

Peter Kelleher
1 Highfield Road
Sutton
Surrey
SM1 4JY 020 8642 1426

17 th June 2014

Dear Scotty

Thank you for your letter of the 10th June. I am now 94 years of age and I think I could qualify as an "older" old boy.

My life, like many others of my generation, has been long and no doubt you will be inundated with many accounts of the Second World War activities. In my case of course I was involved but I shall endeavour not to labour you with too much of that.

You may be interested to know that in the middle thirties some of the boys whilst still absorbing the pearls of wisdom emanating from the College formed a most interesting and enjoyable cycling group of about four enthusiastic lads. Most of them have, sadly, passed on, but there are two of us still a

round. One is John Gleeson, nearly 96 and my Charterhouse prefect with whom I still keep in touch with and myself. We are members of the Worcester Park and Wimbledon Council of the Knights of St. Columba and keep up with matters medical and historic

The other members of our little group were Pat McGee and Pierre Regnault. were great pals and explored the Surrey Hills and glorious Sussex at weekends.

We were in due course all called up. Pat went into the RAF, John was already in the Territorials, whilst Reg (Pierre) and I opted for the Navy. Reg and I were so keen to join up that we volunteered in November '39 as we were a little bored with Banking. We presented ourselves with gusto but were politely told to await our turn when we would both be sailors in about six months. The prediction was correct and we were all in in June 1940. Reg served a long time on the cruiser HMS Mauritius whilst I found myself attached to Atlantic Convoy work as a telegraphist based in Liverpool. I was part of the communications staff for the Commodores of Convoys. We had the joy of some very comfortable merchant ships plying to Canada, USA and Gibraltar and it was a good job provided you managed to avoid the U-boats. After two and half years on Atlantic work I was commissioned and did a spell in Freetown on a shore based job. Eventually I was transferred to a naval party taking over the port of Hamburg.

~~Then after Six~~

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CONVOY
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letter email
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you*

PAGE 2.

When the War was over Reg and I met for a weekly lunch in the City and began our cycling again. However we both joined a newly formed Catholic 21 Club in Worcester Park which became highly successful with over 300 members in 1948. 10 years later were holding a Christmas Party for over 100 children emanating from friendships engendered through the 21 Club. We continued our unofficial Old Boys group and met socially many times whilst bringing up our families

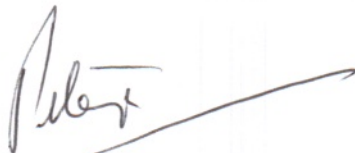
John Gleeson and I are members of the Worcester Park and Wimbledon Council of the Knights of St. Columba both having done our stints as Grand Knights over several years. John is now our oldest brother and I am second in line. We both find it difficult to get to meetings.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for the super idea of publishing a special Concordia this summer, which I shall read with great interest to ascertain the existence of some of the lads whom we have lost touch with.

I am feeling my age naturally, but I thank the Good Lord Above who has allowed me to last until now, fortified me with two girls, two boys and seven grandchildren who have given me such loving support over the last past 19 years when my dear wife Pam parted from this life.

May I wish you and your wonderful supporters of the Old Boys Association every good wish for the hard work you must have given to produce such an interesting magazine. God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Peter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ps. Please excuse the amateurish typewriting.