

## The College in wartime

The College has not been immune to the devastating effects of two world wars.

During the First World War, 174 former pupils were killed in battle or died later of their wounds.

On the home front, boys were engaged in war work - making shell cases and submarine mine parts, the rough materials being supplied by the Eastbourne Bus Company (their own premises had been transformed into a munitions factory).

Just over 25 years later, in 1940, the whole school was evacuated to Radley College in Oxfordshire because of the threat of a German invasion of the south east coast, and the College buildings were requisitioned by the Royal Navy.

Almost as many former pupils were killed in the second conflict as were in the First World War.



## Lionel Rees VC OBE MC AFC (Blackwater 1898-1901)



Rees joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1914. Two years later, on the first day of the Somme, he gave chase and attacked several German aircraft. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery.

*A painting showing Rees's attack*



*A complete set of Rees's medals with the Victoria Cross on the extreme left*



## Vincent Drew (School House 1906-09)

Vincent Drew, a student of Guy's Hospital, went out to Serbia in 1915 with the First British Field Hospital as a dresser and an anaesthetist. In July of that year, the College magazine, *The Eastbournian*, published a letter from Drew.

He wrote that their patients were both Serbians and Austrians. Although the two groups were on opposite sides of the war, he says that they '*seem to get on very well together*'. He ends his letter with '*are there any more OEs [Old Eastbournians] out here in the Balkans?*'



*The town of Valjevo where Drew was stationed in 1915*



*The Order of Saint Sava awarded to Drew by Serbia*

# War Memorials

The Memorial Buildings were designed as a memorial to former pupils who had been killed in the First World War. The war memorial itself (below), at the base of the tower, was unveiled by Lt General Sir Charles Harington on the 28 June 1925.



*The war memorial plaque in the College Chapel (1924), a gift of the retiring Headmaster, the Revd Frederick Williams*

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THE EASTBOURNEAN.

EASTBOURNE COLLEGE WAR MEMORIAL FUND

The following amounts have been paid and promised—

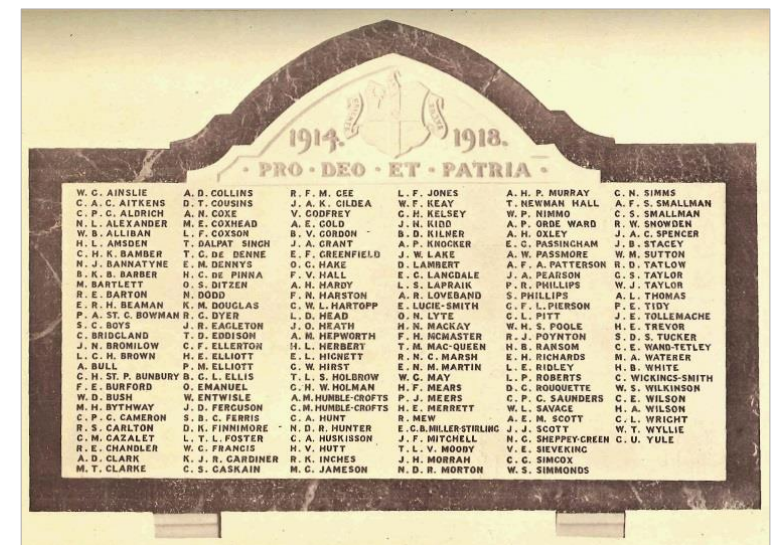
	£	s.	d.
Abbott, Mrs. E. L.	10	0	0
Adams, Mrs. E. L.	10	0	0
Alcock, J. D.	5	0	0
Anders, R. C.	5	0	0
Anonymous	10	0	0
Anonymous	10	0	0
Anonymous	10	0	0
Appley, D. V.	10	0	0
Appley, E. P.	10	0	0
Arnold, E. C.	10	0	0
Arnold, E. C. (second donation)	10	0	0
Atkinson, Rev. F.	10	0	0
Attwater, L. L.	10	0	0
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Auspeys (first donation)	10	0	0
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Baines, G. E.	10	0	0
Baldwin, J. K.	10	0	0
Barton, Helen E. de L.	10	0	0
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THE EASTBOURNEAN.

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Browning, R. D.	10	0	0
Bryan, C. W.	5	0	0
Budge, C. C.	10	0	0
Burden, H. W.	5	0	0
Burton, R. C.	10	0	0
Campbell Harris, C.	10	0	0
Carey, P. C.	10	0	0
Carey, G. V.	10	0	0
Carey, G. V. (second donation)	10	0	0
Carey, Mrs.	10	0	0
Castellan, C. E.	10	0	0
Castellan, E. E. L.	10	0	0
Chapman, H. E.	10	0	0
Chapman, H. E. (second donation)	10	0	0
Chatter, L. G.	10	0	0
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*List of subscribers (including pupils and former pupils) who donated money for the war memorial*



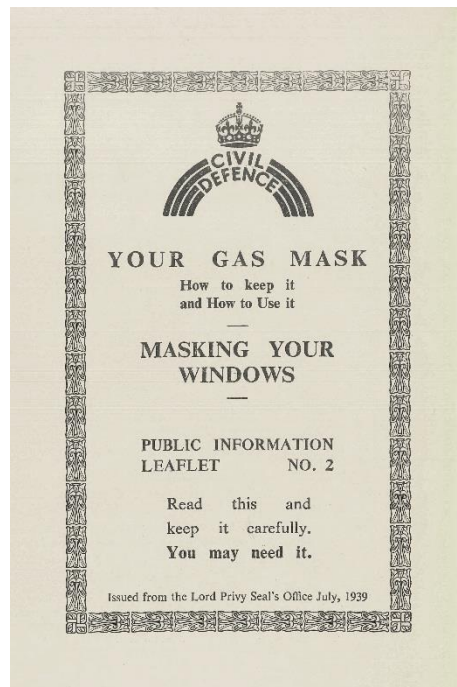


# Preparations for the Second World War

Preparing for war had been a major preoccupation since the 1938 Munich Crisis.

The College was not immune and masters were sent on courses regarding the building of air raid shelters and protecting the boys from poison gas.

During the summer of 1939, windows had to be blacked out and the boys dug up some of the playing fields for use as allotments.

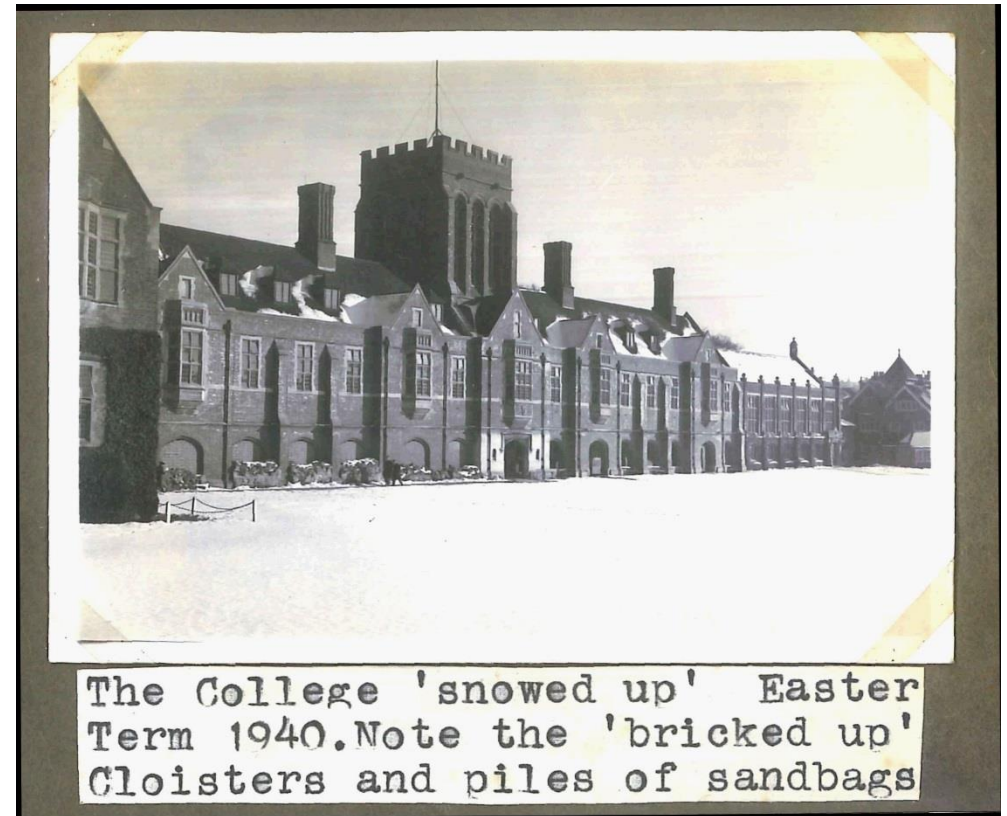


*Civil Defence leaflet*

*ARP scheme for Pennell House*

<u>PENNELL HOUSE.    A.R.P. SCHEME.</u>	
If an air-raid warning goes during the day, all boys must proceed to shelters as directed by the school A.R.P. scheme. Note that the Pennell shelter at the school is at the New Buildings end of the sand-bagged cloisters.	
If a warning goes during school hours or at a time when most of the House is in the vicinity of the school, the Head of each dormitory will see that all members of his dormitory are present and will report to the Head of the House, or to the Senior Prefect present.	
If a warning goes when you are in the House, you proceed to the House Refuge. Juniors to the Study. Seniors to the Drawing Room. (The Dining Room will be reserved for the Domestic Staff). On your way to the Refuge collect your gas-mask off your peg and some book to read. Remember that you may have to spend several hours with nothing to do.	
If a warning goes at night, you will proceed under the Direction of the Head of your dormitory as for fire except that the place of assembly will be the refuge room.	
FIRE. The House Fire Patrol will deal with fires during a raid. When the raid warning goes, the patrol will assemble the fire-fighting apparatus in the Front Hall and will then act under the instruction of the leader.	
REFUGE PATROL. When the warning goes, this patrol will proceed to organise the accommodation in the refuge rooms under the direction of the patrol leader.	
<u>House Fire Patrol.</u> Leader - Glass.	<u>House Refuge Patrol.</u> Leader - Kay.
Hazel Nation Holloway Meakin Glenister	Levett Turner Woodhouse Hamilton Ellis Jenkins Paine, M.D. Preston Scott Sawyer
22. 9. 39.	

In 1939 various alterations were made to the College to prepare it for the expected war. The Cloisters were bricked up and protected by sandbags. It was anticipated that this part of the College would be used by the people of Eastbourne as communal air raid shelters.



*Photo taken by a pupil showing the sandbagging of the Cloisters*



# Evacuation

In May 1940, with the threat of invasion, Headmaster John Nugee contacted Radley College, Oxfordshire, (among others) to see if they could accommodate the school.

The Headmaster of Radley agreed. A few weeks later the College was given 48 hours' notice to evacuate. Some school equipment was put into store while furniture was transported to the College's new home on lorries powered by gas (due to the restrictions on the use of petrol). Boys and staff travelled on a specially chartered train.

## Plans for evacuation

*Plans for evacuation*

*March 2nd 1940. Wed.*

*Uniform for Radley Boys to Gym. Trains. 1940.*

**EVACUATION**

1. **REMOVAL OF FURNITURE BY 1940.**  
Each house to allot 10 boys (School House 10).  
(1) To 4 months bedsteads and carry round to Pennell.  
Each bed is to have its user's name contacted on the left hand side and also in the middle of the top rail of the bottom and top uprights. (This is important because bed parts never seem to be interchangeable).  
(2) Remove all books not required this term, take to Pennell and stack in Reading Room. Books that are being taken immediately and books which are to follow on should have previously been separated from the above books by the owners. (This does not apply to Powell House unwanted books).  
(3) Remove all House Library Books and take to Pennell Reading Room.

2. Each House to provide four responsible boys to dismantle school desks and two boys to remove the parts to Powell House. (These latter two are first to remove all inkwells, empty out ink, and collect in a waste paper basket).

**CLASSROOMS FOR THE ABOVE**

House	Boys
School House	Nos 7 and 8
Blackwater	Nos 3 and 4
Pennell	Nos 11 and 12
Margrave	Nos 14 and 15
Guenville	Nos 17 and 18, 2.
Crusby	Nos 19 and 20
Powell	Nos 9 and 16

3. *Crusby* to provide 6 boys under direction of Mr Simpson to remove the contents of the Art School to Powell House Reading Room. Tables to Pennell House. Stools to Pennell House.

4. *School House* to provide 6 boys to transfer contents of Chemistry Lab. to Powell House small cellars.

5. *School House* to send 10 boys to School Shop  
(5 to transfer books to Powell House Senior Room.  
(5 to transfer stock to Pennell House (Mr Storrs' Study)

6. *Blackwater House* to provide 6 boys to transfer contents of Physics Lab. to long room in Powell House Cellars.

7. *Blackwater House* to provide 6 boys to clear out Scout Room in Memorial Buildings and in the Wish, and stack in Powell House Prep. Room.  
*Guenville House* to provide 6 boys to clear gun apparatus to Powell House Prep. Room; collect all pictures from classrooms and remove to Pennell cellars.  
*Margrave House* to provide 4 boys to clear Masters' Common Room to Powell House Prep. Room.

Charges to pay

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

From 66

To 566 8.1 ABERDON OF 15

HEADMASTER THE COLLEGE EASTBOURNE

WILL CONTRIVE TAKE AS MANY AS YOU WANT IT NECESSARY

WICKES ++

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form and, if possible, the envelope.

## Radley College

Telegram from  
Radley to John  
Nugee offering  
accommodation



## HMS Marlborough

Once the College had been evacuated, parts of the site were taken over briefly by the RAF but in September 1942 the Royal Navy took occupation as HMS *Marlborough*, which specialised in courses for personnel operating underwater weapons, torpedoes etc.

Weapons were tested in a large water tank (now the site of the Science Centre). The tank was also used as a swimming pool and an emergency water supply.

Although the College was not bombed, Lord Haw Haw (William Joyce), broadcasting from Germany to the British, threatened that HMS *Marlborough* would be attacked.



In April 1943, German bombers flew over the College and were fired at by the Bofors gun situated on the Memorial Tower. The bombs missed the College and fell elsewhere in the town.

*Torpedo tube outside the present Design & Technology building*



# HMS Marlborough



*North Gate entrance to the College from Blackwater Road. Note the sandbags, barbed wire and sentries at the gate*



*Powell Gate, junction of Grange and Carlisle Roads*



*HMS Marlborough's ship badge, which now hangs in Big School*

