



MAITLAND HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS' DINNER
Reunion in Egypt
11 January 1916

An interesting gathering took place in Cairo on Thursday, January 11, 1916, when all the 'old boys' of the Maitland High School gathered at a dinner to talk about the old school and their comrades in service, and of those who had fallen among the heroes of the army from the lands of the Southern Cross. The reunion will be classed among the historic events of the school which has nobly contributed its share, both to the public life of the State and now most recently to the ranks of the A.I.F.

The promoters have sent us the menu card, which provides a wonderful souvenir of an interesting event.

The card is headed: On Active Service — Maitland High School M.H.S. over the crossed flags of the Union Jack and the Commonwealth. Under the flags is the school motto 'En Avant'. Then follows Old Boys' Reunion at Metropole Hotel, Cairo, Tuesday, January 11, 1916. Chairman, Captain Anderson; secretary, Sergeant Major H. Bowden Fletcher, Sergeant N. S. Macpherson; committee, Staff Sergeant S. Lamble, Corporal K. B. Bleazard, Trooper A. L. Fitzpatrick. This occupies the front of the card.

On the inside is the toast list and menu as follows: Toasts: 'The King', the Chairman; 'The School,' Sergeants N. S. McPherson, G. Lamble; 'Fallen School boys,' Lieutenant Heydon; 'The Colours — Black and White,' Driver J. Solling, Trooper Fitzpatrick; 'The Empire', Sergeant Major H. Bowden Fletcher, Corporal J. Kerr; 'Australia,' Captain Anderson, Corporal Bleazard. Menu: Consommé au Tapioca, Soles a la Colbert, Mange-tout a la Parisienne, Filet de Boeuf Mignon au Modere, Salade Saison, Gateaux a la Metropole, Dessert-Cafe.

It may be mentioned that the school honour roll now includes, over 200 names.

The correspondent [*Howard Bowden Fletcher*] to whom we are indebted for an account of the interesting function, and who is a son of Mr. E. G. Fletcher, who is well-known in Maitland, writes as follows:

I am sending you a menu card of the above dinner held at the Metropole Hotel, Cairo, on 11th January, at which, despite the limited notice there was a goodly attendance. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Capt. Anderson and Lieut. Guy Heydon, and in the absence of the former Sergeant Major H. Bowden Fletcher was unanimously chosen to preside, and after the loyal toast had been drunk, all hands fell to on the viands offered by the festive board. Sergeant Macpherson handled the toast of 'The School' with commendable skill; and his remarks were punctuated with hearty applause and one and all wished we were back again in reality under the old 'Boss' [*R.J. Hinder*]. Sergeant G. Lamble responded briefly, and to the point.

'Fallen Schoolboys', in the absence of Lieutenant Heydon was taken by Bert Markwell, and the toast was celebrated by all hands standing silently to attention for two seconds. 'The Colours', were in the skillful hands of Driver Soiling, who took us through many a hard-won victory on the football field and we felt proud that such a large number of wearers of the 'Black and White' (about 150) had answered the higher call of the 'red, white and blue.' Alan Fitzpatrick in responding, expressed sentiments worthy of the occasion. In dealing with 'The Empire,' Sergeant Major Fletcher was evidently in his



element, but struck a serious note in drawing attention to our responsibilities as electors when the war was over, and in concluding expressed the hope that out of the chaos would emerge an Imperial parliament to deal with Imperial affairs. Corporal Jim Kerr very heartily responded to the toast.

In the absence of Captain Anderson, the toast to 'Australia' was briefly proposed by Sergeant Major Fletcher and received with enthusiasm. 'Absent Friends', as an impromptu toast, expressed the thoughts of all who would like to have seen a much larger number present, but owing to the unsettled situation after the evacuation of Anzac, it was essential to hold the function before any more of the boys were moved to a big distance.

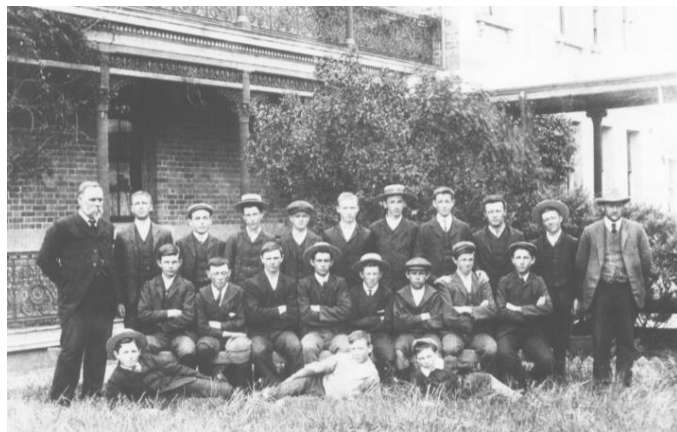
The menu, card was signed by the following old boys: — H. Bowden Fletcher, James Kerr, Robert H. Kerr, A. D. McDonald, J. A. Markwell, Bert M. Markwell, W. J. Crane, G. S. Lamble, A. Fitzpatrick, N. S. McPherson, W. George Foster, J. D. Walker, W. M. Anderson, R. Solling, Malcolm L. Crane.

Source: *Maitland Weekly Mercury*, Saturday 1 April 1916, page 16

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article127161654>



*R. J. (Boss) Hinder B. A.
Headmaster 1889 - 1914*



*R. J. Hinder with student boarders outside the hostel.
Circa 1905*



*Le Metropole Hotel, Cairo
Circa 1937*

Photographic Sources: <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/12622>

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/54268>

<https://www.localguidetoegypt.com/post/11-historical-hotels-in-egypt-that-you-can-still-stay-at-today>