

Radley History Club

Life in Radley in the 1930s and 1940s

Information extracted from interviews in the Radley Remembered series, mostly carried out in [2003 and 2004?]

Archive number:	A.38
Date of interview:	19 May 2003

Personal details pre 1953

Interviewee (complete separate form for co-interviewee if also resident in Radley pre 1953):	TONY MONEY
Date of birth:	1920
Date came to Radley (if different):	Attended Radley College, 1934 - 1938. (Father (and father's brothers) had also attended Radley College.)
Address in 1930s/1940s:	Grew up in Golders Green, London.
Other family information:	

Education

Schools/colleges attended:	
Other information about education:	Radley College, 1934 - 1938. (372 boys + 31 masters in 1934; 620 boys + 100 masters in 2003.) No half-terms or exeats then. Very little contact between Radley College and Radley village. Oxford University, 1938 - 1940. Called up, 1940, Army.

Work

Occupation and place of work of father:	
Occupation and place of work of mother:	
Occupation and place of work of interviewee in 1930s/40s (if any):	After war, 2 years in advertising, then taught in four schools (including four terms in Switzerland). Then master, Radley College, 1958 - early 1990s. Initially taught English, History, Geography, Latin and French. All masters were expected to be able to teach English. Later, at Radley College, specialised in English and Latin. Also became Secretary of the Radleian Old Boys, and took on responsibility for Archives.
Information about farm work and farms:	
Other information about what jobs people were doing:	

Travel

Mode of travel to school:	Arrived at Radley College by train at Radley Station — 'Carry your bags, Sir?' [for sixpence].
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Mode of travel to work (interviewee and parents):	
Any comments about the station and use of the train:	
Any other comments about travel including, including car use and ownership:	At that time, many Radley parents had cars.

Buildings - location and characteristics

Location of interviewee's home:	Radley College.
Any comments on size, numbers of rooms, sharing, outside loos, source of water, electricity and telephone services etc of interviewee's home:	
Any comments on location and characteristics of other buildings in Radley including dwellings, shops, village hall, barns, laundries etc:	In 1930s, 'Radley village' was essentially Lower Radley.

Services and pastimes (excluding education and travel covered above)

Comments about shopping including retail deliveries:	
Comments on health and health services:	
Comments on play, pastimes and recreational activities - eg swimming in river, pub, clubs and societies, football, darts, guides:	
Comments on religion, church and choir:	

Miscellaneous

Any comments about Radley people not covered elsewhere:	
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<p>Comments about Radley College, its way of operating and relations with the village:</p>	<p>Discipline at Radley College strict, but largely maintained by the boys themselves (including beatings). Dress code quite strict. Depiction of Billy Bunter's school in 'The Magnet' was not unrepresentative of Radley College. Good preparation for the Army (!). Still today: Chapel every day; 'constant drip of Christian morality' probably worthwhile.</p> <p>Radley College OTC (and Eastbourne College (evacuated to Radley)) were part of Berkshire Home Guard; they patrolled Radley Park (e.g. for parachuters) and along Thames towpath between Sandford Lock and Black Bridge. All Thames bridges were guarded. If necessary, Radley College would have been turned into a hospital. Abingdon aerodrome was bombed twice.</p> <p>219 Old Radleians killed in WW1, 220 in WW2 (of which many were killed in Battle of Britain and in bombers).</p> <p>Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire (OR) got heavy water, industrial diamonds and French scientists out of France when France was falling; then he was killed while working on bomb disposal.</p> <p>Other ORs: Air Chief Marshall Ludlow-Hewitt, (around ~1900) three top admirals in Naval List, Air Marshall David Craig (Baron Craig of Radley).</p> <p>Peachcroft Estate sold off by Radley College ~1980 for ~£2M; part went to endowment fund, part spent on more buildings.</p> <p>Dennis Silk's (Warden 1968 - 1991) TV film very successful in promoting Radley College.</p>
<p>Comments on Coronation and Jubilee events:</p>	
<p>Any information on impact of WW2 in Radley and about wartime activities:</p>	<p>WW2 'GHQ' defence line (Booklet, 'Invasion 1940', Leslie Smith [Kennington History Society] and Tony Money) (Thames, trenches and pillboxes) built after fall of France in 1940 ran locally between Abingdon and Newbridge (~8 miles). Defence line was primarily to protect London and Midlands armaments factories. Some ~20 pillboxes still existing in 2003 between Abingdon and Newbridge, but trenches now all filled in.</p>
<p>Record here any other interesting items not covered above and general observations on life in those days:</p>	