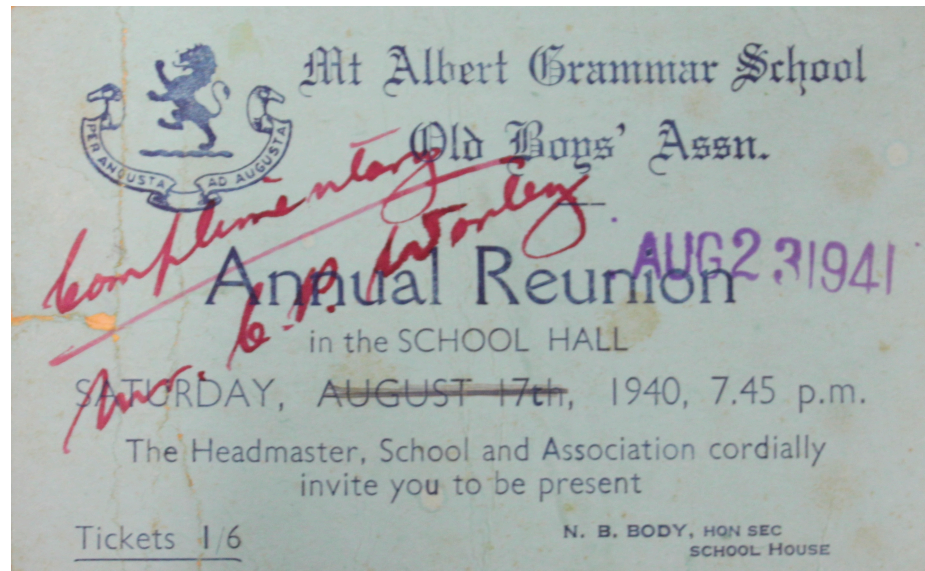


A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

A RECYCLED REUNION TICKET

Size: 4 in x 2½ in / 100mm x 65mm

Description: A Cambridge blue ticket with Oxford blue lettering and additional added information:



Discussion: The ticket was originally for the annual reunion of Old Boys on 17 August 1940. As a war-time measure there was general austerity and throwing away the previous year's surplus tickets was not an option. So, the date was partly crossed out in heavy pencil and the new date was entered in date-stamped purple ink; "Aug 23 1941", also a Saturday. The price was still 1/6 (15c). Diagonally across the ticket in red ink, in Nelson Body's hand, was "complimentary Mr C.P. Worley."

Clarrie Worley was a foundation member of staff and HOD Science after Caradus, and, like Caradus, a significant soldier. Worley was also a noted horticulturist.

The reunion was organised by the Old Boys' Association though the real powerhouse was Nelson Body, "Hon Sec". Nelson Body was an Old Boy, a French teacher on the staff, an assistant housemaster, hockey coach, diligent photographer and assiduous chronicler.

An earlier photograph showed a larger group of Old Boys, who knew how to dress, at a reunion in the Hall in 1930.



The masters' chairs are on the stage and the table are likely covered with plain newsprint.

A decade later most of these young men would have been in uniform. As Gamble said, "The years of life of our school were so placed a specially high proportion of our Old boys came from within military limits of age." Some would not have returned and many more would have been changed forever.

During war-time the School sent Newsletters (34 in all) to Old Boy servicemen. They were astonishing pieces of work. Each would have been typed onto a wax stencil (any corrections were made with nail polish and typed over). There was no secretarial help. Typing and editing was by commerce teacher Jack Horrocks. The wax stencils had a stiff card top that had holes that fitted over pins at the top of an inked blanket. The Gestetner machine, named for its inventor David Gestetner, operated by a web offset process and was worked by a crank-handle to print each copy.

The first issue began:

"To the OLD BOYS serving with the Armed Services; THIS BULLETIN reports School AND OLD BOYS NEWS OF 1940.

HERE IS THE NEWS
BELIEVE IT OR NOT

1. The School has at last secured the Swimming Bath which was just around the corner way back in 1927. It is situated near the Rifle Range and has already proved its value, since boys of the School obtained a record number of Life Saving awards (148) during 1940.
2. The acquisition of a Talking Film Projector means that forms now have the pleasure of spending whole periods enthralled in such masterpieces as 'At the Bottom of the Coal Mine', 'The Life of Rubber' while the biology students revel in 'The Inside Story of the Heart' and 'Food and How to Eat It' etc.
3. Every day this term each boy received one half pint bottle of milk and at least one apple. Who wouldn't go back to School? Contrary to expectations, the staff do not get a ration of cigars etc.

4. During the year the School had yet another fire. Beginning above the Drawing Room ceiling, the blaze was only with great difficulty kept burning till the arrival of the Local Fire Brigade (known to the boys as Those Interfering Beggars). No damage was sustained except to one or two 1922 slates. (The Drawing Room was Room C, the attic room.)

The rest of the Newsletter was taken up with:

a. Old Boys gatherings of 1940. At the Reunion Old Boys played the School at Rugby, Soccer and Hockey and competed against teams of both masters and boys in Shooting. There was a get-together on the Saturday night, a Church Parade at St Luke's and a Reunion Ball on the Monday. Later, there was a Dance, a Senior Old Boys' Dinner and a Patriotic Dance. At different times four notable Old Boys addressed the Assembly.

b. There were Congratulations to members of the Forces on promotions and decorations and to those (by name) who were Engaged, Married or had fathered sons or daughters. There was news of Old Boy Hockey and Soccer Clubs.

c. There were details of School News concerning Staff, Sports and School House.

The other Newsletters were just as jam-packed.

In both issues 8 (January 1942) and 9 (February 1942) the recently retired John Hooper Harvey gave well-crafted reminiscences on the occasion of his retirement.

Number 12 (July 1942) began with:

1. The invasion of Mr J Caesar and the rapid return of the Little Corporal pale into insignificance beside the event that occurred on Monday, June 8; WOMEN TEACHERS CAME ON TO THE STAFF OF THE SCHOOL!!!!."

It was explained that this was a war-time measure. So it proved to be. Never mind that Miss Ida Kirk, of film-star good looks, was as well qualified academically as the best of the male staff.

Jack Horrocks' faux surprise at the arrival of women was followed by something matter-of-fact then but remarkable now. It was:

"Rugby Football:- the First XV after working up a very promising combination suffered a severe setback when two outstanding members were called into camp just before the championships began."

These boys must have been older than others as the military age was 19, though everyone over 16 had to be registered, just in case younger 'men' were needed later.

Newsletter 14 (September 1942) had a lengthy, moving and splendidly-written letter from the Headmaster and in Number 15 a letter from then First Assistant William Caradus.

Later newsletters had other masters writing to the troops; George Coldham (Number 18, March 1943) and Frank Brock (Number 20, June 1943). Both were chatty at the start and gracious and solemn at the end. This must have been difficult for Coldham as he had lost his own 20-year-old son; Pilot Officer Geoffrey Thomas Coldham, RNZAF, killed in June of the previous year.

After 30 Newsletters Jack Horrocks passed the torch, probably because he was writing a 100-page text book for the New School Certificate subject, Commercial Practice. The new 'Assistant Editor' was Maurice Hutchinson ably assisted by the uber-industrious Nelson Body. Their final issue was Number 34, dated 15 November 1945, two months after the end of hostilities.

The war may have been over but the war effort continued to Nelson Body as the following image shows:

Old Boys In The Forces

1939 - 1946

N. B. Body

The following is a list of all Old Boys known to have served in the Armed Forces during World War II. In spite of the considerable time and care which has been put into the compilation of this summary of the service, casualties and decorations of nearly 2000 former pupils, we fully expect that readers will notice omissions and will find inaccuracies. We apologise for these in advance, but at the same time would welcome any assistance that would help to make this a full and complete record of Albertians whose achievements in these last six years have been to us a source of no inconsiderable pride.

Names preceded by K and printed in heavy type indicate deaths.

W = Wounded or Injured. I = Invalided home.
P = Prisoner. † = Mentioned in Despatches.
* = Served Overseas. Decorations follow rank.

Abernethy, N. D., Pte.	I* Andrew, W. H., Lieut.
* Adair, R. R., L.A.C.	* Andrews, A. C., L.A.C.
* Adair, W. B., Capt.	Andrews, S. E., L.A.C.
* Adams, R. S.	K* Angell, F. H., Flying-Off.
Addison-Saipe, J.W.P., Sgt.	* Angus, F. J., Flying-Off.
* Afford, R. N., Flight-Sgt.	* Annison, J. A., Capt.
†* Aickin, E. T., Flight-Lieut.	* Appleby, W. M., Pte.
W* Albrecht, A. W., Pilot-Off.	P* Arapoff, V.
* Albrecht, P. C., Flying-Off.	* Arkle, B. K., L.A.C.
K Alexander, T. A. H., L.A.C.	Armitage, R. A.
* Aley, C. L., Lieut.	* Armitage, R. L.
* Alford, R. J., Flying-Off.	K* Armstrong, J. W., Pil't-Off.
* Alison, A., Major	K* Armstrong, K. L., Sgt.-Pt.
Allan, J. G., A.C.2	* Ashton, J. S., A/B
Allan, O. T., S/Sgt.	K* Ashton, R. A., Gnr.
WK Allen, R. E., Cpl.	* Ashton, R. J., W.O.
I* Allingham, J. D., Lieut.	K* Ashwin, E. L. D., Sgt.
* Allingham, W. J., S/Sgt.	Askew, E. W.
I* Allsopp, H. B., Cpl.	* Askew, I. J. W., Pte.
I* Allum, R. W., Bdr.	* Aston, A., Spr.
P* Almao, S. M., Capt.	* Atkinson, A. R., L.A.C.
* Amies, C. H., Capt.	* Atkinson, A. R., Sgt.
K* Amore, R., Pte.	* Atkinson, D., Sgt.-Pilot
* Anderson, A. G., Spr.	Atkinson, L. B., Sgt.
Anderson, B. C., Cpl.	* Atkinson, N., Gnr.
K* Anderson, D., Pte.	Atwell, J. H., Squad.-Ldr.
Anderson, D. A., O/S.	Austin, A. G., Pte.
K* Anderson, D. A., F'ing-Off.	* Avery, A. L., L.A.C.
K* Anderson, J. G., Fly-Off.	* Avery, F. H., 2/Lt.
* Anderson, J. W., Spr.	
* Anderson, R. E., A.C.	
* Andrew, T. L., F/Sgt.	Bach, A. L., L.A.C.
	* Backhouse, A. G., W.O.

Handwritten notes:
ed 14/16/41
MBR
JAD
QSM. 14/40

It is from *Silver Jubilee Souvenir* (Edited by J.H. Harvey), and it is a list of c. 2000 Old Boy Servicemen. This is a remarkable feat at a time when a computer was a person with a pencil adding up a column of figures. The emendations are in Nelson Body's own hand. The full list is 21 pages of double columns with rank and decorations and symbols for those who served overseas, taken prisoner, wounded or injured, invalided home or killed.

At the end of the list there is a list of 51 men described as "Served in Forces of Other Lands". They included: V Arapoff in the Soviet Army; RC Brown in the Indian Army; JH Haines in the Chinese Air Force; NGE Harvey with the Yugoslav Chetniks; W Harvey in the American Army; VK Jacobs in the Burma Chindits; JM Smallfield with the Borneo Forces and TLB Williams with the Greek Navy.

All of these activities: arranging reunions of various sorts, and printing tickets and advertisements; the accumulation of information for, typing, printing, and distribution of Newsletters to as many as 1200 individual servicemen; to the lists of those who served and the voluminous correspondence involved, was carried out by full-time teachers. These teachers also played a significant part in the general life of the School, yet still worked tirelessly to let those who once sat in their classrooms know that they were still a part of the wider Mount Albert Grammar School community.

Brian Murphy