Inspiring life of a runaway

A new book, *Oft in Danger*, about an extraordinary Old Exonian has just been published. Anthony Farrar-Hockley (1917-1941) or TPH as he was always known, was in Raleigh House and a boarder at Exeter School. Exeter School Classics teacher Nick Keyes, said: "If he'd had his way, his time with us would have been shorter: he ran away from school as soon as the Second World War broke out, at the tender age of 15, but his mother showed up at the barracks and brought him back to school.

"TPH enjoyed being a cadet in the Junior Training Corps, as the Army Section was then called, and he was a very good actor, often asked to play the female part, but by his own account 'I was a lazy boy at school'. The war was on, he knew the Army was for him, and in 1934 he got his wish.

"There followed an amazing career, and he ended up as one of the Army's best-known generals and a highly respected military historian.

"He became a Para, fought the Germans all the way up Italy, made a combat drop into the South of France and won a Military Cross fighting communist guerrillas in Athens.

"He chose to stay in the Army after the war, and went to the Korean War with the Gloucestershire Regiment, where he won a DSO for bravery fighting at the battle of the Imjin River and spent nearly two terrible years as a prisoner of the Chinese, escaping six times.

"TPH recovered from his ordeal, transferred to the Parachute Regiment and took part in just about every military campaign Britain fought until his retirement from the Army in 1976.

"Mr Keyes said: "To those who met him and served with him, he was an inspiration. I met him at a dinner at Oxford University as I was about to join the army, and have never forgotten that conversation."

"Despite his escape in 1959, TPH had very happy memories of Exeter School. He returned here frequently to tell us about his adventures."

"John Sampson OE (1950) remembers him giving a talk to school boys soon after his return from Korea in 1950, and one of his last visits was to give the prices on Speech Day in 1984.

"TPH also sent his son Dair to this school. Dair followed his father into the Parachute Regiment and won the Military Cross for bravery during the Falklands War, later rising to Major-General. Dair visited us most recently and gave us two fascinating talks."

"TPH was a legend in the Army and he wrote some excellent books. The Edge of the Sword, about what happened to him in the Korean War, is one you can't put down.

"But before you read that, try this new book *Oft in Danger* about his life. Written by Jon Riley, a general who has seen a lot of action himself and who knew TPH well, it's a gripping read from start to finish. You'll be astounded at the amount of action TPH saw, how well he performed in battle and in captivity, what an extraordinary life he was - and you'll be amazed at TPH's experiences at Exeter School."

"It's a fitting tribute to a very great Old Exonian."