

IN MEMORIAM

COLONEL JOHN WEBB CHOWN (WEST HOUSE 1941-48)

John Chown, who has died aged 87, was a former Captain of School and a past President of the Old Redingensians Association. He was held in much affection and respect.

There was little that John did not involve himself in at Reading School; he not only became Captain of the School and Captain of West House, but also Captain of Rugby, Captain of Athletics, Captain of School Elocution and CSM of the Corps. He played cricket for the 1st XI, twice received a 'Character' for the Debating Society, possessed House Colours in five sports, gained Seekers Initials, House Music Initials, served on seven committees and was a member of six School societies. For good measure he gained a Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Award in 1944, won the Kicking Cup in 1946 and the Senior Gymnastic Competition in 1948.



His Debating Society 'Character' in 1948 stated that 'in sober sense and clear well-chosen words he can challenge nearly anyone in the Society'.

From School he went to Bulford for National Service as a member of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He went on to OCTU at Eaton Hall, Cheshire, thence to Bodmin and in 1949 was commissioned into the Royal Army Education Corps in which he made his Army career.

At School John had been a disciple of Ray Jessop and emulated him by becoming a student in the Geography Department of Reading University (where he continued his sporting activities and became President of the Union). He went on to Emmanuel College, Cambridge to gain his PGCE and there followed almost thirty years as a regular officer in RAEC including tours in Germany and Malaysia.

In 1979 he married Catherine, the widow of an Army friend, and gained two stepsons in Stephen and Damian Bolger.

After leaving the Army John worked first as Deputy General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers and then as Group Training Manager with Private Patients Plan.

In retirement he returned to his Sussex roots, able to devote more time to his great interest in the philately of Malaysia and the administrative history of the Peninsula – and to his growing number of grandchildren.

He became Vice-President of the Old Redingensians Association in 1995 and was President for the 1996-97 year.

Catherine died in 2009 and John is survived by his stepsons, his sister Audrey, her son Dr David Neuhaus OR (1967-74) and his extended family.

He left his body to medical science and there was no funeral service. A date for a memorial service will be announced later and this notice updated accordingly. **KCB**

J W Chown, born 9 December 1929 died 23 September 2017 aged 87.

READING SCHOOL



RUGBY 1st XV.



Photo: A. H. CREWE

L. E. L. Collins W. J. Wardley D. G. H. Cheshire W. E. C. Morgan R. G. Johnson B. H. S. W. Emery F. W. Mundy
B. C. Fullbrook F. E. Townsend J. S. Saller J. W. Chown (Capt.) R. B. Larkinson M. E. Greek P. Batten
R. K. Edgar P. R. Beeson

John Chown as Captain of School 1st XV season 1947-48