**Major-General Geoffery Nicholson MC (07-09)**

He was Chief Cadet Captan, Captain of the 1st XV Rugger Team, and won the 1909 Boxing Championship.

On leaving *Conway* he never went to sea, but decided instead to follow his father, then a Brigadier General, into the Army. He graduated from Sandhurst in Sept 1913 and was commissioned into the
Hampshire Regiment, being promoted from Acting Lieutenant through Temporary Captain to Brevet Major during the First World War. The Hampshires were sent to France in Sept 1915, then reposted to Macedonia in Nov 1915, enduring the long and dirty Balkan Campaign where as many men died of disease and exposure to harsh conditions as lost their lives in action. Major Nicholson was 3 times mentioned in dispatches and awarded the : Military Cross, Order of St John, 1914 Star with Mons Clasp, 1914-19 Victory Medal, 1914-18 British War Medal with oak leaf cluster (mentioned in dispatches), King George Vth Jubilee Medal, King George VIth Coronation Medal, and the Order of the Star of Roumania.  After the war Major Nicholson MC continued as a Regular Soldier.

In 1930, at the early age of 37, with the rank of Major-General, he left the Army to become Chief Constable of Surrey, a post he held for 16 years. Several of the changes he made in reorganising Surrey Police were adopted nationally, notably the introduction of a separate traffic division, a far sighted provision at a time when popular motoring was still in its infancy. He was awarded the CBE in the 1943 New Years Honours List, and in 1945 was Gazetted a Serving Brother of the Venerable Order of the Hospice of St John of Jerusalem, having collected several more Police awards and medals along the way.

In 1946, aged 53, he took early retirement from the Police to take up residence on his plantation in Southern Rhodesia. It must be highly unlikely that he would have enjoyed such a brilliant career had he gone to sea as originally intended.

Geoffery Nicholson wrote a poem when he was a 15 year old cadet aboard *Conway.* Indeed, his poem reveals he had already made his mind up at a very early age not ot go to sea. He said *“With apologies to John Masefield, who preceded me aboard Conway by 18 years. Though we both were schooled on Conway decks, I will not be lured by the Masefield lie”.*

Narry shall I go down to the sea again, Not for me the tall ship,
nor the star to steer her by. No screaming gulls for me, no wind like
whetted knife, Not for me the crashing grey seas to claim my life. I'll
listen to the call of the running tide, And without reply I shall
silently abide. For me the peaceful sleep and pleasant dream. And
when the long trick is over A cabin in the hills with mists in the
valley green. Where happy melodies and sweet scents of life on Earth
reign supreme.

Major-General Geoffery Nicholson MC died peacefully in Bournemouth on 15th October 1988 aged 96.