

## 'Old Boys' War Remembrance Section

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### Selley Recollects In 'The Old School Tie'

The history of World War II still is a living history to those of us who experienced the years 1939 to 1945 – this September it will be fifty-nine years since the start of that conflict which had a profound effect on all of us.

During the early days of the war the Saltus student body grew by some seventy students. These were evacuees sent out from England to avoid the ravages of the Blitz, the ongoing bombing of London and other British Cities by the German Luftwaffe, and the sons of British military personnel stationed on the island. Bermuda experienced no bombs, but all around us we were very aware of the war – sons of Saltus were going off to fight as sailors, aviators, soldiers, and Atlantic convoys gathered both at the East End and at the Royal Naval Dockyard, Headquarters of the vast 'Americas and West Indies Squadron' of the Royal Navy. Bermuda was a busy place and we quickly became accustomed to the black-out and our ration books – animals suffered feed

shortages and the radio nightly reminded us of the life and death struggle which would decide our future.

The World War II Era Reunion was the first effort to bring together the sons of Saltus who attended the school during the time when Bermuda, while fortunate enough to be out of the primary battle zone, played the role of a key Mid-Atlantic bastion in the war at sea – the Battle of the Atlantic. This was the struggle to maintain the vital sea links to Britain, and later to the Mediterranean, from the United States and Canada.

#### War Years In Bermuda

Bermuda is a peaceful land, but took on the look and feel of a fortified garrison during the war. Ships in droves anchored behind our protective reefs and our old forts and shore batteries took on a new and grim life of their own. Even our hill tops had new anti-aircraft gun emplacements, and the skies overhead droned with

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### Gilbert Hallam: 'One Lucky Son of a Gun'!

Gilbert Hallam – now retired from the Royal Navy with the rank of Captain – is the son of a World War I British sailor who married a Bermudian. He came to live on the island when his father died in 1937 and was attending Saltus when war was declared two years later. "Schooling was not easy with shortages of books and equipment. Even examinations presented additional problems as we had to use carbon paper when writing our School Certificate exams in case the originals were sunk on their way to England for marking"!

After passing his exams and becoming Head Prefect, he was persuaded to sit for the Navy entrance exam. "What I didn't know was that I also had to appear before a formidable interview board consisting of the C-I-C (Admiral Curtis), two of his senior staff officers, the Governor (Lord Burghley) and the Bishop of Bermuda (the Rt. Rev. Heber Brown) – a harrowing experience when one is seventeen years old!

"To my amazement, I was ordered to join the sloop HMS *Weston*, then in Bermuda, and after a very rough crossing and 'doodle bug' air raids on London, I eventually arrived at the Royal Naval College which had been evacuated from Dartmouth to Cheshire to make room for the huge armada that was gathering on England's south coast for the eventual D-Day landings.

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## Bermuda: the boom-boom-booming of practice firing

the noise of planes. Long, forbidding guns protruded from hastily-erected concrete pill boxes here and there, and the quiet of our South Shore beaches were shattered by the boom-boom-booming of practice firing.

We knew we were in the thick of it when, extraordinarily enough, the whole school was hustled out to the gates in 1942 and, thrilled, watched in awe as the Governor's carriage roll by carrying none other than the Prime Minister, *Winston Churchill*, himself. We cheered and he flashed us the famed 'V' for Victory sign. We knew for sure, then, that Bermuda was certainly an integral part of the Empire.

The docks bustled with activity and the censorship bureau took over the Princess and Hamilton hotels. More boys joined the school – children whose fathers came out with the navy and army, and there were Americans too. The dockyard was, perhaps the busiest place – bristling with weaponry and engulfed by warships of all shapes and sizes. We had a very good laugh in Bermuda when the Nazi propaganda machine announced the sinking of H.M.S. *Malabar*!

Shaking, rattling and rolling through the landscape was the old Bermuda railway – which many of us recall as the means of transport to and from school. But we had to rub shoulders with an assortment of soldiers, sailors and flyers from several different countries.

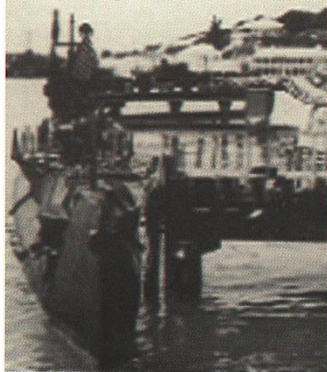
### Booker

Saltus Grammar School as we remember it was very much the creation of its Headmaster. *R. E. E. Booker* took over as the

school's third Headmaster in 1933 following the lengthy careers of *Tom Waddington* and *Henry Cox* who had been at the helm successively since 1888 – a period of some forty-five years. *'Bobbie' Booker* had come to Bermuda to teach at Somers College and was successful in his application for the position of Saltus Headmaster. His standards were firmly fashioned on those of the English Public School. We moved to an era of *optimes* and *pesimes* – to 'fatigue squad' – to school uniforms, school ties, house competitions, clean shoes and a school song.

Booker believed a Headmaster should look and act like one, and he dressed the part. His blazer, doe-skins, mortarboard and shooting stick were all part of the arsenal – not to mention the cane! Who can forget his loud cries of 'Play up School' as he paced the sideline of a soccer match, with never a hair out of place. He believed that Saltus, 'his school', should always be front and centre in the eyes of the public and any VIP who might grace the local horizon. All were greeted by a

*Subs at Ordnance Island, St. Georges*



note from 'REEB' and all – Admirals, Generals, Governors, Bishops, Colonial Secretaries, Mayors and House Speakers – were invited to 'inspect' the school, to speak to the student body, and encourage academic and career ambitions.

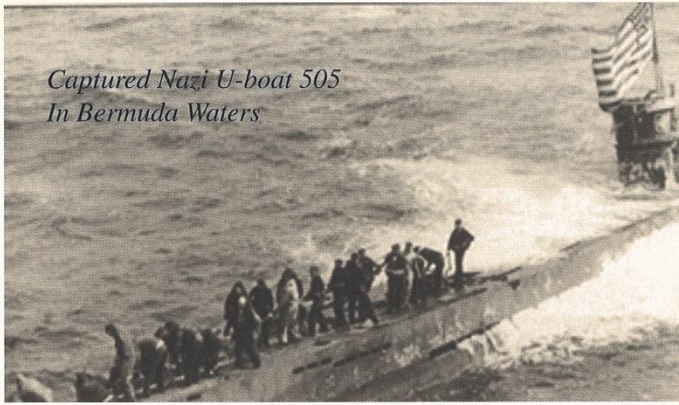
### Saltus Grammar School - Staff

As Saltus and Bermuda awoke to the realization that both were an integral part of World War II, the staff of the school, at least the majority of them that had been recruited by the Headmaster, found themselves on the island for the duration. *Henry Hallett* was responsible for Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry, together with *Dorothy Lines* and *Edith Smith* who were local teachers. From the UK were *J. H. 'Bulldog' Kerry*, Writing English and History; *Harry 'Smokey' Richardson*, Geography; *Frank 'Buck' Rogers*, Latin, and *R. T. 'Tricky Dicky' Gorton*, a 'jack-of-all-trades' with Science, Chemistry, Physics and Sports.

There was the French teacher named *D. C. A. Goolden* ('What a Rock!'), who enlisted in the Navy at the outset of the war, and *John Profit* who taught 2nd form and Art until he also joined up in 1939. Some 'Old Boys' may also recall *H. A. J. Linton* who had earlier returned to the UK to join the RAF. He would become one of two members of our teaching staff to lose his life in the war. Replacements were *Major Welch* and an American, *Walter R. Pruden*, and later two Bermudians, *Stanley Gascoigne* and *Hugh Masters*, rounded out the teaching staff.

The student body at Saltus during the war years totaled less

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*Captured Nazi U-boat 505  
In Bermuda Waters*

## Hugh Watlington: In The Service – With A Smile!

Proving that he is still the amusing and fun-filled individual that he was at Saltus fifty years ago, *Hugh Watlington* thrilled Reunion dinner guests with an off-the-cuff yet factually accurate reminiscence of his war years. Asked to be the speaker 'by popular demand' of his many former school chums, Watlington delivered an excellent roundup of his activities as a wartime pilot – yet packed in enough jokes that (as one wag put it), had Adolph Hitler been a dinner guest, he might also have howled with laughter at hearing Watlington's version of World War II!

Liberally spicing his remarks with quips and one-liners that would have done Johnny Carson proud, Hugh nonetheless told of the dauntless and daring men of his Royal Air Force bomber group, and of the hair-raising and death-defying missions in which he manfully participated. Notwithstanding

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### *Selley's 'Old School Tie', continued*

than two hundred. Today the School's Preparatory, Junior and Senior departments (including a 6th form called the Saltus Graduate Year) enrolls over 1,000 students, and Saltus' teaching staff is up to eighty!

#### *Saltus Cadet Corps and Drum and Bugle Band*

An important part of extra curricular activities at Saltus was the Cadet Corps. It was considered to be good basic training for the boys, particularly after war was declared. There was a khaki uniform, long socks, shorts and shirt – and a hat, bowler style, with the left side of the rim pinned up with a Bermuda Cadet Corps badge. This was the ANZAC style, and it was useful to get the rakish hat out of the way when one sloped arms with those antique Boer War carbines we were issued to drill with! And remember: the rifles were stored in the former hearse house located just outside the school gate, inside a door which was never locked!

*Henry Hallett*, sometimes assisted by an NCO from the BVRC, was officer in charge, later joined by *Stanley Gascoigne* as Second-in Command. When any

VIP toured Saltus, the Cadet Corps Guard of Honour was trotted out to be inspected. There was summer training at Warwick Camp, field day exercises and church parades and there was also a Drum & Bugle corps. This talented group sported a drum major, four side drums, a bass drum, cymbals and nine or ten buglers. The Saltus band and cadets played prominent parts in all the local wartime parades, culminating in the exciting V.E. day parade in May, 1945.

#### *War Years in Bermuda*

One aspect of war, any war, is the disruption it brings to people, men, women and children who, willingly or unwillingly, immediately become participants. Armies, navies and air forces embrace volunteers and conscripts. Citizens are called upon to go without, to give up their homes, to move to different regions to avoid war zones. There are no winners, mostly losers, and the great majority are survivors. Bermuda lost its tourists - its lifeblood, but gained hundreds of censors and censored who scrutinised the Atlantic mails. It gained huge

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*Colin Selley, Old Boy & Trustee*

## Who Can Forget Loud Cries Of 'Play Up School'!

construction companies from the United States who dredged up tons of sand and added many acres to our shores to provide homes for the US bases. Despite being an integral – and sometimes threatened – linch-pin in the Battle of the Atlantic, Bermuda was also a chosen haven for some 150 children evacuated from the United Kingdom to avoid the German aerial assault on English cities. Some seventy of these boys found a new school life at Saltus.

Many of Bermuda's sons and daughters volunteered for active duty, some providing useful service here in Bermuda's own defence forces, and some going overseas. Of the latter, a total of ninety-seven Saltus men served in British, American and Canadian forces overseas - and there was one in the Indian Army as well! Ten of our Saltus men were killed or declared missing in action at sea or in the air; this included eight 'Old Boys' and two former teachers. Seven Saltus flyers were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and there was one Distinguished Flying Medal. In the fighting forces on the ground, a British Military Cross and an American Bronze Star were earned. Military service opened a world of exciting experience - and a wartime life of never-to-be forgotten memories.

### *Saltus Sports*

For many Saltus boys, life revolved around sports. Unfortunately, the school record books do not have photos of the boxing matches which seemed to us so exciting. But there is a faithful record of our football teams. Each year the

photographer would capture the images of both squads, and it was especially thrilling to have that coveted trophy sitting there on the ground in the forefront of the picture.

Saltus played other schools, but there were also 'friendly' matches in football and cricket against Admiralty House, the Dockyard Apprentices and even the Royal Air Force. There were also the annual 'Old Boys' games in both sports, and sometimes we younger boys triumphed.

Probably the most exciting event was the annual Sports Day when House competition was

had a number (like 'Selley 87'). The order book - the lost-and-found box - and rainy days. Everyone arrived on a bicycle - except the boys who came by ferry or the dockyard boat - and then walked to school. There were lots of rubber boots, rain hats and rain coats, and a very wet coat room. Bicycles in the sheds, by the school entrance. Fire drills - Red Arrow and Blue spot - exits painted on the corridors to indicate how we should move out of the building. Fatigue squad during recess - a remedial fitness clinic for those who had sinned 'Feet astride

*Headmaster Booker's standards were firmly fashioned on those of the English Public School. We moved to an era of optimes and pessimes – to 'fatigue squad – to school uniforms, school ties, house competitions, clean shoes and a school song.*

fierce and everyone became involved. You didn't have to be a superb athlete to participate, and there were assorted races and events to permit a democratic approach to winning points for your House!

Fortunately, sports are still a valued part of the Saltus curriculum and the school's teams do well – and it is important to note that the girls' teams are especially impressive. The girls Hockey team, for instance, has been an island powerhouse for several years.

### *Memories of Wartime Saltus*

Morning assemblies - *John Bridge* at the piano pounding out the hymn - Prefects reading the lesson - Hymn books in little numbered lockers - every boy

jumping with hands clapping over head'. The house competitions and shields for just about everything. Several times a month we would have a speaker in Assembly - Mount Everest climbers to bomb disposal experts. The excitement of Sports Day - the scarcity of cricket balls - '*Buck*' Rogers when he shouted at a non-conformist - and at night Bermuda, an Island that lived in a black-out for six years - street lights with the bottom of a shaded bulb painted black and cycle flashlights with three thicknesses of red tissue paper over the lens - war saving certificates of fifteen shillings, savings balls of silver-tin foil from candy bars - reading all the propaganda brochures sent out from the UK, which were

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## And 'Bulldog', 'Smokey', 'Buck' & 'Tricky Dicky'!

arranged outside Booker's office, and summer swimming with Frank 'Buck' Rogers.

### Saltus Today

R.E.E. Booker can be credited with converting Saltus to the lines of a model English 'public school', and in many ways his fine traditions flourish. A sound education is still offered, and there is still discipline – though not the harsh sort of yesteryear – and parents are getting value for money. Most importantly, Saltus is keeping pace with Bermuda – it became fully integrated over twenty-five years ago and our first Black student, *Gil Tucker*, a former Head Boy, is now a Trustee. The school added girls to all age levels in 1991 and in a few years there will be a 50:50 male female ratio. A Saltus education is within reach of any talented



Headmaster Booker

child on the island because we invest over \$350,000 annually in financial aid and scholarships. And, thanks largely to *Fernance Perry* and his Saltus Appeal committees, the school is attractive and well-maintained.

The school's mission statement says it all and says it

best: *Saltus is striving to be a world-class institution, worthy of educating Bermudian children for the technological world around them. We are sustaining excellence and growing too. We hope to attract students who are ambitious, critical in their thinking, capable in their skills, confident in their abilities and adaptable to the dizzying pace of change. We want a happy school which fosters values and is flexible enough to hit new educational standards.*

The Saltus 'learning with laptops' programme is being initiated this year, making the school one of a few in the world to equip all its students with laptop computers, and to train its staff in all disciplines on their daily classroom use. Each of us 'Old Boys' – and the new generation of 'Old Girls' too! – can be proud to boast: 'I am a Saltus graduate'!

## Nigel Richardson: Recalling His Dad, And 'Playing Soldier'

My father, *Harry Richardson*, taught Geography at Saltus and tried, through the medium of something called the 'World Today Club', to encourage some interest in current affairs. While obviously I am not unprejudiced, I think my contemporaries would agree that he was both well-liked and much respected as a teacher.

His affection for the pipe earned him the nickname 'Smokey' which I inherited, together with, in later years, the habit. His colleagues, however, called him 'Colonel' which rather puzzled me because his service background was the Royal Naval Reserve.

My father was very conscious of my vulnerability to accusations of favouritism and, if anything, leaned over backwards

to ensure that there would be no basis for the charges. On one occasion, when I was detected committing some misdemeanour (probably whispering to a neighbour) he literally picked me up by the scruff of the neck, hauled me to the front of the class and spanked me – not hard, for he really did not believe in corporal punishment, and this was something he would never have tried with anyone else. I knew perfectly well why he treated me this way and I did appreciate it. It worked: never once was I charged with being a teacher's pet.

To the pupils of today, I suppose, 'playing soldier' must seem either deplorably militaristic or simply ridiculous. But we lived in very different

times: World War I had ended less than twenty years before, and some of our teachers, and no doubt many of our fathers, had served in it. Certainly it remained much in the minds of their generation. The beginning of my schools career coincided with the Spanish Civil War, the German and Italian 'dress rehearsal' for the World War that began soon afterwards. From day to day we could read accounts and hear radio news reports about the Battle of Britain, the campaigns in North Africa, Russia and the Pacific, 'D' Day and, eventually, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

While Bermuda itself escaped unscathed (rather narrowly, I believe), it was an important naval and air base, and

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## *Photographs War Era Reunion*



*Above: Paying Respect to  
Samuel Saltus*

*Below: Head Girl Fiona Herring  
With Mr. & Mrs. Colin Goldsmith  
and Gilbert Hallam*

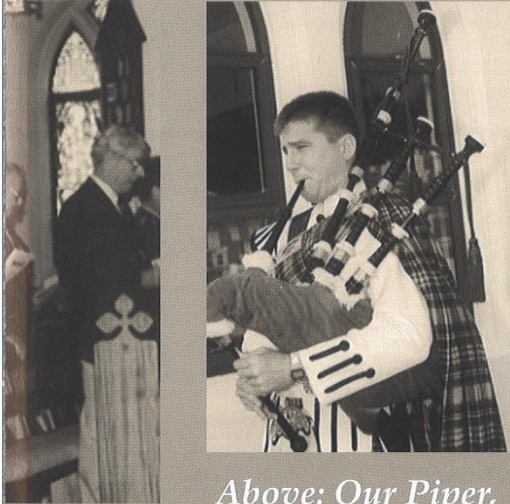


*Above: Remembering The Fallen  
At St. John's Church*



*Above: Nostalgic Flag Raising  
Opened Reunion Activities*

# as Capture nion Spirit!

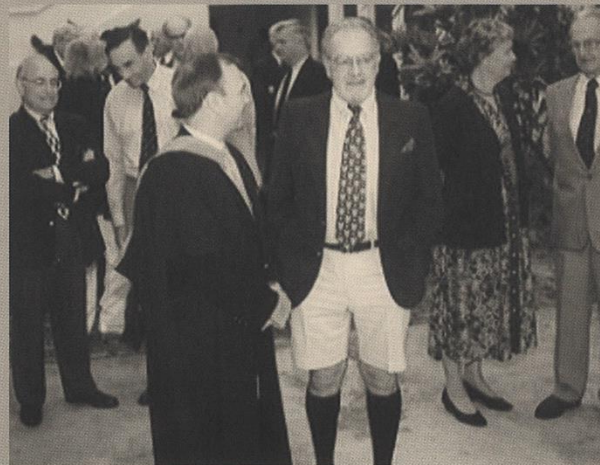


*Above: Our Piper,  
Old Boy Aidan Stones*



*Above: Head Boy Kavan Tucker  
Leads Kit Astwood & Mrs. John  
Richards On A Tour*

*Below: Old Boys Start A Tour*



*Above: Headmaster Rowell Talks With Tony Correia*

## Saltus War Service & Roll of Honour

### Roll of Honour

F/O H. Francis Ede, RAF ('40)  
 F/O H. J.A. Linton, RAF ('41)  
 N. L. Meyer, RAF (1942)  
 P/O W.C. Hollis Hallett, RAF ('42)  
 P/O John Brewer, RAF ('42)  
 Pte Allison W.B. Fowle, BVRC ('42)  
 Sgt. Major G. W. West, AIF ('42)  
 Sgt. Geoffrey Welch, RAF ('43)  
 P/O Hewson Perinchief, RAF ('44)  
 Flt/Lt. W. C. Warfield, RAF ('44)

### Decorations

Flt/Lieut. R. Dodwell, DFC  
 F/O H Francis Ede, DFC  
 Flt/Lieut. Joseph R. Gibbons, DFC  
 Maj. G.A.C. Gilbert, MC (On Field)  
 Capt. Richard M. Gorham, DFC  
 Flt./Lieut. F. G. Gosling, DFC, AFC  
 Flt/Lieut. E. G. Nicholl, DFC  
 Walter R. Pruden, Bronze Star  
 P/O P. C. Roach, DFC  
 Flt/Lieut. A. J. Wingood, DFC  
 Flt/Lieut. H. F. Watlington, DFM

### War Service

J. Adams  
 F. Adderley, RACF  
 T. C. Aitchison, Linc. Reg.  
 E. A. Benevides, RCAF  
 M. Bowman, Royal Reg.  
 S. Bowman, RCNVR  
 P. Bridge, RNVR  
 F. W. Bridges, RAF  
 R. S. Briggs, RAF  
 J. Brewer, RAF\*  
 L. Browne, Lincs.Reg.  
 R. H. Burrows, RNVR  
 T. J. Card, Essex Scots  
 W. Conyers, RCNVR  
 F. W. Cooke, Lincs. Reg.  
 C. Cooper, RCNVR  
 C. W. Cooper, RE  
 F. C. Dale, Mer. Marine  
 O. H. Darrell, RNVR  
 L. Dill, RNVR  
 R. Dodwell, RAF  
 E. D. Ede, RAF  
 H. F. Ede, RAF\*  
 H. E. Evans, RAF  
 N. Fall, RAF/USAAF  
 A. W. B. Fowle, Lincs. Reg.\*  
 E. K. Frith, Lincs.Reg.  
 J. W. Gady, RAFTC  
 F. C. Gamble, RCAF  
 E. G. Gibbons, RNVR

J. R. Gibbons, RAF  
 G. C. Gilbert, Lincs. Reg.  
 T. M. Godet, RNVR  
 R. Gorham, RAF  
 M. Gosling, RCAF  
 F. G. Gosling, RAF  
 W. C. H. Hallett, RAF\*



### St. John's Church Remembrance

*Perhaps one of the most moving moments of the War Era Reunion occurred on Founder's Day when Saltus paused to remember the Old Boys who fell in the war.*

*Neither the skirl of the pipes nor the blare of the trumpet erased the sad emotion of the congregation as the school's Roll of Honour was solemnly read by Lew Petty. After 'Last Post' was sounded, those attending the service joined Senior students for the traditional wreath laying on Samuel Saltus' grave.*

W. R. Kempe, RN  
 S. H. Kemsley, RE  
 F. J. Leseur, RCNVR  
 H. Lines, Mer. Marine  
 J. H. Linton, RAF\*  
 D. Lindsay, Royal Scots Fus.  
 F. Mansbridge, Commandos  
 L. Mayor, RAF  
 W. Mayor, Can. Army

N. L. Meyer, RAF\*  
 J. McLay, RCAF  
 J. D. Misick, RCNVR  
 M. C. Misick, RCNVR  
 A. J. Motyer, Can. Army  
 J. F. Motyer, Can. Army  
 W. H. Murphie, Mer. Marine  
 D. S. Nicholl, RAFTC  
 N. R. Nugent, Indian Army  
 L. S. Outerbridge, Carib.Reg  
 S. M. Paschal, RA  
 A. H. Peniston, RNVR  
 H. Perinchief, RAF\*  
 P. Perinchief, RAF  
 D. Petty, RN  
 E. L. Petty, RN  
 G. M. Petty, RCNVR  
 A. P. Pitt, RAF  
 W. R. Pruden, US Army  
 P. L. Purcell, Lincs. Reg.  
 P. Roach, RCAF  
 W. Rogerson, US Army  
 J. D. Shanks, RAF  
 T. F. Shaw, US Army  
 S. A. Sheppard, USMC  
 H. B. Smith, Lincs. Reg.  
 P. Smith, RAF  
 D. N. Spurling, US Army  
 P. N. Spurling, US Army  
 E. E. Tatem, RCAF  
 E. Thompson, RAF  
 S. Thompson, RCNVR  
 T. Trott, RAFTC  
 J. Tucker, US Coast Guard  
 R. D. Tucker, USAAC  
 R. G. Tucker, US Army  
 N. H. P. Vesey, RAF  
 L. Vorley, RNVR  
 T. J. Wadson, RCAF  
 M. C. Wainwright, RAF  
 W. C. Warfield, US Army\*  
 H. F. Watlington, RCAF  
 J. B. Watlington, RCAF  
 J. H. Watlington, RCAF  
 G. Welch, RAF\*  
 P. S. Welch, RCAF  
 P. Welsh, US Navy  
 G. W. West, AIF\*  
 A. J. Wingood, RAF  
 C. P. Wilson, RA  
 W. Wilson, RCA  
 C. V. Young, Bda Militia  
 H. J. Zuill, RCAF  
 O. C. Zuill, ATA



*Saltus Cadet Corps Training, Warwick Camp  
(Photo donated by John Adams)*

### **Attendees At WWII Era Reunion June, 1998**

John Adams (New Jersey, USA)  
J. C. 'Kit' Astwood (Bermuda)  
Ernest Benevides (Ontario, Canada)  
Warren A. Brown (Bermuda)  
Brian Burland (Bermuda)  
Richard D. Butterfield (Bermuda)  
Donald Campbell (Bermuda)  
W. Neville Conyers (Bermuda)  
William R. Cooke (Bermuda)  
Herbert M. Cooper (Bermuda)  
Anthony T. Correia (Bermuda)  
Bill Cox (Bermuda)  
Michael Leslie Darling (Bermuda)  
Peter Henry Darling (Bermuda)  
Owen Hartel Darrell (Bermuda)  
William de V. Frith (Bermuda)  
Stanley Gascoigne (Bermuda)

David W. Godfrey (Bermuda)  
Colin C. Goldsmith (Wiltshire, UK)  
Francis 'Goose' Gosling (Bermuda)  
Gilbert Hallam (Bermuda)  
A. C. Hollis Hallett (Bermuda)  
Alexander Hamilton (Tenn., USA)  
James W. Kempe Jr. (Bermuda)  
David Lawrey (Pennsylvania, USA)  
Harry A. McHarg (Bermuda)  
Stephen Alton Moniz (Bermuda)  
Miles E. H. Outerbridge (Bermuda)  
E. Llewellyn Petty (Bermuda)  
John P. Richards (Lincolnshire, UK)  
D. Colin Selley (Bermuda)  
Stanley Sheppard (Bermuda)  
David M. Skinner (Bermuda)  
Russell D. Tucker (Alabama, USA)  
Henry 'Hal' P. Watlington (Bermuda)  
Hugh F. Watlington (Bermuda)  
John Watlington (Bermuda)  
Colin Reed Young (Bermuda)

### **Respondents Who Were Unable to Attend**

Thomas C. Aitchison (Bermuda)  
John E. Cook (New Brunswick)  
C. O. 'Neil' Cooper (Bermuda)  
Frederick Dale (New Zealand)  
Gerald Franklin (New Zealand)  
John Gilbert (Bermuda)  
Brian Hall (Bermuda)  
Barry Jocelyn (British Columbia)  
Ralph Bernard Lawton  
Sir Christopher Lever (Berks, UK)  
John Lough  
Baron Monson (London, UK)  
Peter S. Nankivell (Hampshire, UK)  
Frank 'Buck' Rogers (Bermuda)  
Eldon Trimmingham (Bermuda)

#### **Headmaster:**

*Trevor Rowell, 292-6177 x 222*

#### **Director of Admissions:**

*Malcolm Durrant, 292-6177 x 225*

#### **Billing & Finance enquiries:**

*Joeann Johnson, 292-6177 x 224*

#### **Alumni or Fund Raising:**

*Dan Blagg, 292-6177 x 226*

#### **Buildings & Grounds:**

*James Pace, 292-6592*

### **Know Who To Call!**

#### **Senior School:**

*Nigel Kermode, 292-6177 x 223*

#### **Saltus Graduate Year:**

*Christina Wrigley, 292-6177 x 244*

#### **Junior School:**

*Christine De Silva, 292-3895*

#### **Saltus-Cavendish Prep:**

*Susan Furr, 236-3215*

#### **Saltus Association:**

*Terri Durrant, 295-0008*

#### **Board of Trustees:**

*Jim Amos, 295-4345*

#### **School Fax Numbers:**

*Senior Dept.: 295-4977*

*Junior Dept.: 292-1424*

*Preparatory Dept.: 232-0438*

#### **School Internet Address:**

*www.saltus.bm*

William Frith and Gilbert Hallam read thank you notes presented by Mrs. Rosemary Doughty's students following the Junior School assembly in which Old Boys recounted their wartime memories of Saltus.



## Gilbert Hallam 'Lucky Son of A Gun' continued

"Training of naval cadets (regarded in the Navy as the lowest form of human existence!) was short and sharp in those days and, after a spell in the training cruiser HMS *Frobisher*, I joined the Far East fleet as a Midshipman aboard the new *King George V*-class battleship, HMS *Howe*, which held the distinction of having shot down a Japanese kamikaze fighter plane. After Japan surrendered, we visited Singapore and saw the appalling conditions in Chengji jail where Allied prisoners of war had been mistreated. After the horrors of the Far East, I was delighted to get an appointment to HMS *Sheffield* which was preparing to become the Flagship of Vice Admiral Sir William Tennant on the American and West Indies Station with Headquarters in Bermuda. Happy visits to the West Indian islands through the Panama Canal and ports in South American countries (including the Falkland Islands) was a marked contrast to the hardships and shortages on the other side of the globe".

Hallam continued his RN service after the war and was appointed to the Torpedo and Anti-Submarine School, HMS *Vernon*, in Portsmouth where he qualified for ocean racing and glider pilot certificates in yachts and gliders confiscated from the Germans. "I was particularly intrigued by the sensation of floating on air in a high performance glider, and later qualified as an instructor", he recalls. His later naval service included two years in the Mediterranean Fleet during the excitement of the Suez Crisis (1956)

and an appointment to the Headquarters of the Fleet Air Arm and to NATO in Norway. "Norway is a magnificent country and had been ravaged by the Nazis only a few years earlier", he recounts. "The country was very poor – unlike today – but the population had resisted the onslaught with incredible fortitude and bravery".

Following his stint with NATO, Hallam was selected for service in HM Yacht *Britannia*. "That experience was unforgettable and included taking Princess Margaret and Lord Snowden to the West Indies for their honeymoon, and visits abroad with almost every member of the Royal Family".

Next came appointments to HMS *Decoy*, a destroyer undertaking missile trials off Portsmouth, to the staff of the Commodore, Hong Kong, and an office assignment at the Admiralty in London. But he was off to sea again in 1966 – participating in the evacuation of Aden aboard HMS *London*, followed by a number of other naval posts over the balance of his naval career.

Captain Hallam eventually returned with his wife and family to Bermuda where, instead of a hoped-for 'peaceful retirement', he served as Director of Marine & Ports. "Shortly after I took over there were two major groundings on the northern reefs and I wondered, once again, what I had let myself in for. But my nine years in the Department turned out to be one of the most enjoyable and rewarding appointments I could have wished for", he says. "I consider myself one very lucky son of a gun"!



*Above: Kit Astwood, Ernest Benevides, John Adams and Mr. & Mrs. Owen Darrell*



*Above: Colin Young, Russell Tucker, David Godfrey and Warren Brown*



## More Reunion Snapshots

*Kit & Denise Astwood hosted Old Boys at their Somerset home 'Aberfeldy' where refreshments and a garden tour concluded the busy reunion schedule.*

*A highlight of the reunion was the RBYC luncheon where forty Old Boys gathered to watch Colin Selley's slide show titled 'The Old School Tie'*

*Over 350 Junior School pupils hosted war-era Old Boys at a morning assembly where every former student present told about his life and career, and reminisced about his Saltus days – including reciting his House allegiance which truly thrilled and impressed the children!*

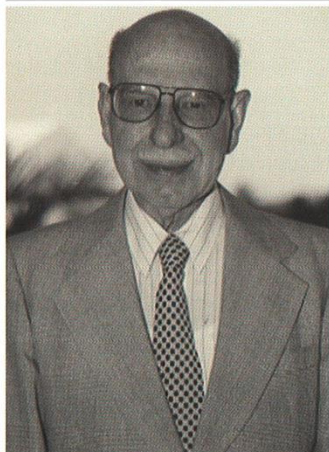
### **Watlinton, cont'd**

his humorous approach, he still managed appropriately to pay homage and respect to the gallantry and effort that characterised wartime Britain – and each Bermudian veteran's important contributions while in the service both here and aboard.

Especially sobering was Mr. Watlinton's mention of the Saltus Old Boys (and teachers) who lost their lives in the war, and of his own two brothers, *John* and *Hal Watlinton*, who both also joined the military and saw active duty.

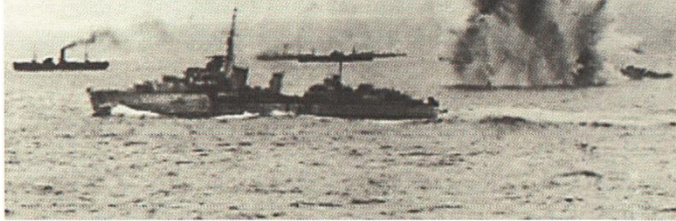
18 **Richardson, continued**

the streets of Hamilton were always crowded with US and British uniforms. Modern coastal artillery continued Bermuda's three-hundred-year succession of defensive works (though, like their predecessors, they fortunately remained unused). Rationing was introduced, though it was never very onerous despite the island's dependence on imports. From time to time we would stand in morning assembly in silence when the news came that an Old Boy, not much senior to us, was dead or missing in action. We were, of course, infinitely more fortunate than millions of other young people around the world, not being directly affected by the war. I don't recall we ever talked about it a great deal but, nevertheless, for the most part of my years at Saltus, war was the pervasive and inescapable setting to our lives, perpetually looming in the background in a way that is probably unimaginable to students today. Acquiring the rudiments of military training seemed, in the circumstances of the times, merely a normal aspect of education.



Old Boy Ernest A. Benevides

*Allied North Atlantic Convoys  
Crushed 'the serpent' of Nazi  
U-boat Warfare*



### **Benevides: Dodging U-boats In An Ocean 'Escape' From Bermuda!**

When war came in 1939, *Ernest Benevides* was still a student at Saltus, enjoying swimming at the Princess Hotel pool with coach *Bill Brooks*, and finishing studies in the 6th Form. Of his memories he writes: I realise that most Saltus reunion memoirs will be written by war evacuees who came from Britain to Bermuda, but, to get to university, I went the other way – from the island to Canada! At 9 o'clock at night on November 24, 1940, I boarded the *Lady Hawkins*, one of the 'Lady Boats' of the Canadian National Steamship Line, as they were called in Bermuda. My father, mother and sisters all came aboard to say goodbye, no doubt wondering if they would ever see me again. They left the ship when requested to do so, and I went to bed.

Sometime in the middle of the night I felt and heard some movement of the ship. I dressed and went to the deck; there were lights inside but none without, and there was black paint on all the portholes and windows. By then we were creeping up the South Channel, in front of the North Shore, and dawn was beginning to show – I recall beautiful colours of red, orange and yellow on the horizon.

Recently there had been two ships sunk by German U-boats off Bermuda, one being the *Rawalpindi* and the second the heroic *Jervis Bay*. The thoughts of these gave me apprehension, but looking to the north my worries disappeared: still some distance ahead there appeared a huge armada of ships of all sizes and shapes, perhaps from two to four hundred in number. My ship headed straight into them, and the expected protection of travelling in convoy was a great relief.

*Lady Hawkins'* destination was St. John, New Brunswick, and I estimated the trip would take three days. Before long, however, we began to change course at intervals, presumably to avoid a U-boat. On the third day we were still at sea with no land in sight. A storm arose with violent seas and I became deathly ill with seasickness; on the fourth day, my innards were outwards and my liver void of bile! Then, suddenly, land appeared and the ship seemed to be slowing down. Before long we were docking, but I was told it was Boston, not St. John, and that we could not go ashore. I never did find out why we diverted to the USA; no doubt, U-boats were on our trail!