

# THE IMPALA



TO THE UTTERMOST

THE  
MAGAZINE OF THE  
PRINCE OF WALES' SCHOOL,  
KENYA

DECEMBER, 1938.

# THE IMPALA

No. 13.

DECEMBER 1938.

## Editorial

In the previous issues of the Impala there has been a considerable dearth of articles written by the boys. In this number however, contrary to the expectations of the editorial staff, there was an influx of interesting subject matter.

It was originally intended to include a photo of the 1st XI, but it was later decided to wait until the next issue, when the season will have been completed.

For obvious reasons there was no swimming this term, and the swimming sports have been postponed indefinitely.

A prominent feature of this term was the consternation caused by the crisis, an episode which inspired our budding politicians to air their views in the magazine, both in verse and line.

## School Notes

We wish to congratulate D. Roberts on his appointment as sub-editor of the Impala.

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Prefects last term were:—

R. T. Clegg (Head of School); P. Randall, R. Macgregor, O. J. Keeble (Rhodes); H. Spencer-Palmer, W. Poppleton (Clive); R. Stocker, B. Norman (Hawke); J. O. Harries (Grigg).

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This term's Prefects were:—

P. Randall, J. Lawrence, P. Abrams, O. J. Keeble (Rhodes); H. Spencer-Palmer, N. de Haaff (Clive); D. Mackrell, J. Stephenson (Grigg); and J. Dyer, J. Curran (Hawke).

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Editor:—

M. TURNER.

Sub-Editors:—

J. F. CARNEGIE  
and  
D. H. ROBERTS.

Hon. Treasurer:—

Mr. E. H. C. LUCKHAM.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. A. H. David, formerly at Nakuru School, who joined the staff at the beginning of term.

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Towards the middle of last term Mr. Redhead left us to go on leave. We wish him a very enjoyable holiday.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Pemberton, who arrived at Mombasa on November 11th.

\* \* \* \* \*

We hear that R. B. Macgregor has been recommended for a short service commission in the Royal Air Force. We wish him the best of luck.

\* \* \* \* \*

Also A. F. Cloete has been awarded a bursary, and will go to a South African University in January.

\* \* \* \* \*

The results of the 1938 Examinations for the prizes presented by the British Legion (Kenya Branch) to mark the Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V are:—

**Over 11 Year and Under 14—**

1st, D. Carver.

2nd, T. Dodd.

3rd, R. Weller.

**Over 14 Years of Age—**

1st, P. Abrams.

2nd, H. Rawlins.

3rd, R. Carter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. Lindahl and Rhodes House on their success last term in the Cock House Competition.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are continuing to draw books from the MacMillan Library, and now that suggestions are sent in before the books are chosen, books can be chosen to suit everyone.

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. Gledhill on once again being selected to play for the 'Officials' in the annual Officials vs. Settlers match on October 8th, 9th and 10th.

\* \* \* \* \*

Captains of games this year have been:—

Captain of Hockey—W. Poppleton.

Captain of Rugby—W. Poppleton.

Captain for Cricket—P. Randall.

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations to J. Shaw, G. Luckhurst, M. Cooper and E. Randall on being selected to play in the Annual Young Players Match on December 3rd and 4th.

\* \* \* \* \*

The opportunity was given to some of the boys to see the film "The House Master," on October 9th. It was greatly enjoyed by all who saw it.

\* \* \* \* \*

On Saturday, November 5th, Messrs. Wardles brought up some films, one of which, "Q Ships", was especially enjoyed.

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During the interval between the Cambridge Examinations and the O.T.C. Camp, visits were paid by Forms 3 and 4 to the Post Office, the transmitting station of Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd., the Meteorological Office, the Railway Workshops, and the Municipal Water Works.

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During last holidays, a new cricket pavilion was erected on the upper cricket pitch. It is a great improvement on the old one.

## Salvete

The following entered the School at the beginning of the term:—

### BOARDERS :

A. Fessler, G. Bouwer, D. Broatch, E. A. Cattell, C. J. Cloete, D. B. Duffey, J. N. Harnett, K. D. Irvine, E. Johansen, J. Kroll, J. A. Petter, T. F. Powell, M. C. Ruben, R. M. Scott, J. H. Selby, C. S. Stirling, J. Touche du Poul, W. P. Van Blerk, L. E. Venville.

### DAY BOYS :

P. J. Cook, L. J. Blumer, F. G. Hutton, W. W. Hutton, J. F. Johnson, D. P. Malan, S. V. Maxwell, A. J. J. Morrison, C. A. Prichard, I. L. Prichard, E. B. Sands, J. N. Schultz, N. P. G. Seavious, A. Smurthwaite, C. B. Tarr, E. A. F. Whitworth.

## Valete

The following boys left School at the end of the May term, 1938 :—

- D. C. BENSON.  
 A. K. CATER.  
 R. CLEGG.—Head Prefect; Captain of Rhodes House; Cambridge School and Higher School Certificates; Rugby Honours Cap; C.S.M. of the O.T.C.  
 A. F. CLOETE.—Cambridge School Certificate.  
 H. FOWLER.  
 J. O. HARRIES.—School Prefect; Cambridge School Certificate; Cricket XI; Hockey Colours; Rugby XV; I/Cpl. O.T.C.  
 K. JOHANSEN.—Cambridge School Certificate; Rugby Honours Cap; Sergeant O.T.C.  
 J. A. LAVERS.—Cambridge School Certificate; Hockey XI; Rugby XV; I/Cpl. O.T.C.  
 R. MACDONALD.  
 G. MOUTON.—Cambridge School Certificate; Rugby XV; I/Cpl. O.T.C.  
 B. NEWMARK.—Cambridge School Certificate. I/Cpl. O.T.C.  
 B. R. NORMAN.—School Prefect; Cambridge School Certificate; Vice-Captain of Hockey; I/Cpl. O.T.C.  
 R. M. O'TOOLE.—Cambridge School Certificate.  
 G. PELLING.  
 W. POPPLETON.—School Prefect; Cambridge School Certificate; Captain of Rugby and Hockey; Cricker XI; Sergeant O.T.C.  
 L. A. RANDALL.  
 J. D. ROBERTSON.  
 J. N. J. ROETS.  
 S. ROSENBLUM.—Cambridge School Certificate.  
 B. R. STOCKER.—School Prefect; Rugby XV; Sergeant O.T.C.  
 D. TEMPLE-BORHAM.  
 J. WILLIAMS.

## Cock House Competition

2nd Term 1938.

Events.	Rhodes.	Clyde.	Hawke.	Grigg.
Athletic Sports ...	52	62	31	23
Rugby ...	28	17½	11½	13
Cross Country Race ...	6	4	2	—
School Work ...	43	27	35	9
Total ...	129	110½	79½	45

## University of Cambridge

### Local Examination Syndicate

In the Higher School Certificate there were only two candidates, Clegg, and Spencer-Palmer, who both passed. Spencer-Palmer was awarded the mark of distinction in his Group subjects, Physics and Chemistry.

In the School Certificate there were 20 candidates of whom 19 passed. There were eight first grade passes. The successful candidates were:—

- A. F. Cloete, (1st grade).  
 L. Lambourne, (1st grade).  
 M. Matthias, (1st grade).  
 W. Poppleton, (1st grade).  
 B. R. Stocker, (1st grade).  
 J. Lavers (1st grade).  
 G. Davidson.  
 G. A. Mouton.  
 M. R. Ralph.  
 J. N. Dyer.  
 B. Newmark.  
 R. B. Macgregor.  
 F. N. Randall.  
 J. O. Harries.  
 D. Mackrell.  
 B. R. Norman, (1st grade).  
 S. Rosenblum, (1st grade).  
 K. Johanson.  
 R. O'Toole.

## The O. T. C.

In February of this year the O.T.C. was inspected by Inspector-General Giffard who later watched the four platoons at work. Before leaving he addressed the Company and expressed his satisfaction at the standard of the work.

At the end of last term the first O.T.C. camp to be held in Kenya took place at the foot of the Ngong Hills. It lasted for a week and it can be said that everybody, without exception, enjoyed himself immensely. Besides the officers usually connected with the O.T.C. Major the Lord Stratheden was in camp as well as three Permanent Staff Instructors.

Every morning at camp was devoted to field work and as this was the first opportunity the O.T.C. has had for a lot of field work, all members, and especially the N.C.O.'s, greatly benefitted by it.

In camp we were looked after very well indeed, the food being good and plentiful. The cadets slept in marquee in which ten persons could fit easily.

The Senior Members of the Corps are now working with a view to taking Certificate A in March. This will be the first time that Certificate A has been taken in Kenya.

The following are the N.C.O.'s of the Company:—C.S.M. Spencer-Palmer, C.Q.M. S. Keeble, Sergeants Randall, Driscoll, Abrams, and Dyer; Corporals Norbury, de Haaff and Mackrell; Lance-Corporals Lawrence, Curran, Stephenson, Matthias, Robinson, Harris, Abrams, J.

## Sports

The eighth annual Sports Meeting of the Prince of Wales School was held on Wednesday. The cold weather did not prevent nearly 400 parents and friends attending, as well as contingents of boys from Kenton, Nairobi Primary, and Parklands Schools. H. R. the Governor and Lady Brooke-Popham honoured the School with their presence, and the latter kindly gave away the prizes. The arrival of His Excellency was heralded by the School buglers who also sounded Retreat at the end of the Meeting.

Some fine racing was seen; the Senior Hurdles was particularly close, P. Abrams just getting the verdict from J. Dyer in a record time of 17 secs., and the Senior Relay 4 x 100 yards had a thrilling finish. H. Spencer-Palmer won the Hundred Yards in the record time of 11 secs. dead, a fine piece of running on a grass track against the wind. M. Katzler's time of 24 1/5 secs. for the 220 yards was also a record. T. Stanning of Kenton is a very promising runner; although not yet 12 years old he won the 100 yards for boys of all schools under 14 as well as the race for those of his own age, both in 12 4/5 secs.

Several new School records were set up in the events run off beforehand. W. R. Norbury ran a fine Quarter in 55 1/5 secs. and also won the Long Jump with 18ft. 4ins. G. Luckhurst beat D. Judd's 1932 record in the Cricket Ball with a throw of 91 yards 1ft. 1in., and P. Abrams equalled the previous best for the High Jump.

The Programme of Events closed with the House Composite Relay of 2400 yards, which is divided into distances of 200, 150, 100 and 75 yards among 20 boys from each House. His Excellency started this race which Rhodes won in the new record of 4 mins. 52 1/5 secs. But Clive secured the Davis Cup for the highest aggregate of points for the whole Meeting with 66 points to 58 points by Rhodes.

The complete results are as follows:—

**Long Jump 'A'.—**Norbury, 1; Luckhurst, 2.

Distance: 18ft. 4ins. (New Record).

**Long Jump 'B'.—**Irvine, 1; Buswell, 2.

Distance: 15ft. 5 1/2 ins.

**High Jump 'A'.—**Abrams, 1; Cowan, 2.

Height: 4ft. 11 1/2 ins. (Equals Record).

**High Jump 'B'.—**Hindle, 1; Irvine, 2.

Height: 4ft. 4ins.

**One Mile 'A'.—**Harries, 1; Randall, 2.

Time: 5 minutes 12 1/5 seconds.

**One Mile 'B'.—**Tryon, 1; McGregor, 2.

5 minutes 40 2/5 seconds.

**Throwing the Cricket Ball.—**Luckhurst, 1; Turner, 2.

Distance: 91 yards 1 foot 1 inch. (New Record).

**Quarter Mile 'A'.—**Norbury, 1; Chandler, 2.

Time: 55 1/5 seconds. (New Record).

**Quarter Mile 'B'.—**Hindle, 1; Curran, 2.

Time: 62 3/10 seconds.

**Hurdle Relay.** Clive, 1; Rhodes, 2.

Time: 72 3/5 seconds.

**Tug of War.—**Rhodes, 1.

**Cross Country (Navy Cup).—**Rhodes, 1. (1st Randall).

**100 Yards 'A'.—**Spencer-Palmer 1; Norbury, 2.

Time: 11 seconds. (New Record).

**100 Yards 'B'.—**Hindle 1; Irvine, 2.

Time: 12 3/10 seconds.

**100 Yards (under 14 open).—**Stanning, 1; Cattell, 2.

Time: 12 4/5 seconds.

**Half Mile 'A'.—**Randall, 1; Poppleton, 2.

Time: 2 minutes 16 3/10 seconds.

**Half Mile 'B'.—**Tryon, 1; Curran, 2.

Time: 2 minutes 29 2/5 seconds.

**220 Yards Handicap 'A'.—**Freeman, 1; Horkheimer, 2.

**220 Yards Handicap 'B'.—**Blake, 1; Danziger, 2.

**Inter-School Relay 4 x 100 Yards (Under 14).—**Nairobi Primary, 1; Kenton, 'A', 2.

Time: 56 seconds. (New Record).

**Hurdles 'A'.—**Abrams, 1; Dyer, 2.

Time: 17 seconds. (New Record).

**Hurdles 'B'.—**Irvine, 1; Gage, 2.

Time: 20 seconds.

**Relay 'A' 4 x 100 Yards.—**Clive 1; Rhodes, 2.

Time: 46 1/5 seconds.

**Relay 'B' 4 x 100 Yards.—**Clive, 1; Rhodes, 2.

Time: 51 2/5 seconds.

- InterSchool Relay (Under 12) 8 x 55 Yards.**—Kenton 'A', 1; Nairobi Primary, 2.  
Time: 61 3/5 seconds.
- 220 Yards (Under 14 Open).**—Cattell, 1; Sullivan, 2.  
Time: 28 4/5 seconds.
- 100 Yards (Under 14).**—McGreggor, 1; Rezin, 2.
- Relay 'A' 4 x 440 Yards.**—Grigg, 1; Clive, 2.  
Time: 3 minutes 51 4/5 seconds. (New Record).
- Relay (Under 14) 4 x 55 Yards.**—Rhodes, 1; Hawke, 2.  
Time: 30 4/5 seconds.
- Relay 'B' 4 x 220 Yards.**—Clive, 1; Hawke, 2.  
Time: 1 minute 54 1/5 seconds.
- 100 Yards (Old Boys).**—Crockett, 1; Ginns, 2.  
Time: 11 1/5 seconds.
- 100 Yards (Under 12 Open).**—Stanning, 1; Swan, 2.  
Time: 12 4/5 seconds. (New Record).
- 220 Yards 'A'.**—Katzler, 1; Spencer-Palmer, 2.  
Time: 24 1/5 seconds. (New Record).
- Obstacle Team Race (Under 16).**—Rhodes, 1; Grigg, 2.
- Obstacle Race (Over 16).**—Johanson, 1; Poppleton, 2.
- Visiting Schools Relay 12 x 50 Yards.**—Kenton 'A', 1; Nairobi Primary, 2.  
Time: 1 minute 21 4/5 seconds. (New Record).
- House Composite Relay 2400 Yards.**—Rhodes, 1; Clive, 2.  
Time: 4 minutes 52 1/5 seconds. (New Record).
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This season's Cricket XI is practically the same as last season's, only two of the old members having left. The team has lost its only slow bowler in R. MacGregor, who left half-way through this season. The vacancies have been filled by Poppleton, de Haaff N., and Lawrence, the last two being hard hitters.

The fielding at the beginning of the season was weak, but it quickly brightened up. Mackrell probably has the safest hands in the team and has taken some very fine catches. Luckhurst has kept wicket well and his batting has always upheld the team. In Cooper and Shaw we have had two fine opening bowlers who have worried batsmen considerably.

The season has been far more successful than the last probably due to the fact that most of the team has had more experience and consequently gained more confidence.

The members of the team are:—Randall, Shaw, Luckhurst, Cooper, Driscoll, Norbury, Mackrell, Poppleton, Turner, de Haaff N. and Lawrence.

Scorer : Abrams P.

# School Cricket

## 1st XI CRICKET

Opponents.		For.		Against.		Result.	
24th Sept.	Muthaiga	Away	104 8 (Mackrell 31)	159/9	(Cooper 3 for 31)	...	Drawn
1st Oct.	Old Cambrians	Home	71 (Norbury 13).	45	(Shaw 6 for 24)	...	Won
8th Oct.	Magadi	Away	185 (Mr. Luckham 96)	117	(Cooper 4 for 38)	...	Won
15th Oct.	Civil Service	Home	156 (G. Luckhurst 31)	86	(Randall 4 for 10)	...	Won
19th Oct.	Indian School	Home	135 (G. Luckhurst 38)	172/6	(Cooper 3 for 34)	...	Drawn
22nd Oct.	Parklands	Away	126 1 (G. Luckhurst 63)	124	(Cooper 3 for 21)	...	Won
23rd Oct.	Machakos	Away	123 (Randall 51)	187	(Shaw 4 for 31)	...	Lost
29th Oct.	Gymkhana	Away	113 2 (G. Luckhurst 59)	172	(Cooper 4 for 31)	...	Drawn
5th Nov.	R.A.F.	Home	162 (J. Shaw 68)	56	(Shaw 5 for 23)	...	Won
12th Nov.	Civil Service	Away	120 8 (G. Luckhurst 65)	155/6	(Turner 3 for 13)	...	Drawn
16th Nov.	Indian School	Away	70 9 (Randall 20)	110/7	(Driscoll 2 for 18)	...	Drawn



## Magadi

The first Eleven paid their annual visit to Magadi this term. This is the most enjoyable match of the season and as usual was a great success, apart from the mishaps encountered on the way down.

The Eleven set out in three cars after school on Saturday, October 18th, intending to reach Magadi before four o'clock. The first two cars reached the Rift Valley satisfactorily where the members of the team had lunch. As the third car had not arrived, after the short meal, one car had to turn back and look for it. This completely shattered the hope of reaching Magadi early enough to have a swim and a short rest, before starting cricket.

At three o'clock, the relief party and the third car arrived. The delay had been due to the broken blinding. When all three cars were ready to start once more, a rod connecting the gear box to the clutch in the third car, snapped. This was very unfortunate, especially as this car was thought to be the most reliable of the three. A council of war was held, and it was decided that the eleven players should proceed in the other two cars as best they could, while the scorer was to remain with the third car and its driver.

The eleven in the two cars reached Magadi at dusk after a very wet journey. The unfortunate players in the back of the two-seater realised this especially. A suitcase was dropped by the first car, which was picked up by the second. The intelligent driver of the second car on one occasion thought that he had dropped another suitcase, which had been placed between the wing and the engine. He turned back, and after fifteen miles, had the sense to get out and see if the suitcase had really fallen off. He found that he had come back for nothing, as the case had only slipped down on to the running board, and was quite safe. It certainly did seem a bit idiotic.

The scorer and his companion had a very successful time with their car. The thought of spending the night in the Rift Valley was not very encouraging, so, after several brilliant moves, they were able to proceed without using a clutch. The progress was slow, but sure, the thoughts of the beer and dinner at Magadi spurring them on. It was an excellent, and well-earned dinner that they had that night.

The cricket match was played on Sunday morning in blazing sunshine. The School eleven excelled themselves, and had an easy win. The scores were:—School 185 for 3 wickets; Magadi 117 all out. By lunch time, the heat was almost unbearable, and the team enjoyed a swim in the Magadi swimming pool.

The weather was not very promising, and the threatening clouds forced the team to leave for school much earlier than had been expected. The return journey was uneventful apart from two punctures, and the team arrived back at school, late enough to join the Sunday evening service. It had been a marvellous trip.

"Scorer."

## Golf

Interest in the "Royal and Ancient" game received a considerable impetus this term, when the school played its first golf match. On the 16th of October, by the kind permission of the Royal Nairobi Golf Club, the school sent a team of eight players to their course, and succeeded in beating a Club side by the comfortable margin of seven matches to one. It should be mentioned also, that the only match won for the Club was by one of our old boys, who had only left school the preceding term. A glance at the results, however, will show that our victory was by no means overwhelming, and at least one of the matches was won by the last putt on the last brown.

The school team was composed of two masters and six boys. Criticism of one's superiors is always unwise, so we will say nothing of the masters' play. The boys however played confidently and well, making up in the long game what they lost through lack of experience in the approaching and putting. At present, and until we get some browns made at school, our only practice consists of knocking a ball about on the playing fields, so it is not surprising that that should be so. The opportunity of a proper game of golf during the term is for that reason exceedingly valuable, and we are extremely grateful to the Royal Nairobi Golf Club for the delightful morning they gave us. If they enjoyed their games as much as we did, it is fairly certain that they will not object much to being handed the loser's end!

There may be some who think that Golf is not a sufficiently virile game to be played at school. Provided always that the more active sports such as cricket, hockey, and Rugby are paramount, a little golf can surely do no harm: and as one of our opponents said, an early start at golf may mean years of pleasure afterwards instead of years of pain!

The results of the various matches were as follows, school players being mentioned first:—

- J. Shaw beat R. M. MacGregor Esq., 2 and 1.
- R. B. MacGregor (Jun.) beat Capt. C. B. Anderson, 2 up.
- Mr. B. H. C. Luckham beat A. R. Bradbury, Esq., 1 up.
- H. Spencer-Palmer beat Dr. Harley Mason, 1 up.
- Mr. J. R. Forrest beat R. H. W. Wisdom Esq., 5 and 4.
- N. de Haaff lost to G. Moulton Esq., 1 down.
- J. Dyer beat A. Gilbert Esq., 6 and 5.
- F. Randall beat J. Leonard Esq., 2 and 1.



## The Reply :

[With apologies to Walter de la Mare]

'Is there anybody there,' thought the pupil,  
Knocking on the master's door;  
And his knees in the silence knocked together,  
While he stood on the cold stone floor;  
And a noise came out of the window,  
Above the pupil's head,  
The noise was made by the master.  
"Come in, come in," he said.  
But when he saw who it was,  
Who had knocked so soft on his door,  
He changed his demeanour completely,  
And reverted to type once more.  
He asked the pupil his reason,  
For coming at such an hour,  
"I wish to complain," he said,  
"Our milk at breakfast was sour."  
The master, he almost turned crimson  
With rage and the blood in his head,  
"Bend over and take this you scoundrel,  
And I hope that it hurts you," he said.

R.F.

## Stories About the Last War 1914-1918

A little while ago the whole world was afraid of the coming of War. In every country people were digging trenches, armies were ready to fight, older people said that it was much worse than in 1914 and only through Chamberlain the world's peace was saved.

All this time I was thinking of the stories which an old friend of mine told me about the war. He said:—

"I was a boy of 18 years of age and in the year 1917 we were sent to the western front in France, we were as happy as children as if we were going for the first time to a play. We were singing for the Kaiser and only a few days later we were swearing about him. Every morning we were awakened by the roaring of guns. On one night it was my turn to watch and my comrades were sleeping in the trenches behind me. 100 yards farther on were the French trenches and also there was a sentry, I was looking hard at him and saw that he was waving with his hands. I did not know, what this meant and woke up my comrades and told them what I saw. They all started to laugh and said he wanted to desert to our side."

Another story followed, "On a moonlight night, we were sleeping in our trenches and were awakened by the noise of a machine gun. We got up and looked over the trenches and saw there a Frenchman about 50 yards away with a machine-gun, shooting at us. We could not shoot him dead, as bullets were just going over our heads. About ten minutes later the officer gave us the command to stalk the Frenchman only carrying a knife. After an hour's stalking we were about 20 yards away from him and at that moment bright lights were sent over the field and we saw the Frenchman walking back, carrying his machinegun. We could not do anything but return to the trenches."

A third story he told me was an offensive of the Germans on the Western front. "The guns started to shoot at 8 o'clock and we fixed our bayonets. At 1 o'clock we started to crawl towards the enemy. The order was to be 50 yards from the enemy trenches at 7 o'clock. Just at 7 o'clock the roaring of the guns stopped and we ran forward with the bayonets on the rifles to the French and English trenches; but nobody was there. When we later marched up we saw the land ploughed up, bushes, trees, everything was ploughed into the ground by the shells. It was about 2 miles like that." He said to me a shot of a dum-dum bullet is terrible, but to see the work of 20 cannons for about 10 hours is more terrible.

Many books have been written about the war but most of them consist of love stories. War is not meant for love, but for killing. Thanks to Neville Chamberlain for saving not only the world's peace, but also for saving the lives of thousands of young men.

## Memories

Is it the sound of noisy laughter?  
Or the quiet of the sleeping school,  
That reminds me of falling water,  
Or the quiet of the deep dark pool.

It is then that my mind strays to home  
And I hear the roar of the fall  
And I see the spray and the foam  
And again hear the kingfishers call.

In the time 'tween waking and sleeping  
I can picture the deep dark pool  
And the flash of the trout leaping  
In the water quiet and cool.

J.F.A.

## "The Olde Order Changeth...."

Until recently Nairobi obtained its supply of water from a group of crystal-clear springs in a horse-shoe gulley to the east of Kikuyu station. It is not generally known, however, that those springs are fed by seepage through the strata which separates them from a swamp covering some two hundred acres about a mile west of the reservoir.

"Ondiri" swamp, as it is known by the natives, was a well known land-mark for explorers of the last century. It was referred to by Teleki in his diary twice, as well as by Joseph Thompson who remarked, "Near sunset, a beautiful forest-encircled pond supplied by numerous springs was reached . . . ." Both of whom must indeed have been thankful for such permanent water on their journey inland.

It is interesting to note, nevertheless, that during fifty years Ondiri Swamp has altered from a pond into a marsh, covered with "sudd" in parts three feet thick! Obviously some strange phenomenon has occurred—perhaps an abnormal drought is to blame. When this sudd is removed deep water is exposed and the native "totos" have a natural swimming-pool. Accidents are frequent, unfortunately, and what with totos and oxen a popular theory has been evolved concerning the flavour of Nairobi water!

The sudd has the peculiar property of elasticity and the "carpet" subsides some 10 inches at each step if walked on—similar to walking on a mattress.

By reason of its peculiarities native legends have arisen and it would appear that apart from being bottomless the swamp is the abode of evil spirits who drag down unwary travellers crossing at night! A more plausible tale is that it harbours huge water-serpents, but the rest of the vivid stories are doubtless figments in the imagination of the superstitious native.

The modern interest in this marsh which, in its time, has been the rendezvous of explorers and the scene of many a bloody skirmish between conflicting tribes, is, however, shown by Indians. Not a week-end passes but car loads of Indians arrive from Nairobi to "walk on the water," and they perform the interesting, if unusual, rite of casting coins into the water and return whence they came at dusk with bottles of the peaty liquid.

Not long since the water from Ondiri was deemed insufficient for Nairobi's growing needs and interest in the swamp has waned, except for the occasional sportsman appreciative of a brace of teal. Times change—it is just "shauri ya Mungu!"

## Chicken Pox

I have an awful headache  
And a spot upon my chest.  
The head I think I got from swot.  
Ah yes! I want a rest.

Shall I go with long excuse  
And say with longer face  
"Please, Miss—, I'm feeling ill,"  
And mention that sore place?

I will. But should I do it now?  
Or wait a little longer?  
I think I'll wait a day or two, to  
Make my pretext stronger.

The crop increases day by day,  
You Guys! It's Chicken pox!  
I'll get a rest and miss that test!  
Blest be those good old spots!

## A Visit to the Belgian Congo

Lake Kivu—by many people considered to be the prettiest lake in Africa—was the intriguing thought running through my mind as we left Nairobi early one Saturday morning, for that was our destination. The first day passed quickly, and, save for a taste of "Kenya roads" between Timboroa and Eldoret, uneventfully. We slept that night at Tororo and on the following day continued to Kampala. The visitor to Uganda from Kenya cannot fail to be struck by the tropical nature of the country, which makes Kenya appear temperate by comparison. After lunch at Kampala, we continued in the afternoon to Masaka, spending the night at the Kiwala Hotel which is delightfully situated on a hill overlooking Lake Victoria and two small lakes.

On the following day we set off again (after a marvellous breakfast of strawberries and cream!) on the road to Mbarara. So far Uganda had seemed a rather flat swampy country, and the plains near Mbarara had not been improved by burning off the grass over large areas in connection with tsetse fly control. Between Mbarara and Kabale however the road leaves the plains and climbs up into the hills of the Western Province. In the neighbourhood of Kabale the scenery becomes magnificent, the road winding about through the hills so as to leave one always guessing which way it would turn next. In places

one could look down and see the road three or four times beneath where it was winding up some escarpment, while all the time there were delightful views over beautiful green and wooded country. We reached Kabale in good time for tea, and then spent the evening in visiting Lake Bunyoni. This is a sinuous crater lake some sixteen miles long situated about six miles from Kabale, but in this six miles one has to climb over a ridge at least 1000 feet high and descend as much on the other side, the grade in places approaching 20%. As one crosses the ridge, the sudden view of the lake shut in by the surrounding hills is really breath taking in its majesty and charm.

We spent that night at the "White Horse Inn" Kabale, a delightful country hotel. One of the most amazing things about the trip was the number of excellent hotels to be found tucked away in the "blue." By suitably arranging the itinerary, it is possible to spend every night in luxurious comfort, but few of the hotels we saw could approach the "White Horse Inn" for picturesque beauty.

On the following day, after waiting a little for the mist to clear, we set off over the mountain road into the Congo. We had been enthralled by the scenery on the previous day, but this road put all in the shade. It is impossible to speak of this mountain road except in terms which must appear greatly exaggerated to anyone who has not been over it. For some forty miles the road winds about, climbing and descending steep escarpments by means of cunningly engineered hairpin bends. At its highest point the road reaches a height of over 8,000 feet, but this figure does not do the scenery justice. On the Kabale side there are beautiful views over hilly country, with occasional glimpses still of Lake Bunyoni gleaming in the sun thousands of feet below, while on the Congo side there are equally magnificent views across to the extinct volcanoes of the Mfumbiro range. There may be finer scenery in the world, but of its type I think that it would be hard to find anything anywhere to equal this.

After leaving the mountain road we soon reached Kisoro where we had to stop for British customs. From here the road divides, one branch leading via Kisenyi to Goma, and the other to Ruchuru. We chose the Ruchuru road as we wanted to enter the National Park that night, and Ruchuru is the place to make arrangements for doing so. A few miles past Kisoro the road crosses the frontier, marked by a notice "Penez à droite." Incidentally it is interesting to notice how on crossing the frontier everything changes; currency changes to francs (although shillings are accepted throughout the Eastern Congo); distances on signposts are in Kilometres; petrol is sold at so many francs per five litre; and finally of course the language has changed to French.

Ruchuru is a small town consisting of a hotel, administrative centre, customs, and a few shops. We stayed only long enough to see about customs and to get our permits to enter the Albert National Park, and

then went on to Goma about 40 miles away for lunch. This we had at the Hotel des Volcans, a fine hotel overlooking Lake Kivu. We were unfortunate in that the weather was overcast and visibility poor, but even so the beauty of the lake was obvious.

We then turned back to Ruchuru, where we stopped to get some food for the night, and then pushed on into the Parc Nationale Albert. This covers an immense area, but the part with most game consists of a strip of typical Kenya plains between Ruchuru and Lake Edward, sandwiched between the mountain range which we had crossed that morning, and a similar escarpment on the western side. In the middle of this plain is the Ruindi Rest Camp, where we stayed the night. This camp is in process of being converted into a hotel, but at present it is still necessary to take food.

With the exception of some buck we saw no game that evening, but the following morning we were up at the crack of dawn and away into the Parc. First we saw some buffalo, then an elephant which crossed the Ruchuru river quite close to us, making an excellent subject for photography, and emerged on the far side with two more. Then on the other side of the river we saw a pride of five lionesses with two cubs. Besides this we saw hundreds of hippo and several warthogs and other less exciting animals. Altogether we were quite satisfied, but were told that we had been unusually unlucky not to see lion close enough to take good photos.

Leaving the Albert Park the road climbs the escarpment on the west, another magnificent road with fine views out over Lake Edward, although in my opinion not quite so good as the Kabale mountain road. From here the road winds for about one hundred miles through magnificent hilly country, all at an average height of between six and seven thousand feet. For practically the whole of this distance the road is cut out of the hillside, and I cannot remember one place where it was straight for more than about a hundred yards. Incidentally like all the roads that we met after leaving Kenya, the Eastern Congo roads are all-weather roads, but are somewhat spoilt by being too narrow. Several times I thought that my last minute had come when, in spite of our incessant horn-blowing, native-driven lorries came rushing round blind corners without slackening speed, and the danger is increased when one is normally used to driving on the left side.

Passing through the small town of Ibaro, we continued to Butembo, a mining centre with a lovely hotel where we stopped the night. Between these two towns there are two roads, the shortest being so narrow that one-way traffic is enforced, one direction one day and the other the next. From Butembo, when conditions are favourable, it is possible to get a fine view of the Ruwenzori, but we had to be content with a glimpse of one of the peaks through the clouds.

Some twenty miles beyond Butembo the road drops down from the hilly country to Beni, which is on the edge of the great Ituri forest. This is the celebrated home of the pigmies, and stretches for hundreds of miles from Beni. We continued a short distance into the forest on the Grumu road until we met some pigmies. After taking photos of these we turned back to Beni, and thence South again to Kisindi. About ten miles out of Beni the car has to be ferried across the Semliki river. Before reaching Kisindi there are the Belgian customs, and then on the other side of the border the British customs. In this region there are quite a lot of elephant and buffalo, but we were unfortunate and saw nothing whatever. From Kisindi it is but a short distance to Katwe which is situated on the North shore of Lake Edward, and here there are some interesting salt lakes. From here the road turns North again towards Fort Portal, and in this region it climbs out of the plains into hilly country. The road from Beni to Fort Portal via Katwe skirts round the southern end of the Ruwenzori, the foothills of which are therefore in sight the whole time. The peaks however were continually shrouded in their traditional cloud and mist. There is a new road under construction cutting through the Ruwenzori from Beni to Fort Portal direct, which should be magnificent from the tourist point of view.

After spending the night at the Ruwenzori Hotel, we left Fort Portal the next day and travelled to Kampala via Mubendi. That evening was spent in a quick trip from Kampala to Entebbe, the administrative centre of Uganda. The next day we reached Molo via Kakamega, Kapsabet and Eldoret, and an easy run from Molo brought us back to Nairobi in time for lunch on the following day. The speedometer showed that we had covered something over 2,000 miles in nine days—a really magnificent trip.

This account would be incomplete without some mention of the car, a Pontiac 8, which served us so well. Apart from filling with oil and petrol, and greasing on return to Kampala, the only attention it required was perhaps a pint of water in the radiator. The only time in the whole trip that we had to change into low gear on a hill was on the road from Kabale to Lake Bunyoni, which is reputed to be the steepest grade in East Africa!