

## John Doody (Collingwood 1954-58)



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After leaving RHS in 1958, John spent seven years in retail management before joining the Royal Corps of Signals in 1965. He enjoyed a challenging Engineering and Intelligence career in various military postings around the world; Loan Service to the Trucial Oman Scouts in the Middle East, Operational tour of duty in Northern Ireland, a number of deployments to Germany, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and finally the Ministry of Defence in London as a Programme Director.

His last tour of duty was as Senior Military Officer at UK Government Communications Head Quarters (GCHQ) and he retired from service in 1997 as a Colonel. John became a Civil Servant at GCHQ for the following six years and he is now Director of his own

company dealing with Information Security within UK and US Industry.

He is married with 2 children; his wife was a teacher before retiring in 1998, his son is a partner in a Bath-based architecture company and his daughter works for Deloitte as a Senior Scheduler.

John is a Fellow of the BCS (The Chartered Institute of IT), a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, a Chartered IT Practitioner and an Associate of the Institute of Information Security Professionals. He is also a non executive director and actively involved as an International Director of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

## David Merrey (St Vincent 1955-58)

David left RHS in 1958 and trained as a Radio Officer in the Merchant Navy. He realised that this was not his calling, so later joined the RAF and served in Libya, Brunei, Bahrain and Singapore. On leaving the Air Force he joined IAL, which was then part of British Airways, and spent the next 30 years overseas as an electronics engineer in Dubai, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Brunei and Bahrain.

David is married with two children aged 42 and 40 and five grandchildren. He retired in 2003 and has settled in Herefordshire where he is treasurer of the village football club and he does voluntary work teaching with adults with learning disabilities to use computers.

# 1960s

## A Dramatic Wartime Escape re-unites 3 RHS boys

On Christmas Day in 1941, after the surrender of Hong Kong, sixty eight men made a dramatic escape from Aberdeen Harbour in five Motor Torpedo Boats. They made their way up through China to Burma and on to England, evading capture and probably torture and death at the hands of the Japanese.



Left to right: Richard Hide, Bill Lake and David Hide.

Three former pupils, David Hide (Raleigh 1956-60), Richard Hide (Raleigh 1959-63) and Bill Lake (Drake 1961-1965), met up for the first time in 50 years as a result of researching this escape.

Richard, whose father, Steve "Buddy" Hide played a part in this dramatic escape, organised a recreation of the journey by descendants of the original escape force. He also set up an exhibition and website. Bill Lake, who lives in Hong Kong, was researching the Battle of Hong Kong and, as part of this, the escape, and his research kept linking him back to Richard's website.

Bill contacted Richard and they soon realised that they had both been to RHS at a similar time. They recently met up at the opening of the exhibition entitled "Escape from Hong Kong - the Road to Waichow", which is open for two years.

For more information go to [www.hongkongescape.org](http://www.hongkongescape.org)

