



FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

SGC @128 YEARS

The second term of the academic year is often seen as the busiest of the year and this one has been no exception. An intense academic programme alongside an involved and competitive co-curricular programme, leaves us all anticipating a break.



Sporting teams across all age groups have continued to excel, with our teams winning the Peterhouse Sevens event for the first time since 2011. This followed our First XI Football Team winning the St George's Hammer and Tongues event for the first time. Our U15 and U16 won the National CHISZ Tournament in July. Congratulations to our First Hockey Team who placed third in the final weekend's "super twelve" competition.



Thank you to our rugby teams who have excelled in every age group, providing wonderful entertainment on the way. To date, we have 60 students with Provincial representation in sports from Archery to Swimming, whilst we have 41 students with National representation so far this year.

The last two weekends have seen a very intense sporting programme, with all teams across all sports performing at the highest levels. Thank you to all parents who turned out to support. It is always greatly appreciated by your sons and daughters.

Sixty-six students entered the National Institute of Allied Arts Speech and Drama competitions in July. Twenty-three achieved either Honours or First grades. Two senior students represented Zimbabwe in international debating competition. Congratulations to all.

Thanks to the SDC and all our parents who supported our Red Blazer Golf Day. It was a very successful community day and

enjoyed by all who participated. Thanks also to the SDC and parent body for the purchase of three new electronic scoreboards. These will be used in temporary locations until permanent sites can be established.

The 31st July was a special day at the College, when staff, students and parents joined together for Mass on Neptune's lawn. The Feast of St Ignatius is a very special day in our calendar and the singing and participation of the students in this celebration was the high-point of the term. Of course, the major academic event this term was the sitting of mid-year examinations by all our students.



Having been through the reports there is a lot of reflection and discernment required over the coming days and weeks. As I said to the students at a recent school assembly, responsibility and ownership belongs entirely to the individual, blame cannot be apportioned elsewhere.

The most important thing is the response. At this stage, work cannot be done by others but by each individual candidate. Time management and self-study is critical. With only ten weeks to go to the start of the Public Examinations, a well-constructed and realistic revision timetable must be in place.

The revision programme put in place for students in F4, L6 and U6 will go ahead on the 2nd to the 6th of September. School will open on Tuesday September 10th and may I ask that all students present with appropriate uniform and hair-cuts. In the senior boy's case, being clean shaven is a requirement.

After a long and very busy term, we all look forward to the holiday. For those who are travelling, may I wish you safe travels and for those remaining at home, quality family time.

John Farrelly
Headmaster

In This Issue:

- SGC wins Peterhouse Sevens
- National & Provincial Representatives
- NIAA Awards
- The Feast of St Ignatius
- In History: OGs who took part in 'D' Day Landings



Peterhouse Sevens overall trophy winners.



St George's College Volleyball team for the Mahikeng South Africa Tour.



Rugby Vs Peterhouse

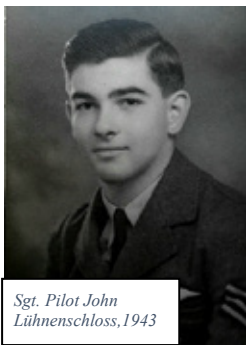
The Feast of St Ignatius



Old Georgian's who participated in 'D' Day Landings, 80 years ago

In an article in the Headmaster's newsletter of September/October 2019, mention was made of two Old Georgian's who were believed to have been involved in the landings in Normandy on 6 June 1944. They were Capt. Quentin Ford (O.G.'37), a Royal Marine, and Sgt. Pilot John Lühnenschloss (O.G.'41). Since then more information has come to light, so, now, just over 80 years since 'D' Day, here's an update.

As reported in the 2019 article, Quentin Ford, having served with the South African forces during the North African Campaign, was then seconded to the Royal Marines in 1943 and commanded one of a number of landing craft dispatched successfully to capture the harbour at Port en Bassein on 'D' Day. Unfortunately, he was wounded in one of the assaults and was evacuated back to England after two weeks.



Sgt. Pilot John Lühnenschloss, 1943

Turning to John Lühnenschloss, while it was known that he was an RAF pilot, who, because of his language skills, had acted as an interpreter at the time of the landings in Normandy, further research has revealed that he was also a serving member what was then called 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron. This RAF squadron, which had been re-equipped with Hawker Typhoon aircraft by the time of 'D' Day, was comprised largely of young men from this country who had joined up and had received their initial flying training at Cranborne and other local airfields. The Typhoon was particularly effective as a ground-attack plane and carried rockets and 20mm canons designed to destroy tanks, artillery pieces and railway infrastructure. In that capacity, they

flew numerous sorties in support of the Allied troops that were attempting to advance inland from the beaches of Normandy, both on 6 June, and in the weeks that followed. The 266 Squadron emblem contained the Ndebele word, 'Hlabazulu', which apparently meant "Stabbers in the Sky"!

In addition to learning more about Lühnenschloss, it has recently transpired, however, that another Old Georgian member of 266 Squadron was Pdraig Culligan, also Class of '41. Like Lühnenschloss, and quite a number of other O.G.s at the time, he had volunteered to become a pilot and in March 1942 began his flying training at Belvedere under what was known as the Rhodesia Air Training Group. Together with Lühnenschloss, he was awarded his 'Wings' at Cranborne airfield the following February, and both were then posted to England in May 1943. There they were assigned in due course to 266 Squadron, which, after being reformed in 1939, had initially flown Spitfires. Then, with the introduction of the Typhoon in 1941, the squadron converted to them and, over the next two years, became a specialised ground attack unit. As mentioned above, its pilots were very active over the Normandy beaches.



Sgt. Pilot Pdraig Culligan, 1943

As for Pdraig Culligan, while it would appear from his personal photo album that he had joined 266 Squadron before 'D'-Day, according to official squadron operational records, his first combat mission on 27 July 1944 was in support of Allied troops advancing some 20 kilometres inland from the beaches.



Pilot Officer John Lühnenschloss, seated 2nd row centre, 1945



Pilot Officer Pdraig Culligan's funeral with full military honours, Holland 29 March 1945

Thereafter, both he and John Lühnenschloss flew regular ground-attack missions as the Allied troops advanced north east through Belgium and on into Holland. Very sadly, he was killed in a flying accident in Holland on 26 March 1945, just six weeks before peace in Europe was declared on 8 May. The accident was the result of tyre bursting on his Typhoon while he taking off from an advanced airfield, and he was buried with full military honours in the adjacent Dutch village of Grave. He was just 21 years old! Although his grave is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the community of Grave and surrounding areas are actively engaged in an ongoing project to remember him, together with other Allied servicemen who gave their lives in support of the liberation of Holland from the Nazis. To show their gratitude, they are working to establish a museum locally that commemorates their actions and their sacrifice, in addition to establishing a website which attempts to honour them individually. The site link to Pdraig Culligan is: <https://www.overloonwarchronicles.nl/en/culligan-patrick-joseph/>

Finally, both Quentin Ford and John Lühnenschloss survived the war, and the former went on to send his four sons to the College in the 1960s. Unfortunately, nothing more is known at this time about Lühnenschloss.