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Dab's School, 1910–1924

'This place is full of eyes, and they all belong to the headmaster'

Giles Cooper.

MILTON High School began work on Tuesday 26 July, the beginning of the third term of the year since in those days Rhodesia followed a four-term cycle. Every day for a month this notice had appeared in the Bulawayo Chronicle:

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

Boys' High School, Bulawayo

HEADMASTER: ERNEST DE BEER, B.A.
(Classical Tripos), late of Jesus College, Cambridge

Term Commences 25th July

THE HEADMASTER

Is in attendance at the School, daily, to meet Parents between 9 a.m. and 1 o'clock.

THE CURRICULUM

Aims at providing instruction in all subjects of the High School Code from Standard II, up to and including University Matriculation and Rhodes Scholarship. A specialised course is provided for pupils intended for Commercial, Industrial, and Agricultural pursuits.

THE SCHOOL

Is directly under the control of the Department of Education, and will be conducted on strictly undenominational lines.

FEES

Standard II	***	***	***	***	***	***	20/-	per term
Standards III and IV	***	***	***	***	***	***	25/-	per term
Over Standard IV	***	***	***	***	***	***	30/-	per term

All books and other school requisites supplied free of charge.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Large and well-equipped classrooms designed on most modern hygienic principles.
- A staff composed of trained certificated teachers of long and successful experience.
- Large well-equipped woodwork room and science laboratory under the charge of a specialist in these subjects.
- Spacious playing fields and organised games under supervision of master.

THE BOARDING DEPARTMENT

In connection with the School is under the control of the Headmaster and Mrs. De Beer. Boarding Fee: £10 per term.

There are a limited number of Government Boarding Grants of £20 per annum available, for which early application should be made.

Parents who are desirous of making arrangements for pupils or boarders are requested to communicate with Mr. De Beer at the Palace Hotel, or P.O. Box 11.

Initially the school's 80 boys were taught by a staff of four, Mr. de Beer together with Messrs. Shepherd, de Lange and Gregory. Numbers rose steadily — 98 by October, 120 by March 1912 and 150 three months later with a staff of eight.

The matter of the school crest, motto and colours were all swiftly resolved. The colours were to be plumbago ("Mr. Rhodes' favourite colour" as the first issue of the Miltonian notes) and Oxford blue. For a crest, Milton adopted that of Bulawayo; whilst that of the town changed completely when it became a city in 1943, Milton's remains substantially the same — the most notable differences are a simplification and stylisation of the townscape in the background and the omission of the words "Justice. Freedom. Commerce." from the rays of the rising sun (see illustration facing page 89). Some also suggest that the contemporary elephant has a more benign expression than its predecessor.

The school's motto is Greek — *Ἀνδρῶσι* — and as such has caused trouble and confusion to generations of schoolboys, typesetters and others.² Its origin is in St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians (Ch.16, v.13) and the Authorised Version translates it as "Quit you like men".³ On the occasion of the school's silver jubilee Mr. de Beer explained how the motto came to be chosen and what he saw as its significance:

"(While at Cambridge) I often visited a favourite cousin of mine who was a student at Selwyn College, and always my eyes were caught by the Greek inscription which runs along the stonework of the front, and which means in English, 'Stand fast in the faith, quit you like men'. The words impressed themselves upon my mind . . . Years later, as the newly appointed headmaster of the Milton School, I had to discuss the question of a motto with my good friend Colonel Brady, who was then the Inspector of Schools for Bulawayo. I suggested the inscription on Selwyn College front, and Colonel Brady approved but bettered my suggestion immensely by proposing that we use the last word only, which he added we might render freely as 'Play the Game'.

Now it seems to me that from this history of your School motto there are three great lessons to be drawn. The first I venture to call Holism. That world famous statesman, scientist and philosopher, General Smuts, has published a mighty volume under this title. Roughly Holism means that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts; that is four may be a far more important



Milton High School, 1910.



Milton House, 1911.



Sir William Milton.

and significant thing than two plus two. Lest I should confuse any budding mathematicians and cause them to horrify their teachers, let me give a different example. You all know that oxygen is a very important gas, and that we cannot live without it; you also know that hydrogen is a useful and important gas. But a combination of these gases in certain proportions gives us water, which is far more useful and important than hydrogen, or even oxygen, and certainly infinitely more valuable than a mere mixture of hydrogen and oxygen. Well, so it is with life. Sport is a very important element in a boy's life, and so is learning, but when the two are happily combined in one individual, we get a complete, well-rounded personality, a far more valuable entity than either a mere sportsman or a mere bookworm, or than a specimen of each in partnership.

"The second lesson is the necessity of listening to the call of duty, even though friends and relations may urge us to think of material considerations. Behind me as I stand here is your beautiful War Memorial to those who heard the call of duty in 1914 and answered it straightway. With that before your eyes, can you in turn fail to answer the call? And what is the call now? Is it not to service? . . .

"And this brings me to the third and last lesson which is summed up in the modern Scout motto, 'Be Prepared'. Now you boys are really at school here to prepare yourselves. Think for a moment what happened to those lads who heard and answered the call to service in 1914. They were sent at once to camps where they were subjected to the most strenuous and intensive training the world has ever known. You boys are being put through a training, not for a few years of warfare, but for a whole lifetime of struggle. If you slack and jib at it, you will never be able to give real service, and you will be failing your school and its fine traditions."

As a temporary boarding-house for the seventeen boarders, the Old St. John's premises were used — not very successfully evidently as the first issue of the *Miltonian* remarks that "these buildings were totally inadequate, but Archdeacon Foster did everything possible to help us, and eventually matters became tolerable at least." There was good news within a fortnight — the Beit Trustees chose the plans for a new boarding-house and, though the P.W.D. subsequently modified them considerably and there were other problems too, the old St. John's

buildings were vacated in favour of the new hostel — named Milton House — at the end of September 1911.

The playing fields also left much to be desired in those early days. Water was scarce in Bulawayo with the only supplies coming from the two Hillside Dams and boreholes; in times of drought there was little enough for domestic purposes and certainly none to spare to water fields.⁴ Consequently there was no grass on the rugby pitches and an old boy recalls that “after playing rugby the nurse matron was fully occupied in attending to the wounds of the players due to the hardness of the ground”. Not only was the ground hard, it was also littered with stones which were cleared on a weekly basis but constantly reappeared, and it was very uneven. The school undertook the levelling of the main field with the help of boys but it proved a slow and tedious task and eventually the government took pity, sending hard labour prisoners to finish the work.

Milton’s associations with Plumtree began in that first year; the first of a still continuing series of cricket matches was played on 9 December 1910 on Milton’s newly finished ground — and was won by Milton, as were five of the following six matches; since then honours have been more evenly divided although in recent years Plumtree has reversed that early trend with a string of victories.⁵ Milton’s first rugby was against a junior town team on 10 August, less than three weeks after the opening, and the school was able to field a strong side. The following year, indeed, Milton went on to win the School Rugby League in Rhodesia as well as defeating Plumtree 25–0, a pattern that was to be repeated for several years; it was not until 1921 that Milton went down to Plumtree.

The success of the rugby and cricket sides was not due to the headmaster; he showed little interest in those games and attended matches only infrequently (although when he did, it was invariably on his motor-cycle and side-car, a contraption much in the fashion at the time). Mr. de Beer was a very keen gymnast and accordingly, whilst cricket and rugby were optional, gymnastics was compulsory — unless you were too clumsy, in which case you boxed and were taken by Sergeant Keely of the B.S.A. Police. “Dab”, as he was known to all,⁶ was headmaster for the first fourteen years, the majority of Milton’s time on the Borrow Street site. He was a tall man, fair and very strong with piercing blue eyes that, some of his former pupils remember, were able to reduce a scholar on whom they were fixed to a state of total inarticulation; his “strong right arm” was respected too, and very few boys received more than one dose



E.B. de Beer, 1910-1925.



The First XV, 1913 — evidently there were absentees that day!



The Staff of Milton High School, c.1921. Mr. de Beer is seated in the middle of the front row with H.G. Livingston, the school's third headmaster, standing directly behind him.

of corporal punishment from "Dab". He was a strict disciplinarian and his word was law, but his pupils held him in the greatest regard. His general attitude to his charges was perhaps best summed up by himself when he took part in a debate during 1914 on the motion that "in the opinion of this house the scholars have too much work to do, both mental and physical". The Miltonian records his contribution thus:

"He commenced by quoting a well-known saying, 'Satan finds some evil still for idle hands to do.' He said that if work was not provided for every moment of the day, there would be mischief. 'After an ordinary school-day, followed in the afternoon by the ordinary games, would these galley-slaves', he asked, 'be found, after tea, lying in an exhausted state on the Prep. room floor?' 'No', he said, 'this is not so.' The Prep. room, he continued, was generally at that time the scene of furious uproar. He then remarked that if one did one's work well in school one would find that physical work was a real recreation . . . He continued, 'If one works well at school and at reasonable pressure, when the time comes for putting forward an effort under the strain, one will not be found wanting'."

Mr. de Beer was married with two children, a son and a daughter, and throughout his time at Milton he lived in and ran the hostel. His wife was known for her kindness and help on all occasions. His trade mark was his boater — he was never without it and, spied from afar, it often enabled culprits to make a quick getaway before they could even be recognised, much less stopped.

Many activities began in those first years of the school's life: a large number of boys expressed an interest in photography and accordingly, after a lecture by Mr. Fenn, a Camera Club was established early in 1912; two years later a Literary and Debating Society was formed and on one occasion at a mock trial, Victor Robinson, subsequently Rhodesia's Attorney-General, was sentenced to hang by Allan Welsh, later to become Speaker of the House of Assembly; that same year saw the beginnings of a Woodwork Club which also offered tuition in "perforated carving or fretwork"; concerts were organised regularly on Saturday nights and the performers came from both town and school; and in 1913 the first Milton-Eveline co-production took the boards — Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore", to be followed in 1914 by "The Gondoliers" and, over the next few years, most of the popular Savoy operas.

Another activity was popular too: at this time the golf course came

right up to the school fence, taking in what was later Milton's "Bottom Field", and the boys collected golf balls, literally hundreds of them. This led to inter-team competitions (unofficial) played with wooden clubs reminiscent of knobkerries. After a time the grounds became so dangerous and windows so vulnerable that "Dab" put a stop to all golfing activities.

This was the time, too, of the famous "Exhibit A" episode, recounted by Harold Child, a pupil at the time:

"While looking for golf balls, a boy picked up a peculiar looking golden 'rock' under what was the railway bridge near to the present Coghlan School (previously the Primary School). This 'rock' went the rounds of the school and was kept in various lockers from time to time. Eventually a lad with a little more curiosity than the others took the article to Mr. Robinson ('Stinks Robbie'), the science master, who discovered the "rock" to be gold amalgam. There was great secrecy as to what happened after that, but in later years we learnt that this amalgam was an exhibit in a certain criminal case in which a well-known Bulawayo jeweller was sentenced to several years' imprisonment for illicit gold possession."

However, the earliest extra-curricular activity, and the one that was accorded most importance, was the Cadet Corps which came into being in the first weeks of the school's life and involved all its fit members. The Corps pursued the normal activities of drill, shooting, signalling and so on and regularly attended camps and parades. It also formed a guard of honour when the school received important visitors such as the Duke and Duchess of Connaught⁸ in November 1910 (on which occasion the Duke disappeared but was subsequently discovered to be engrossed in a chemical experiment with two small boys⁹), the Marquis of Hamilton, Lord and Lady Gladstone, Sir Charles Coghlan (all visitors in 1911), and Sir William Milton himself when he came to say farewell to "his" school on the occasion of his retirement in October 1914.

By this time, of course, the First War — or, more properly for this period, the Great War — had begun, but it affected the school comparatively little. Charity concerts were held to raise money (the first came only five weeks after the outbreak of war and produced £59 for the Red Cross) and the boys attended the annual service of intercession on 4 August each year. By the end of the war 70 Old Miltonians — 63 boys and seven members of staff — had gone on active service and thirteen had



The Calvary, St. John's Cathedral, unveiled by Mr. de Beer and Mrs. Myburgh, 17 April 1921.



St. John's Choir Outing, c.1920. The choir was composed solely of Milton boys; Archdeacon Harker is hatless and wearing a clerical collar.

died, among them Norman de Beer, the headmaster's son, and J.A. Myburgh, son of the resident magistrate and originator and first editor of the *Miltonian*.¹⁰ Many Miltonians had distinguished themselves in the fighting, none more so perhaps than Myburgh. He was a lieutenant in the R.F.C. and "one of three 'flyers' who attacked a vastly superior German squadron over the enemy's lines. He was the only one to bring his machine back, but both his legs were shattered and he died two days later of his wounds." T.A. Carnegie was both an old boy and a teacher and commissioned into the King's Royal Rifles; he was killed leading his men in an attack on a machine gun emplacement during one of the countless futile offensives on the Western Front.

After the war, public subscription raised funds for a Memorial to the Old Boys and Masters of the Bulawayo Schools who fell in the fighting — St. John's, St. George's and Milton. The memorial, which still dominates the East end of St. John's Cathedral, is an alabaster Calvary of great beauty, depicting the Virgin Mary and St. John at the foot of the Cross. It was unveiled by Mrs. Myburgh and Mr. de Beer and dedicated by a former rector of Bulawayo, now Bishop Beavan, on 17 April 1921. Nearly a year later, on 19 February 1922, the memorial was completed by the unveiling and dedication of the tablet bearing the names of the dead — thirteen from Milton, twenty six from St. George's and five from St. John's.¹¹ The unveiling was performed by Colonel Brady who spoke movingly of "the bloody shambles of France and Flanders", of which he had first-hand knowledge having taken part in the first Battle of Ypres and been subsequently wounded there twice, before ending:

"We have the right to dream great dreams. What greater, nobler dream than this, that girding up our loins while it is yet day, we may so fashion our lives on the pattern of these men's lives that with like faith we may dedicate ourselves to the same high purposes of God for which these men made the supreme sacrifice? So let us dream great dreams, and by God's Grace, waking, one day find them true".

Milton had in many ways retained its links with St. John's over the years and the school attended services in the church which had been the first home of St. John's School in 1896. At the first service in the new St. John's (now the Anglican Cathedral) on the eve of the Ascension 1913, the choir which walked in torchlit procession from the old church to the new was comprised entirely of Miltonians, and, indeed, for many years Milton provided the choir¹²; "Dab" simply named "volunteers" as

vacancies arose and that was an end of it. There was always a good turnout by the school for the Sunday morning Communion as, on their return, all communicants were given a "master's breakfast" of bacon and eggs, toast, marmalade, etc. The Rhodesian Church Magazine reported that: "During the solemn times of preparation for confirmation Mr. de Beer's influence has always been very helpful, and in the selection of servers at the altar of St. John's it has always been the Archdeacon's custom to consult with the Headmaster before appointing, so as to be as sure as possible of appointing boys of weight and influence in the school".

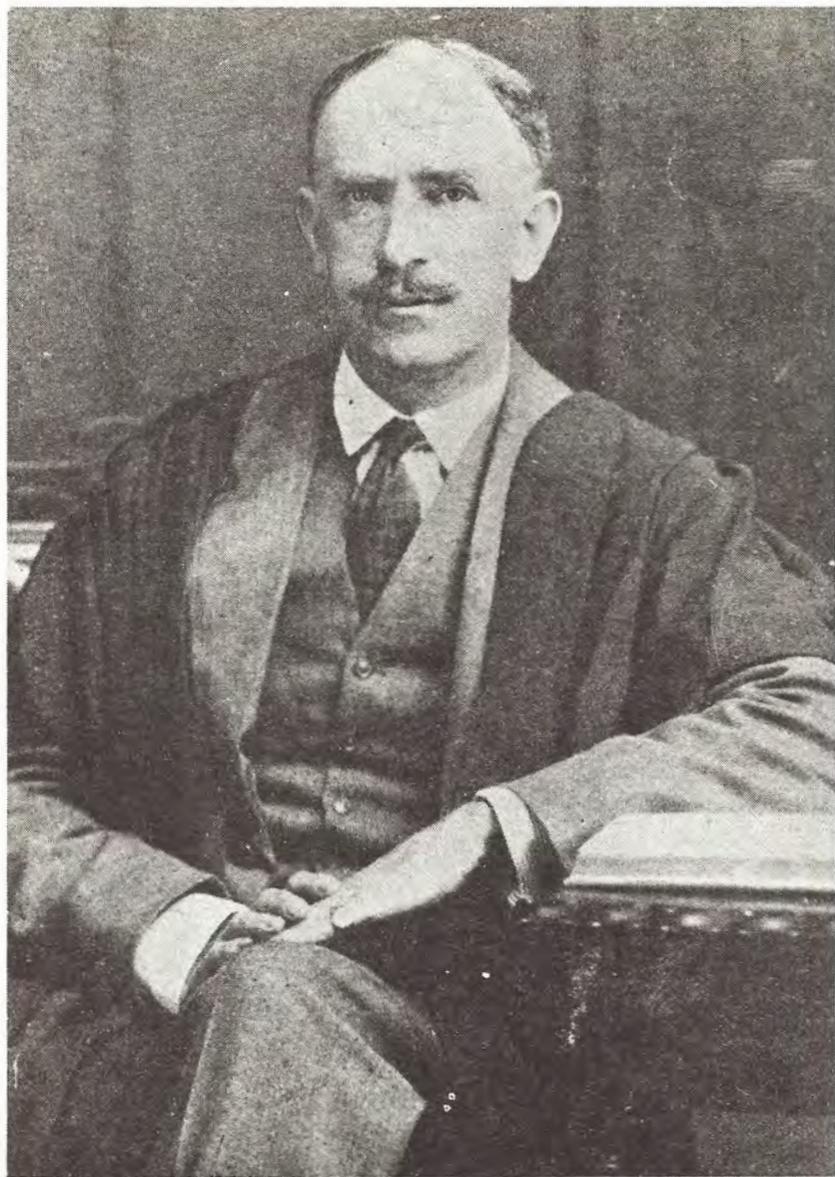
The most distinguished of the school's visitors in these years — indeed the school's most distinguished visitor ever — was the heir to the throne, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who came to Milton on 1 July 1925 to unveil the school's own war memorial, erected by the Old Miltonians. The Prince was accompanied by the Governor and greeted by the Cadet buglers playing the Royal Salute; the Royal Pennant was unfurled and the Prince inspected the Cadets, now over 300 strong. He then moved to the Beit Hall where, during the service that followed, he made a brief speech, "speaking with deep feeling", according to a contemporary account:

"I am very glad of this opportunity of paying a tribute to the memory of those Miltonians who fell in the Great War. Here at Milton, since the foundation of the School, a fine tradition has been gradually built up, and your record as regards Rhodes' Scholarships, general efficiency and sport is, I know, one of which any School might well be proud. Those whose loss we deplore and whose names are here commemorated have in the spirit of the School motto given you a tradition which will stand you in good stead in the years to come.

"I now unveil this memorial which, bearing the names of those gallant Miltonians who died that we might live, will, I trust, forever enshrine their spirit of devotion and sacrifice in the School they loved so well."

Later he laid a wreath of laurel and Flanders poppies at the base of the memorial and, at his own request, met the relatives of those who fell in the war. The visit to Bulawayo subsequently had its lighter side when the Prince went duck-shooting with the assistance of three Miltonians, one of whom recorded his experiences thus:

"The ancient Rhodesians are said to have worshipped the



Lt.Col. J.B. Brady, D.S.O., 1925-1930.



"The Prince of Wales with his Miltonian Shooting Party", July 1925.

Zimbabwe bird, and when I heard that I was to go out to Morgan Spur with Charles and Alfred Perry to row the punt for the Prince's shoot I felt like offering up a prayer for every wild duck on the pan there, for was it not to them we owed this extraordinary good fortune!!!!

"The good news came through to Milton late on Thursday evening and within an hour we were snugly ensconced in Colonel Brady's 'Blue Bird' (another bird we will pray for) with myself at the wheel, rolling off the miles to Morgan's Spur . . .

"The Royal Train arrived up to time. The plan of campaign was as follows: We were to drive the Prince to the lands for a shot at the guinea fowl first, and then take the cars back to the Pan, where we would wait for him. The 'Blue Bird' was in front and drove through the river without any trouble. Colonel Birney's 'Sunbeam', however, when half way out, rolled back again; all attempts to get her out were futile until Alfred and Charles waded into the water and did some shoving. After an hour or so the Prince and his party returned from the lands, but with rather glum faces for the guinea fowl had been far too wild for good sport. Now we appeared on the scene again . . . and were chosen to man the punt and row the Prince across to the island in the middle of the big pan.

"The disappointments of the first part of the morning were soon forgotten as the duck behaved admirably, and an excellent morning's sport resulted. Well, all good things have to come to an end, and soon we were on our way back for tea. The Prince cheerfully agreed to having his photo taken with the three Miltonians . . .

"There was no mistaking the Rhodesian warmth of the cheers which bid the Prince good-bye as The White Train steamed away. If he liked us even half as much as we liked him, then we have no cause to be unhappy!!

"Cecil Bissett"

One other curiosity of these early years is an abortive attempt to produce a school song: in 1924 a "Suggested Milton School Song" was printed, complete with music but — perhaps understandably — with no attribution:

Silapan Moderato

The musical score is written on six systems of two staves each. The first system begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/8 time signature. The notation is handwritten and includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and dynamic markings. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

rall. eolo forte ritard.

VERSE I

When Milton School began to be
Several years ago,
Little, we thought, it seems to me
How famous it would grow;
Our motto's "Andrizesthe"
And we've tried since 1910
To learn the way, at work or play,
To quit ourselves like men.

Chorus

So North and South and East and West
The spirit is still the same;
Milton lads are ever best
In study or in game.
And still we'll sing the same old song
Although we're scattered far,
Milton boys! Milton boys! Milton boys!!
WE ARE!!!

It carried a 'note':

"The above is merely suggested to satisfy a long felt want in the School. We *do* want a School Song. We should welcome either

- (a) A better musical composition, or
- (b) More verses for the same setting.
- (c) A different set of verses.

Now, then, you musicians and poets! Here's an opportunity to make your names!"

The whole episode is a little mysterious: there is no record of this "suggested Milton School Song" ever having been used, nor of any alternatives being proffered. And yet the author of several Rhodesian school songs and of Milton's own sonnet¹³, N.D.H. Spicer, was closely connected with the school at the time so why did he not produce the required song? — or was the anonymous contribution his? We shall presumably never know — and the school eventually settled for a second best by adopting Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Hymn" as the School Hymn and leaving it at that.

During 1919 an attempt was made to form an Old Boys' Club but the

scheme came to nothing; however, the next two years witnessed the formation of both Old Prunitian and Old Georgian Associations, and Old Miltonians felt that they should follow suit. Early in January 1922, three O.M.s — I. MacGillivray, A. Brewer and E. Raubenheimer — determined to send a circular to all old boys who could be contacted; accordingly on 22 February, forty-two O.M.s assembled in the Standard V classroom and at a meeting chaired by the Headmaster the Old Miltonians' Association was formed. Mr. de Beer was elected President (a position held by the Headmaster of Milton ever since) and it was unanimously agreed that the Executive Committee should be limited to six members; there was some dissent over the subscription but eventually it was fixed at a guinea although proposals had ranged as high as five. The Executive Committee decided on colours, blazer, cap and badge and laid down precisely what was required: the colours would be Milton's and, in the case of the blazer, "one inch plumbago and one and a half inches navy, the stripes running perpendicularly, with two silver buttons and no vent"¹⁴; the badge was to have a border of plumbago with the monogram O.M.A. in silver in the centre of the shield. The Association rapidly gained members as may be seen from the attendance of its annual dinners — 40 for the second, 56 the third and 70 the fourth.

Perhaps the most lasting of the Association's achievements in those first years was the school war memorial; this was proposed at the very first committee meeting in March 1922, and endorsed by a general meeting in November 1923; £100 of the Association's funds was placed on deposit and fund-raising began in earnest. The result was the fine bronze tablet whose unveiling by the Prince of Wales has been recorded and which forms the centre of the present memorial.

No record of these early years would be complete without a reference to two of Milton's best-known old boys. Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd is undoubtedly the most famous name to have emerged from Milton, whatever his current reputation; his career at school was quietly successful — he was remembered by Les Playford, the first pupil to sign the roster at Milton in 1910, as a "quiet, studious boy who was not very good at games". Despite his Dutch background he excelled at English Literature and was awarded a prize as the top student in the subject in Rhodesian schools — he attributed his success to his love of Kipling, and particularly "Puck of Pook's Hill", on which there were questions in the examination. He was a keen member of the Literary and Debating Society and in 1915 gained fifth place in the Beit Scholarship examina-

tions, the first of four Milton students. Despite this academic success, his career was also marked by typical schoolboy activities; he had always regarded singing with distaste and, when his voice broke, he thankfully joined those who cleaned apparatus in the chemistry lab. In this room a trapdoor under the teacher's desk led to a fairly deep foundation area beneath the building and one day the young Verwoerd and some companions climbed through the trapdoor and moved under the building until they were beneath the junior classrooms where the teachers were women. There they made weird noises which caused great consternation above them — although the joke must have turned a little sour when they returned to the trapdoor to find that the teacher's desk had been placed on it and remained there for the rest of the morning. A year after winning the Beit Scholarship, Verwoerd moved with his family to the Orange Free State and completed his schooling at Brandfort Public School. But he never forgot his years at Milton and in 1964 the Johannesburg Sunday Times devoted an entire front page of its news magazine to Verwoerd's school days with photographs of the old school, De Beer and the badge, whilst on the occasion of Milton's golden jubilee he sent a message pointing out that it was "rather remarkable" that the Union of South Africa, of which he was Prime Minister, and the school which he attended "not quite fifty years ago, but almost!" should share the same jubilee year. The burden of his message perhaps has as much relevance for Zimbabwe today as it did for Rhodesia in 1960:

"Will you break down the walls again and start anew? Or will you seek to complete and beautify and furnish the home of your nation. This will depend upon your character, your outlook, your wisdom and your knowledge. It depends therefore to a large extent on what your church, your home life *and your school* — yes, also yourself — make of you: a creator or a waster of opportunities. This challenge reaches out to all the citizens of the future, not only some . . . May you, one and all, help to consolidate peace, prosperity and progress in this, your native land."¹⁵

Three years after Hendrik Verwoerd's departure, J. de L. Thompson came to Milton; his was certainly a more spectacular career at school as he was head boy (or senior prefect as it was then) and captain of both cricket and rugby. Subsequently he went on to play both games for Rhodesia, only one aspect of a long and varied career of service to the army, agriculture, commerce, sport — and his old school. He wrote a "History of Sport in Southern Rhodesia", received the O.B.E. and was

made Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Battalion, the Rhodesia Regiment. Nor did he ever forget Milton — he constantly showed his interest and support: financially his generosity knew no bounds and his donations ranged from a few dollars to a Form I boy for a sponsored walk to \$2000 towards Milton scholarships; he served as Chairman of the School Council for several years and donated a cup for place-kicking; it was largely due to him that the City Council gave Milton, at a nominal rent, a ninety-nine year lease on twenty acres of ground on the other side of Selborne Avenue for use as additional playing fields; Col. Thompson then promptly gave trees and bougainvilleas by the dozen to make the setting more attractive and it is entirely appropriate that those lovely fields should bear his name. It was a happy accident that he was the guest of honour at Speech Day in 1977 for six months later he had died — and, as in his life, so in death he remembered Milton with a generous gift in his will. It was sad that he died before he could see the fulfilment of his hopes for the country he thought was the finest in the world, but certain it is that, of Milton's countless thousand old boys, none more honourably lived up to the injunction contained in the motto "Dab" chose for his school.

Notes

¹The fact that for the first two years Standard I was at Eveline has, of course, enabled several distinguished Old Miltonians of this vintage to claim that they are also old girls of Eveline. One such is Ben Baron who, having broken his slate at the Convent, run away and refused to return, was enrolled at Eveline, where he was soon in further trouble: engrossed one break in chasing snakes in the high grass that occupied much of Eveline's grounds, he failed to hear the bell and was duly chastised by Miss Langdon, the first headmistress.

²It has, for example, been misspelt in most of the Miltonians of the last twenty years! It is pronounced "andrizesthe".

³Of more modern translations, the New English Bible has "Be valiant" and the New International Version "Be men of courage".

⁴The boys' drinking water was provided in large canvas sacks or water bags with wooden cocks and the water itself was liberally treated with lime; perhaps not surprisingly this luke-warm potation was not very palatable but was "drunk with avidity in the hot months" — after all, there was nothing else in those pre-Coke days. A further example of water saving was the complete lack of water closets; the bucket system was in universal vogue throughout the town and their upkeep was a reserved occupation for the BaTonka, the only people willing to undertake the work.

⁵The match is always a two-day, two-innings affair, as it seems to have been from the very beginning — Milton won by an innings and 21 runs in 1914.

⁶ For what reason seems nowhere to be recorded, although most probably it was quite simply from "De Beer".

⁷ Despite this eloquent contribution, the motion was carried 24–11. A future headmaster, Mr. R.K. Gracie, would no doubt have supported "Dab"; when faced with similar complaints, he was fond of remarking that he had yet to hear of a boy who had died of overwork.

⁸ Younger brother of Edward VII (1850–1942).

⁹ "This experiment was Sulphuretted Hydrogen which the Duke said was always his favourite when he was a school-boy" (The Miltonian, Vol. I, No. 1).

¹⁰ The magazine first appeared in June 1912 and thereafter quarterly ("price 5s. per annum; post free, 5s.6d, or 1s.6d. per quarter") until September 1914. Editorials had frequently made mention of the number of unpaid subscriptions but evidently to no effect for it "was then stopped, owing to pecuniary troubles in discharging the debt for printing". On its reappearance in an edition dated "October, 1914–September, 1917", the Editor expressed the hope that "it will meet with more enthusiasm than previously". Evidently it did since it appeared twice yearly until 1930 and then finally settled into the annual publication which has continued unbroken to the present.

¹¹ An old boy of St. John's took part in what was the very last engagement of the Great War. Sergeant Max Greenspan (subsequently of the Greenspan Ranches) was in the King's African Rifles pursuing von Lettow's Schutztruppe into Northern Rhodesia in November 1918. Von Lettow had occupied Kasama and his rearguard was holding forward elements of the K.A.R. on a river bank a few miles to the north. Night fell on a stalemate on 12 November and Greenspan received his orders for the following morning — but during the night a German patrol intercepted a British motorcyclist carrying news of the armistice to the commander of the K.A.R. Sgt. Greenspan's written order — presumably the last of the war — is still in the family's possession.

¹² It was perhaps one of the choir who opined in the Miltonian of November 1923 that "Matins are what you kneel on in St. John's".

¹³ See Appendix 1.

¹⁴ It is unlikely that they could be so particular nowadays as import restrictions mean that even parts of the daily uniform such as ties and socks are no longer available. . .

¹⁵ In later years, some of Verwoerd's contemporaries were surprised to discover that they had been at school with the Prime Minister of South Africa; they had not connected the apostle of Afrikanerdom with the quiet, English-speaking lad they had known as Harry Verwood.

Odds and Ends, 1910–1924

February 1911: A large consignment of books arrived for the school library, chosen by Mr. Duthie, the Director of Education.

September, 1911: The old St. John's buildings were finally vacated and the school gained new woodwork and science rooms. Hitherto the boys had used a bicycle shed as a woodwork room.

June 1912: The Miltonian announced that "School colours &c. can be

bought at Messrs. Haddon & Sly's at the following prices:-
School ties at 2s.; school belts at 1s.9d.; stockings, 2s.6d. to
3s.9d.; 1st cricket team blazers, 17s.6d.; school ribbon at 1s.3d. a
yard.

All boys requiring any of these articles must get a written order
form from the Principal."

June 1912: Tree-planting had begun in the grounds and by the end of
June there were over 100 trees.

December 1912: The Camera Club had to limit its operations as it did
not wish to "put a drain on the Bulawayo water supply; also the
general heat brought about a certain annoying antipathy between
the glass and the film".

1913: Milton's first Rhodes Scholar — D. Randall.

1914: Two Milton "cafés" were established in the grounds. Here one
could obtain tea, cakes, biscuits and sweets at reasonable prices.
The buildings were made of iron and sacks. The one was named
the "Miltonian Cafe" with H. Cooper as proprietor. The other was
the "Milton Hotel" with W.H. Davidson as proprietor.

21 October 1914: 1st R.R. left for Salisbury, among them D.S. Judson¹,
the first Milton boy to join up, and Mr. R. Allan, a master.

16 November 1914: Convicts began levelling the school field.

24 May 1915: Empire Day — all boys went to bioscope pictures at the
Palace Theatre as guests of the municipality.

4 November 1916: Mock trial of the Kaiser with Mr. A.R. Welsh as judge
(he was later Speaker of the House of Assembly).

16 May 1917: R.L. Cranswick awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

December 1917: F.W. Thomas was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the
Military Cross; "Tommy" Lewis had gained his pilot's certificate
in the Royal Flying Corps, the first Rhodesian born, bred and
educated to receive this.²

May 1918: The Town Council presented the school with fifteen guineas
to celebrate Empire Day in any way it liked. "Various suggestions
were put to the vote and it was decided that the School should go
to see the film, 'Symbol of Sacrifice', on Thursday, May 30th".

November 1919: The Bulawayo Chronicle noted "in connection with the
last show week: The Milton High School leads in woodwork, the
articles including full-sized and highly-finished writing tables and
desks, chairs, bookcases, and many other articles; several of the
boys having earned high distinction."

- June 1920: All boys, day boys and boarders, were examined by Dr. Hayes. "It was found that taken as a whole the boarders were healthier than the day boys."
- 24 May 1920: Empire Day — Sir Otto Beit was present at a presentation of medals to cadets and gave a short address.
- June 1921: The number on the registers was 390 of whom over 160 were boarders, compared with about 60 in 1916. "There is not an inch of space in the boarding house or the four cottages which have been taken over by the school. A new boarding house is due to the Milton as well as our sister school, the Eveline, and others in the territory as soon as the necessary funds are in hand."
- November 1922: The Miltonian reported the following exchange:
 "Boy: Please, teacher, I've lost my rubber.
 Teacher: Well, use the little boy's behind."
- 1923: The Miltonian reported that "The Staff Automobile Club is in a very bad way . . . The president disappears on Sundays and does things with bits of tin. He has a new bonnet on the car, and it is rumoured that when a new chassis has been bought, a new engine assembled, the old body replaced by a new one, and new wheels (with new tyres) put on, then the car will be almost as good as new. There are also rumours that a well-known member of staff intends soon to buy something of the kind but is hesitating between a Ford and a motor-car."
- May 1924: A "Jazz Orchestra" was formed in the school, consisting of two violins, 'cello, bones, drums and Swanee whistle.

Notes

¹ See Appendix E — "Pat Judson".

² See Appendix D — "Milton at War" — for more information on Tommy Lewis.