & Co., Ltd.—and we invite our readers with every confidence not to neglect these pages in perusing the book.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.—We are again able to record the receipt of a large number of contributions in the shape of articles, verse, and sketches. There can, however, never be such a word as “sufficient” in this connection, either in quantity or quality. It is clearly impossible to publish all we receive, and happily, or unhappily, it is even impossible to publish all the matter whose standard is good. We would, however, very much like to discuss with and advise *all* those who send work in. Unfortunately, a number of contributions are anonymous, and in such cases it is obviously impossible to give the authors the help we would like to offer. We urge all contributors, therefore, either to sign their names to their contributions, or, alternatively, to come to see us. We are always accessible and glad to help.

OUR SISTER TRAINING CENTRES.—With this number we inaugurate what we hope may become a regular feature of the Magazine in the future—“Notes from Cranwell,” and “Notes from Flowerdown.” At both these stations Aircraft Apprentices are undergoing courses of training similar to our own, and we feel sure that our readers will like to have a summary, from time to time, of what is happening in these Sister Stations. We take this opportunity of extending to all Cranwell and Flowerdown our heartiest greetings and good wishes. Cranwell has, as is well known, its own Magazine, and we hope that it will find increasing support at Halton. Flowerdown is a much smaller station, and its problems in connection with the

institution of a Magazine are therefore much more serious. We all the more welcome, therefore, the announcement that a start is to be made with a Magazine there in September next. It is interesting to record that early this term a number of A.A.'s ultimately due at Flowerdown stayed with us temporarily, and we hope that their stay will have helped to foster that spirit of comradeship as between the two stations that was so happily inaugurated by the boys of the January 1922 Entry, who also passed through Halton for a term on the way to Flowerdown.



Life as it is NOT at Halton.

As Tel and the Dragon

A TRUE STORY

YEARS ago, when the islands now known as the British Isles were still undivided from the mainland, there lived in the land of Yrurg a tribe of men governed by an aged and just man named Spurgo.

Now Spurgo had a beautiful daughter, As Tel, whose suitors hailed from all corners of the world. She was secretly in love, however, with a young scientist, who was as noted for his good looks as for his great learning.

Brust, for so this genius was named, had discovered that water, apart from quenching thirst, when beer was not to be had, could also be used with good results in cleansing the human body.

The young maidens of Yrurg were elated with the discovery, as it enabled them to display their personal charms to advantage, but when Spurgo heard of the idea, he condemned it as an abominable heresy, banished Brust for his presumption, and issued a proclamation to the effect that any of his subjects found washing would be thrown before the den of a neighbouring dragon.

The dragon in question, although feared very much by the inhabitants of Yrurg, was really, however, of an extremely amiable disposition.

It so happened that As Tel was one day discovered indulging in the forbidden delights of a wash, and immediately reported to Spurgo.

Spurgo was broken hearted to hear that his own daughter was the first to transgress his most wise law, but he was too upright a ruler to allow family ties to interfere with justice, and so As Tel was condemned and duly placed outside the dragon's den.

The dragon advanced very cautiously, first with curiosity, not unmingled with apprehension, but, when he saw no signs of treachery, he rejoiced at this chance to show his friendly feelings to mankind.

He was surprised to see the damsel before him crying, and asked her, in as tender a voice as he could muster, what her trouble was.

In a few words she told him her story—told him how her lover Brust had discovered the art of washing and been banished for his pains; of her father's edict, and her disobedience and punishment; and finally she implored the dragon to be lenient and devour her in one gulp—a feat he could easily manage—instead of first chewing her up into little pieces.

The dragon was so tickled with the idea of washing that he lashed his tail and roared with mirth. He composed himself, however, and told As Tel that, despite appearances, he was touched by her story, and would help her out of her plight.

Accordingly, on the following day he sent word to Spurgo, saying that unless Brust was recalled from exile, and allowed to marry As Tel, he—the dragon—would, with the aid of his four brother dragons, lay waste to the land of Yrurg. Under these conditions Spurgo had no choice but to accept the dragon's terms with as good a grace as possible.

Brust and As Tel were married, amid great festivities and rejoicings, and Brust demonstrated his discovery by washing five hundred slaves. The dirt from the community formed a great range of mountains, which is now known as the Chiltern Hills. The zenith of Brust's triumph came a year later, when Spurgo was washed in state. A great bath was provided for this purpose.

After this momentous occasion Spurgo became an enthusiast, and, whenever he returned victorious from the wars, he gave his prisoners a choice—of either being sacrificed to Zram, the god of war, or of washing.

The latter alternative was taken by all save a few extremely holy men, who preferred a martyrdom, covered in religious mud. Real purity, they said, was for the soul, and not the body.

The dragon became a welcome guest with Brust

and As Tel, and lived in his den to a hoary old age. It was a long time before the neighbouring races took kindly to the habit of washing, and they ungraciously bestowed the pseudonym Halle Ton, or "Beautiful Valley of Insufferable Fools," upon the land of Yrurg.

This prejudice has long since passed away, but the name still clings, and visitors to Halton may see the bath prepared for Spurgo in the Rigger's shop.

D. E. S. R.

Halton Howlers

You can't have a hole with nothing round it.

* * * * *

A leading hole is a small hole drilled inside a large one.

* * * * *

"Kasemit" is a good soldering flux.

* * * * *

"Barimar" is a good welding flux.

* * * * *

A drill ground out of centre will drill an "oblong hole."

* * * * *

Mercury is half a liquid and half a solid.

* * * * *

Normalising is a process which takes years.

* * * * *

There are "about 24 cms." in an inch.

* * * * *

The commercial petrol tin holds "about 2½ galls."

* * * * *

The gauge of tin plate used most in the Coppermiths' Shop is "76 S.W.G."

* * * * *

The most common form of welding is "oxo-acetylene."

* * * * *

Orange-purple is the present fashion in temper colours.

* * * * *

A "Stud Box" is for keeping studs in.

* * * * *

Split pins are put through the heads of hexagon bolts to strengthen them.

H. J. ROACH, F/L.

their past where others only see the present, can we find a reason for their disregard and apparent contempt of Time ?

In the majority of cases, such a reason may be found ; it is that they who now have lost ambition are they who started low in life and strove to battle their way upwards, but, failing, fell back step by step. Then, having glimpsed the wasted hours, the lost and fallen states of heights they hoped to reach, and understood that the repair of their lost fortune would never repay their lost time, they fell back into that dreadful lethargy, where Time is nothing but a curse.

Time is to some a blessing, and to some an inexcusable sorrow ; it mars the life and happiness of one ; to another it brings as gifts good fortune and prosperity.

And the passage of Time is a most amazing property : Time, which "like the wounded snake drags its slow length along" when life is dull and lacking interest, flies with the speed of Atalanta when the day is filled with pleasure and success.

" R."

January 1922 Entry

FAREWELL DINNER

SHORTLY before the end of the Christmas Term, 1924, all A/A.'s of the January 1922 Entry were entertained to an excellent dinner and concert, presided over by Wing-Commander Maltby.

During his speech, Wing-Commander Maltby reviewed the work done by the A/A.'s whilst at Halton, gave them some very sound advice for the future, and wished them Good Luck in their future careers.

Other speeches, made by Officers Commanding Squadrons, emphasized the fact that the boys had great opportunities in front of them ; and they were urged to take full advantage of all that came their way, whether in the air, in the workshop, on the

parade ground, or on the playing fields—not only for their own good, but for the benefit of the Royal Air Force and of the British Empire.

After an excellent feast, provided by F/O Coadwell, assisted by Sergt. Hill, a delightful concert was given, arranged by the President of No. 2 Section Dramatic Society.

One of the most enjoyable evenings that the writer can remember at Halton was ended by the singing of the “Halton Anthem,” followed closely by the National Anthem.

'E 'Oo 'Elps

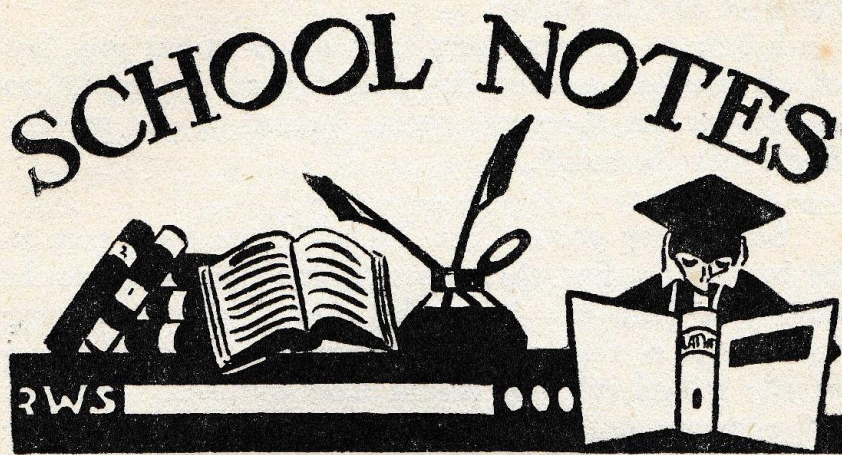
There's lots o' things a bloke can do
Ter 'elp the world along,
But my pertickler fancy
Is a bloke wot sings a song.

Of course, I 'ates a mournful chap
'Oo sings 'baht folks a-dyin',
O' broken 'earts an' ruined lives
An' wives an' kids a-cryin'.

But 'ow I likes a lively bloke
'Oo bangs 'is old pianner,
An' sings a cheery little song
In a 'appy, care-free manner.

Yer know, I've bin ter music-'alls
An' 'eard some famus singers,
'Oo's sloppy sob-stuff made me creep,
I call 'em “water-bringers.”

An' then comes on a funny bloke
In brilliant-coloured trousis,
'E sings 'is song 'an 'as 'is gag
An' fairly kills two houses.



AS the magazine has grown and so has made greater and greater demands on its Editor, it has been found impossible for Capt. Fanstone to carry on with the time at his disposal. The least I can do is to record the great debt we all owe to Capt. Fanstone for the excellent standard he has set, and to express our gratitude to him for all the time he has so freely given to the Magazine, and to congratulate him on the success he has achieved.

An inspection of the balance sheets of the first three numbers will shew that the balance in hand is due to the increasing number of advertisers, and that by publishing at sixpence we can never hope to make much profit.

Not only so, but there is always the possibility of the advertising falling off, and that we may be faced in the future by a definite loss.

The building up of a reserve is necessary and we want to give prizes to the best boys in all School and Shop subjects, to buy books, and then more books for the lending libraries, and to contribute to service and other charities.

In fact, we will have no difficulty whatever in spending all the money we get.

All this is to prepare you for an increase in the price of the magazine.

I believe we can carry this out without any loss of circulation, and in the near future we expect to get rid of ten thousand copies instead of our present five or six thousand.

Some very good "Set Tasks" have been sent in by boys of the first three entries, and there is no doubt that this idea has been the means of encouraging many boys to read more widely than a mere following of the school syllabus would have ensured. It must be remembered in this connection, that the Air Ministry did not include this section of the Passing-Out Examination with an eye only on the C.T.T.B. Examination, and it does not necessarily follow that Set Task Subjects must be restricted to any particular trade; in fact, it would not be at all a bad idea if boys always chose tasks on other lines than those of their own trade.

A really first-rate air man or air officer should know something of all the trades associated with his job.

Of course, the first essential is to be expert at one's own job, but this should not be the limit to ambition.

I notice, with pleasure, the increasing number of boys who come to consult me about their work.

It must be confessed that many of these cases are those of boys who are conscious of having worked less hard than they might at the beginning of their Course. Three years' steady hard work in shops and school is necessary for success. Too many boys have let chances slip by taking things too easily, others by too lightly undertaking occupations that interfere with their spare time.

I should like to congratulate the Boys' Rugger team on their exhibition against Berkhamsted School—our first match against a Public School.

It was a jolly good game played in the best possible spirit, and most enjoyable to watch.

The referee, I happen to know, had an easy and enjoyable job, so enjoyable that he was, perhaps, a little lenient to the half-backs on one or two occasions.

The tackling was good, and no quarter was given, the passing of the Berkhamsted boys was excellent, ours too slow, but the place kicks!!! We should have had 8 pts. and not 3.

The moral of that is, "If you want to kick goals practise the feat, and when you are kicking look at the ball and not at the goal."

The game was played, as a game should be played, most strenuously but absolutely fairly, and was a model in this respect.

After all, this is what we expect from Service games. They should give an example for others to copy, and it should be impossible to hear Service men, or spectators on Service grounds, shouting at a referee or squabbling with one another.

