

The College Band 1862

The Crimean War alliance with the French had quickly deteriorated, and in 1860 Lord Palmerston was fortifying against the French and launching the first ironclad battleship, HMS Warrior. As volunteering fever swept the country, at the College the Headmaster, Rev. Robinson Thornton, had watched the school grow up. At first orphans and doctors' sons lacked 'school spirit' and Thornton's first remedy was to encourage drill and marching under the College Sgt. Major, Daniel Gough. With the help of this Drum and Fife Band, Sgt. Gough drilled the whole College on the playing field, giving demonstrations to parents. By 1862 the 'Rifle Corps' had to compete with two cricket teams, and the first match was held. Rifle drill gradually became 'Gymnastics' under successive Sgt. Majors. 'Football' remained an internal game with no generally accepted laws until 1871.

Alan Scadding, Archivist.

Photo donated by Jane and Andrew King, of New Zealand, descendants of Charles Frederick Napper, one of the first College Pupils.

