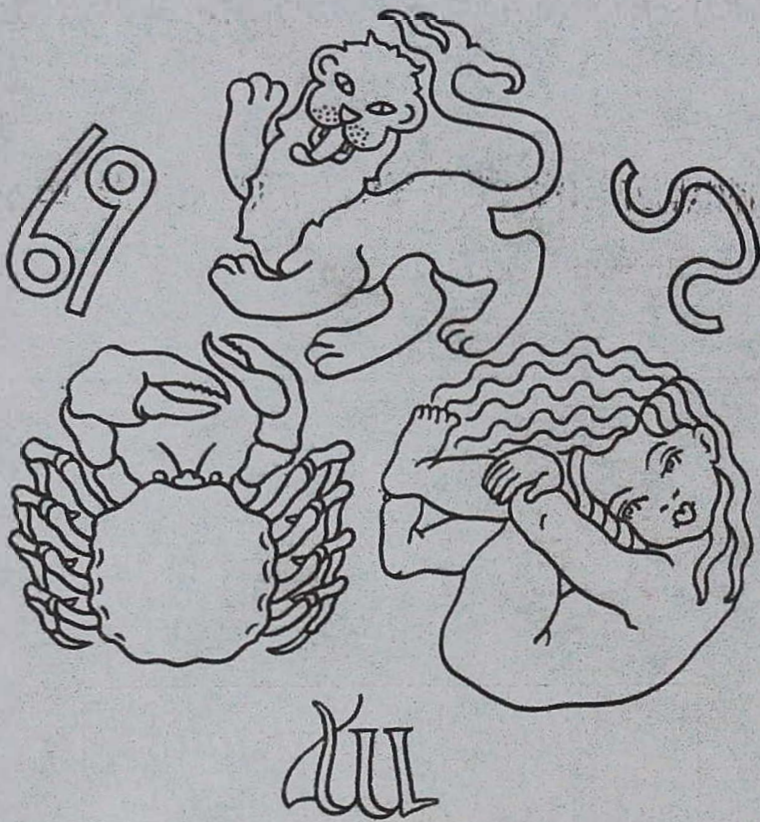


# THE COLLYERIAN



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## Founder's Day — 1946.

This was a Founder's Day above all other Founder's Days—a most historic day for the School, and one that will always be remembered by those who were present either as Collyerians, members of the staff, parents, visitors, or Old Boys. The day's programme was on the usual lines, but the presence of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, among many other notabilities—local and national—added a special quality to the whole proceedings.

It seemed on Friday that the School would have to march to Church in the rain, but the morning of Saturday, June 1st. was fine, so that the eight House squads were able to give of their best, although raincoats had to be carried for safety. Mercers' were the best marching squad, with Forest and Hurst tying for second place. This was the first time both Seniors and Juniors had marched together in the same squads since 1941, but all was well.

Horsham Parish Church was completely full. Apart from the much swollen school numbers, there were many visitors, who heard the Bishop of Chichester, Dr. G. A. K. Bell, speak on the need of the world for the moral leadership of the British nation. This arose from his text, "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse, therefore choose life." Dr. Bell said, "Do not be depressed about the uncertainties of the future; do not be over anxious about personal success—leave the issues to God. Remember life and death are set before you, therefore choose life, remembering that choosing life means choosing God." The Vicar of Horsham conducted the service: Barnett and Leppard gave Organ Voluntaries: Hunt sang the solo hymn, and Gorrington read the lesson, which we know so well, and which will always be associated in our minds with Collyer's, with Founder's Day, and all that the School means to us. We venture to say that the service was among the most impressive in Collyerian memory.

Horsham Drill Hall was as crowded as it has ever been for the prize-giving, and it took a full fifteen minutes for the stream of visitors to pass through the School lines from "Normandy" to the "Drill Hall." The Field Marshal was given a tremendous welcome, and it was a proud moment for us when he, accompanied by Sir Ewart Greaves and the Headmaster, took his place on the platform, which bore the many books, prizes, cups and trophies which were to be presented. School Prize-givings, according to popular legend, are dull, lengthy and stereotyped, but not so Collyer's Founder's Day, 1946. Sir Ewart expressed all our feelings in thanking the Field Marshal for the honour he had done us. The Head followed with a Report as interesting and as provoking as ever. The 1944 Education Act came in for criticism and praise, and the Head emphasised that "In Collyer's School we do try to live in an atmosphere of reality with a practical experience of the working of a reasonable democratic system."

After he had presented the trophies and prizes, Field Marshal Montgomery spoke briefly and to the point about the importance of leadership, discipline and morale, not only in our schooldays, but in life. He gave us good cause to remember the importance of these qualities in the war, now ended. By several parts of his speech we were also reminded of the School Roll of Honour—in which there were the names of many who were known to some Collyerians still at school.

The School had never cheered so enthusiastically before, nor ever before had the School Song been sung so vigorously. We were delighted at the Field Marshal's promise to visit us later in the year, and his offer to autograph prize books. We also owed a half-holiday to his thoughtfulness.

Founder's Day could not have been better than it was. Not even the Old Boys' victory in the "Past v. Present" match could mar such an occasion. The Geography, A.T.C., Aeromodeller, Art and Woodwork Exhibitions, were all well attended. The School did its best, and we can only hope that our present high standards will be maintained and even improved in the future.



Photo by]

Founder's Day, 1946.

[Southern Weekly News

Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery with the Headmaster.