

POPLAR TRAINING SCHOOL,

HUTTON, ESSEX.

Christmas, 1918.

MY DEAR

Rose,

I am writing this letter on the evening of the 18th of November, the day after that on which Thanksgiving Services were held in every part of the Empire. And you may feel very sure that our Service at the School was, as far as reverence, fine singing, and an excellent sermon could make it, worthy of the occasion.

We were all in School, many of us pretending to work, on the Monday morning, and all, in the British way, hoping for the best. The best reached us at 11.30, and before 11.35 the Flag was up and the School-Yard filled with a cheering delirious crowd of youngsters. We beat the Duke of York's School by quite five minutes. Almost at once Mr. Webber was seen outside the Band Room, his boys round him, their instruments shining in the distance. We were soon all there too, and there was another orgy of cheering and shouting. And so at last we are free! Free from thoughts of invasion, free from air-raids, free from shaded lights and darkened rooms, free to live and grow up without the thought of battle, murder and sudden death, for at last the War is won!

Whatever the history of this School in the future, nothing can ever take away your pride in it for the part played by its sons in this great War. The grim tenacity which never faltered, the unconquerable spirit which never wavered, the firm belief which never questioned, and the passionate courage which never swerved, were all shared in, and contributed to by boys from your very own School. May the School flourish! And inevitably the School has paid. At the moment of Victory we are saddened, and shall always be, by the memory of our Glorious Dead, who in dying have saved the world. What a task to live worthily of them; what a task for you and for the School! The lists of names at the end of this letter are necessarily incomplete. We have much to learn yet of young lives ended, and of Honours won.

More than ever, now the War is over, is the question of our Memorial a pressing one. Practically every School has its scheme and ours is amongst the most ambitious, and I think the most beautiful. I repeat that to be *really* a Memorial of the War the Chapel should be built entirely by those who have lived in the School. Several Old Boys have sent generous donations, ranging from one to five pounds; but a band of Old Girls who are regularly sending a shilling a month are setting about the business in the best way. If all of you would do this, we should soon have our Chapel. I shall be disappointed if the job is not carried out by the Old Boys and Girls of the School, to which so many of you owe everything that is sweet in your lives.

Sports Day this year was rather spoilt by the weather. We had four sports meetings before our Championships were decided. But on Sports Day itself we had a very happy item which no weather could interfere with. This year has been Mr. Lansbury's—*your* Mr. Lansbury—twenty-fifth year of Guardianship, and the children took advantage of it and most eagerly provided the means to present him with a handsome travelling bag as a sign of much love and gratitude from them and you.

I am sure the gift touched his heart very much, and really will always seem to him a reminder of all your feelings for him.

Our usual Marathon Race, at the end of the summer holiday, was a dreadful affair this year. Little Willie Pink, just old enough to enter, was knocked down and killed in the Chelmsford Road. I am only too glad to say that he was one of the most lovable little boys reared in the School, and that all our memories of him are nice. Influenza duly appeared at the School and laid it low. We had at one time more than 300 children in bed, all ill, many very ill indeed. Elizabeth Cooper did not recover. Every boy and girl in the School must have been struck by the utterly unselfish labour of those of the staff who escaped the illness themselves—a very fine illustration of "One and All."

During the year very many "Old Soldiers" have found time to visit their School. Their manly cheerful bearing did us all good, so evidently did they all know that all was well.

The coming year should bring its hundreds of war-worn warriors, each with the light of victory in his eyes.

We, at the School, should like a great parade of them on our Sports Day (August). I will inform all those who reply to this letter of the date when it is fixed.

And this coming year, too, should see the School come into its own place again.

I am only too proud to be able to say that the Industrial Girls, trained at The Meads, an old house tottering to its fall, and very unsuitable, have, thanks to their own spirit, and that of their trainers, forced successes equal to any produced from the School itself.

This letter will reach boys in every theatre of the late War—that is, in almost every quarter of the Old World. It is sent you as a sign that you are remembered and claimed with greatest pride as a very part of the School. Our love to you all.

You have the sincerest wishes from your Guardians, the staff of the School, my wife and myself, for a Happy, and at last,

A Peaceful Christmas.

YOUR OLD HEAD,

William Dean

KILLED IN ACTION.

Adams, Henry...	...	...	(1899-1907)	Leonard, Stephen	...	...	(1891-1900)
Anderson, J. H.	...	...	(1902-1910)	Ledgett, George ...	...	...	(1903-1911)
Andrews, J.	...	...	(1907-1911)	Ladbury, George	...	...	(1903-1911)
Bowling, Thomas	...	...	(1902-1910)	Lewenden, Henry	...	...	(1901-1912)
Burton, Thomas...	...	...	(1905-1911)	Legg, James	...	...	(1907-1913)
Brightmore, Cyril...	...	...	(1902-1912)	Moore, Arthur	...	...	(1897-1905)
Brightmore, Walter	...	...	(1904-1914)	Nunns, Henry M. C.	...	...	(1907-1913)
Bilham, George	...	...	(1901-1909)	Pilgrim, Joseph	...	...	(1904-1911)
Brett, John	...	...	(1908-1911)	Pope, Thomas	...	...	(1899-1906)
Baker, Sidney...	...	...	(1899-1909)	Perry, James	...	...	(1907-1913)
Carter, James...	...	...	(1902-1909)	Randall, Arthur	...	...	(1899-1909)
Cope, Lewis	...	...	(1901-1912)	Shears, Joseph	...	...	(1896-1906)
Davies, George	...	...	(1909-1911)	Sands, H. G.	...	...	(1903-1906)
Fields, Robert...	...	...	(1910-1912)	Snooks, Thomas...	...	...	(1908-1913)
Franklin, George	...	...	(1903-1911)	Smith, Charles E.	...	...	(1904-1905)
Gunn, Isaac	...	...	(1899-1907)	Shaw, John	...	...	(1913-1914)
Griffen, David...	...	...	(1904-1909)	Trangott, Henry...	...	...	(1908-1912)
Guy, Edmund...	...	...	(1899-1908)	Thomas, Frederick	...	...	(1901-1912)
Hillier, John	...	...	(1903-1905)	Wucherffenig, Wm.	...	...	(1902-1909)
Henson, J. W...	...	...	(1910-1912)	Widdecombe, F. ...	...	...	(1902-1911)
Hiscock, Albert	...	...	(1899-1909)	Workman, George	...	...	(1909-1913)
Jardine, T.	...	...	(1913-1915)	Ward, William	...	...	(1903-1908)
Jones, Charles...	...	...	(1895-1903)	Watts, Thomas	...	...	(1903-1913)
Kernot, George	...	...	(1913-1914)	Warren, Robert	...	...	(1902-1909)

REPORTED MISSING.

Andrews, Frederick	...	...	(1899-1903)	Pearson, Albert	...	...	(1910-1913)
Hall, Harold	...	...	(1909-1912)	Spraggon, James	...	...	(1901-1909)

AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS.

Wanstall, Leopold ...	...	...	(1901-1904)	Nunns, Henry	...	...	(1907-1913)
(Also Croix de Guerre.)							

AWARDED THE D.C.M.

Bell, C.	...	...	(1893-1900)	Hurst, Henry	...	...	(1896-1907)
Beal, Arthur	...	...	(1897-1903)	Adams, George	...	...	(1901-1908)
(Also Russian Order of St. George.)				(Also Military Medal.)			

AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL.

Houchin, Henry	...	...	(1899-1904)	Wilson, William	...	...	(1903-1910)
Lawrence, George	...	...	(1911-1914)	Gunn, James	...	...	(1899-1909)
Parrish, T. W.	...	...	(1907-1912)	(Also twice mentioned in despatches.)			
Pearson, Albert	...	...	(1910-1913)				

AWARDED COMMISSIONS.

Wanstall, Leopold ...	...	...	(1901-1904)	Hurst, Henry	...	...	(1896-1907)
Brooks, William	...	...	(1904-1906)	Edmonds, A. J.	...	...	(1895-1901)
Wilson, William	...	...	(1903-1910)				

SCHOOL TROPHIES.

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

(BOYS) ... WATTS HOUSE.

(GIRLS) ... THE MEADS.

Football.

GORDON HOUSE.

Cricket

WILLIAM MORRIS HOUSE.

SWIMMING.

(BOYS) CUP	...	...	WATTS HOUSE	(GIRLS) CUP	...	...
„ SHIELD...	...	...	WILLIAM MORRIS HOUSE	„ SHIELD	...	...	THE MEADS.
(LIEUT.) BRANDY CUP...			WILLIAM MORRIS HOUSE	CAPT. BLAIR CUP	...	...

M.A.B.Y.S. Awarded Excellent.

Emily Brooke.
Annie Debbage.
Margaret Monk.

Emily Chapman.
Winifred Diss.
Elizabeth Smith.

Winifred Cavalier.
Louisa Hill.