

Milton's proud service in wartime

● FROM PAGE 8

delayed until August so that the account of the unveiling of the school Roll of Honour on July 1 by the Prince of Wales might be included.

MEMORIAL

The beautiful bronze memorial plaque bearing the names of 13 Old Boys who had fallen in World War I was erected by the Old Miltonians Association, and its unveiling by the Prince was a memorable occasion for the school.

The ceremony took place in the Beit Hall — which had by then been added to the original complex off Borrow Street — and the Prince took his place on a dais adjoining the memorial, the guard of Honour forming up in line in front and in the rear of the dais.

After the ceremony, at the Prince's request, the relatives of the fallen were presented to him.

Sixty-three Old Boys and seven masters fought in World War I — a fine record for a school that was only four years old when the conflict began.

Two masters won the MC, and one boy, 2nd Lieut. F. W. Thomas, RFC, who died of wounds, won both the MC and the Croix de Guerre.

In 1925 the first headmaster, Mr. E. B. de Beer, retired. He had set the school on firm foundations through years of struggle, during which "he had to fight with one hand as he built with the other".

WIDE INFLUENCE

He was succeeded by Lt.-Col. J. B. Brady, DSO, MA, who, as senior inspector of schools, had kept in close personal touch with both masters and boys since the school began.

Although he was headmaster for only five years, Col. Brady's personality was so outstanding and his influence so far-reaching that he was described as "the complete Miltonian".

A distinguished soldier, sportsman and athlete, he helped, as Inspector of Schools, to get Milton established in 1910, and its success, even in the early days, owed much to his advice and assistance.

As headmaster, his enthusiasm inspired boys and staff to achieve outstanding successes. In the examination room, on the cricket and rugby fields, in the boxing ring, on the parade ground and the athletic track the record of Milton became second to none.

He was responsible for the inauguration of the inter-school athletic and boxing competitions in Rhodesia, and always took a keen interest in the cadet camps.

One of the most important events in the life of the school took place during Col. Brady's term of office as head. This was the move to the new high



Lieut-Col. J. B. Brady, D.S.O., M.A., who was Headmaster of Milton School from 1925 to 1930. As Inspector of Schools, he took a keen interest in both Milton and Eveline from the beginning. He attended the opening ceremony on July 25, 1910.

school premises in Townsend Road.

After years of anticipation, the foundation stone there was laid by the Earl of Athlone on August 5, 1926, and the new establishment was officially opened on June 1, 1928, by Sir John Chancellor, Governor of Southern Rhodesia.

PATH DIVIDED

Thus the path of the school divided. The well-known premises in Borrow Street, and their occupants, now comprised a completely separate entity known as Milton Junior School, with Mr. Duncan MacDonald as the first Headmaster.

When Col. Brady retired from the High School in 1930, he was succeeded by Mr. H.G. Livingston, who served until 1941. Mr. L. R. Morgan was Headmaster during 1941 and 1942, and the post then passed to Mr. W. Gebbie (1942 to 1946).

From 1947 to 1952 the headmastership was assumed by Mr. A. Ball, who was followed by Mr. J. H. Downing until 1957, when Mr. C. R. Messiter-Tooze took office.

Throughout all these years the traditions of the school were carried on, and the many societies which had been formed grew from strength to strength as the boys' numbers increased and new activities developed.

in wartime

World War II jolted but did not greatly disrupt the work of the school.

If some activities did suffer, fresh energies were released into other channels, such as the raising of money for war funds.

More than 900 Old Miltonians served in the forces during this period, and 115 lost their lives. Their names have been added to the war memorial which has now been placed at the entrance to the High School Beit Hall.

Thirty-seven Old Miltonians, including Col. Brady, were decorated for valour or for their war services, and 13 were mentioned in dispatches.

An important addition to the school's facilities despite the war was the new sports pavilion, opened in 1940. The School Council and Old Boys played a major part in building this, about two-thirds of the cost being borne by the Old Miltonians Association.

FOR MUSIC

The years immediately after the war were marked by many musical occasions, with classical music meetings proving a very successful feature around 1950. Miss Una Etheridge played an important part in these cultural activities.

When the Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 1960 there were 1,134 boys on the register. The school had come a long way from its beginnings.

Once more over-crowding was the main problem, but already a big step had been taken towards beating this.

During the year a superbly equipped Sixth Form science block had been opened, and additions had been made to the Beit Hall. A Sixth Form arts block, new library, administration block and commercial department block were on the way to completion, also a technical block and more classrooms.

The excellent new Sixth Form facilities ushered in another era for Milton — the entry of senior students from other schools, including large numbers of girls.

Officially known as the Milton High School Department of Sixth Form Studies, but more familiar as "the Sixth Form Centre", the establishment quietly and efficiently fulfilled a most urgent need.

Operating as a separate department within the school, but under the control of the Headmaster, it is staffed by a team of specialist teachers headed by Mrs. Dorothy Sibson. It offers an impressive

range of sixth form subjects and facilities to students taking the A-Level G.C.E. Examinations.

The boys and girls enrolled there wear the uniforms of many schools, including Townsend, Eveline, Northlea, St. Peter's and the Convent. Although all, or nearly all their studying is done at Milton, they continue to take part in the life of their "parent" schools.

In this way the difficulty of providing specialised teaching, especially in the sciences, at sixth form level, is being met most satisfactorily.

At the end of last year Mr. P. M. Brett, who followed Mr. Messiter-Tooze as Headmaster, left to take up another appointment, and at the beginning of the present term Mr. R. K. Gracie was appointed.

Today the school numbers about 960 pupils, including those in the Sixth Forms. A recent staff list showed 48 teachers, among whom were five Old Miltonians.

The traditions laid down 60 years ago by Mr. De Beer and his small band are cherished as deeply as ever.