

In the early evening of August 22nd 1981, David Bogie and his wife, Eirene, left their house for an evening engagement in Edinburgh. They never arrived as their car was in a head-on collision, which left David dead and Eirene badly injured. Eirene was supported throughout her recovery by her children, Caroline and Miller, and by her grandchildren. Such family support, which extended to a wide circle of friends and colleagues, was an integral part of all their lives. David had been retired for some eight years at the time of the accident, and had viewed impending old age with some trepidation. This unexpected tragedy cut deeply into the lives of all who knew him. Time heals and memories fade, so some twenty-one years on it is important that we pay our respects to a man who was one of the founders of the post-war Strathallan.

David's hometown was Kirkcaldy, where his parents, David and Jessie, had themselves been born. His father was company secretary for the furniture manufacturer, McIntosh, and sent his son to Kirkcaldy High School with the intention that he should follow in his footsteps. However, David's abilities with arithmetic and his meticulous approach to his work soon marked him out for a career in accountancy, something David knew he was determined to pursue even at the age of fourteen in 1920. His father had heard great things about the new school that had moved from Bridge of Allan that summer, and about the young headmaster, Harry Riley. As David later remembered - *the Bridge of Allan School was having outstanding successes in the Junior and Senior Cambridge local examinations and distinctions and first class honours were being gained by many boys, despite the staffing difficulties during the war years.* They would have met HR at the hotel in Perth where he conducted his interviews and, no doubt, would later have received one of his famous postcards accepting David into the school. Such was the effect of this encounter that many years later David would insist that school policy on admission ensure that every parent and pupil meet the headmaster.

So, in September 1920 David Bogie arrived in Forgandenny to join some 120 boys, and was shown his accommodation as part of Ruthven House on the top floor of the main building, accommodation which he would share with 40 others under the guidance of the housemaster, Mr. Robertson. In an article written later, David remembered that *life for the boys was frugal indeed - the daily cold bath included - but knowledge and principles were pumped into them in no uncertain manner and all were expected to and did work hard.* He joined class III at the start of what was intended to be a three-year course. His personal relationship with HR grew during conversations conducted at table at mealtimes, or whilst walking to and from the classrooms or the games field, habits which earned HR the respect of every boy and remained with them forever. Especially memorable were the evenings when HR would assemble the whole school in the chapel to give an informal 'news of the day' and personally hand out the in-coming mail to each recipient; the news was invariably interesting, dramatised as much as possible and with personal comments thrown in for good measure.

David also remembered HR in the classroom teaching his subjects of Geography and Maths. David appreciated that he was allowed to work at his own rate under Riley's guidance, but observed that he never failed to offer encouragement and attention to those who were struggling. HR's Geography lessons were memorable for *the vivid descriptions of railway journeys backed by the appropriate pamphlet, for example the 'Railways of France'. He described the country, the counties, the towns, the industries and geographic features so vividly that the information remains with me to this day.* HR also taught commerce and accounting to groups of boys, using extra time in the evenings to prepare his charges for their examinations. What David especially appreciated was that *Riley believed it was his calling to make boys good as well as knowledgeable*

and he endeavoured to educate, in the widest sense, each boy in his own particular field so that he would be able to accept with confidence the responsibilities of manhood. He remembered, too, the wisdom in the words of HR when he said *everyone likes a good and hard worker whether (he be) a baker or a barrister - you can easily make your mark in life by just going the second mile.*

Games, organised by Mr. White, were an important part of Strathallan, but David was not as able as some of his friends at rugby or cricket, much preferring golf, curling and tennis. HR would join in with the occasional game of football, and refereed rugby games, always seeing fair play with the rejoinder - *Oh! But you can't do that. You can't* - a comment that often presaged quite stern discipline. On occasions, David and other pupils were allowed to go to play a round of golf at Gleneagles at one shilling a round (current cost is £100), which involved a half-hour train journey and a two-mile walk to the King's Course near the half-built Gleneagles Hotel - work having stopped because of the

Great War and the following depression. David's love of golf, curling and tennis continued throughout his life. He became Secretary of the North of the Forth Tennis Championship Tournaments in 1927 and, later, chairman of Edinburgh Ice Rink and Captain of Bruntfield Links Golfing Society - but his greatest interest was reserved for salmon fishing, which although surely started on the banks of the Earn, culminated with two rods on the Tweed.

During David's first year at the school, he became increasingly aware of the importance of the days at Bridge of Allan for many of the boys. He was regaled with tales of the travelling between the Houses, the sports events in the town, and the end-of term horse-drawn tram ride to Stirling station. The school at Forgandenny depended very much on the traditions instituted at Bridge of Allan and continued by many of the boys who had accompanied him to Forgandenny. HR was especially proud of his original boarders, although still saddened by the loss of Jimmy Gowans, Allan Harley and George Mollison in the Great War. From such feelings, David learned to understand the need for respect for service, duty and loyalty, and the sacrifice that this entailed. David spent two years in this environment. His father had intended that he take the Senior Cambridge class for a third year, but HR was adamant





that David had learnt all that he could at school, and needed to move on to an apprenticeship if he was to follow a career in accountancy. David remembered his words - *a degree will get you a job but it won't keep you in one - my job is to teach you to achieve both* - and trusted to the career guidance as he understood that H.R. knew his individual qualities and abilities. Neither man was to forget the other.

David left Strathallian in the summer of 1922, and was apprenticed to a firm of accountants in Edinburgh, further education for which his father had to pay ten pounds a year. At the age of eighteen he joined the Territorial Army Signals Corps as part of the 51st Highland division, at the start of what was to become fifteen years service, culminating in his elevation to the rank of captain. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1927, and continued with a degree course in commerce and accountancy at Edinburgh University, which he completed with great success and no few honours in 1929. While at the University, he came to the notice of Professor Annan, a partner in the accountancy firm of Graham, Smart & Annan, and David's future career was settled. It was here that he also met his lifelong friend and colleague, Ronnie Henderson.

Each year, David joined a group of former pupils who met at a dinner in the Central Hotel, Glasgow, with HR as the guest. In the spring of 1927, HR had produced a publication, with the help of his prefects, T.M.Hart and G.C.Baker, which he called *The Strathallian*, planning that it be sent to all former pupils. This was an experiment to report on the school's activities and was so well received that many more copies than expected had to be produced. However, HR was disappointed with the contributions of former pupils and felt that the time was ripe for the formation of an *Old Strathallians' Club*. As he said in the second publication - *we cannot emphasise too strongly the necessity for absolute unity within our ranks. At School this must primarily be among those set in authority and their unity will do much to preserve an unbroken front by the School as a whole. This unity extends no less to the Old Boys than to the school itself.....it should therefore be the duty of all boys to make a point of joining the Old Boys' Club immediately upon leaving, and so never cease to be a member of that 'goodly company' which the word 'Strathallian' embraces.*

In 1932, the Strathallian Club was put on an official footing under the guidance of HR and J.B. Morrison as co-trustees. After a number of changes, HR proposed the post of co-trustee to David Bogie, who also had just become a partner in the Edinburgh accountancy firm of Graham, Smart & Annan. Thus was formed the lasting partnership that would guide the school for the next forty years.

HR became seriously ill in the summer of 1934, and took some time to recover. At the school he was ably assisted by his senior master, Willie Ward, who took over the burden of the academic organisation. But this situation had made HR aware of his own mortality, so he suggested to David Bogie that action be taken to ensure the survival of the school in the event of his death, and he thought that the school should be bequeathed to the old boys. Instead, a decision was made to hand over all the buildings, contents and grounds to trustees, and HR selected David Bogie and John Maitland Cowan to fill that role. This was announced by HR to the School and the Strathallians at the 1936 Sports Day. He eventually handed over control to Strathallian School Limited in 1938, co-incidentally the year that David became President of the Old Strathallians.

It was not as if David Bogie didn't have enough to do already. He was now a lieutenant in the 51st Highland Divisional Signals, a member of the Scottish Chartered Accountant Society examining board, President of the Edinburgh Chartered Accountant Student Society and editor of their annual publication, and was lecturing at Edinburgh University on accountancy and business method. This last involvement brought him into contact with many former pupils, and he was placed in a trusted position to guide apprentices through their further education. One of these was Robin Graham, a nephew of his firm's senior partner. David, Ronnie Henderson and Robin stayed in Edinburgh on the top floor of a hotel. Robin's close friend was Nelson Miller, an officer in the 51st Highland Division, whose father, George Miller, a banker in Ayr, was retiring to a new house in Edinburgh with the rest of the family. As the house was not ready, Robin recommended to Nelson that they all stay at the hotel. Through this happy coincidence, David Bogie first met his future wife, Eirene Miller, and her family. Eirene was much younger than David and naturally mistook his reticence as a lack of interest but her brothers assured her otherwise, and they began to see more of each other as David got to know the whole family.

It was quite natural, therefore, that David should get in touch with Eirene towards the end of the summer of 1939 to suggest that they meet in Edinburgh for a drink, as he had something to tell her. The news was that he had been mobilised with the 51st Highland Division and had to move south immediately, as had Eirene's brother Nelson. David and Eirene made a promise that this would be their last drink until they met again, hopefully before Christmas. This was not to be as the news reached home, first that Nelson had been killed in action in France, and then that David had been captured following the surrender of the 51st Highland Division at St. Valery, ending up in Offlag VIIC.

Such a situation for an active man like David must have been terrible, so with his usual enthusiasm he set about occupying his time usefully. He was allowed to send four letters and three postcards a month, and he religiously sent these to his parents, to Eirene, and to Professor Annan, saving one for his friends.

David noticed that many prisoners were worried about the future so, with another former pupil, David Thomson, he provided accountancy lessons for a large group of apprentices. Ian Wood, the third Old Strathallian at the camp, reported back on their activities. But the lessons did not stop there, as David was able to contact the Chartered Accountants Society who sent out notes, and later allowed David to present and mark the accountancy examinations at the camp. David also began formulating his own thoughts about accountancy and began writing papers to Professor Annan as part of the thesis for a doctorate. On his return to Scotland in 1945, Professor Annan gave him back all the papers that he had sent from the camp, many being merely the insides of cigarette packets, and suggested that he complete the work for a doctorate. This, the first ever doctorate in accountancy, was completed by July 1948, whereupon its author published his ideas in a seminal volume named 'Group Accounts'. David continued to lecture for three years at Edinburgh University in the early Fifties.



As was the case for many during the war, the strain of work and unhappiness at events made a deep impact on HR, and he again fell ill in July 1940. Despite this, he continued to work, even taking the place of the senior English master, Mr. Langstaff, who had been called up. Eventually the pace took its toll. HR was confined to bed for the last three weeks of summer term 1942, but delighted everyone when he managed to be present with his pupils for breakfast on the last day. Over that summer, he gradually became weaker, and died in the early hours of the first Sunday morning of term, September 20th 1942. Now all the company work fell on his nominated successor, Willie Ward, and on the trustee, John Maitland Cowan, despite his own involvement in the war effort since being promoted to major in the 4/5th Bt. Royal Scots Fusiliers. Extra directors were elected to the company; Alfred Wighton assisted by William Sievwright of Perth took David Bogie's place on behalf of his firm, and Walter Nelson took John's place. Their work increased

when the latter, now a major with the 1st Airborne Division left for the Sicily landings where he was badly injured.

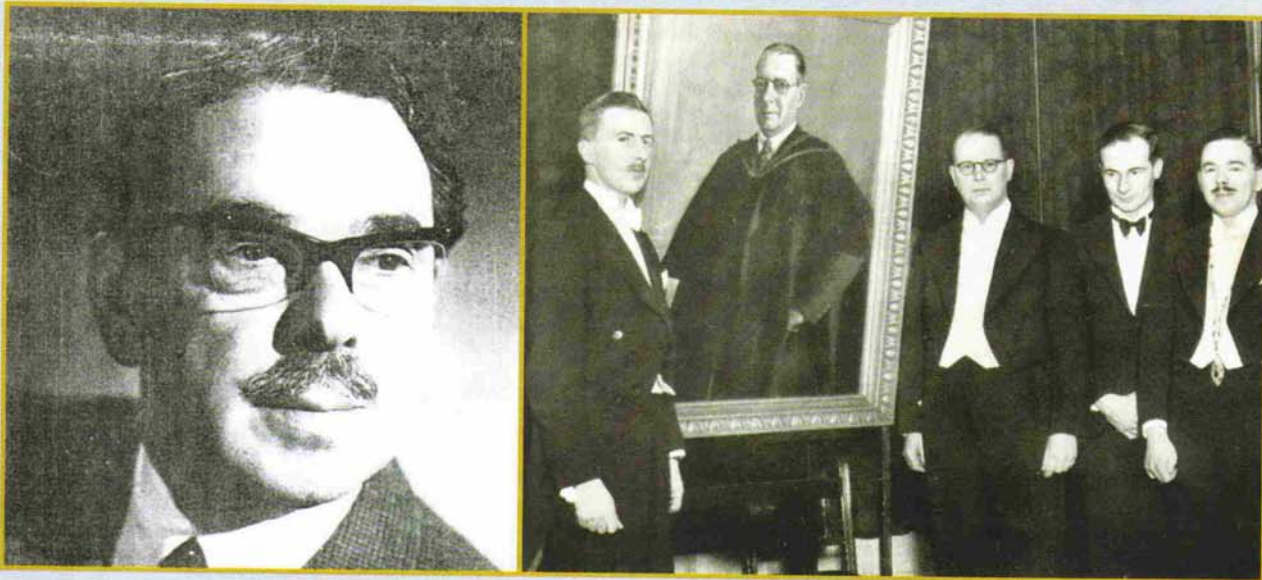
On Saturday 17th March 1945, the company directors under the chairman, John Maitland Cowan, were able to meet properly for the first time to prepare to carry out HR's wishes to pass the school to a Board of Governors. David Bogie returned in time for the second meeting a month later. It was noticeable that he was reduced in size to a mere seven stone after being a prisoner of war for five years; a situation that had been compounded by the death of both his own father and Eirene's. First, however, he had an engagement to attend in Edinburgh, and on 9th August he and Eirene were at last married, finally had that drink and then started their married life at her father's house of Newfield in Barnton, which he had built for his own retirement in 1936.

So it was not until the meeting of October 20th 1945 that John Maitland Cowan proposed, and Willie Ward seconded, the appointment of David Bogie as the chairman of the board of directors. Their business was to settle the school in readiness for the changes. They appointed Cowans & Grove as the school clerks, and raised the school fees to £47 a term from the 1st of January. There were 205 boys at the school and no vacancies for the next term, so the board felt that it would be necessary to introduce entrance examinations in future. In August 1946, a year later, Graham, Smart & Annan were appointed school treasurers, and the school bank account was transferred to the Clydesdale, for the specific reason that it was a Scottish bank. The last item of business was the resignation of the board of Strathallian School Limited, leaving charge of the school to the trustees, John Maitland Cowan and David Bogie, who then met on the 27th of November in Edinburgh to discuss the formation of a board of governors. Although the constitution allowed for sixteen members, the Board was to consist of the trustees, four members elected by the trustees, three members nominated by the main universities, and the appointed representative of the Strathallian Club, and it would meet four times a year.

David had been able to realise HR's wishes, and now decided that he and John Maitland Cowan needed a third person as a trustee of the school. They turned to Gilmour Leburn who accepted the position, and appropriate changes were in place by the next meeting. And it was at that meeting held on November 29th 1947 that David also suggested to the board that Gilmour Leburn should be his successor as chairman. David remained on the Board of Governors until 1970 when, at the age of sixty-five, he retired and was made the first honorary governor of the school. David retired from his firm as a senior partner the following year having been there with his friend and colleague, Ronnie Henderson, for over forty years, and returned to his hometown of Kirkcaldy. David is remembered by his professional association through the David Bogie Prize, given to an apprentice demonstrating exceptional abilities in the examination; by the Old Strathallians in the David Bogie Trophy Competition for golf, and by the school with the David Bogie Prize for Economics.

While a prisoner-of-war, David had been deeply affected by the ministrations and bible studies of David Reed, who went on to become a Presbyterian minister in New York. David's faith remained with him his whole life, and led him to become a devoted elder at Cramond Kirk, and join the board of the Church of Scotland. It is fitting, therefore, to end this article with his eulogy given by the Reverend George Lugston - *There was never an occasion when David Bogie's deep, yet unassuming faith and his sympathetic spirit did not motivate and direct his life and work.*

GRMR



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