

75th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 2020

In a week in which we celebrate 75 years since the end of WWII in Europe, we would like to share with you a few of the stories of some very special OUs who truly represented their country, and indeed their school, with pride and honour. On VE Day, Friday 8th May, the School will broadcast an online chapel service, taking place at the School, in which those 250 OUs who gave their lives during the War will be remembered.



John Maling (B 1934)

The Maling family was evidently one made of 'the right stuff'. Just 27 years after his father George Maling (WB 1903) was awarded a VC, John Maling (B 1934) earned himself a Military Cross for his bravery in action in Algeria, before taking part in the campaign to capture Tunis, then the invasion of Sicily before the long slog up through Italy to Austria.

John was a brave man by any standards, and maybe his time in Brooklands influenced him too – on joining up at the start of the war he was appalled to find that none of his fellow soldiers wore pyjamas, so encouraging his resolve to gain a commission as soon as possible!

John Maling MC survived the War to become a GP in Kent, passing away in 2012 aged 92.



Frank Day (SH 1931)

The ever-popular war film 'The Great Escape' tells the story of the 76 Allied soldiers who tunneled out of Stalag III in 1944. One of the British soldiers involved in this daring escape was Flt Lt 'Fearless' Frank Day (SH 1931), initially as a 'penguin' who collected the soil from the tunnel in their trousers before casually releasing it out in the prison camp. During the escape Frank was in the tunnel when it collapsed and he was recaptured, so leading to a tough spell in solitary confinement. Only three of the 76 escapees made it back to Britain.

Frank returned to his home in Sussex in 1945, where he shared 50 happy years of marriage with his wife Antoinette. He died in 2008, aged 89.



Sir Douglas 'Joe' Kendrew (H 1924)

Major General **Sir Douglas 'Joe' Kendrew (H 1924)**, was a military man of more than 30 years service and had the rare honour of being awarded the DSO four times. Joe left Uppingham and joined the Army in 1930 and in these pre-war years he went on to play rugby for England 10 times, once as captain in 1935.

During WWII Kendrew served with distinction as a Brigade Major in North Africa, Italy, Greece and Austria during which time he earned the first three of his DSOs. Following this conflict he remained in the Army and served in Korea, earning his final DSO, an incredible feat.

On retiring from the army in 1963 he became Colonel of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment before being appointed the 22nd Governor of Western Australia, a post which he held until 1974.

Sir Douglas Kendrew died in 1989, aged 78, and in 2011 the Kendrew Barracks was opened in Rutland, on the site of the former RAF Cottesmore.



Willward Sandys-Clarke (M 1933)

"His quick grasp of the situation and his brilliant leadership undoubtedly restored the situation, whilst his outstanding personal bravery and tenacious devotion to duty were an inspiration to his company, and were beyond praise."

So reads the citation for Willward Sandys-Clarke (M 1933) on the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross at the age of 23.

On 23 April 1943 while serving in Tunisia, Lieutenant Clarke's company was counter-attacked and almost wiped out, he being the sole remaining officer. Although wounded in the head, he gathered a composite platoon together and advancing to attack the position again met heavy fire from a machine-gun post. He manoeuvred his men to give covering fire and then tackled the post single-handed, knocking out the gun. He dealt similarly with two other posts and then led his platoon to the objective, but was killed when he later went forward to tackle two sniper posts single-handed.

Two days after his wife received the telegram telling her of his death, their son Robin was born.



Sir Brian Horrocks (SH 1909)

From graduating near the bottom of his class at Sandhurst, Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks (SH 1909) went on to become the 'outstanding British general under Montgomery' and one of the finest of his generation. He saw service in WWI and spent four years in a POW camp, earning a MC for his many efforts to escape. Having learnt Russian from fellow prisoners he was posted to Russia in 1919 to help in the fight against the Red Army, before being captured again and spending another ten months in captivity. On release he returned to Britain and competed in the Pentathlon at the 1924 Olympics.

In WWII he was evacuated from Dunkirk, played a vital role in the Allied victories in North Africa where he was awarded the DSO before spending a year recovering from bullet wounds. After D-Day as Lieutenant-Colonel he was involved in the ill-fated Operation Market Garden which was later dramatised in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. He continued to serve with valour until the end of the war, receiving two further mentions in dispatches.

After the war Sir Brian was appointed 'Black Rod' at the House of Lords and went on to lead a full life as an author, historian and military consultant. He died in 1985 aged 89 and his memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey.



Richard Carr (Hf 1933)

Captain Richard Carr (Hf 1933) was awarded the MC whilst serving as a 2nd Lieutenant with the Royal Artillery for 'gallant and distinguished services in action' at Dunkirk, but his great renown during WWII was due to his daring and diverse escapes from POW camps.

While serving in a commando unit in 1942 he was captured and sent to Italy but after six weeks of tunneling he and 13 others escaped before being captured on their way to Switzerland. Further escapes ensued, involving jumping from trains, disguise as a French worker, crawling through sewers and much more, earning Captain Carr an MBE in 1946. Many have likened his character to that of 'The Cooler King', played by Steve McQueen in *The Great Escape*.

After the War Richard joined the family firm, Carr's Biscuits, which are still sold today. He died in 1977 at the age of 58.



Denis Oswald

Of course, it wasn't just OUs who left Uppingham to join the Army. Many older OUs will recall Major Denis Oswald who was on the staff from 1932 to 1974, during which time he taught French and was Housemaster of Meadhurst (1946 to 1961). Most however will not know of Denis' role during WWII as one of the unsung heroes of Bletchley Park.

In 1942 Denis and his fellow code-breakers deciphered 1.5 million high value messages by hand and with this information thousands of Allied lives were saved at critical junctures such as D-Day and the battle of Kursk in the Soviet Union. In the words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the "Bletchley decrypts shortened the War by at least two years".

Denis died in Uppingham aged 87 in 1998 and it was only following his death that we discovered the crucial role he played at Bletchley, thanks to the research of one of his former pupils, Stuart Moffat (WD 1968).



Stuart Taylor

Another much-loved member of staff who served was Lieutenant Stuart Taylor, also an OU (LH 34). At Uppingham he was in the XV and XI, was an athletics champion as well as a member of the choir and orchestra. He left School in 1939 and joined the Royal Engineers, serving in North Africa and Italy. Whilst clearing explosives in Anzio he threw a mine away from his men which then blew up seriously injuring his stomach and causing the loss of most of his hands. He spent many months recovering. In January 1945 he was mentioned in a despatch for distinguished service and was awarded the George Medal for his bravery.

With life-changing injuries he returned to Uppingham where he was on the staff until 1981. He thrived on getting the best out of his pupils academically, as well as being heavily involved in the 1st XV and his explosive devices in the CCF live long in the memory of many OUs. Stuart was also involved in the OU Football Club from 1948 to 1986.

Stuart married Lorna Lee Scott in 1955 and they had five children, three of whom went to Uppingham, followed by one of his grandchildren Florence Taylor (SA 11) who shared these details with us. He passed away in 1998 aged 78.