

BENJAMIN HUNT THOMPSON (G27-31)

Sub Prefect and member of the 1st XV in 1930 Ben left school in the summer of 1931 and commenced employment working in Ipswich for his uncle at the builders merchant E. L. Hunt Ltd. He made use of his experience with the cadet force by joining the Territorial Army where he became a corporal.

Ben was called up at the start of the Second World War and found himself in France as a member of the Royal Army Service Corps. As the Army retreated towards Dunkirk, Ben was issued with a motor bike and given the task of guiding and organizing some of the columns of retreating vehicles. When he was eventually evacuated he had no choice but to push his beloved motor bike off the jetty as it could not be carried onboard. He was posted to Nigeria from 1942 to 1944 and then returned to Western Europe for the remainder of the war. He was mentioned in dispatches, reaching the rank of Captain by the end of his service. Ben returned to civilian life and to his uncle at E. L. Hunt Ltd. and in due course took over control of the company which he retained until his retirement.

Much of his attention was directed to the S.O.F and to rearing a family, becoming a very proud father, especially when his son Edward (G81-86) followed him to Framlingham. Ben founded the Suffolk Supper in 1953 and organized it for the following thirty-two years, eventually passing the responsibility to Andrew Currie (R38-43) in 1985. During that period Ben became President of the Society in 1971, Governor of the school from 1971 to 1988 and in 1980 undertook to persuade Old Framlinghamians to support the appeal for £200,000 to be used for a Technology Centre and Chapel Extension at the school. He led the OF fundraising until 1983 when the original target was surpassed.

Neither family, work, school or Old Boys Society took all the attention of this energetic, caring, kindly man for he still found time for the Rotary Club and not only became President of the Ipswich Club but also secretary of the Region, a task involving an immense amount of work.

We mourn the passing of an OF who quietly and modestly, over three quarters of a lifetime, made an immeasurable contribution to the well-being of Framlingham College and the Society of Old Framlinghamians.