

moments of crisis - was quite outstanding. I would have been lost without her but at no time did her determination waver; she deserves a portrait in her own right in the Great Hall.



'With our backs to the wall'

On 16 July 1981 John Buchanan wrote as follows

My dear Shirley

'Only the Headmaster and his Lady emerged with any credit from Wednesday. Ron made a most dignified and tolerant statement, not saying too much nor yet flinching from his rightful position; you provided, as always, the most gracious hospitality to a thankless Board. But I am grateful and the hour in your garden and your presence lent a civilised glow to the day ... indeed, it made the whole operation worth while.

Now, all I ask, is ...keep your courage up, soldier on, and, whatever the provocation, DO NOT RESIGN. The next year or two are likely to be unpleasant - we must face that - but K is not well and if you two can keep calm and as unruffled as possible then the crack will come first from that side. He is not a fit man and is not wholly balanced ...that's as far as we can attest at present.

You have Sir Stuart and me solidly behind you both and - once we can secure his presence! - Martin How will be another ally. We **shall** extend the board, even if it's only by inches at a time, and all new recruits will root for yourselves. This is a time for holding on grimly, even if one can't see a relaxing of the present manufactured tension by K, and you hold the aces..... the school would founder completely if you were to depart.

"With our backs to the wall, and believing in the justice of our cause" - this is March 1918 Haig Order of the Day stuff!

Blessings

John