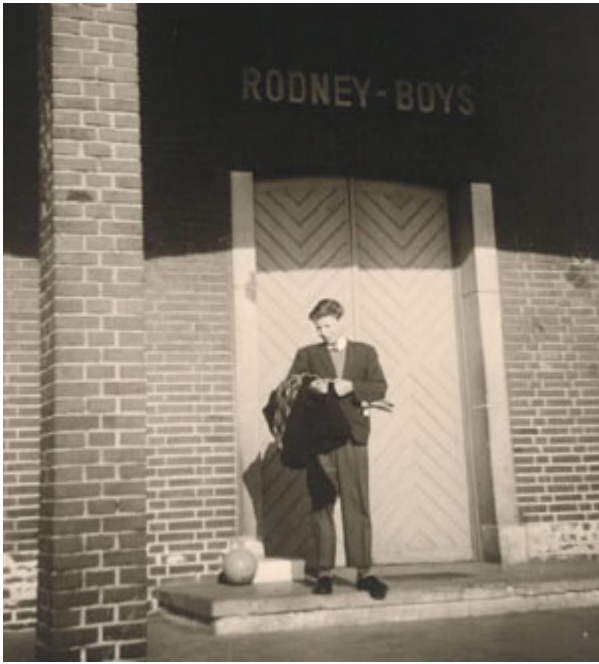


Memories of Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven, Germany - Paul Shilling



After the initial worries about leaving home, I settled into life at Rodney boys and enjoyed every minute of my time there. Living so close to the sea we also enjoyed a vast amount of space outside the building. I understand that an agreement was made for old ships to be scrapped alongside our waterfront and we benefited by having a swimming pool built in the grounds. It wasn't all easy going as we were roped in to help dig the hole. The pool was constructed under the old flagpole. And this had to be removed. It was not until we started that we realized the flagpole supporting stays had huge lumps of concrete buried under the ground. These had to be removed using boy labour similar to building the pyramids of Egypt. Once the hole was made, the pool liner was placed in and filled with water. The water was supposed to hold the sides up with the help of slabs placed around the edge. Nothing was cemented down. There weren't any chemicals or filter equipment. Just a hole in the ground! All the boys tried it

out one evening but by the end of the day the sides had collapsed and it was a total disaster. Finally, I understand a deal was made with the company scrapping the boats, and it was properly concreted however, it still had no filtration and was really dirty. I don't think it was a great success.

What was a success is the obstacle course built in front of Rodney. It really was made well and a fantastic way of keeping fit and I spent hours using it. Even during my military days, I never came across a better course. The picture is of me outside Rodney.

By Paul Shilling - (pupil 1958 to 1961 approx)