I remember the hat and gun at the end of term play . Did we not place alarm clocks under the Hut class room to go off at different intervals during his physics lesson?

Keith Belfield (57 – 60) Foretop

West Wickham

'The Sheriff' was my form master and as was common in my time we had a 'tarpaulin muster' during our last term and bought our form master a present. In our case I seem to remember a fountain pen being the present. There was some cash remaining so a cap gun with holster and '10 gallon hat' were also purchased. Spud was in charge of the end of term play and after the final curtain he came out donned in his cap shooting his cap gun. He mentioned that since he had no sons the cowboy outfit would go to a nephew.

Jim Ivey (56-59) maintop

Carlton Colville

He was a master when I was there and he was a very good teacher he taught me the basics in navigation and use of the sextant which was a little tricky in the confines of the straits

Haydn Lockwood (46 47)

Caldy, Wirral

Spud is one of the staff members who I remember clearly and with affection.  He was an excellent teacher of navigation and set me off on the path of making it my profession.  As a man he was as straight as a die, well regarded by all.  Outside his subject he had wide interests, one of which was designing spaces (i.e. houses); however he was not one to be diverted from his teaching.

As a matter of interest, I found myself navigating an LST in 1946 all round the Pacific and SE Asia armed with a sextant, chronometer, Kelvin sounding machine, towed log, Nories, Alamanac and the confidence of youth.  Spud’s Long by Chron, noon Lat, amplitude compass checks kept us safe; I was the only one who could navigate out of sight of land.  I blessed old Spud daily.

Geoffrey Haskins (40/43)

Poole

I have good memories of Spud Murphy. He used to say - "*Reach for your Norries*". A small man he commanded our respect and his teaching was good.  Teachers who could command respect on the ship then we're good teachers as most cadets regarded "school" as a recreation and time for a bit of fun after the strict discipline of the ship.

Sid (42-43)

Bramhall

ufud

We were taken for physics on rare occasion by 'Spud' Murphy, though normally taught physics by a much younger Mr. Thwaites. Mostly, the non uniformed staff were taken lightly though I seem to remember that 'Spud' Murphy commanded some respect - maybe due to his sardonic (as I recall it) manner or maybe because of his marine qualifications/experience. On one occasion there had been some hilarity when someone had cracked some sort of 'joke' at the expense of age. He had slowed things up and given pause for thought with a dry comment along the lines of, 'You may all be young, but when you leave here some of you will die long before your time, and even before me. Some will drown, some will even be murdered.'

Our particular lower stream lot were not exactly ideal academics, he was likely wishing the 'murders' could be implemented most immediate!

Didn't Mr. Thwaites drive a small mini? Seem to remember something about his car being covertly deposited either inside or behind one of the classroom huts at one stage..

Geo.Spearing (59-61) Mizzentop

45 south

When I joined for the three year course we new chums did a year in the house prior to moving to the camp.  During this time Spud took us for Physics a subject which I could, and still cannot, get my head around.  So I used to spend my time drawing pictures of Naval battles in my exercise book. Imagine my surprise, and my Father's amazement, when for those first three terms I was scoring around the 90% mark in this subject.  I had the devil of a job explaining to Dad my sudden fall in marks the first term at the camp, with Mr Thwaites, I think I obtained under 30%.

I used to enjoy the individual comments written by staff on our reports, something that cannot be done in today's schools where they operate on a sort of crib sheet of standard mundane remarks in case they upset the pupil.  I well recall during one of my senior terms Eric writing, "Rod is having a wonderful time, but not really doing any work!"

Rod Marlow (58-61)

*"Mr. Murphy  was nicknamed The Sheriff – because he was for a while the Mayor of Beaumaris.*

*“His nickname was Spud for obvious reasons.”*

*Taught Physics and Navigation “Oh he of perfect circles”.*

*“he had a great sense of humour. Sheriff of Beaumaris pronounced ‘B.E.A.U. (pause) Maris’ He had an ancient car which he called Snowball.”*

*“He was one of the very few who held an extra masters ticket in both steam and sail.”*