

## A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

### A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

Size: Card: c. 12in x 9¾in / 305mm x 250mm

Image: 8in x 6in / 200mm x 150mm

Description: A mounted sepia image on grey card with russet designs close to the edge of the card and the image. The main heading is in a black letter font, other metadata are in a font from the Times family. The photograph was taken by Crown Studios, which photographed many sports. The photograph is from the estate of WRH Martin and was acquired at Auction (De La Cour), 5 February 2013.



Additional Items: 1, A pennant, 8in wide at edge 17in long (200mmx430mm) "Mt Albert Grammar Old Boys' A.F.C." belonging to H.J.H, Irving gifted by his executor Ray Niall, 10 September 2013.



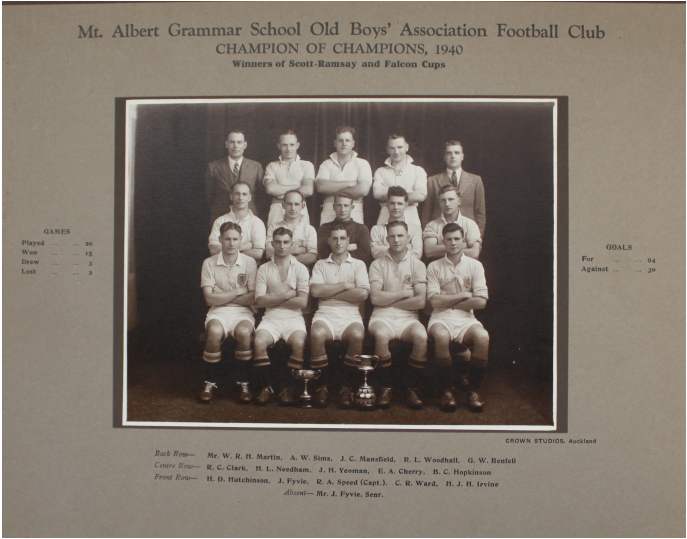
2. Attached to the pennant are two badges (there was likely a third, as there is an attached piece of thread of the same type that is attached to the other two.) The badges are one inch (25mm) in diameter with a blue enamel roundel with AUCKLAND FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, a central enamel shield with the letters AFA supported by two kiwi and surmounted by a soccer ball and crossed flags. One blank apart from “Stirling Silver” and a very small hallmark. The other has:

Falcon Cup  
Champ of Champs  
1940  
H.J.H. Irving



3.The 1940 photograph headed “Mt Albert Grammar School Old Boys’ Association Football Club Champion of Champions 1940 Winners of the Scott-Ramsey and Falcon Cups”

Other metadata is in the same form as the 1938 photograph. Irving is in the front row, number five.



Discussion: The Old Boys' Association Football Club was formed in 1931, *The Albertian* of 1931(p30) reported:

"Before the commencement of the football season enthusiastic Old Boys met in the Y.M.C.A. where it was resolved to form an Old Boys' Association Football Club. Mr Butler, President of the Old Boys' Association assured the members of the Association's support, while Mr Martin expressed the opinion that good support could be expected from the School. As the club was an integral part of the Old Boys' Association it was decided to request its office bearers, with the exception of the Committee to accept office with the club, this they kindly consented to do. A Club Committee was elected consisting of Messrs Martin (selector), J. Healey (sec-treasurer), K. Holdsworth, F. Bellamy and R. Guilford."

Two teams were entered, one in the 'Third Intermediate' and one in the 'Fourth Grade'.

The Third Intermediate team played 15 games against Onehunga, W.Y.M.I, Comrades, Northcote, Tamaki, Belmont and Metro-College (won 8, lost 6, drew 1). The Fourth Grade played 16 games against Comrades, Y.M.C.A. "A", Metro-College, Onehunga and West-United, (won 9, lost 4, drew 3).

At the end of the season there was a dance in the Lewis Eady Hall.

The following year saw an extensive patronage.

Patron:	Mr F.W.Gamble
Vice Patron:	Mr A.R.Gatland
President:	Mr V.C. Butler
Vice Presidents:	Messrs Ward Baker, A.W. Bellamy, G.Budd,G.S. Coldham, L.C.H. Dawson, H. Halliwell, W.J. Holdsworth.
Committee:	Messrs W.E. Holdsworth (Chairman), W.R.H. Martin (selector) J.Healy (hon, sec-treas.), F. Bellamy, H. Horrocks.

The 1938 post-Depression team was chosen as the lead item on account of its poignancy. Mr W.R.H. Martin (Bill to the staff, Froggy to the boys) was "Mr Soccer" for five generations of boys. Mr F.A. Bellamy (Hon Sec.-Treas.) was a committee member from the outset. Mr J. Fyvie, was the long-time coach and his son, also J. Fyvie was a member of the team and three years later he was dead. The image of him in the 1940 photograph was his last. Sergeant-Pilot Joseph Fyvie was shot down on 19 September 1941. He is buried in Chippenham (London Road) Cemetery, Wiltshire. He left a young wife, Charlotte. The young man sitting beside him, J.B. Wood was also killed, a Navigator/Bomber; Sergeant John Bernard Wood was killed on 23 August 1942. He is buried in Llanbeblig Public Cemetery, Carnafon, Wales.

Other Old Boys Clubs were formed for other sports.

*The Albertian* of 1931 (p103) reported that:

"At last the Old Boys' Cricket Club has been formed. Enthusiasts have planned and even attempted to move in this direction for the last five years but the Auckland Cricket Association's Club Delegate Committee has been antagonistic. Unfortunately too many Mount Albert Old Boys are prominent cricketers but too

few are sufficiently old to be members of this controlling body." Instead they joined with the more accommodating Auckland City and Suburban Cricket Association and fielded four teams, a Senior A, Senior B, Third Grade Open, and in the Second Term, Third Grade Intermediate.

There were big guns involved in getting the Cricket Club going:

Patron: Mr F.W. Gamble.

Vice-Patrons: Messrs. A.R. Gatland and W. Caradus.

President: Mr V.C Butler.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. J.H. Harvey, W. Ward-Baker, C. Moses, G. Spence, Rev. T.R.B. Woolloxall.

Hon. Secrecary-Treasurer: Mr J.E. Gardiner.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. R.S. Herrop.

Management Committee: Messrs. V.C Butler, A.W.G. Ott, H.T. McNeil, M.P. Hook, A.E. Hebden, A.F. Spence.

*The Albertian* of 1932 (p102) also reported the formation of the Mt Albert Grammar School Old Boys' Athletic Club "... was formed in December 1931, when at a meeting convened by two old boys, Messrs H. McNiel and L. Scheideman, a set of rules were elected for the 1931-2 season:- Patron: F.W. Gamble, Esq. President: H.L. Towers, Esq. Hon. Sec. and Treas: H. McNiel. Club Captain: T.S. Finlayson, Delegater to Auckland Centre, N.Z.A.A.A. Messrs L. Schneiderman, D. Kerr-Taylor, A.J. Campbell, J.A. Mars, T.S. Finlayson.

"The Club's first season proved most successful, three members, Messrs Schneideman, Kerr-Taylor and Finlayson gaining representative honours ..."  
Also: "... With grateful appreciation the Club accepts the donation of a splendid silver cup from the Misses Kerr-Taylor. This cup known as the Kerr-Taylor Challenge Cup will be competed for annually ..."

The final sports club was formed in 1935. *The Albertian* of that year (p102) reported that:

"On Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held in Lewis Eady's Buildings for the formation of a Mt Albert Grammar Old Boys' Hockey Club. The prime movers were J.R. Ferguson and W. Hearne.

The following officers were elected:

Patron: Mr F.W. Gamble.

Vice-Patrons: Messrs. V.C. Butler, G.S. Coldham, J.H. Harvey, O.S. Hintz and R. Wilmott.

President: Mr T. Scott.

Secretary: J.R. Ferguson.

Treasurer: W. Hearne.

Committee: The President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Messrs. E.J. Spier and G. Harvey.

The Club colours chosen were light blue and gold quartered shirts. This is the first season of the Club's activities and the support given by Old Boy players was rather disappointing. Only one team could be fielded."

Things soon improved. In the second year, 1936, there were two teams with creditable results, the first team was runner-up in the championship and there was a trip to Warkworth. In 1937 it was called the Albertian Hockey Club. By 1939 there were three teams and the Club was on its way.

By the mid 1950s society was changing, the Second World War had been over for a decade, there was a greater prosperity and the Baby Boom was in full swing, as was the Cold War. There were advances in medicine (eg the Salk polio vaccine) and in science (eg the first foray into space, Sputnik 1, and the discovery of DNA). Cinemascope and rock and roll, the Devil's music, were born. The Mazengarb Report, *Report of the Special Committee on Moral Delinquency in Children and Adolescents*, was sent to every home in New Zealand.

In the general social shake-up, none of the Old Boys' Sports Clubs survived the 1950s, yet they remain a significant part of our School's social history and gave pleasure, comradeship and a sense of shared endeavor to hundreds of young men.

Brian Murphy