

Outdoor production

HENLEY
STANDARD
9TH JULY 1993

The audience was transported to Sarajevo, to the battlefields of northern France and to the 1914 Henley Royal Regatta at Malcolm Woodcock's vast outdoor production of *Oh What a Lovely War* at Shiplake College.

Spectacular and colourful

REVIEW

Oh What a Lovely War

costumes, a vast cast and slide display created an atmosphere of poignant nostalgia.

Over a quarter of the college's pupils took to the stage on four summer evenings, supported by 12 staff and associates of Shiplake.

This latter group provided the greying hairs and the deeper voices for roles such as the unlucky Archduke Ferdinand, Sir John French, Sir Douglas Haig and their spouses, staff and hangers on.

For many motorists, the star of the show was an Austin Cowley, proudly displaying its original tax disc. The immaculately-kept vehicle always started first time and, despite its age, never missed a cue.

As the play journeyed across Europe, French, German, Belgian, Russian and Irish accents were so authentic that the college's Princeton Fellow, Matt Mahoney, cast as an American profiteer, was almost outdone!

Singing nightingales and the deathly rattle of machine guns arrived right on schedule. Numerous special effects including pyrotechnics, smoke and gas arrived exactly when required.

The play, and the First World War, might have had happier endings if stage director Malcolm Woodcock and co-ordinator Majorie White had been Army Generals eight decades ago!

M.E.

Guest of honour



Prize-giver General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley (centre) with Shiplake College head Mr. Nicholas Bevan (right) and governors' chairman Mr. Nigel Gilson.

Military expert General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley was guest of honour at the Shiplake College prize-giving as the school toasted another successful year.

General Farrar-Hockley presented the prizes and addressed the school, speaking of the importance of the spiritual side of life to his army career.

Headmaster Mr. Nicholas Bevan told parents that grades for GCSE and A-level results were higher than ever and drama and

music had been "outstanding," while, although sport had not been as good as was hoped, it looked good for next year.

He also stressed the value of the school and parents working together to help the students.

Fond farewells were made to a number of staff, particularly long-serving activities director and maths teacher Mr. David Scoins, and Spanish teacher and boat club manager Mr. Mark Hayter.

HENLEY
STANDARD
30TH JULY 1993