

Forty Years On

VOICE

For-ty years on, when a - far and a - sun - der Par - ted are those who are singing to - day,

ACCOMP.

p

When you look back, and for - get - ful - ly won - der What you were like in your work and your play,

Then, it may be, there will of - ten come o'er you, Glimp - ses of notes like the catch - of a song -

CHORUS

Vi - sions of boy - hood shall float them be - fore you, Ech - oes of dream - land shall bear them a - long, Fol - low

up! Fol - low up! Fol - low up! Fol - low up! Fol - low up! Till the field ring a - gain and a -

p *f*

Forty years on, when afar and asunder
 Parted are those who are singing today,
 When you look back, and forgetfully wonder
 What you were like in your work and your play,
 Then, it may be, there will often come o'er you,
 Glimpses of notes like the catch of a song -
 Visions of boyhood shall float them before you,
 Echoes of dreamland shall bear them along,

Chorus

*Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!
 Till the field ring again and again,
 With the tramp of the twenty-two men.
 Follow up! Follow up!*

Routs and discomfitures, rushes and rallies,
 Bases attempted, and rescued, and won,
 Strife without anger, and art without malice, -
 How will it seem to you, forty years on?
 Then, you will say, not a feverish minute
 Strained the weak heart and the wavering knee,
 Never the battle raged hottest, but in it,
 Neither the last nor the faintest, were we!

Chorus

O the great days, in the distance enchanted,
 Days of fresh air, in the rain and the sun,
 How we rejoiced as we struggled and panted -
 Hardly believable, forty years on!
 How we discoursed of them, one with another,
 Auguring triumph, or balancing fate,
 Loved the ally with the heart of a brother,
 Hated the foe with a playing at hate!

Chorus

Forty years on, growing older and older,
 Shorter in wind, as in memory long,
 Feeble of foot, and rheumatic of shoulder,
 What will it help you that once you were strong?
 God give us bases to guard or beleaguer,
 Games to play out, whether earnest or fun;
 Fights for the fearless, and goals for the eager,
 Twenty, and thirty, and forty years on!

Chorus

(written for sir Winston Churchill's ninetieth birthday and first sung 28th November 1964)

Blazoned in honour! For each generation
You kindled courage to stand and to stay;
You led our fathers to fight for the nation,
Called "Follow up" and yourself showed the way.
We who were born in the calm after thunder
Cherish our freedom to think and to do;
If in our turn we forgetfully wonder,
Yet we'll remember we owe it to you.

Special Verses and Variants:

(Written for Sir Winston Churchill, 12th November 1954.)

Sixty years on - though in time growing older,
Younger at heart you return to the Hill:
You, who in days of defeat ever bolder,
Led us to Victory, serve Britain still.
Still there are bases to guard or beleaguer,
Still must the battle for Freedom be won:
Long may you fight, Sir, who fearless and eager
Look back to-day more than sixty years on.

E. V. C. Plumptre

(Written for the School's quatercentenary, 19th February 1971.)

Four hundred years in the story of Harrow
Draw to a close, while the School marches on,
Strong at its heart, yet in range never narrow,
Guarding the Hill where its glory first shone!
Still must the game be played out till it's ended,
Still must the bases be rescued or won;
Often old hopes with new faith must be mended
Following up what the past has begun.

E. M. Malan

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