

16<sup>a</sup>

# ESMOND ROMILLY

## "GATE CRASHES" ETON

### Crusade for Banned Magazine

#### DAY OF COMEDY

"If Any of You Blighters Buy This Rag..."

Esmond Romilly, the stormy 15-year-old nephew of Mr. Winston Churchill, has been trying to "gate-crash" Eton.

Yesterday he and a solitary henchman spent the day trying to persuade the boys to buy his much banned magazine "Out of Bounds." He ran away from Wellington College to edit it and save it from censorship—or worse still—complete suppression.

Below he describes exclusively for the "Sunday Graphic" the story of his day of adventure on his personal crusade.

By ESMOND ROMILLY

It was at an editorial conference at our office in Garton-street last week that we decided that something must be done about Eton.

"Out of Bounds" has been banned by Uppingham and Cheltenham, and so we thought we'd like to give the fellows at Eton a chance to read the thing and see how they felt about it.

The scheme was to get hold of four other chaps, take down 300 or 400 copies and a few bills to Windsor.

We were to go down on Friday night, so as to be up bright and early on Saturday.

Unfortunately only one of the fellows turned up at Waterloo. But it was rather funny, because when we got there we saw the Wellington College special train.

It was just on the point of leaving, and was crowded with boys I knew.

Naturally, we had a bit of a jaw about things in general.

But about Eton—We spent the night in an hotel there and found the manager very sympathetic.

When the time came, however, we drew a complete blank. We visited a number of pubs to see if we could whip up a few odd people who'd sell on commission. We couldn't find anybody.

As a last resort we barged round to the local H.Q. of the Labour Party, but there was no one in.

There was nothing for it but to do the selling ourselves.

Accordingly, flapping a bill headed

**"OUT OF BOUNDS"**  
Against Reaction  
In Public  
Schools

We took our stand outside Eton. From noon to one o'clock we sold—the other chap and I—124 copies.

**Ignored by Masters**

This wasn't too bad. The boys bought copies just to see what it was all about, but the masters seemed to ignore us.

After lunch we decided to try our luck at the Imperial Service College.

A master came out, and said: "Get out—and get out quick!"

We pointed out that we were on a public

(Continued in next column.)



Esmond Romilly

*Esmond*

*This was made a special feature in the "Sunday Graphic" yesterday.*

*ES  
7/5/34*

*Spanning bass*

*7.15*

*7.5.34*

(Continued from previous column.)

highway and could stand where we liked. He didn't seem to have anything to say to this and went off.

A decent-sized crowd clustered round and we looked like doing pretty well until four or five prefects came up.

"If any of you blighters buy this rag," they said to the small fry, significantly, "you'll hear all about it."

Someone, however, gave us the tip that we'd do better at B. House, so off we went.

They were quite pally and took us inside. Pretty soon we saw the prefects come sprinting across the playing fields.

They made the chaps who'd bought copies hand 'em back and we were hustled out of the place.

**Programme For To-day**

However, we made some pretty useful contacts, and went back and sold some more copies at Eton—about 160 in all.

To-day we're going to try to catch the boys on their way to and from chapel, and we should do a good trade.

I forgot to say we had a shot at Beaumont College the Roman Catholic school just outside Windsor, but were were unlucky. We didn't see a soul!

12a

### SCHOOLBOYS OPPOSE FASCISM

TWENTY-FIVE delegates—two of three of them girls—from a dozen public schools met in private in a Holborn café yesterday to discuss "Out of Bounds," the magazine edited by Esmond Romilly; the 15-year-old nephew of Mr. Winston Churchill.

Romilly disappeared from Wellington College last February and was discovered working on the first issue of "Out of Bounds."

Yesterday's conference appointed an editorial board for the paper.

"It was decided," Romilly said, "that it should fight against reaction, political and cultural. Fascism and war in the public schools."

Two resolutions were carried. One demanded the reinstatement of the two students expelled from the London School of Economics for selling 'The Student Vanguard.' The second protested against the new Sedition Bill."

PA.

SB  
17/4



S.B. No. (Plain).

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

11a

Special Report }

*M/P*  
*3478*

*E* SPECIAL BRANCH,  
Metropolitan Police,  
Scotland House,

SUBJECT.....  
ROMILLY Esmond

16th day of April, 1934

Reference to Papers.

I respectfully beg to submit the attached newspaper cuttings taken from the "Sunday Graphic" dated 25th April, 1934, in connection with the activities of Esmond ROMILLY who recently left Wellington College :-

The [redacted] in the demonstration held by the N.U.W.M. at Hyde Park, on Sunday, 15th April, 1934. Esmond ROMILLY spoke for a few minutes from platform No. 2.

[redacted] are being obtained and will be submitted as soon as received by me.

*A. boats.* P.S.

Submitted.

[redacted]

*John Robert*  
Inspector.

[redacted]

SUPERINTENDENT.

[redacted]

*16*  
*14*  
*34*

*U. Kelly*

*P.C. on Romilly's file*

SPECIAL BRANCH RECEIVED  
17 APR 1934

*[Signature]*  
*16*  
*14*  
*34*

"SUNDAY GRAPHIC".

ROMILLY  
Esmond  
and  
Giles.



Esmond Romilly and his brother Giles (right) at yesterday's meeting.

## WAR ON 'PLAY THE GAME, YOU CADS!'

### Schoolboys Plan To Put World Right

Public school boys with professed "left-wing" views on politics and a strong antagonism to what they regard as the reactionary tendency of the public school met in secret conference in a little café off Holborn, London, yesterday afternoon.

They discussed at great length plans for the future production of their paper, *Out of Bounds*, the editor and founder of which is Mr. Esmond Romilly, the 15-year-old nephew of Mr. Winston Churchill.

Young Romilly was at Wellington School, but ran away rather than submit to having his publication censored.

Yesterday's conference decided to carry on the paper with a more vigorous policy. The "old school lie" and the exhortation to "play the game, you cad" are definitely in for a rough time.

Uppingham and Cheltenham have banned the paper, and other schools have lost no time in frowning on it.

But Mr. Romilly is undismayed. His policy, he declares, is "to fight reaction on every front," and all means are to be adopted to combat such movements as "the O.T.C., the fetish of games worship, and the ridiculous attitude to sex."

#### Girl Delegates Present

The conference, which included four or five girls from girls' public schools, passed, with only two dissenting, the following resolution expressing the paper's policy:

"The Executive Board shall implement the fight against political and cultural reaction, Fascism, and war in the public schools."

The board was elected thus: Esmond Romilly and his brother, Giles Romilly (who has won a scholarship at Wellington and is now going to Oxford University); H. E. Bartlett (St. Paul's); P. Jefferies (University College School, London); and Miss M. Harland (North London Collegiate School for Girls).

Questioned afterwards, Mr. Esmond Romilly declared, "We are right out against the spirit of reaction, which is such a feature of public school life."

"Take the Officers' Training Corps, for instance. We are not Pacifists, and there is a good deal to be said for the Soviet system of military training at school, so that all can take part in the defence of the Workers' State, but there is such an awful lot of hypocrisy about the O.T.C. The training is just definite training for strike-breakers and for another Imperialist war."

S.B. No. 1 (Plain).

**METROPOLITAN POLICE.**

79

Special Report }

**SPECIAL BRANCH,**  
**Metropolitan Police,**  
**Scotland House,**

**SUBJECT**

Esmond Romilly.

18th. day of February 1934

**Reference to Papers.**

Mrs. N. Romilly of [redacted] Pimlico Road, S.W. 'phoned this office at 8-15 p.m. today and said that she was very worried and annoyed regarding her son Esmond. She said that she last saw the boy on Friday evening last and he then promised to communicate with her daily. The address at which he was staying, he said, was c/o Dr. Kershaw, The Lawn, Ealing. Mrs. Romilly was unable to find this address in the Telephone Directory and thought it strange as she understood Dr. Kershaw to be the Medical Officer of Health for Ealing.

She asked if this address existed or could be verified. This was done at once by reference to Kelly's directory for the Ealing district, a Dr. John D. Kershaw being shewn as resident at No. 1, The Lawn, Ealing Green. Mrs. Romilly was notified to this effect and she asked if Police could visit the premises. She was advised that her best course was to visit the address herself, but stated that she did not wish to adopt this measure. She said that she would write to her son at this address and if she did not hear from him by 11 a.m. on Monday, the 19th. February, she would communicate further with this office. Mrs. Romilly added that owing to her son's behaviour, she had reached the limits of human endurance and wished that he might be seen by some responsible officer from New Scotland Yard who would lecture the boy upon the folly of

All minutes to be numbered in consecutive order.

No. 729  
(Unruled).

2.

pursuing his present mode of life.

*C. W. Rushaw.*  
Inspector.

*[Signature]*  
Superintendent.

7B

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Metropolitan Police,

Scotland House,

SUBJECT Caller.

17th. day of February 1934

Mrs. N. Romilly

Reference to Papers.

Mrs. Romilly of [redacted] Pimlico Road, S.W., called at this office at 11 a.m. today and in the temporary absence of the Superintendent, was seen by me.

Mrs. Romilly wished to add to the previous details regarding her son Esmond and stated that she has learned that [redacted] is cognisant of the fact that she has reported him to the Police and in consequence, he anticipates being asked to leave this country. Mrs. Romilly rather fears that he will vent his spite upon her son and she would like Police to keep an eye upon the boy.

Caller also mentioned that Esmond Romilly is rather well off at present as a result of interviews he has granted to the Press. In relation to this matter she rather expects that articles will appear in tomorrow's papers which will have the effect of making her boy and the members of his family look somewhat ridiculous.

I told Mrs. Romilly that Police had the matter in hand and that appropriate action will be taken if an offence is committed by [redacted] or his associates.

*[Signature]*  
Ch. Inspector.

*[Signature]*  
Superintendent.

## "LOST" COLLEGE BOY TALKS OF HIS IDEALS

ESMOND ROMILLY, the fifteen-year-old boy who has been in hiding since he ran away from Wellington College to found his own magazine, "Out of Bounds," gave the "Daily Express" an exclusive interview last night.

"I didn't bargain for all this publicity when I burned my boats," he said. "I thought I should be able to slip away quietly and carry on with my magazine."

"Unfortunately, my plans leaked out. I am still sticking to my original intention, however I hope that before long we shall be in a position to announce publication of the first number."

"I hope to give public schoolboys something new—a magazine produced by public school boys for public schoolboys, and reflecting the new spirit which is running through their minds."

"Schoolboys should be allowed to think for themselves without interference. My journal will give them an opportunity for the clear and unhampered expression of their thoughts."

Esmond's eyes shone with enthusiasm, and his words almost tumbled over themselves as he tried to show what he was hoping to achieve.

"I have ideals, and I mean to try

to put them into practice—that's all.

"A lot of nonsense has been talked about my being influenced by Communists. That isn't true. I have been guided chiefly by my own ideas and the knowledge I have gleaned from experience."

"There is really no mystery about me. I have kept my address secret because of all the excitement which has been caused by my intentions and so that I can work undisturbed."

"As for my parents"—and here Esmond's eyes softened—"they have been terribly decent about the whole affair. I have been in constant touch with my mother. I telephone her every day, and I see her frequently."

"We have an understanding. I want to go my own way and fight my own battles. I am very young, I know, but there is no reason why I should not get out into the battle of life at once."

4<sup>F</sup>



4<sup>6</sup>

The "Sunday Express" 11/2/34

### ERRANT ESMOND

"NAUGHTY LITTLE BOY,"  
SAYS HIS FATHER

A London bookseller knows where fifteen-year-old Esmond Romilly, Mr. Winston Churchill's missing school-boy nephew, is hiding. But he will not tell.

He is Mr. D. A. A. Archer, of Bloomsbury, an old boy of Wellington College, from which young Romilly ran away on Friday.

"Esmond came to London merely to arrange for the distribution of the magazine he is going to bring out," said Mr. Archer to a "Sunday Express" representative last night. "He did not expect any fuss. Now he is lying low till it blows over."

Colonel Bertram Romilly, Esmond's father, said: "I am not worrying. I am content to wait till he condescends to come home."

"He is a naughty little boy. He has broken his word and let me in for a term's fees, for I doubt if Wellington will take him back."

# MR. CHURCHILL'S NEPHEW VANISHES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL

"UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LONDON  
COMMUNISTS" SAYS MOTHER

"Daily Express" Special Representative.

**A** FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD boy, a nephew of Mr. Winston Churchill, and said by his parents to be deeply under the influence of a group of London Communists, ran away yesterday from Wellington College.

He sent two messages to his mother that he was safe in London, but at a late hour last night had not returned home.

The boy is Esmond Romilly, son of Colonel Bertram Romilly and Mrs. Romilly, of Pimlico-road, S.W.

A few weeks ago it was announced that he was to edit a schoolboy publication to be called "Out of Bounds." It was to deal with "the public schools and their relations to the outside world," and threatened to be very "advanced" in its views.

Young Esmond Romilly found himself in hot water through preliminary propaganda for the magazine being sent out from Wellington College, but this was smoothed over.

Early yesterday morning, however, the boy was missed at the school, and it was found that he had left by train for London.

## MOTHER AT YARD

A telegram was sent to his mother.

Mrs. Romilly visited Scotland-yard, where she made a statement in which she gave the names of certain people, who, she alleges, have been influencing her son with Communist ideas.

Mrs. Romilly last night told me the full story of her son's escapade.

"We are not worried about his safety," she said. "I have a good idea where he is staying in London."

"One of his friends telephoned to me this afternoon and said that Esmond was coming to see me this evening. Then later in the afternoon a note was pushed through the letter-box from Esmond himself.

"In this he said he understood that we were taking what he termed 'legal measures,' and, therefore, he did not intend to come home at present. This talk of 'legal measures'

**EXPI**

Express.  
The Mails of the United Kingdom

U d



40

Daily Telegraph.

5.2.34.

### **Communism in Public Schools**

SINCE I was the first to reveal in these notes the project of a 15-year-old Wellington boy to bring out an "anti-reactionary" magazine, the possibility that Communist propaganda is being insinuated into public schools has been widely discussed.

Mr. F. B. Malim, headmaster of Wellington College, told me yesterday that in his experience reports of Communist propaganda among public school boys were exaggerated.

"There is no evidence of any attempts to smuggle propaganda into the schools," he said, "but I believe a few boys are tackled by friends and brothers with

Communist leanings while they are on holiday.

"There is a great deal of thinking going on among boys and young men to-day, and when they get together outside school they discuss with intelligence all kinds of subjects, including politics.

"Some of them may hear about Communism at informal discussions, but I deny that there is any organised attempt to force Communist propaganda on the boys while they are in school."

# RED MENACE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## MOSCOW ATTEMPTS TO CORRUPT BOYS

### OFFICER'S SON SPONSORS EXTREMIST JOURNAL

#### Scotland Yard Inquiry

Special "Daily Mail" News  
By A Special Correspondent

**T**HIS is a story which will first make you laugh, and then make you think. For there is something very serious behind it—a new form of Communist propaganda which aims at corrupting our public schools.

The joke is contained in the contents of a circular recently issued announcing the publication of a new journal named "Out of Bounds," which is described as "a new paper dealing with the public schools in relation to the outside world."

Its authors do not intend to be funny. They achieve this effect unconsciously, as the following extracts from the circular will show:—

Disintegration affects in our period the whole of society. It affects profoundly the public schools. This disintegration shows itself in a deliberate attempt on the part of the public schools to exclude themselves from genuine contact with political and cultural realities; and the positive and blatant use of the public schools as a weapon in the cause of reaction.

In the public schools as in the universities the fight to free us from this system has already begun and is steadily growing. "Out of Bounds" will openly champion the forces of progress against the forces of reaction on every front, from compulsory military training to propagandist teaching.

#### COLLEGE ADDRESS

This precious document ends with a comprehensive appeal for help—financial help, help in propaganda for the paper, and "reports of significant events in public-school life."

Then comes the amazing thing.

The signature at the end is that of a boy at Wellington College, Berkshire, and those who read the circular are asked to write to him there for further details. Out of consideration for the boy's family—his father is a distinguished Army officer—I do not give his name.

Bitter indignation exists at Wellington College that one of its houses should have been named as the address of the editor in embryo; and the offender is being suitably dealt with.

The Master of Wellington, Mr. F. H.

Malim, authorises me to make the following statement:

The circulars were issued without the authority of the headmaster of Wellington College and without his knowledge.

Steps will be taken to see that the boys at Wellington are not in any way concerned in the production of any such paper.

The serious side of this story comes with the inevitable questions: How did this sort of thing start in a great public school? What is the type of schoolboy that can indulge in such Communist twaddle?

#### FURTIVE PROPAGANDA

Investigation of these problems yields instructive results.

For some time past the headmasters of most public schools have been aware of a deliberate attempt to introduce Communist propaganda among their boys.

Undesirable contacts have been established; there has been a furtive supply of Communist propaganda through the post; and boys on holiday have been induced to attend Communist meetings in London and elsewhere.

The result has been that at many public schools headmasters are now aware of so-called "study groups" of boys tainted with this poison.

The propaganda has been well planned, and must have been costly.

There is a strong suspicion that the money for it comes from Bolshevik funds, and the whole affair has now become of sufficient importance to engage the considerable attention of Scotland Yard, where an attempt is being made to discover the primary source of activity.

The other question—What is the type of schoolboy that can be affected by such propaganda?—is more easily answered.

#### "ABNORMAL" BOYS

Boys at public schools and universities to-day are largely those who were born during the later war years when their mothers were suffering acute anxiety. Often there was the shock of a father's death before or soon after the birth of the son.

It is an opinion shared both by headmasters and by doctors that the result has been in some cases a rebellious and not always quite normal mind, as we speak of the "normal mind" of the schoolboy.

4<sup>a</sup>

# RED MENACE

## IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### MOSCOW ATTEMPTS TO CORRUPT BOYS

#### OFFICER'S SON SPONSORS EXTREMIST JOURNAL

### Scotland Yard Inquiry

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18

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Metropolitan Police,

Scotland House,

SUBJECT .....

9th day of February, 1934.

Reference to Papers.

*Abb  
Press  
extracts about  
Communism  
at Wellington  
College are  
attached.  
Enquiries  
will be made*

At 12.30 p.m. this day Mrs. Romilly, wife of Colonel B.H.S. Romilly and sister-in-law of the Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill, M.P., etc., of [redacted] Pimlico Road, S.W. was brought to this office by Mr. S. House of 'S' Department.

Mrs. Romilly had called to see Mr. H.M. Howgrave-Graham, but in his absence, as the visit was in relation to Communism, she was escorted to Special Branch.

I saw Mrs. Romilly and she informed me that her son Esmond, aged 15, had run away from Wellington College, where he has recently given rise to complaints by advocating Communism and editing and distributing some sort of journal ventilating extreme views.

It seems that Colonel Romilly has decided that his son will not be admitted to his home until he drops his communist associates, and in the meantime Mrs. Romilly feels that police should keep an eye upon her boy, particularly as he appears to be dominated by an undesirable [redacted]

This person is alleged by Mrs. Romilly to have declared that he has at least five false passports and assumes various aliases to assist him in his communist activities. From the details given by caller, he is [redacted]

*Planning Dept*

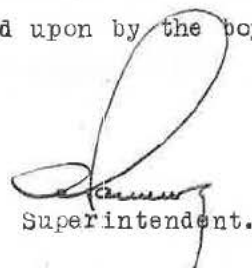
Page 2.

[REDACTED]

Mrs. Romilly has made some enquiry herself and she states that her son Esmond and [REDACTED] with other communists of the student type frequent a communist or advanced bookshop at 4, Parton Street, W.C. [REDACTED] kept by a young man named David A. Archer; this man appears to be identical with a former Cambridge undergraduate of the same name who visited Russia in 1931. Mrs. Romilly does not consider Archer a particularly bad influence over her son - feeling that he still retains some semblance of breeding and would, if necessary, restrain her boy from going too far.

From her enquiries, the caller has ascertained that [REDACTED] Archer, her son and others of similar type frequent an establishment known as Meg's Cafeteria, 1, Parton Street, W.C., where Communism is openly advocated and sedition indulged in.

I told Mrs. Romilly that [REDACTED] and the necessary action would be recommended should he be found to be an undesirable alien; also that later it may be considered expedient to see her son to ascertain if useful advice from an experienced officer would be acted upon by the boy with regard to his present associates.

  
Superintendent.

METROPOLITAN POLICE TELEPHONE

Sender's No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 From A. Supt C.I.  
 Forwarded at \_\_\_\_\_  
 66-D18

9<sup>th</sup> day of February 1934  
 To Supt Special Sec A  
 Received at 10 55pm | A

The following telephone message has been received from Mr. Mallin Head Master of Wexington College, near Reading Berks: - I wish you to stop a story which is untrue and which will be circulated in the following papers tomorrow morning - Daily Mail - Express - Daily Mirror - Daily Herald - respecting a woman named Romilly who is said to have been kidnapped at the above college at 6 am today by Communists. The woman who lives at [redacted] Lamberth St is alleged to have reported this matter to the press & to the police. She will be attending the college tomorrow. Forwards for your information. To date of the last reports missing. Inquiries being made in the matter. A. Dyer. 15.

Receiver's No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)



METROPOLITAN POLICE TELEPHONE

*LB*

Sender's No. \_\_\_\_\_

9th day of February 1934

From Mr Mallin, Headmaster,

To New Scotland Yard.

Forwarded at \_\_\_\_\_  
B6-D18

Received at 10.15.p.m.

near Reading, Berks.

Message No. 161.  
I wish you to stop a story which is untrue, and which will be  
circulated in the following papers tomorrow morning 'Daily Mail',  
'Express', 'Mirror' and 'Daily Herald' respecting a lad named  
Roselly, who is supposed to have been kidnapped from the above  
College at 6 a.m. today by Communists. His mother, Mrs Roselly,  
who lives at [redacted] Pinhoe Road, S.W. reported this story to the  
'Daily Express' and she has reported him missing to the Police,  
but I can't say which station. She is attending the College  
tomorrow morning, as the lad was missed at 6 a.m. today.

Repeated to Gerald Road, 'B' Division, as per separate message,  
and for enquiry there. Repeated to Special Branch.  
Copy to Press Bureau. Copies to C.2 and C.4.

Back Hall Inst

Receiver's No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

*R. E. Webb, P.S.*

METROPOLITAN POLICE TELEPHONE

SB

Sender's No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 193

From Act'g Supt. Central

9th February 4.

Forwarded at 10.45 p.m.

To Supt. 'B' Gerald Road  
Received at \_\_\_\_\_

B6-D18

Message from Wellington College repeated in full, and the following added:

Please have Romelley's mother seen at once and ascertain where the lad was reported missing, and where she obtained her information regarding the Communist story. Also obtain full name, age, and description of the missing lad.

R. Ebbels, P.S.

Copy to C.2, C.4, S.B., Back Hall Insptr.

Receiver's No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

METROPOLITAN POLICE TELEPHONE

Sender's No. \_\_\_\_\_

AB.  
\_\_\_\_th day of February, 193\_\_\_\_.

From Supt. "B" \_\_\_\_\_

To A/Supt. Central. \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded at \_\_\_\_\_

Received at 11-45 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

BC-B18

With reference to your message at 10-45 p.m., this day.  
Mrs. Ramelley, mother of the missing boy, has been seen, and states that she attended New Scotland Yard today when she left full particulars with Supt. Ganning, Special Branch. Further that the boy is in good hands, and she knows where he might be found.

Copies to C.3., C.4., S.8., and Back Hall Inspector.

S. Truckell P.C.

Receiver's No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_