

# OTC Notes during the Great War.

## Extracts from The Barrovian.

The Barrovian featured a regular diary entry from the Officer Training Corp. There were many entries. These are but a few:

Wednesday 23rd September 1914

Lt - Governor demanded escort for German prisoners. Great competition to look big and imposing. 50 selected turn out at 6.30 for instruction in guard duties.

Wednesday 7th October 1914

- More escort duty – the same unearthly hours. This time a very rough lot – the crew of a German liner. Some trouble coming over. High hopes of a volley on the Promenade. Belts tightened, grim determination on the faces for everybody. Some singing of German patriotic ballads, sternly repressed by Lower Fifth Modern.

Thursday 8th October 1914

Field Day. Advance held up in a most glorious manner by a mere handful in a ruined house. Both sides entirely wiped out. Verdict, pause for 10 minutes and then do it again. Serious interlude caused by a certain gigantic bull objecting to the invasion of his domain. Comic sight of the whole section in H.M. Uniform flying before the face of the enraged bull and escaping over a gorse hedge.

Sunday 11th October 1914

- More Germans. The frequency of these escort duties is making Chapel somewhat somnolent, but a great effort is being made to look intelligent.

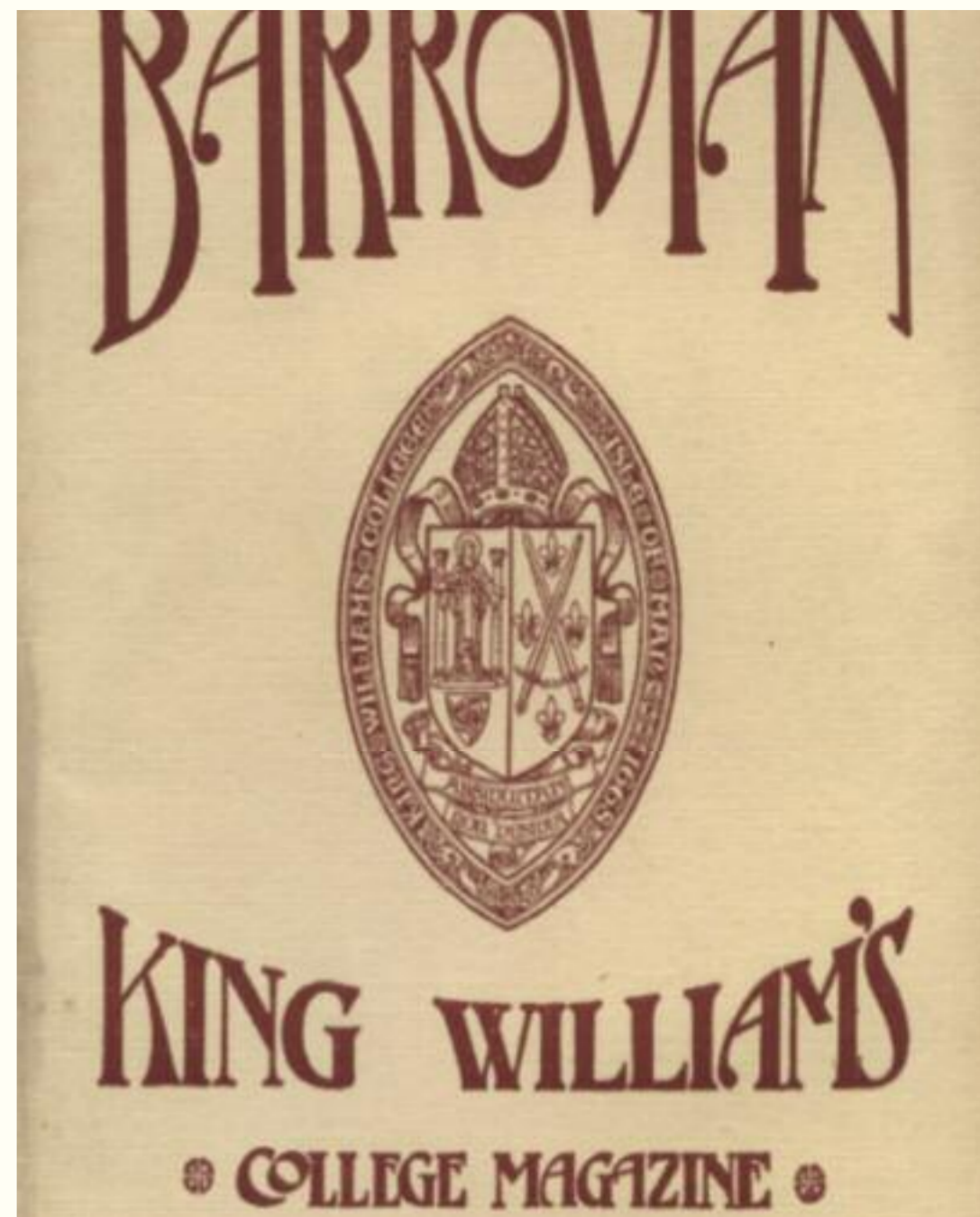
4th February 1915

.... At evening Grand Recruiting Meeting at the Castle. Most of the College staff enlisted. General sense of security against invasion.

To break the terms monotony we have had German prisoners to gaze upon. It was found at the beginning of the term that the local forces were not sufficiently strong to perform all the duties of guarding the prisoners. We were sent for and thought ourselves lucky each night to be chosen for the guard. We left College at 4 a.m., in a fleet of motor cars, armed to the teeth to the extent that we had two rounds of ball cartridge each and we can congratulate ourselves that none of us were mutilated.

June 1915

Great excitement was caused by a mysterious telegram received by Mr Stenning during a route march. A guard was doubled back to the College to keep a watch over the ammunition supplies. But the rumour that escaped Germans from Douglas were making a raid on College was unfortunately unconfirmed.



October 27th 1915 – Zeppelin raid! Gas bags numbering anything up to 30 reported to be crossing the Irish Sea, either lost, or attacking the gigantic fortifications of the Island, or setting free the prisoners in Knockaloe! We heard later that it was only the BE2a out, trying new engines, or something of that sort!

June 1915

College has become more military than ever this term. Fearsome-looking guards are to be seen about the buildings with rifles and glittering bayonets, while night is made hideous for the unwary wanderer by unexpected challenges and demands for unheard of passwords.

Notes from December 1915

Unfortunately the training ground near the College this term was very scanty. The land around us is the most fertile farmland of the Island, and even the most patriotic farmer resents a brilliant bayonet charge across his growing corn! So we had to go further afield.

This war is essentially a war of the OTC. When, at the beginning of the War, the officers were prevented from following their wishes, in joining the regiment with which they had trained, and in which they had such a pride, the War Office said that the O.T.Corp must never suffer, for without them the New Army was impossible. ... In the end, this war is going to be won by the O.T.C. ...