

Though no claim can be made that its pages form anything approaching a complete history of the life of the Ship during the last quarter of a century, there is much recorded that is worth remembering and which would otherwise have dropped into oblivion.

My special hobby has, however, been the gathering of the News of Old Boys from all the seas and corners of the world in all of which Old "Conways" are to be found. Some of this information was regularly gathered from newspapers and nautical publications, some by word of mouth from Old Boys visiting the Ship in the field or meeting them in the street, much through Mr. Young, some from parents or wives, but most from O.C. correspondents all the world over, giving news of themselves and every other Old Boy they had encountered in their voyaging. To all of these I tender my very heartfelt thanks, especially to my correspondents who have, I fear, too often had to put up with and been satisfied with a very brief reply, or none at all, beyond seeing the news they imparted in the columns of the *Cadet* later on.

The "News of Old Boys" has always been a special feature of special interest to all readers, whether past or present Cadets or friends of either, and I do sincerely hope that the same help from all sources that has been given to me in this direction will continue to be given to my successor in the editorial chair.

The "Conway" Intelligence Service is something to be proud of, reflecting as it does that spirit of loyalty and devotion to the Ship which is proverbial throughout the world. We should one and all therefore concentrate on its continuance and make the change in the command of the Ship a cause for a still further closing of the ranks and enthusiastic rally round our "Old Wooden Mother."

H. W. BROADBENT

### H.M.S. "CONWAY."

#### PRESENTATION TO CAPTAIN AND MRS. BROADBENT BY THE OLD BOYS.

On the afternoon of Thursday, March 31st, the Old Boys, represented by Admiral Sir Sackville Carden, Mr. J. K. Chase, Captain G. M. Montford, Mr. W. H. Coombs, and a good muster of others, made a presentation to Captain and Mrs. Broadbent, subscribed by members of the Old Boys' Club throughout the world, to record their regard in a tangible manner. The function was held on the main deck, the Old Boys and their relatives on the starboard side, and the Cadets crowded along the port side.

After Miss Rosemary Lee, the tiny daughter of Mr. C. E. Lee, had very perfectly presented a bouquet to Mrs. Broadbent, Commander M. G. Douglas called upon Admiral Sir Sackville Carden to explain the purpose of the gathering.

Admiral Carden, President of the Old Boys' Club, in the course of a charming and whimsical speech, spoke of the 2,900 Cadets who had passed through the Ship through Captain Broadbent's period of command, some to go to the Army, some to the Navy, Air Force, or Church, and the larger number to enter our Mercantile Marine, the long sustained and gallant service of which was the deciding factor in the Great War. He described the Ship as he knew her in his time as a Cadet—the frigate, no recreation ground of any sort, landing to wait round the old tuck shop, no motor launches but all pulling cutters—as compared with the Ship as she is now and her activities as chronicled in the *Cadet*.

Mr. J. K. Chase said: "I think we may all consider this a red-letter day, a day when we all score—the Cadets (most of them know it) score a day's extra holiday, we Old Boys in the fact that we are here to do honour to our old Chief, and Captain Broadbent because he has the assurance of the loyal affection of Old "Conway" Boys spread all over the world.

"Never during my life have I found it necessary to envy any man living, but to-day I am wobbling. Captain Broadbent has two assets that any man may envy—his wonderful habit of loyal friendship and his wonderful career that he has to look back upon. Let us think of what it means—2,900 boys—to mould

their characters just at the time when they want moulding. It has been successfully coped with.

"But could he have been successful without the help of his wonderful wife? It is an extraordinary thing that we are here to-day to do honour to our old Chief, yet if we took votes on the subject between these two, I believe Captain Broadbent would have to forfeit his deposit.

"When boys leave their training institutions I think they can be divided into three sections; first, those who leave their school, college, or ship, and take no further interest in it; second, those who take a lukewarm interest; and third, those who feel that their future lives are more or less bound up with their Alma Mater; and 'Conway's' undoubtedly belong to this third class.

"When the news was broadcasted that Captain Broadbent was leaving us, I know there were many who were very worried as to who would succeed him, and as to who could succeed him. But one day I got a letter from Captain Broadbent, and he said, in effect, 'It is all right, you need not worry; we have struck oil. And not only that, but there is somebody to step into Mrs. Broadbent's shoes.' In the name of the Old Boys I should like to welcome Captain Richardson, and if at any time there is anything we Old Boys can do, I am quite sure we are at his service.

"Captain Broadbent has selected a very nice little anchorage down in the south country and he can ride there to his heart's content with two anchors down and 60 fathom of cable on each . . . But we should like to extract a promise from him to leave his anchorage once a year and come to us Old Boys, to get him to promise to come to dine with us when the Old 'Conways' have their Dinner.

"To conclude: we wish him good health, wealth he does not need, and 'dog's teeth'!"

Admiral Carden then presented to Mrs. Broadbent a travelling clock in blue morocco leather case, bearing the following inscription:

(Chinese characters.)

To  
MRS. H. W. BROADBENT  
FROM  
OLD "CONWAY" BOYS  
ON LAND AND SEA THE WIDE WORLD OVER  
AS A TOKEN OF TRUE AFFECTION AND  
ESTEEM.

And to Captain and Mrs. Broadbent a cheque and a stick and umbrella stand in the unique form of a Navy rum breaker made from a piece of timber (African oak) which was part of the chain locker cut down twenty years ago in the making of the games room:

PRESENTED TO  
CAPTAIN AND MRS. BROADBENT  
WITH A CHEQUE

BY OLD "CONWAY" BOYS THROUGHOUT THE  
WORLD AS A TOKEN OF THEIR GREAT ESTEEM  
AND REGARD,  
MARCH 31ST, 1927.

Captain Broadbent, in acknowledgment, said: "Admiral Carden, Old 'Conway's', ladies and Cadets: I am not going to say much, because if I did I should emulate the great statesman who was 'overwhelmed by the exuberance of his own verbosity' and I should be overwhelmed by the exuberance of my own emotion, so I will cut it short.

"I am—we are both—most awfully grateful to the Old Boys for the great honour they have paid us. Old 'Conway's' fill a niche in the world, and the Club has enabled them to get together and bring some influence to bear on the community in general and make themselves felt. When I set to work to get the Club going in 1910, with the very able assistance of our late President, Sir Hamilton Gould-Adams, I never thought and certainly never expected that anything of this sort would come from the Club. It is all the more appreciated, and we are all the more grateful.

"We of the sea form a great brotherhood, but we of the 'Conway' are clinched together in that we have traditions and aspirations of our own which we endeavour to live up to. Old Boys who have gone before have built up these traditions, and it is up to the young ones to keep them up and raise them ever higher. Don't you forget that, boys!

"Of course, I am very conscious, indeed, of the limitations of my own powers, and I should not have been much here without Mrs. Broadbent. Individually, we may be this or we may be that, but as a 'team' we claim to have excelled. This is due to a common love of our work; we have looked upon it always as our work, to a perfect understanding and always and ever being perfect pals, which we hope to remain to the end."

Mr. W. H. Coombs, as Assistant Secretary of the Club, proposed a vote of thanks to Admiral Carden, and read several telegrams

received that day from Old Boys unable to be present. He continued: " 'Conway's' among their many virtues are essentially good disciplinarians, our first lesson on board is to obey. You obey your cadet captains because they are in authority. When you are rated a cadet captain you learn the reason of discipline. When you go to sea you instinctively, by your training, follow the master, rated 'first over the ship.'

" Similarly, Old 'Conway's' in Parliament. I am sure, are punctilious in recognising the authority of the Speaker—rated 'first over the House of Commons.' I am equally certain the old 'Conway' who we are proud to know is a member of the Government is a shining example of a member of a team, following the Prime Minister as 'first over the Government,' in the true 'Conway' manner.

" Similarly, 'Conways' are Imperialists—King's men, loyal to the Sovereign who is 'first over the Empire.'

This brings me to my point that Admiral Sir Sackville Carden is rated 'first over 'Old 'Conway's,' because of his rank and high distinction in the service in which so many Old Boys have served with such distinction.

" Well, a few weeks ago he issued the command: 'Old 'Conway's' muster with your cheque books and good wishes for Captain and Mrs. Broadbent—and the result of that order, carried out so willingly, is to-day's pleasant function. But without leadership these things cannot be done, and we thank you, sir, for your leadership.

" In conclusion, I would like, if I may, to refer to the gifts Captain and Mrs. Broadbent have been good enough to accept.

" The breaker is of stout 'Conway' material, and will therefore endure. It was made by a master cooper, Mr. G. Powell, one of the few practical master coopers in London to-day, who prides himself in his work. I told him who it was for and he took special care to see that his work was faithfully done, as befits our 'Conway' tradition.

" If Mrs. Broadbent will kindly examine the inscription on the clock case she will see two Chinese characters—not in Cantonese, but in good Imperial mandarin Chinese of the ancient order. I will tell her a secret—one, I shrewdly suspect, is no secret to her—that she is known affectionately and respected the wide world over as 'Ma B.' Well, these Chinese characters are pronounced 'Mah Bee'—and

their interpretation is 'the protective mother.' How well that describes her to Old 'Conway's' The kindly one who understood our homesickness as 'new chums'—whose tender care was ours when we were in 'sick bay.' Mrs. Broadbent has been an inspiration to us all in our voyaging, to live up to the 'Conway' ideal."

Admiral Carden called for cheers for Captain Broadbent and for Mrs. Broadbent, and was himself cheered.

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### THE " OLD " CAPTAIN.

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The old order changeth.

Never before in all the fifty-nine years of her history has our Old " Conway " suffered so great a loss as she has just sustained in the retirement of Captain Broadbent.

With such sympathy, such efficiency, and such earnestness has he made the interests of us all so completely his own personal concern that his departure from the more active side of his great life's work for the quieter waters of retirement has called forth sincere and heartfelt regrets from every land and every sea.

Captain Broadbent will take with him to Nuttree House in its beautiful Devonshire setting not only the meagre tokens of our love and respect, but the whole-hearted good wishes of thousands of old and young, past and present, whose privilege it is and has been to serve his command or whose honour it is to be his friend.

A great personality, a fine seaman, and the finest type of English gentleman, he will remain to us for ever as the very embodiment of a great example of the sterling qualities of a true leader of men.

May health and happiness and vigorous strength be granted to him for many years to come, that he may enjoy to the full the pleasure and peace of his retirement. Let us who are left to enjoy the fruits of his labours take comfort in the thought that although Old Time must ring the changes, yet the hall-mark of Captain Broadbent's great personality will remain in the years that are to follow as an influence and a guide to help us in our efforts to continue the success that has been the outstanding and salient feature throughout the many years of his command.

Small consolation though it be to us, we feel assured that the beauty and peace of Brixham and its glorious surroundings must, indeed, be a pleasant prospect to look forward to after so long a period of labour and responsibility.

He has given us his life's work, and we have prospered by his gift. Mere words are empty things and we owe much. Therefore, it is due to him that we shall strive, and by our striving reap the rich harvests year by year, as fruits from the good seed that he has sown. *Finis coronat opus.*

Let us now go back and recount some of the more outstanding features of his work.

A "Conway" Cadet in 1880-1881, he proceeded into "sail," and served in more varied types than is usual, gaining by so doing a very wide and valuable experience. Later, he entered the service of the Cunard Line, and it was whilst serving in the liner "Etruria" that he gained by his great personal courage the Liverpool Humane Society's Medal and Board of Trade Medal for very gallantly saving life at sea.

He joined the "Conway" as Second in Command in October, 1898, and after a period of only four years and seven months succeeded to the Command.

Probably his first step to the general good was the reinstatement of Rugby Football, which for various reasons was not then so prominent a feature of our games as one—and certainly Captain Broadbent—would wish. A keen participator himself as a cadet, he soon imparted his great enthusiasm to all and sundry, and before a year was out it was once more in full swing and the foundation well and truly laid to the sound and rock-like position it holds to-day. The Bantam XV was, perhaps, the apple of his eye, and their terrific success in succeeding seasons speaks volumes for the skilful coaching they received by our late Captain, for with his usual whole-hearted enthusiasm he made their training his own personal concern.

To pass on from the soundness of our game and the interest taken by everybody in Rugby Football, we must pick at random from the other scores of innovations and advantages born of his efforts, for lack of space forbids me to name them all. We have our Sailing Dinghies, the Games Room, the Cinema, the Canteen, the Dancing Class, the greatly-modified Gymnasium, the Playing Fields, twelve acres in extent, the Pavilion and the

Tennis Courts, also the enormous advantages of "Conway" House. Space will not admit of more, or we could go on to fill the page. All this for our enjoyment and our play.

Now for the more serious side. Perhaps his finest effort, so quietly carried through that we are apt to overlook it, was his work during the Great War, when by dint of organisation and hard work and with but a much reduced instructional and scholastic staff, no less than an average number of one hundred Cadets per year were passed through the Ship to enter the Royal Navy to play their splendid part! Our Honours Boards and our Memorial Tablets will show how well that part was played.

Let us also tell of the great work that he has so graciously consented to continue. The thanks of us all are unstintingly given him for his great and ceaseless task as Hon. Treasurer to the "Conway" Club, with its large and ever-increasing membership.

And he has left us.

Truly, our cup is full, and yet it must be over-filled; for sad though it be, it is but the order of things that with him must go his Lady.

By a strange coincidence the day chosen for the sad good-bye fell on the anniversary of their wedding day, and it would seem so very appropriate that those two whose lives have been spent in such perfect team work for the Ship should terminate their long and splendid labours on the anniversary of their great day. We wish them many many happy returns of that great anniversary.

To recount in detail the good works of Mrs. Broadbent would, perhaps, be more impossible than it has been to set forth the full list of our Captain. Hers has been long years of work, of loving help and influence that cannot be detailed, and we shall miss the great part that she has taken every bit as fully as we shall miss that of her great husband. But all things must have an end, and so the parting of our ways has come. Her life's work has been for us, and we—the three thousand loving members of her great family—return her care with gratitude and loving appreciation for all that she has done.

May she enjoy, too, the greater peace of her new home, and we humbly ask that in her retirement she will rest assured that we still think of her and all that she has done for us. We look eagerly forward to when she will visit us. Adieu, dear lady, for we cannot say Good-bye.

## DEBATING AND CHORAL SOCIETIES.

These Societies, inaugurated last Term, were carried on during the Spring Term with undiminished ardour, when other engagements did not interfere. The Debating Society is growing in numbers and interest. E. J. Dodd has taken over the duties of Secretary. There were many interesting papers and debates throughout the Term, the best debate being probably one as to the reality of ghosts. There were ardent partisans for both sides.

The Choral Society devoted its attention chiefly to community singing, which has grown so much of late. One wet Saturday afternoon practically the whole Ship met in the hold for an impromptu concert. On the last night of the term a concert was held, when a dozen songs, including several sea shanties, were ably rendered by the members of the Society. The programme included songs by Mr. Norman Elliott and Wilkes, selections by the Ship's orchestra, and a clever conjuring display by the versatile Bottomley, who also sang three songs. At the conclusion of the concert the Captain distributed the various medals that had been won, thanked the Concert Party for the enjoyable entertainment, and said a few words of farewell. He thanked the boys particularly for providing such a cheerful evening for his and Mrs. Broadbent's last one, and said they left on a very happy note. On leaving the hold, Captain and Mrs. Broadbent were accorded an ovation, which has seldom, if ever, been seen or heard on the "Conway."

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## PRESENTATION OF DOG TO CAPTAIN AND MRS. BROADBENT FROM THE CADETS.

On the last day of the Term, a pleasant surprise was in store for Captain and Mrs. Broadbent. After tea, they were informed that the Cadets requested the pleasure of their attendance on the Main Deck, where they found awaiting them a Kerry blue dog of fine pedigree, and a kennel. These Winterbotham handed over in the name of the Cadets.

The Captain said the gift was exactly what he wanted, and was the greatest surprise of his life. He had wanted a Kerry blue, but, as that gift was presented by the boys of the "Conway," it would mean a thousandfold more to him. The dog's name would be "Ship," to remind him of the old footer touchline cry, and the kennel would be called "Conway House." (Great applause.)

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## GRAMPIAN MEMORIES.

Situated chiefly in Forfarshire and Southern Aberdeenshire, bounded on the north by the river Dee, on the south by the fertile valley of Strathmore, on the west by the river Isla and the Perthshire Highlands and on the east by a road running roughly from Brechin to Banchory—lies a magnificent stretch of country, a huge playground of nature, several hundreds of square miles in area, much of it over 3,000 feet high. Here, in a country beloved of tourists, is a belt which has, to a large extent escaped their attention—this section of the Highlands known as the eastern Grampians. You may wander over these wild hills during the twelve hours of a long summer day, and it will be surprising if you meet with one human being among the wilds. It is a land of long, straight, green glens. The Isla, South Esk, and North Esk, all have their mountain cradle here. Its valleys are rich in old castles, round which many a legend clings. Many a grim precipice presents its splintered face to the winds which are rarely absent here. The eagle has his eyrie in some inaccessible place, and the deer roam the hills in hundreds.

Grampian memories are of many kinds. One sweltering day in the summer of 1921—one of the hottest days in my mind—three of us set off in the early morning from the sweet little hamlet of Clova. Do you know it? if so, you will want to go there again. It is about sixteen miles north of Kirriemuir, Sir J. M. Barrie's "Thrums." It is about 900 feet above sea-level, surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains. It consists of an Inn, a Kirk, and Manse, and one or two houses. The young South Esk brawls below the manse garden.