

## **GLOUCESTER V SERVICES TEAMS IN WW2**

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, the war effort was much better organised than it had been for the Great War. Conscription and reserved occupations were immediately introduced, unlike the volunteering of 1914. Whereas the playing of rugby, and other entertainments, were seen as unpatriotic then, in 1939 everyone was in the position of being called up when required, so there was not the same stigma attached to being out of uniform. Even so the immediate knee-jerk reaction was to suspend matches on the outbreak of war, as they had been during the Great War, but this was rescinded within six days and matches were then actively encouraged. However, there were some restrictions, notably to limit the size of crowds and to ensure an even dispersal of spectators around the ground in order to limit the loss of life in the event of an aerial attack by the enemy. There were other restrictions on the facilities available at Kingsholm because the Civil Defence authority used parts of the ground. And players regularly became unavailable as they were called up for military duties, but on the other hand servicemen posted to the vicinity supplemented numbers.

The Gloucester Club soon announced that it had organised a reduced fixture list with some matches against other clubs, and others against military teams. It is these latter matches which are recorded below.

### **Gloucester 29 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regt 9, 14<sup>th</sup> October 1939**

This was the first match played at Kingsholm There were reduced prices of admission and entry was free for members of the Services in uniform. A J Waters played his first game for Gloucester, having transferred from Wasps. The Gloucestershire Regiment team was led by Scarr, captain of Cheltenham, and included a number of local players including Nicholls of Cambridge University and Gloucester, Goscomb of Old Cryptians and Sleman of Lydney as well as Gordon League players.

Gloucester: H Boughton; P Brown, J H Bown, A J Waters, W Jones; S Walden, F Gough; T Price, T Day, A Carpenter (captain), R Morris, J G A'Bear, A G Hudson, S Mabbett, Rev H M Hughes

Gloucestershire Regiment: Pte G O J Elliott; Pte H Bagwell, Cpl Hodges, L Cpl Coomber, Pte D Williams; Pte P B Nicholls, Cpl E Stephens; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt D PR Scarr (captain), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt H J Goscomb, L Cpl G S Holford, Cpl W Critchley, Pte E J Bishop, Pte W Ralph, Pte F K Sleman, Pte W Williams

The grass at Kingsholm was very long, but a lively game was played in dismal weather conditions. In the first five minutes, A'Bear went over close to the posts and then Bown and Boughton combined to put Brown in for the second try; Boughton converted both. A run by Nicholls led to the Regiment's first try scored by Critchley. Tries from Brown and Hughes put Gloucester further ahead, but they were handicapped by Walden having to go off with a broken collar bone before half-time was reached at 16-3.

In the second half, Price and Hudson scored tries for Gloucester before the Regiment registered their second from Ralph. Hughes and Gough then combined to set up A'Bear for his second. Although the Regiment's full-back, Elliott, was carried off injured, they had the last word when Bagwell scored a try to cap a fine personal performance.

### **Gloucester 13 Welsh Army XV 8, 4<sup>th</sup> November 1939**

The Army XV was drawn from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monmouthshire Regiment and included W Travers, the Wales hooker, and many Newport players.

Gloucester: H Boughton; P Brown, J Bown, A J Waters, W Stephens; W D Kear, E J Parfitt; A Carpenter, T Price, T Day, J G A'Bear, R Morris, A G Hudson, S Mabbett, Rev H M Hughes

Monmouthshire Regt: Riflemen H W Isaacs; D Pritchard, C W Myers, Lt Ivor Williams, Riflemen A G Jones; J B Badman, J Thompkins; W Travers, Cpl B J Law, Rifleman W G Jones, Lt P T Jones, Riflemen L Paul, D Seager, E Coleman, C Travers

Early in the game, Gloucester were awarded a penalty try, Hughes dribbling down to the Welsh line and seeming certain to score when he was tripped; Boughton converted. Gloucester then scored a fine second try, completely bamboozling the Welsh defence, when Parfitt drew several men before passing to Waters, who passed on to Bown, who cut through, cross kicked, and there was Kear to gather and score beside the posts; Boughton converted.

But the best try came in the second try and again featured Bown, who cut through "like a streak" and again used the cross kick, this time to find A'Bear, who drew his man and gave Price an easy run in. Bown had to go off with an injury to his eye and the Welsh struck back with tries by Coleman and Pritchard.

### **Gloucester 23 East Yorkshire Regiment 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1939**

Gloucester: H Boughton; P Brown, Sgt J Thompson, J H Bown, R Cook; W D Kear, E J Parfitt; T Rea, A D Carpenter (captain), T Day, J G A'Bear, R Morris, A G Hudson, G Redding, Rev H M Hughes

East Yorkshire Regt: Lt R Farthing; Cpl Pounder, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt G E Field, Lt D T Doble, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Mansell; Lt J K Lindsay-Renton, Pte Jewitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt H Duffy, Cpl Shillitts, Pte Smith, Pte Atkinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Watson, Pte Easton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Harbottle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Jones

In the first half it seemed as though Gloucester would stroll to an easy win, and they had the best player on the field in Harold Boughton with his resolute defence and fine kicking. Perhaps his finest moment came when Field and Pounder broke through; Boughton waited until Field made the pass and in that instant flung himself at Pounder to save what had seemed a certain try. The Yorkshire pack made Gloucester work hard in the second half, but the passing of their backs lacked accuracy.

Gordon Hudson picked up a couple of tries by using his reading of the game to be in the right place at the right time. Bown, Cook and Parfitt also scored for Gloucester and Boughton kicked four goals. The Yorkshiremen replied with tries from Jewitt and Alexander; Farthing converted one and kicked two penalties.

### **Gloucester 13 Welsh Army XV 16, 10<sup>th</sup> February 1940**

With a little Celtic collusion, Daly, the Irish international, played in the centre for the Welsh.

Gloucester: H Boughton; P Brown, A E Brookes, J Bown, R Cook; D Kear, W Moreland; A Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, G Redding, A G Hudson, S Mabbett, Rev H M Hughes

Welsh Army XV: Rifleman H W Isaacs; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Daly, Sgt Maj Edwards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut I Williams, Sgt Priddie; Cpl Harvey, Rifleman Strickland; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut G A Reid, Rifleman Gough, Rifleman WG Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut P T Jones, Pte Bridges, Rifleman Coleman, Cpl Phelps, Rifleman Paul

It was Brookes who paved the way for the first try with a grand dodging run and a most unselfish pass to Kear who only had to put the ball on the ground. Boughton converted, but the Army took the lead before half-time. Bridges went over in a loose scramble near the line and Harvey dashed over close in for Isaacs to convert.

After the interval the Gloucester forwards tried a bit of passing of their own, but it was not methodical and after Boughton had had hard luck with a long shot at a penalty goal, Hughes scored a spectacular try to equalise. He followed up a fly kick and beat the Welshmen to the touchdown. Much later in the game Brown followed up a drop at goal by Kear and scored behind the posts. Boughton converted and Gloucester were leading 13-8. Bridges got his second try for the Army, but it was not converted and a Gloucester victory seemed likely until just before no-side, when Harvey brought off a startling 40-yard run to score beside the posts; he also kicked the conversion for a stunning last gasp win.

### **Gloucester 16 South Wales Borderers 0, 24<sup>th</sup> February 1940**

Mabbett and Thornton were on leave from the RAF and therefore able to turn out for Gloucester; in order to accommodate them in the forwards, Rev Hughes moved out to the centre.

Gloucester: H Boughton; P Brown, Rev H M Hughes, W Hook, R Cook; J H Bown, Sgt J Bowen; A D Carpenter, T Day, J Redding, J G A'Bear, S Mabbett, A G Hudson, J Thornton, Dr J Balfour

South Wales Borderers: Pte F Compton; Pte A Parry, Pte R Thomas, L Cpl E Howells, Capt J R Rollin; Pte V Davies, Pte R O Lloyd; Sgt T Hunt, Sgt T Simmonds,

Sgt R Richards, L Cpl I Stroud, Pte M Hares, L Cpl D J Davies, Pte C Lloyd, L Cpl J Rees

The Gloucester pack was superior in both tight and loose, and set the foundations for an easy win in a rather scrappy game. Boughton kicked a long range penalty to put them ahead, before Day scored a try from a loose rush and Boughton converted from an awkward angle. Towards the end Hudson performed a fine dribble from a cross kick and scored close in to present Boughton with an easy conversion. There was still time for Hook to cut though for a final try before the final whistle sounded.

### **Gloucester 24 Royal Artillery Officer Cadets 9, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1940**

The Cadets team was from the Officers' Training School of the Royal Artillery and boasted two internationals in Vivian Jenkins of Wales and Bruce Lockhart of Scotland as well as four county players. Gloucester experienced selection difficulties because players were leaving every week on military service, but the Hook brothers, Bob and Bill were available to play alongside one another.

Gloucester: W Hook; R E Hook, T Stephens, R Cook, R C Upham; W D Kear, W Moreland; A Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, T A Kingscote, A G Hudson, Dr Balfour, Rev H M Hughes

R A Cadets: V G J Jenkins (Wales & London Welsh); J Spence (Hartlepool Rovers & Durham), H P Isherwood (Manchester), E J Loader (New Brighton), 2nd Lieut J C Martin (Belfast University & North of Ireland); R B Bruce Lockhart (Scotland & London Scottish), J W P Monks (Wasps); S C Sharpe (Yorkshire & Bradford), A E Austin, A S Reid (Yorkshire), J C Harris (Northampton), K J Foss (Somerset), J C Stevenson (Leicester), W H George (Wasps), R Newman (Cardiff)

Gloucester overturned expectations in sending a strong Cadets team home with a healthy respect for Gloucester Rugby. The difference on the scoreboard was largely down to Tom Stephens, who kicked six goals, several of them from awkward angles, which out paid to any hope of the visitors winning. Bill Hook played a splendid game at full back, outshining Jenkins in the first half, and Douglas Kear showed up well against Bruce Lockhart at outside-half. But the Gloucester three-quarters were outpaced and outclassed by a Cadets back line containing some flyers who cut through like knives. With their pack going backwards in the scrums, Bumps Carpenter did well to keep beating Austin for the ball, whilst Day, Robbins, A'Bear and Hughes consistently had the better of it in loose play.

Hughes got a try in a loose rush in the first half, and during a strong rally by Gloucester towards the end of the game, Bob Hook beat Jenkins to the touchdown in a desperate race to the line, and A'Bear added another try after a brilliant break by Kear.

Loader scored two of the Cadets tries, both of which resulted from decisive breaks at blistering pace by Lockhart. Their other try resulted from a fine run by Jenkins from half-way, with the scoring pass going to Martin. But Stephens boot resulted in a final score of three goals and three penalties against three tries.

### **Gloucester 11 RAF XV 6, 12<sup>th</sup> October 1940**

The Hook brothers, Bob and Bill, almost ten years apart in age, were selected to play alongside one another in the centre.

Gloucester: H Boughton; R C Upham, R E Hook, W Hook, J Jackson; W Burrows, F Gough, A D Carpenter, J Day, J G A'Bear, Rev H M Hughes, Pilot Officer Ford, J Robbins, J B Anderson, F Walton

RAF: team not known

[Photo of match in Citizen]

Gloucester had several new players, and this was the first time that the RAF side had played together, but they were on top in the early stages of the match, as a result of which Phillips scored the first try. Gloucester replied immediately with a try scored by Upham and it remained 3-3 at half-time. The RAF took the lead again when McLanahan kicked a penalty goal, but Jackson on the Gloucester wing had looked the most dangerous player on the field and he raced over for a try to tie the scores up again. The game was won when Gough darted round a scrum to score a try which Boughton converted.

### **Gloucester 12 New Zealand Army XV 12, 19<sup>th</sup> October 1940**

The New Zealand team was drawn from the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and was described in the Citizen as "plucky and sporting if not very scientific".

Gloucester: H Boughton (captain); R C Upham, W Hook, Rev H M Hughes, R E Hook; G Birch, W Burrows, F Gough; A D Carpenter, T Day, D Whitmore, J G A'Bear, J Robbins, Pilot Officer Ford, J Thornton, F Walton (sixteen named, including three half-backs)

New Zealand: F J Mott; J P Bonisch, A E Lewis, H H Griffiths, R L Ericson; J A Cavanagh, R V McKane (captain); R Arrowsmith, R L Roache, R M Brettell, RR Thomson, G H Dale, L J McKenzie, E R Ray, C S McIntyre

The Gloucester backs soon showed that they had the measure of their opponents and built a useful lead with a penalty goal from Boughton and a drop goal by Gough. Birch kept launching attacks and when Davies cut through Upham put on a good turn of speed to score wide out; Boughton converted. Gloucester appeared to be heading for a comfortable victory, but the New Zealanders fought back in the last fifteen minutes, Ericson kicking three penalties. Cavanagh then followed up a loose ball and scored a try wide out to level the scores, but the conversion went wide. There was still time for Davies and Upham to threaten for Gloucester, but a pass went forward and the game was over.

### **Gloucester 13 Welsh Army XV 13, 26<sup>th</sup> October 1940**

Playing at centre for the Welsh Army team was M Daly, who had previously played for Harlequins and Ireland.

Gloucester: H Boughton; R C Upham, D Walters, J Davies, Moreland; S Walden, F Gough; A D Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, Pilot Officer Ford, Rev H M Hughes, A G Hudson, D Whitmore

Welsh Army XV: Bom H W Isaacs; Gunner Blacker, Lieut Ivor Williams, Lieut M Daly, Sgt Ritcher; Bom Bradman, Sec Lieut Stroud; Sgt Mayhew, Bom W H Travers, Bom Gough, Lieut P Jones, Gunner W Jones, Gunner Coleman, Bom Garland, Sgt Seager, Sec Lieut M C Jones

The Welsh Army team started strongly but failed to convert their pressure into points and Gloucester were first to score when a good three-quarter movement initially got them out of trouble and eventually saw Gough dart over for a try, which Boughton converted. The Welsh replied immediately with an unconverted try by Coleman. A Boughton penalty hit the post and stayed out, so the score at half-time was 5-3.

Gloucester had the upper hand for most of the second half, but the Welsh were always dangerous on the breakaway. Gloucester went further ahead with a fine passing move the length of the field which ended with Hudson scoring; Boughton kicked the conversion and then added a penalty. The game went rapidly end-to-end and Upham came close for Gloucester, but Garland and Williams went over for tries for the Welsh and Daly converted them both to level the scores.

### **Gloucester 19 Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) 13, 30<sup>th</sup> November 1940**

Gloucester: H Boughton; R C Upham, D Walters, H F Collinson, Daniels; S Walden, F Gough; A D Carpenter, P Sessions, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, Pte Davies, Bryn Davies, Pte J R Higgs, D Whitmore

OCTU: team not known

Daniels, a former Coventry player, opened the scoring for Gloucester with an unconverted try in the first minute by following up a punt ahead by Upham, and Daniels soon added a second when put in under the posts by Gough and Walden; Boughton converted. The OCTU struck back when Cullen cut through, sold a beautiful dummy and sent a long pass out to Martin, who scored. Gloucester immediately countered, their forwards rampaging after a kick by Collinson; Graham was credited with the try. Just before half-time, the OCTU reduced the deficit when Martin and Drysdale combined to beat Boughton, and Drysdale got over for Boyle to convert, making the score 11-8 at the interval.

In the second half a long period of Gloucester pressure eventually told when Walden snapped up a loose ball and ran through on his own, before Upham added another wide out, which Boughton converted. The OCTU attacked hotly for the last ten minutes and Boyle scored a try, which Eddowes converted.

### **Gloucester 22 Army XV (London Scottish) 6, 7<sup>th</sup> December 1940**

Gloucester: H Boughton; R C Upham, D Walters, Bark, H F Collinson; S Walden, F Gough; A D Carpenter, Walker, Mabbett, J G A'Bear, B Davies, J Thornton, J Robbins, Rev H M Hughes

London Scottish: Rendall; E G Pople, Leslie, Osborne, Haslam; Hall, I K Mackenzie; A P Angus, James, Cruickshank, Bell, Coutts, R R F Wilson, Thomas, Carroch

The Scots opened the scoring with a forward rush over the line from which Hall scored. Gloucester hit back with two tries, the first by Davies from a lineout, and the second by Mabbett. Upham then made a fine sprint to score under the posts; Boughton converted to put Gloucester 11-3 ahead at half-time.

The Scots defended resolutely for a lengthy period in the second half until Collinson ran the ball back from a low kick out and crossed wide out. The Scots then went on the attack, but fumbled, which allowed Upham to snap up the ball and run nearly the length of the field to score; Boughton converted. Before the end A'Bear scored a try to seal a comfortable victory, but the Scots had the last word with a Coutts penalty.

### **Gloucester 12 Army XV (Depot) 5, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1940**

Gloucester: H Boughton (captain); R C Upham, Davis, D Walter, H F Collinson; Bark, F Gough; A D Carpenter, J Thornton, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, B Davies, Higgs, P N Walker, Rev H M Hughes

Army XV: Wood; Ashton, D E R Scarr, Linham, Howell; Moreland, Maddocks; Davis, Roots, Waterfield, Boon, Williams, Murphy, Lamson, D P R Scarr

The first score was registered in favour of Gloucester when Collinson and Walter combined brilliantly before Hughes, following up, gathered a cross-kick and went over for the try. The Army XV went into the lead with a forward rush which led to a try for D P R Scarr, converted by Howell. However, Gloucester forwards responded to set up a try for Upham in the corner, which nudged Gloucester ahead 6-5 at half-time. Gloucester had most of the play in the second half, but were restricted to a try by Collinson and a penalty kicked by Boughton.

### **Gloucester 26 Army XV 3, 26<sup>th</sup> December 1940**

Gloucester named five three-quarters in their selected side in the hopes that Francis Edwards, their international player, would be available; he did play, but it is not known who dropped out to accommodate him. Late substitutions for the Army XV, drawn from the 5<sup>th</sup> Glosters, were Bagwell and J Day, but again it is not known who they replaced. The teams originally selected were:

Gloucester: H Boughton; R C Upham, F G Edwards, W Jones, W Moreland, Lieut Collinson; Lieut Bark, F Gough; A Carpenter, J Robbins, Davis, J G A'Bear, J Thornton, Higgs, P N Walker, Murphy

Army XV: Ridgeway; T R A Whitehead, Martin, Cogbil (Bridgend), Blakeway; P W Haines, T A Parry; M E White (Clifton), Gibson, Ralph, Critchley, Williams, F R Henn, Bevan (Cardiff), D P R Scarr

Edwards made several early thrusts, but it was the Army who scored first when Gibson kicked a penalty. Edwards then came close to scoring after charging down a kick and Walker made two brilliant breaks, from the second of which he sent Collinson in for a try, which Boughton converted. The Army pressed for a while but a knock-on prevented a try and Upham intercepted Cogbil's pass, swerved round three opponents and ran half the length of the field to score under the posts; Boughton converted to make the half-time score 10-3.

Edwards set the Gloucester forwards surging up the field and they passed out to Collinson, who found Upham in support to score in the corner. Boughton missed the conversion, but kicked a penalty. Gloucester were now having things their own way and A'Bear scored under the posts before Walker added the final try just before the end; Boughton converted both.

### **Gloucester 33 New Zealand Army (Forestry) XV 8, 28<sup>th</sup> December 1940**

Gloucester: H Boughton (captain); R C Upham, D Walters, F G Edwards, H F Collinson; Bark, F Gough; A Carpenter, J Robbins, Davis, J G A'Bear, B Davies, P N Walker, J Thornton, Higgs (Res: D Whitmore, Perry)

New Zealand XV: a full team list is not available, but the match report shows that some players were involved in the other fixtures at Kingsholm

The first score was not long coming, Edwards snapping up a bouncing ball and sending Walters and Upham away for the latter to trick the full-back neatly and score under the posts. Within a minute Upham had scored again and it did not take him long to complete his hat trick, all three tries being converted by Boughton, who added a penalty. Edwards added a fourth before a quick dash round the scrum by Lewis paved the way for McKane to open the New Zealand account; Ericson converted to make it 18-5 at half-time.

The New Zealanders scored again early in the second half, rushing the ball over the Gloucester line, where Brown touched down wide out. But the home side finished the stronger, Upham scoring his fourth try, Collinson putting Walker in for the next, and Collinson getting in for the last having gathered a long pass out from Carpenter; again Boughton converted all three.

### **Gloucester 16 RAF XV 8, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1941**

Despite selecting 17 players, in the event Gloucester had to play one short.



Gloucester: H Boughton; R C Upham, D Walters, A Gray, H F Collinson; W Burrows, F Gough; A Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, P M Walker, B Davies, W Whitmore, Perry, J O Anderson, C A'Bear (ten forwards named)

RAF XV: Laurie; McNab, Hudson, Morris, Coleman, Crawford; Crocker, Davies; McGahey, Norman, Williams, McLanahan, Castle, Humphries, Phillips, Powell, Higgins, Oldfield (Five three-quarters and ten forwards named)

There was little to choose between the teams, less than the final score suggested. Burrows, Collinson, A'Bear and Day scored tries for Gloucester, Boughton converting two. The RAF scored two tries, one converted, but the individual scorers are not recorded.

### **Gloucester 9 Welsh Army XV 6, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1941**

The Army XV was drawn mainly from the Welsh Regiment, and included two Welsh internationals in W H Travers and V J Law. The teams originally selected were:

Gloucester: H Boughton (Gloucester); R C Upham, A Gray, A L Davies, W J Oakley; W Burrows, C J Goode; A Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, B Davies, P M Walker, J Thornton, A G Hudson, R Moore, D Whitmore (17 selected)

Army XV: H W Isaac; D Pritchard, I Williams, H Syner, H Makins, Badman; Blackler, Strickland, D S Stroud; W Travers, W B Gough, Paull, W G Jones, Coleman, Seager, Cooke, Garland, V J Law (18 selected)

The match was largely a struggle between two well matched packs and the backs saw little of the ball. Eventually the Gloucester forwards prevailed and set up victory with tries from Brown (not named in the selected squad) and Upham, and a penalty goal kicked by Boughton. In reply for the Army, Gough scored a try and Blackler kicked a penalty.

### **Gloucester 21 OCTU 17, 15<sup>th</sup> February 1941**

The Officer Cadet Training Unit included an Irish international wing three-quarter in C V Boyle; Cliff Jones, a young Welsh stand-off; partnered by an Irish triallist, S W McCall; and T A Coates, who had a trial for New Zealand, amongst the forwards.

Gloucester: H Boughton; R C Upham, D Walters, J Davis, W J Oakley; W Burrows, K F Goode; A Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, B Davies, P M Walker, F L Stobbs, D Whitmore, G Birch (16 selected)

OCTU: E W Lewis; C V Boyle, T Harries, D Doyle, N Walker; C Jones, S W McCall; G Falla, D J Higgins, P Cutler, A McKenzie, T A Coates, I Davis, T C Palmer, D Pickering

Gloucester found it difficult to break through the strong combination in the OCTU

backs and had a couple of narrow escapes on their own line at the start, but Burrows made a brilliant break, side-stepping several opponents before giving the scoring pass to Birch; Boughton converted. The OCTU came back and Walker tore along the wing, drew Boughton and sent Cliff Jones flying towards the line, only for Gloucester's wing forward, Walker, to bring him down just short. But the relief was only temporary as Harris ran in an easy try to make the half-time score 5-3.

Early in the second half, Jones missed an attempted drop goal, but then scored a clever try wide out, having looped round Walker. Harris then scored his second try and Gloucester were four points down late in the game. However, Boughton responded with a penalty and straight from the restart the Gloucester forwards rushed the ball over the OCTU line, Robbins being credited with the try, which Boughton converted with a splendid kick. Davis broke away and took a reverse pass from Oakley to score a try. In a final flurry, Walker and Jones added tries for the visitors, Jones converting one, but Carpenter, who had played a wonderful game in both tight and loose, went over for Gloucester to win the game, Boughton converting.

### **Gloucester 19 Army XV (Depot) 0, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1941**

Rex Thomas, a speedy winger, aged 16, from The Crypt School was making his debut for Gloucester.

Gloucester: H Boughton (captain); R C Upham, D Walters, J Davis, R Thomas; W Burrows, K F Goode; D Whitmore, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, B Davies, P M Walker, F L Stobbs, W Fry Res:

Army XV: team not known

Three-quarters of the game passed without a score of any description, although both sides came close during the first half. There was an enormous ovation for Thomas just after half time, when he gathered the ball just inside his own half and made a strong determined run for the line, out-distancing several opponents before being brought down just short. The breakthrough came when the ball went right across the field from a lineout for Walters to cross in the opposite corner, Boughton converting with a fine kick. Now the floodgates opened, Robbins taking the ball up to the line before passing to Upham, who had only to fall over to score. Then Boughton fielded a cross-kick in his own half and fed the ball to J Davis, the opposition under the impression that an infringement had occurred, and Davis had a clear run in under the posts; Boughton converted. In the last minute A'Bear scored in the corner to complete a result which did no justice to the Army team.

### **Gloucester 26 New Zealand Army XV 6, 29<sup>th</sup> March 1941**

Harold Boughton was unable to play due to an injured knee and his place at full-back for Gloucester was originally to be taken by Bill Hook, who had first played for the Club in that position as a schoolboy before war broke out, but late changes caused him to switch to stand-off. Gloucester were strengthened by Pennington of Lancashire and Corcoran of Worcester.

Gloucester: D Walters; R C Upham, J Corcoran, S S Pennington, V J Herbert; W Hook, T Hawkins; A D Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A'Bear, B Davies, F Wadley jnr, J Thornton, P M Walker

New Zealand XV: Waller; Morrison, Ericson, Wilson; Clark, McCane, Morris; McBride, Hargood, Brown, Young, McBrettell, Havill, Murray, Wright

The New Zealand forwards impressed with their size, but not with their mobility, and threatened early on as a result of charging down several kicks. But the Gloucester forwards performed a fine dribble before swinging the ball wide to Upham who scored in the corner. Pennington then made a fine opening for Herbert to score, Hook converting. New Zealand retaliated with a loose rush which ended with Carson (not in the named selection) flinging himself over the line for a try. Before half-time, Walker ran through to score under the posts, Hook converting to make the score 13-3.

New Zealand restarted with renewed vigour and Waller kicked a penalty. But when Gloucester got the ball out to the left, Upham swerved past three or four men to run 40 yards for a brilliant try which Hook converted. Another try for Gloucester soon followed when Hook cut through and sent in Herbert, and Hook rounded off a sterling performance by selling a dummy and converting his own try.

### **Gloucester 17 RAF XV (Rissington) 8, 5<sup>th</sup> April 1941**

Gloucester: S Walters; R C Upham, M Pinkney, S S Pennington, V J Herbert; W Hook, T Hawkins; A D Carpenter, T Day; J Robbins, B Davis, J G A'Bear, P M Walker, G Reed, D Whitmore Res: Stobbs

RAF XV: team not known

There was nothing to choose between the teams in the early stages, but when Hawkins got the ball away from a scrum, Pinkney sent Upham tearing along the wing and his swerve past the full-back took him under the posts for a try, which Hook converted. Gloucester mounted a number of attacks and after Hook and Upham had been held up, the forwards rushed the ball over the line for Walker to score. The RAF retaliated with a nice movement by their backs, Sutton burst through and Davies scored. A penalty by Hook gave Gloucester an 11-3 lead at half-time.

An interception by Horobin almost resulted in an RAF score, but Gloucester worked the ball back into the RAF half, where Hook kicked another penalty. The Gloucester forwards again got up to the RAF line, but Hawkins and Walker were brought down just short before Herbert got over for a try. Horobin then intercepted again and this time made it to the line for a try, which Cartridge converted. The RAF remained on the attack to the end of the game but it proved too little too late.

### **Gloucester 6 OCTU 8, 12<sup>th</sup> April 1941**

The OCTU side included a famous Rugby League player in Emlyn Jenkins at outside-half.

Gloucester: S Walters; R C Upham, Dibden A L Davis, V J Herbert; W Hook, T Hawkins; A D Carpenter, T Day, J Robins, J G A' Bear, J Baker, B Davies, G M Walker, G Reed, D Whitmore, Mustoe (17 selected)

OCTU: team not known

“Bumps” Carpenter won the ball from nearly every scrum, but the Gloucester backs were very wasteful of the possession they were given, and it was the OCTU who took the lead when Jenkins made a try with a beautiful break to send Walker in for the score. Despite many attacks on the OCTU line, Gloucester were over-eager and prone to wild passes and there was no further scoring in the first half.

Ten minutes after the restart, the visitors made a determined assault on the home line and Holmes forced his way over for a try which Jenkins converted. Five minutes later one of the few movements put together by the Gloucester backs sent the ball out to Upham, who outpaced the opposition to cross for a splendid try. Ten minutes from time, Walters added a penalty for Gloucester with a fine effort from near the touchline, but the home team was left to rue a host of missed chances.

### **Gloucester 19 RAF XV (Innsworth) 3, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1941**

Gloucester: W Hook; R C Upham, R Pinkney, S Walters, V J Herbert; S F Pennington, W H Moreland; A D Carpenter, T Day, J Robbins, J G A' Bear, Bryn Davies, A G Hudson, G Walker, W Whitmore

RAF: Ebenezer; Benbridge, Kilgannon, Foley, Baldwin; Ashurst, Eyles; Ransden, Roe, Buchanan, Wakeford, Wagstaff, Evans, Jackson, Reynolds

The RAF started brightly, but the Gloucester forwards, with the ball at their feet, took play well into the opposition half, and, just when it looked as though the RAF might clear, Herbert gathered the ball and it went on to Upham who was brought down a few yards short. However, Gloucester continued to press and Herbert scored wide out, before soon adding a second try to make it 6-0 at half-time.

Gloucester opened the second half with a fine passing movement by their backs, but it was a forward, Walker, who was on the end of it and he dodged past several opponents to score half-way out; A' Bear converted. Herbert completed his hat trick and Hudson scored another by the posts after a forward rush. Ebenezer saved a whitewash by kicking a late penalty for the RAF.