

## **RUSSELL ALFRED ERNEST WATSON (S24-29)**

He was born on 27 October 1910.

The following is taken from an obituary in the Autumn 1994 OF Magazine.

"He died a few days after Christmas 1974. He was a member of Reuters before the war and joined the South China Sunday Post in Hong Kong in 1945 and editor for 17 years until 1967. He lost his job most unfairly when he allegedly failed to exercise proper discretion in printing a headline during the 1967 confrontation. Robin Hutcheon, now in Australia, had worked with Russell and had also written an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary book of the newspaper, in which his dismissal is described as unfair and a great scandal. In 1967, the newspaper was a political mouthpiece of the Government and they took great exception to Russell printing the truth about a particular incident during the 1967 confrontation.

His son Christopher says that his father was very proud of having been to Framlingham and used to read the OF Magazine from cover to cover. When Chris was visiting England in 1980, he looked up an OF friend of his father, Alan Newson (20-28) who took him to see the College; Chris said he was very impressed with the College, it was like a pilgrimage for him to visit part of his father's past and was amazed that Alan Newson was able to point out Russell in 2 photos hanging on the College walls.

He served with the Hong Kong volunteers during WW2 and was shot and captured by the Japanese and served 3 months as POW in Hong Kong, before being shipped to Japan where he was a POW for 3 years.

He married in 1945 and his wife, Thelma had the agency for Time magazine, which was very successful, but sold this some years ago and left for England. She was a most courageous person who during the Japanese occupation used to visit Russell's camp and standing outside the wire, throw over food to him. When caught by a Japanese guard she was brutally beaten while he had to stand by helplessly and watch. The ordeal left her deaf.