ANNUAL REPORT 1994

Achilles Club – 75 Years 1920-1995

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET: GUILDHALL,
LONDON, 29TH JUNE 1995
BACK TO THE FUTURE - AN HISTORIC YEAR

As we look back on the achievements of 1994, the Club embarks on one of the most significant years in its history. We celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Club’s foundation (and the minutes of the first committee meeting are reproduced elsewhere herein). However, the spirit of the Club goes back far earlier than that, and we are justly proud of the fact that Oxford hosted the first ever international athletics match, versus Yale in 1894: the Transatlantic series continues to this day, and with Harvard and Yale visiting us in June, a lavish Anniversary Banquet is to be held.

However, our celebration of 1995 is by no means confined to reminiscence. In the very year of another centenary, that of the acquisition from Caius of Fenners, CUAC will proudly hold the official opening of their new headquarters at Wilberforce Road, a sports complex which is at last worthy of upholding Light Blue traditions into the next millennium.

ALL members and their spouses/partners/guests are warmly invited to join in these celebrations. Another application form for the Guildhall Banquet is set out below, and we must ask that you return this NOW, as numbers must be finalised. Initial bookings have reflected tremendous interest and enthusiasm for the event, and we expect an attendance of close to 500, of which well over one third will be Americans!

However, if you cannot attend the Banquet on 29th June, then come to the 'Varsity Match at the official opening of the new Cambridge track on Saturday 20th May, or visit the Centenary Match v. Harvard and Yale in Oxford on Wednesday June 28th and perhaps even compete in veterans’ events.

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Anniversary Banquet Booking Form.

To be returned to Bridget Wheeler, c/o Holman Fenwick and Willan, Marlow House, Lloyds Avenue, London EC3N 1AJ.

a. I wish to order … tickets for the Banquet at Guildhall on 29th June 1995 (Black Tie), at £105 each including wines, and enclose a cheque payable to ‘Achilles Trust’ for the full amount i.e. £………………

b. I am interested in competing in Veterans or pre-Veterans events at the Harvard and Yale match on 29th June. Preferred events …………………………………………... Age: …………………

c. Please send me addresses of:
   - University contemporaries of the year: …………………
   - Team members of the USA tour of the year: …………………
   - The following individual members:

Name: …………………
Address: …………………
Phone: …………………

University: …………………
Years: …………………
Fax: …………………
NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of the Achilles Club will be held in the Pavilion at the Wilberforce Road Track, Cambridge, at 12:15 prompt on Saturday 20th May 1995.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of last year’s A.G.M.
2. To receive a Report from the Hon. Secretary on the Club’s activities.
3. To receive Financial Reports from the Hon. Treasurer and from the Clerk to the Achilles Trust.
4. To appoint the Auditors.
5. Any other business.

1995 FIXTURES
A full list of fixtures is set out in the Fixture Card enclosed with this Report. Apart from the opening of the new Cambridge track at the ‘Varsity match in May and the Banquet and Harvard/Yale match at the end of June, key events include the July match against Combined Services and others, the Kinnaird and Sward meeting in April, and the Vancouver Trophy meeting at the end of August.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ATHLETIC SPORTS

1994-1995
THE ACHILLES CLUB

PRESIDENT
SIR THOMAS MACPHERSON (Oxford).

VICE-PRESIDENTS
K.S. DUNCAN, O.B.E. (Oxford)
Dr. R.K.I. KENNEDY (Cambridge)
D.G. STEEL (Oxford).

CHAIRMAN
H.R.H. STINSON, LL.D HON. (Cambridge).

COMMITTEE
Dr. D.W. Roberts (Cambridge) U.S. Matches
M.S. Steed (Cambridge) Schools Relays
B.H.R. Wheeler (Cambridge) U.S. Centenary
J.E.D. Crews (Oxford) Sponsorship
A.O. Fischer (Cambridge) Match Officials
G. Davies Past President OUAC
S. Garland Past President CUAC
M.J. Weaver President CUAC
Ruth Irving President CUAC
Joanne Iles Hon. Sec. OUAC
Rachel Stott Hon. Sec. CUAC
Carolyn May Women’s Captain CUAC
A. Barber Men’s Captain CUAC
Air Commodore J.G. De’Ath, M.B.E. Hon. Treasurer OUAC
Dr. C.J.R. Thorne Hon. Treasurer CUAC
S.J. Clarke Achilles Rep. OUAC
T.M. Coker Achilles Rep. CUAC

Team Managers:
Christine Martin (Cambridge), 0181 342 1852 (H), 0181 366 1177 (W),
Bill Howard (Cambridge), 0171 3124035 (W), 0171 828 7179 (H);
Jon Crews (Oxford), 0181 940 2482, Mark Steed (Cambridge),
01832 274648; Shanker Singham (Oxford), 0181 398 5383
Andy Hodge (Cambridge) 01959 572603

Clerks to the Achilles Trust:
James and Susan Bevan (Cambridge), Bulby Hall, Bulby, South Lincs. Phone 0177832-382

Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary:
Pete Crawshaw (Oxford), 19 Belmont Rd, Reigate, Surrey. 01737-245207

Hon. Secretary:
Paul Wilcox (Cambridge), Eggar Forrester Ltd, Rodwell House, Middlesex St,
London E1 7HJ 0171-377 9366, 01473 652213 (H).
CLUB KIT

Stockists are as follows:

- Vests, sweaters, blazers, ties, etc: Ryder and Amies 0223-350371
- Track suits, T-shirts, etc: Castell and Sons 0865 244000

CLUB BUTTONS AND CUFLINKS

Achilles Cufflinks, in similar style to the Club buttons and in a gilt finish, are available from the Hon. Secretary. Price £14.50 per set.

Club blazer buttons, in the traditional ‘pewter’ finish, may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, price £2.00 each.

MISSING TROPHIES

The following trophies are missing. Members are asked to search their lofts/mantelshelves/memories accordingly:

- Trophy for best Achilles performance in the Kinnaird meeting
- Trophy for best Achilles performance in the Sward meeting
- Le Touquet Cup for most improved performance at ‘Varsity Match.

ACHILLES MEDALS

Achilles Medals for 1994 have been awarded to Danielle Sanderson (Marathon 2:36.29, and first British finisher in tough conditions at the European Championships), and Ruth Irving (Long Jump 6.28m, and Commonwealth Games Finalist). Both athletes ranked 3rd in the UK for the year.

ACHILLES TRUST AWARDS

The following Oxford and Cambridge athletes have received 1995 awards from the Trust to assist them to achieve top international standard in the increasingly competitive environment of modern athletics:

- Heidi Moulder (4th, European Junior 3000m)
- Ruth Irving (Commonwealth Games Long Jump Finalist)
- Sarah Winckless (6th, AAA Discus)

The Trust awards would not be possible without the generosity of members who have contributed to the Achilles Trust over the years, enabling the Trustees to build up a substantial capital sum from which annual income is derived. The major part of this income funds the Transatlantic Series. The Trustees and the Club Committee would like to be able to expand the assistance given by the Trust to training and competition especially for undergraduate members, and to athletes of exceptional talent.

A more detailed explanation of the of the Trust’s plans for the future, and how members can help realise them, will be circulated shortly.

KINNAIRD AND SWARD TROPHIES

This heading will make our older members sit up and take notice! For the first time for twenty years the Club competed for what were once the country’s premier trophies. Nowadays the competition is not much more than an early season run-out for clubs in the south east, but nevertheless the standards were high, and the Club was proud to have third place in both matches. Somewhere there is a trophy awarded within Achilles to the member who puts up the best performance at the Sward meeting. If we ever find it (does someone out there have it on their mantelpiece?) it should go to Matt Weaver who won the pole vault at 4.70m. Likewise there is a similar long lost award relating to the Kinnaird, which Andy Robinson’s courageous and successful long run for home in the 1500m justified. Other victories were recorded by Chris Cholerton (400h), Chris Martin (400h B and 400 B), and Tony Hatton (javelin).
BANNISTER 4 MINUTE MILE GALA

The 40th Anniversary of Sir Roger's immortal achievement, in which so many Achilles members played supporting roles, was celebrated splendidly by the BAF at a dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel. Members were conspicuous among the guests of honour. Roger himself replied eloquently to a fine speech by Chris Chataway. Chris Brasher, Alan Gordon and George Dole were all honoured for their parts in the race; Herb Elliott, who subsequently held the World Record, was there; Jerry Corcoran, our 1932 Olympic 1500m Silver Medalist, was singled out for special mention.

The Club mustered a remarkable number of members who had participated in other events in the AAA v. OUAC match on 6th May 1954. Sandy Duncan who had been match referee; Norris McWharter the announcer, Derek Johnson who broke through for the first time in winning the 440; and Terry (now Sir Terence) Higgins whom he defeated; Robin Pinnington who won the 100 yards earlier in the evening; Peter Hildreth and Paul Vine who spurred over the hurdles (the low hurdles having been run just before the mile, Roger would maintain that Paul finished in front of him that evening); Michael McKean and Frederick Aldridge who contested the 2 Miles; Tom Carpenter who long jumped; and Nigel Miller who although listed in the programme for the mile to his eternal regret did not run.

It was an occasion for nostalgia and anecdotes. Robin Pinnington recalled how he wandered into the Iffley Road changing rooms later in that afternoon in 1954. The lone figure in the far corner was none other than RGB himself, quietly dressing in untroubled solitude. How times have changed.

The club filled another 7 tables at the dinner, and were treated to a feast of athletics memories. Almost all the subsequent world mile record holders, including another of our members, Herb Elliott, were on parade, and their exploits displayed on film. A most enjoyable and memorable night.

THE 12TH VARSITY MATCH

For the second year running the long jumpers took centre stage. Ruth Irving broke her own match record set last year with 6.28 in the women's match, and behind her Eleanor Cave and Halycon Martin moved to second and third on the all-time list of competitors in the match. Oxford's President Gareth Davies equaled Simon Walker's 1993 record of 7.62 (25 ft exactly), and added the triple jump for good measure. It was Gareth's first taste of victory in Dark Blue colours, having already won the long jump for Cambridge in 1991 and 1992.

However, these performance were matched by Matt Weaver's new match record of 4.90 in the pole vault; adding 10 cm to his own mark; and by the throws of Malcolm Coad, achieving a new hammer record of 57.96, and Sarah Winckless, who added almost 8m to Maggie Anderson's discus record, with 46.70m.

Pride of place on the track went to Charlotte Cutler, who set new record in 400m hurdles, won the 400m flat, and turned a substantial deficit into a match-winning lead on the third leg of the deciding 4x400m relay.

The women's match, indeed was a cliffhanger, Cambridge prevailing by just 91 points to 88. Oxford were clear winners of the men's match and the C.N. Jackson Trophy by 124 points to 98. Positions were reversed in the 2nd Team matches, being won by Alverstone (Cambridge men - The Graham Goddard Trophy) and Millipedes (Oxford women - The Derek Steel Trophy) respectively.

AAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Andrew Lill was perfectly placed coming off the final bend in a slow 800m but was frustrated to finish fourth. Ruth Irving was also a little below her best in the long jump, placing fourth with 6.07. Sarah Winckless however was close to her pb, placing 6th in the discus with 50.90.

Kenny Stirrat placed 10th in the 3000 S/C in a fast 8:48.26. Eleanor Cave, in what may be her farewell season, had a busy fortnight, placing 10th in the high jump and 11th in the triple jump while suffering from flu, and the next weekend achieving a satisfying 9th place in the heptathlon.

Other notable Achilles results included Danielle Sanderson, 8th 10000m; Tony Hatton, 14th JT; Matt Weaver, 15th PV; and Mara Myers, 15th 3000m.

PENN/CORNELL VISIT

Oxford and Cambridge thoroughly enjoyed welcoming a very friendly team for Pennsylvania and Cornell. After a memorable dinner in Jesus hall, they were smuggled into Trinity at midnight to attempt the Great Court Run. Someone had convinced them that to be done properly they should run naked: unabashed, men and women alike duly stripped off... For the record, no one achieved a home run.

The match the following week at Iffley Road was contested in similar amiable spirit, but with none the less determination on both sides. Fired up by the victory against Harvard and Yale last year, team manager Dewi Roberts was determined to record the first win against Penn and Cornell since 1966. Sadly it was not to be, although both results hung in the balance until late on the glorious summer evening which the contest enjoyed.

ACHILLES V. COMBINED SERVICES V. HAMPSHIRE V. SURREY V. ESSEX V. KENT

This was the best match in terms of quality in depth that Achilles has competed in for many years. Thus although we fielded strong (and almost complete) teams of both men and women it was no disgrace that we finished 5th out the 6 competing teams in each match. As it was the men beat Surrey (and would have passed Combined Services, too, if it had not been for no-heights in the pole vault and high jump), and the women beat Combined Services.

The teams decamped for a relaxed evening swim and barbecue, courtesy of the Hon. Sec.'s parents, rounding off what is now firmly established as the centrepiece of the Club's competitive calendar.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Club's interest at the Europeans was all centred on the marathons. Richard Nerrurkar ran a splendid race but will have been disappointed to have been forced in fourth place by the Spanish trio: his time was 2:11:56. Danielle Sanderson also achieved great things, being first Briton home in 11th place with 2:36:29.
Our representation at the Commonwealth Games was more broadly based. Pride of place goes to former OUAC President Tim Barrett, representing Canada, who took the silver medal in 30k Walk after having made much of the pace. The current CUAC President, Ruth Irving, of Scotland, reached the long jump final. Joanna Latimer, of Northern Ireland, was close to winning a place in the 800m finish, coming 5th in her heat. Andrew Lill, however, representing England, was run out of it in the home straight of his first round 800m.

**CUAC CUPPERS - FIRST MATCH AT THE NEW CAMBRIDGE TRACK**

A new era was ushered in by an entrant in the women’s pole vault, who was the first person to participate in competition at the splendid new facility at Wilberforce Road.

**CRIMEWATCH**

We received an interesting letter from a non-member who had come by a medal inscribed


Pole Vault. 1965. 3rd.

and who wondered if we knew its history. Our records quickly showed that it had been won by Nicholas Newton: he was delighted, as it had been stolen with much else of sentimental value from his home no less than 7 years ago. The medal’s discovery gives him hope that other items may in the course of time yet come to light.

**IDIOT**

Marcus Browning, who won the long jump at the 1990 ‘Varsity Match and has a personal best of 7.52, achieved the dubious distinction of being the first member to be disqualified from competition for drug abuse. He tested positive for amphetamines after placing last in the javelin for team Solent in a GRE match. Press reports record that "Browning says he has now retired from athletics”.

**IN MEMORIAM**

This year we mourn the passing of three distinguished knights, and several other friends and former teammates. However, it is the early death of a younger fellow member, before his career had run its course, that makes us stop and reflect.


Sir Jack Longland (Jesus College, Cambridge 1923-27, and Magdalene College 1927-29) on 29th November 1993. Jack achieved distinction in many walks of life, as an academic, pioneering Everest mountaineer, educator and long time broadcaster on


Sir Henry Phelps Brown, MBE, FBA (Wadham College, Oxford, 1924-28), on 15th December 1994. Henry was a member of the victorious Oxford team in the 1926 Cross Country match. He became one of the foremost economists of his generation, and throughout the 1960’s and 1970’s was a leading adviser to governments on wages and prices.

Sir Noel Moynhin FAGCP CSI (Downing College, Cambridge, 1938-40 and 1946-49), on 5th October 1994. A miler of rare talent, his athletic career was interrupted by the war. He won the unofficial wartime ‘Varsity Match mile of 1940, before entering the RAF, and returned to Cambridge in 1946 at the age of 30 to read medicine. An obituary in The Times reports that he captained several England athletics teams. He devoted his life to disaster relief, and since 1977 had been Chairman of Save the Children Fund.

E.G. Perry (Christ’s College, Cambridge, 1929-32), in February 1994. Gordon Perry won the shot put in the 1932 ‘Varsity Sports. The achievement was remarkable for the fact, related to us by his son, that at the age of 11 he had a section of ox-bone grafted into his right arm, following multiple fractures. The operation was performed without antibiotics or modern bone screws by a Mr E.H. Groves of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, who modelled and boiled pieces of fresh ox bone at home in his kitchen. Gordon first worked as a missionary, and after serving in the army from 1940 to 1955, pursued a career as a schoolmaster.

The Reverend F.M. Argyle (Clare College, Cambridge, 1931-34), in March 1993. His son Ian was also elected to the Club, in about 1960.


R.J. Ridout (St Catherine’s Society, Oxford, c. 1937). The Times’ obituary of the English textbook writer Ronald Ridout reports that he gained a half-Blue in athletics, although we have no record of his exploits.

The Times’ obituary of Sir Leonard Hooper (‘Joe’ Hooper - Worcester, Oxford, c. 1934) stated that he competed as a distance and cross country runner for the University. Contemporaries believe this to be erroneous, and perhaps a confusion with W.L. Hooper (Queen’s, Oxford, 1931-34) who ran in the 1932 and 1933 Cross Country Matches, and the 1934 ‘Varsity Sports 3 Miles. A definitive explanation would be welcomed.
60 YEARS ON

Oxford won the 1934 'Varsity Sports by 7 events to 4 (see appendix for full results) under the leadership of their President, the great Jack Lovelock. 'Tiny' Davis was President of CUAC.

We were hosts to Princeton and Cornell, affording an opportunity for a rematch between Lovelock and Bonthron, following their epic mile in the USA the previous year when Jack set a new World Record.

Many schools were visited (this was a period when Achilles dedication to development of the sport throughout the country was at its peak), and a four man team of Lovelock, Horsfall, Rathbone and Townend enjoyed a tour of Scandinavia.

Medallists at the British Empire Games were (Gold) J.E. Lovelock, 1 Mile; M.C. Nokes, Hammer, (Silver) R.L. Howland, Weight; D.R. Bell, Discus; (Bronze) J.F. Corne, 1 Mile; J.C. Stothard, 880y; A.G. Pilbrow, 120y Hurdles; R.K. Brown, 440y Hurdles.

25 YEARS ON

I.W. Dawes was OUAC President for 1969, and Martin Winbolt-Lewis President of CUAC. Oxford beat Cambridge at the White City by 105.5 points to 81.5 (see appendix). In the Relays Match, the Cambridge team of Moughton, Harris, Wilkinson and Green set the current match record for 4 x 800m, averaging an impressive 1:54.4 per leg. In the closest possible Cross Country match, Cambridge won with points tied 40-40. Bob Steele was the individual winner.

GODFREY BROWN WRITES:

"In his letter Bob Tisdall's memory is slightly at fault with regard to my brother Ralph. As Bob correctly described in his book 'The Young Athlete', my brother, who had run as second string the year before, was hoping to win the 220 y Hurdles for his full blue. Bob expressed his deep appreciation of Ralph's offer to stand down in his favour, but told him to go on and win. At the last hurdle Ralph was in the lead and looked a likely winner, but faltered on the run in to lose by inches.

"What neither Bob Tisdall nor Ted Cawston (first string in the event) knew was that at the last hurdle due to the loose cinders at Stamford Bridge he tore a hamstring and struggled on in agony. That injury indirectly deprived me and the Achilles Club of a world record of a unique kind.

"In the Olympic Year of 1936 my sister Audrey and brother Ralph joined me in the provisional selection for the Berlin Games. Ralph's old injury played up again during training but by the final trials in the AAA Championships he was recovering and coming back to the form that had made him Britain's number one in the 400 metres hurdles the previous year. In another three weeks he would have been back to peak form with a realistic chance of an Olympic bronze medal. However the selectors never made any enquiries about his fitness and decided against his selection. If two brothers and a sister had represented a country it would have been unique and something which is never likely to occur, nor is it likely that the Achilles Club will ever get the same chance to have two brothers in the same Olympics."

Godfrey Brown won a gold and a silver, and Audrey a silver medal.

Further correspondence is included in the appendix.

UK MERIT RANKINGS

The following members reached the top ten in Peter Matthews' Merit Rankings for 1994:

1st: Richard Nerurkar  Marathon  2:11:56
3rd: Ruth Irving  Long Jump  6.28
4th: Danielle Sanderson  Marathon  2:36:29
5th: Richard Nerurkar  5000m  13:36:89
6th: Joanna Latimer  800m  2:03:27
7th: Sarah Winckless  Discus  53.16
9th: Richard Nerurkar  10,000m  28:53.03

These rankings are based in comparative results in head to head competitions, and not simply on the stopwatch or tape measure.

Notable omissions include Gareth Davies' 7.62 Long Jump: only 5 athletes jumped further during the season.

-Paul Willcox
January 1995

THE HIGH JUMP

1. The name of the Club shall be the Achilles Club.
2. The following shall be eligible candidates for membership of the Club:
   (i) All past, present and future Blues and half-blues of the O.U.A.C. and C.U.A.C.
   (ii) Other members of the O.U.A.C. and C.U.A.C. not to exceed 10 in number from each in any one year, to be nominated by the Committees of the O.U.A.C. and C.U.A.C. respectively.
3. There shall be an annual General Meeting of the members of the Club at least once in every year, to be held as near as possible to the date of the University Sports. Notice of this meeting shall be sent to every member at least 15 days before it is held.
4. The President and Vice-President of the Club shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting, to hold office for one year.
5. There shall be a general Committee of the Club, who shall be responsible for the conduct of its affairs.
6. The Committee shall include the Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries of the O.U.A.C. and C.U.A.C., and not more than six other members, to be elected by the Annual General Meeting, to hold office for one year.
7. The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancies which may occur in its membership in the intervals between Annual General Meetings.
8. The Committee shall appoint a Chairman, and an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary.
9. The Committee shall elect members of the Club from among the eligible candidates.
10. The candidates for membership of the Club shall be divided into two categories:
   (i) Senior Candidates, who shall be those candidates who have graduated from the University prior to the formation of the Club.
   (ii) Resident Candidates, who shall be those candidates in residence at the University at the time of, or subsequent to, the formation of the Club.
11. (i) Senior Candidates, when elected by the Committee, shall become life members of the Club upon payment of the life subscription of 5 guineas, or if they pay an annual subscription of 1 guinea for 7 years.
   (ii) Resident Candidates, when elected by the Committee, shall become members of the Club upon payment of a sum of 2 guineas. They shall pay no further subscriptions, while they remain in residence at the University, and shall enjoy the full privileges of the Club.
   (iii) Resident Members, when they leave the University, shall become life members of the Club upon payment of the sum of three guineas, or if they pay an annual subscription of one guinea for 5 years.

These rules shall only be altered by the Annual General Meeting of the Club.
match was held, on grass, at Christchurch College ground, Oxford. (O.U.A.C. had not, in those early days, got a ground of its own) on March 5 1864 and the second was held at Fenners on March 25 1865. This Varsity match proved to be the first, last and only Varsity athletics match to be held in Cambridge (until 1995) because the third match (again at Christchurch, Oxford, on March 10 1866) was the occasion of much overt gambling on individual races (the dead-heat in the 2-Mile race was regarded as very suspicious) and of subsequent major damage to the Oxford to Cambridge railway train by boisterous supporters. These evidences of the undesirable face of athletics caused the University authorities to banish the inter-Varsity sports to London (where had behaviour could be ignored), where they were to remain for very many years.

After a move back to Oxford in 1877, and a stay at Iffley Road for 18 years, it will be a 150th anniversary when the Varsity match returns to Cambridge in May 1995. The C.U.A.C. archives have details of the 1865 Fenners inter-Varsity sports in the form of tickets, to both match and dinner, signed by R.E. Webster (later Lord Alverstone) and of a fascinating hand-written 22-page eyewitness account penned by W.R. Browne (then an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge) and sent to C.U.A.C. in 1962 by his son, Colonel Barwick Browne. Some extracts from this account may be of interest.

A four lap to the mile track had been marked out on the grass at Fenners, and there was a continuous stream of visitors, but “in spite of the crowd, the course was admirably kept by the best-tempered and most efficient detachment of Police it was ever my lot to fall in with.” Such indeed was their zeal, that at the beginning of the day they laid violent hands on the two judges and the referee, one of them the President of the C.U.A.C. and only after full explanation would they allow them to proceed to their places within the ring.”

The first event was putting the shot, and there was an immediate “dispute between the authorities as to the terms of the contest. The Oxford men had been allowed, at their own sports, to put the weight in any manner they pleased, with two hands or one; whereas at Cambridge the real game, as only it is known in Scotland was strictly kept to, and only one hand allowed. It was at last agreed that each man should throw the ball both ways, and at the end an average should be struck to decide the issue”.

Following this event a drizzle began, “ere long settling into sleet, fast and furious, reducing the ground to the condition of a sodden marsh, the temperature to freezing point, and the spectators’ temper to zero. Nevertheless the competitors for the mile race begin to emerge from the pavilion, and the well-known form of Webster, covered up with great coats, is seen trotting round the course amid the acclamation of friends and well-wishers. Anon the five gather at the starting post, appear for a moment in the gorgeous but scanty costumes that fancy has suggested to each and then are off”. Webster duly won. The 100 yards which came next had to be run twice, because of a dispute about the result of the first race. The high jump is described as “of all contests the prettiest to witness” with Osborne showing a style comprising “a long rush and a tremendous deer-like bound; yet he got within half an inch of the winner, clearing the bar when laid flat on the pins, and falling when it was placed edgewaise”. Throwing the cricket ball resulted in “the great surprise of the day, and one Oxford gentleman was reported to have dropped something like £100 on that single event” when Cambridge men came first and second. In the hurdle race “the magnificent calves of Milvain of Trinity Hall elicit general and unbounded admiration. They are certainly the best pair of supporters shown throughout the day; but you may be sure every muscle of them is needed to carry their owner over that formidable array of hurdles in the face of the bitter wind and driving sleet that swept across the ground”. One competitor in the hurdles fell on the treacherous surface, as did one in the subsequent race, the quarter mile. The long jump proved to be “the least interesting event. Small flags were indeed planted in the ground to mark the point attained at each leap, but of course the great bodily exertion which all had been paid for seemed to be a mere formality of the proceedings. The final event, the two miles, however produced much excitement and the proceedings ended, Cambridge being victorious, with a dinner for 80 at the Red Lion hotel.

We fervently hope that the weather for the 1995 Varsity match will not resemble that of 1865, and that spectators and competitors will have a more comfortable day at Wilberforce Road.

Christopher Thorne
Senior Treasurer, C.U.A.C.

Directions to the Wilberforce Road Track

1. From the west, approach Cambridge on the A14 (was A45), take the exit at Madingley on to the A1303. Continue eastwards towards Cambridge, crossing over the M11 motorway at its Exit 13 (traffic lights). Continue eastwards, ignoring right turns signposted to High Cross and Veterinary School. 150 yards past the Churchill pub (on the right), and just opposite Churchill College (on the left), being a bit over a mile from the M11 junction, turn right onto Wilberforce Road. The Sports Centre is at the end of this road.

2. From the south, approach via the M11. Leave the motorway at Exit 13, turn right (traffic lights) onto the A1303. Follow instructions as above.

3. From elsewhere. Assuming you can get to the Grange Road University Rugby Ground; go north from there on Grange Road, taking the second road to your left, immediately after Robinson College. This is Adams Road; proceed westwards on this road; the Sports Centre is at its end.
History of CUAC and the Fenners "slope"

Some 30 years ago, about the time of the move of CUAC from Fenners to Milton Road, there were thoughts of producing a short history of the Club. A draft was produced by David Loudes, but no publication ensued. Possibly stimulated by the subsequent CUAC move to Wilberforce Road, ideas of a history have, again, surfaced. I have begun to gather data and would like to think that perhaps something will get written in due course.

One item which crops up in various ancient, and not-so-ancient, writings is the matter of horizontality at Fenners. Some records in the 19th century were judged as inadmissible because they were claimed to have been made in races run downhill (this included 440y races but, since Fenners was then a circuit of 1/3 of a mile, this would have been possible). In April 1937, in response to a query from Drake Digby (previously prompted by official questions about Godfrey Brown's 9.7 100 yard run on 4 June 1936), Peter Gray, of Gray, Swann and Cook, surveyed the Fenners "eastern straight" (the "home straight", then 200y long) and found that there was an illegal drop of between 1 in 221 and 1 in 251. Presumably this drop remained until CUAC left Fenners in 1960, although it was never remarked on to this author, and was similarly unknown to many other CUAC members of the 1930-1960 period.

Another problem arose in 1951 when, on February 13, Simon Brooks ran the 220y hurdles in 24.0 and, on June 5, Jack Parker ran the same event in identical time and McDonald Bailey ran the flat 220y in 21.0. Those would all have been British records, but were adjudged to have been inadmissible because they were "half a yard short" (the slope seemed to have been forgotten). The CUAC Committee minutes record that, under Chris Brasher's Presidency in 1950-51, the sharp Fenners bend (presumably that in the NW corner) was reduced. It was this modification which reduced the Fenners circumference from 587 yards to 576 yards for the last 10 years of its life. Could it have been that it also, temporarily, resulted in some inaccurate race distances? Harold Rottenberg, in November 1951, surveyed the Fenners track, and had regular markers inserted to show where the various races began; thereafter there seem to have been no queries about the validity of distances run.

I would be very interested to hear of recollections from any of those who ran at Fenners, particularly of knowledge of any slope or of any doubts about distances run (Cyril Coote certainly used to make some seemingly arbitrary decisional). And also to hear, from hurdlers, where exactly on the Fenners circuit they ran their races. It is my recollection from the late 1950s that, except for the AAA match, both high and low hurdles were run anticlockwise on the NW side (alongside the cricket scoreboard). But this may well not always have been so.

DR C J R THORNE
Senior Treasurer, CUAC
St Catharine's College
CAMBRIDGE

ATALANTA'S

Atalanta's was founded in 1992 by international tennis player, Sarah Loosemore of Sportswomen of Oxford. It is open to all past and present members of Oxford University who have earned Full Blues, Half Blues or Colours. The Club's main aims are three-fold:

* To promote women's sport in all fields.
* To provide an opportunity for sportswomen to mix socially in Oxford.
* To support women's sports clubs financially.

We currently have approximately 100 members from different sports. The committee consists of a President, Rachel Monk of University College, and ten other members who cover sponsorship, membership, entertainment, and links with old members. As Old Members' Secretary, I have been inviting former Blues to join. I.e. Blues who graduated before Atalanta's was founded. Atalanta's costs £50 to join for life or £30 for one year, and offers its members:

* Contact with other Oxford Sportswomen (past and present).
* Entertainment events at reduced charges.
* Members only events including our annual dinner.
* Atalanta's merchandise - shirts, scarves, broches etc.

If you would like more information please contact:

Mara Myers
St. Anne's College, Oxford OX2 6HS
Dear Mr. Wilcox,

I have been reading the Achilles Annual Report for 1993 with great interest as I always do, and especially the letter from Bob Tindall who was a contemporary of mine but against whom I never ran. We were, however, in opposing relay teams in the hurdles. I visited him in Queensland some years ago and found him very fit and well, as those who knew him of old would have expected. You have had some of his reminiscences and those of other well-known athletes, but perhaps you might be interested in a few of my stories though I was a second-string nonentity to Roly Harper.

Bob Tindall recalls the Achilles Tour of South Africa in 1929. In that same year I took part in another Achilles Tour in Ireland. On the same day one team was competing against South Africa, and another team was competing against Ireland in Dublin. It cannot have happened often that one club competed in two Internationals on the same day. "After the Dublin match there was a big dinner and the chair was taken by the Head of Police in Ireland — one O'Duffy I think. At the end of the dinner he said 'I would like to do something for these boys from London (sic), so I will give them freedom from Police for the City of Dublin for the night.' Drink flowed, and when the dinner was over, I and some friends went roaring and singing into the street in front of the Hotel where the dinner had taken place. We were immediately held up by a Policeman who told us that we couldn't be allowed to behave like that. We replied that we had been given freedom from him and his likes for the night. He asked who had given it to us, and when we told him he said that 'he had no power to do so'. We suggested that he enter the Hotel and tell O'Duffy that himself. He faded away.

As a hurdler it was my privilege to run against or rather behind Lord Burghley on many occasions — once, five times in a month. Two stories concerning him come to mind. The first time I ran in the A.A.A. Championships I changed and went down to the barrier to go out and warm up at Stanford Bridge. At the barrier I was turned back by a policeman, who said I was far too early as it was an hour before the hurdles heats. Very indignantly I turned back to return to the changing rooms, when I met Lord Burghley coming down to the barrier. I fell in behind him and when we got to the barrier he was smartly saluted by the policeman who had stopped me, and greeted with 'Good afternoon, Mr Lord.' He walked out on to the ground and I walked out behind him, thinking to myself that it was difficult enough to run against one as good as Burghley without being prevented by the Police from warming up....

The same year, I had run second to Burghley in the Midland Counties Championships. After the race we were lying side by side on the grass when the local chairman came up and said to Burghley 'This is our Mr. X, who has been a Vice-Chairman of our Association for the last 30 years and would be very proud to meet your Lordship.' Up got Burghley and walked off with his arm round the Vice-Chairman's neck, while I lay on the ground where I was and thought to myself, that there were some advantages being an unknown.

I think I have one small claim to fame — that of being the first Oxford man to run in the V.A.U. Championships in (I think) 1930. I made a new record in the high hurdles, which was broken a few years later by another Oxford man — Murray. I had hoped to talk with me my very strong College team from New College, but owing to degree exams the others (of whom some 6 or 7 were blues or half-blues) were unable to make it. We did however have a match against Birmingham University which we won easily. Some years ago I met another member who told me that in these days Birmingham University would be able to take on Oxford and Cambridge together and would probably win.

I remember running in the Southern Championships in 1929 in both the hurdles, and that entailed three rounds of the High Hurdles at half-hour intervals, followed by three rounds of the 440 yds hurdles at hourly intervals. When the times run in our days are compared with those of today, it should be remembered that in those days the track at Stamford Bridge was used five nights a week for dirt-track racing, and then rolled down before the Saturday athletic meeting. The High Hurdles was then on grass.

The final in I think 1928 (Olympic Year) was Burghley. Weightman-Smith, Gaby the English Champion, and "thincon", a South African who won the Olympic High Hurdles. Before the final at Stamford Bridge, a friend of mine was in the crowd immediately opposite the eighth hurdle. He noticed that it was a foot out of place and called over to a steward and pointed this out. The steward said it didn't matter and the race went ahead. At the eighth hurdle, Weightman-Smith (I think it was) took a monumental purler over the very hurdle my friend had noticed to be out of place.

If you have got this far, please forgive me for writing so much, but when one starts... !

(GERVAS CLAY)

New College, Oxford 1926-30
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<th>HIGH JUMP</th>
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**Result:**

1st Hare 249
2nd E Sri 241
3rd Kent 236
4th Combined Services 193
5th Achilles 175
6th Surrey 149
## OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE RELAYS MATCH

Held at Oxford on Sunday 27 February 1994

**MEN**

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<th>4x200m hurdles (A race)</th>
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**4x400m**

| 1. | 3:27.0 | 1. | 4:05.5 |
| 2. | 3:27.2 | 2. | 4:06.0 |
| 3. | 3:26.3 | 3. | 4:18.5 |
| 4. | 3:26.5 | 4. | 4:23.8 |

**Cambridge won by 4 events to 3**

**WOMEN**

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<td>4.</td>
<td>54.9</td>
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**Cambridge won by 3 events to 2**

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## OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE FRESHMEN'S & FRESHWOMEN'S MATCH

at Iffley Road, Oxford 29 October 1994

**Men**

100m

| 1. | 11.0 | A. James (C) 11.5, P. Markart (C) 11.7, S. Pidge (G) 11.9, R. Rydolf (C) 12.0 |
| 2. | 11.4 | J. Trissell (G) 11.5, P. Cowley (C) 11.5, P. Marin (C) 11.8 |
| 3. | 11.6 | G. Wright (C) 11.6, A. James (C) 11.6, P. Cowley (C) 11.6 |

200m

| 1. | 22.0 | S. Pidge (C) 22.4, J. Trissell (C) 22.5, F. Whittaker (C) 22.8 |
| 2. | 22.3 | K. Wise (C) 22.7, R. Allsop (C) 22.9, A. Clark (C) 23.4 |
| 3. | 22.7 | J. Cowley (C) 22.8, S. C. McCann (C) 22.9 |

400m

| 1. | 47.6 | A. McDougall (C) 47.6, J. Trissell (C) 47.6, R. Griffiths (C) 47.6 |
| 2. | 48.0 | A. Davis (C) 48.0, J. Clark (C) 48.0 |
| 3. | 48.3 | L. Erasmus (C) 48.3, A. MacPherson (G) 48.3, R. Piggott (C) 48.3 |

800m

| 1. | 1:50.4 | A. McDougall (C) 1:50.4, J. Trissell (C) 1:50.4, S. Weir (C) 1:50.4 |
| 2. | 1:51.0 | A. Davis (C) 1:51.0, J. Clark (C) 1:51.0 |
| 3. | 1:51.3 | L. Erasmus (C) 1:51.3, A. MacPherson (G) 1:51.3 |

1500m

| 1. | 3:37.4 | A. McDougall (C) 3:37.4, J. Trissell (C) 3:37.4, S. Weir (C) 3:37.4 |
| 2. | 3:38.0 | A. Davis (C) 3:38.0, J. Clark (C) 3:38.0 |
| 3. | 3:38.3 | L. Erasmus (C) 3:38.3, A. MacPherson (G) 3:38.3 |

5000m

| 1. | 14:59.2 | C. Edwards (C) 15:00.7, R. Jackson (C) 15:00.7, S. Weir (C) 15:00.7 |
| 2. | 15:00.7 | A. Davis (C) 15:00.7, J. Clark (C) 15:00.7 |
| 3. | 15:01.0 | L. Erasmus (C) 15:01.0, A. MacPherson (G) 15:01.0 |

10000m

| 1. | 29:28.2 | B. Dyson (C) 29:28.2, P. Jones (C) 29:28.2, R. Weir (C) 29:28.2 |
| 2. | 29:29.5 | A. Davis (C) 29:29.5, J. Clark (C) 29:29.5 |
| 3. | 29:30.5 | L. Erasmus (C) 29:30.5, A. MacPherson (G) 29:30.5 |

**Women**

100m

| 1. | 11.5 | K. Guss (C) 11.5, P. Rowley (C) 11.7, R. Richardson (C) 11.8 |
| 2. | 11.6 | K. Guss (C) 11.6, P. Rowley (C) 11.6, S. Alastair (C) 11.6 |
| 3. | 11.7 | C. Martin (C) 11.7, H. Booth (C) 11.7, R. Richardson (C) 11.7 |

200m

| 1. | 23.0 | K. Guss (C) 23.0, P. Rowley (C) 23.0, S. Alastair (C) 23.0 |
| 2. | 23.1 | C. Martin (C) 23.1, H. Booth (C) 23.1, R. Richardson (C) 23.1 |
| 3. | 23.3 | C. Martin (C) 23.3, H. Booth (C) 23.3, R. Richardson (C) 23.3 |

400m

| 1. | 55.4 | K. Guss (C) 55.4, P. Rowley (C) 55.4, S. Alastair (C) 55.4 |
| 2. | 55.5 | C. Martin (C) 55.5, H. Booth (C) 55.5, R. Richardson (C) 55.5 |
| 3. | 55.6 | C. Martin (C) 55.6, H. Booth (C) 55.6, R. Richardson (C) 55.6 |

800m

| 1. | 1:59.4 | K. Guss (C) 1:59.4, P. Rowley (C) 1:59.4, S. Alastair (C) 1:59.4 |
| 2. | 1:59.5 | C. Martin (C) 1:59.5, H. Booth (C) 1:59.5, R. Richardson (C) 1:59.5 |
| 3. | 1:59.6 | C. Martin (C) 1:59.6, H. Booth (C) 1:59.6, R. Richardson (C) 1:59.6 |

1500m

| 1. | 4:37.4 | K. Guss (C) 4:37.4, P. Rowley (C) 4:37.4, S. Alastair (C) 4:37.4 |
| 2. | 4:37.5 | C. Martin (C) 4:37.5, H. Booth (C) 4:37.5, R. Richardson (C) 4:37.5 |
| 3. | 4:37.6 | C. Martin (C) 4:37.6, H. Booth (C) 4:37.6, R. Richardson (C) 4:37.6 |

5000m

| 1. | 15:01.0 | K. Guss (C) 15:01.0, P. Rowley (C) 15:01.0, S. Alastair (C) 15:01.0 |
| 2. | 15:01.1 | C. Martin (C) 15:01.1, H. Booth (C) 15:01.1, R. Richardson (C) 15:01.1 |
| 3. | 15:01.2 | C. Martin (C) 15:01.2, H. Booth (C) 15:01.2, R. Richardson (C) 15:01.2 |

10000m

| 1. | 31:35.6 | K. Guss (C) 31:35.6, P. Rowley (C) 31:35.6, S. Alastair (C) 31:35.6 |
| 2. | 31:35.7 | C. Martin (C) 31:35.7, H. Booth (C) 31:35.7, R. Richardson (C) 31:35.7 |
| 3. | 31:35.8 | C. Martin (C) 31:35.8, H. Booth (C) 31:35.8, R. Richardson (C) 31:35.8 |

**CUT. 1.994**
### Varsity Field Events Match
#### Oxford vs Cambridge

**Oxford City Stadium, March 10th, 1961**

**Oxford vs Cambridge (105th Match)**

**Oxford City Stadium, West London, April 19th, 1969**

**Oxford Women won by 6 to 0**

### MEN

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<th>Cambridge</th>
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<td>Shot</td>
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<td>Discus</td>
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<td>42.04</td>
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<td>175.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pole Vault</td>
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<td>Triple Jump</td>
<td>58.43</td>
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<td>10000m</td>
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### WOMEN

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<tr>
<td>10000m</td>
<td>29:02.20</td>
<td>28:31.70</td>
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### Oxford and Cambridge v. Princeton and Cornell

**Oxford City Stadium, July 21st, 1961**

**Oxford and Cambridge 7, Princeton and Cornell 5**

### Oxford v. Cambridge

**100 Yards**
- E. J. D. Davis (Oxford) vs. R. W. Betts (Cambridge)
- R. E. H. Bates (Oxford) vs. L. J. C. Burtin (Cambridge)
- A. S. L. Bocket (Oxford) vs. J. C. E. Betts (Cambridge)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. L. J. C. Burtin (Cambridge)
- R. W. Betts (Oxford) vs. E. J. D. Davis (Cambridge)

**220 Yards**
- T. L. Bocket (Oxford) vs. R. E. H. Bates (Cambridge)
- R. W. Betts (Oxford) vs. J. C. E. Betts (Cambridge)
- A. S. L. Bocket (Oxford) vs. E. J. D. Davis (Cambridge)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. E. J. D. Davis (Cambridge)

**440 Yards**
- A. S. L. Bocket (Oxford) vs. R. W. Betts (Cambridge)
- E. J. D. Davis (Oxford) vs. J. C. E. Betts (Cambridge)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. E. J. D. Davis (Cambridge)

**Oxford and Cambridge**

- J. E. Lovelock (Oxford) vs. R. W. Betts (Cambridge)
- T. L. Bocket (Oxford) vs. R. W. Betts (Cambridge)
- R. W. Betts (Oxford) vs. J. C. E. Betts (Cambridge)
- E. J. D. Davis (Oxford) vs. J. C. E. Betts (Cambridge)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. E. J. D. Davis (Cambridge)

### Oxford and Cambridge v. Princeton and Cornell

**100 Yards**
- R. W. Betts (Oxford) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- E. J. D. Davis (Oxford) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)

**220 Yards**
- R. W. Betts (Oxford) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- E. J. D. Davis (Oxford) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)

**880 Yards**
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)

**Oxford and Cambridge**

- T. L. Bocket (Oxford) vs. R. W. Betts (Cambridge)
- R. W. Betts (Oxford) vs. J. C. E. Betts (Cambridge)
- E. J. D. Davis (Oxford) vs. J. C. E. Betts (Cambridge)
- J. C. E. Betts (Oxford) vs. E. J. D. Davis (Cambridge)

### Princeton and Cornell

**100 Yards**
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)

**220 Yards**
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)

**880 Yards**
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)
- R. S. De Freitas (Princeton) vs. R. S. De Freitas (Princeton)

### Thoughts

The events at the Oxford City Stadium showcase the athletic prowess of male and female athletes from Oxford and Cambridge, Princeton and Cornell. The matches are marked by intense competition and record-breaking performances, with notable performances in events such as the Long Jump, Shot, Discus, and 110m Hurdles. The matches between Oxford and Cambridge, and Princeton and Cornell, highlight the rivalry and camaraderie among the institutions, with frequent challenges and records set across various track and field disciplines.
The day I tricked 23,000 Germans into surrendering

ON THIS eve of D-Day the French Resistance was organised to receive an Allied officer who had apparently parachuted to help with food of this famous raid. The plan was that the officer would be captured and executed by the Germans, thus preventing the Resistance from surrendering.

The officer was, in fact, a British major who had been dropped into enemy occupied territory with the aim of disrupting the German defenses. The intrepid agent, later identified as Major Hewitt, parachuted into the town of Dieppe and was captured by a German patrol.

The Germans were unaware that the parachute was a British major and the resistance groups were unaware that the parachute was a German officer. The British major was later taken to a German prison camp and later died of torture.

The day I tricked 23,000 Germans into surrendering was the beginning of the end for the German occupation of France.

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