

Former Pupil Dr. John Blair OBE, Class of 1946, shares some of his wartime stories in his article *'Memories of an Old Boy'* in Issue 4 of our Alumni Magazine - *Schola Clara* (Dec 2019). In the summer of 1940, he recalls schoolboys being mobilised to build concrete blocks along the coast in Fife and Carnoustie over just one weekend. One night a week the boys would take their turns fire watching. Air raids were few and far between and only a few bombs were dropped near Dundee over the year (one on the hill between Tayport and Newport).

The editorial column of the School magazine in December 1940 talks of a 'later hour of commencement' to the school day, of particular delight to many pupils. By June 1943, we learn that in a break from the usual two month summer holidays at the end of June, our pupils have only a week's break then work on until the end of July so they can help local farmers in the fields, harvesting and berry picking. The April 1944 magazine reflects on the pupils' work sorting and delivering mail for the local Post Office to help with the Christmas rush.

Where possible during WWII, usual school activities such as musical concerts, swimming galas, tennis tournaments and school dances continued, as well as the Summer Cadet Camp. By December 1944, there were reports of shelters being reconstructed into classrooms and fire watching and the later morning starts began to disappear too.

Members of our alumni will be aware of Pipe-Major McLeish who, in 1944, composed and dedicated a tune to Major McLaren. This tune was incorporated into the Army Manual of Piping as an official pipe tune of Scottish regiments.

WWII officially ended on 8th May 1945, having lasted some 2074 days. The Premier made an announcement at 3pm and The King at 9pm that day. Newspaper articles referred to a two day holiday with dancing in the streets of Newport, Broughty Ferry and City Square in Dundee.

The Rector provides a full post war report in his VE Day article within the [June 1945 edition of our School magazine](#). The Rector concludes that this is a time for reflection and he calls upon our young people to accept the opportunity and challenge of reconstructing a shattered economic and political life, improving conditions and standards of life; restoring respect for human freedom and personality whilst ensuring international peace and cooperation.

The challenges and opportunities presented to our pupils post WWII remain very relevant today. Our Alumni community is spread far and wide and it is hoped that the core values that have been instilled in our pupils over the years will provide them with the skills to adapt and make a difference in our ever-changing world.