

12 January

## Fr EDWARD J. BURNS

1 May 1911 – 12 January 1967



Edward Burns was born in Birkenhead, on the opposite side of the Mersey from Liverpool. After school at St Francis Xavier's, he entered the Society in 1930. John McCann, a contemporary, recalls coming to Southern Rhodesia with him in 1937 where they both joined a 'happy but aging community at St George's.' Soon Burns found himself Second and, later, First Prefect where his exterior stern demeanour hid a sensitive and diffident character. He is seen here with the Cadets.

He liked visiting mission stations during the holidays but seemingly one of the attractions was hunting. He hurt his back on the rockslide at Mermaid's Pool and it was later felt this might have contributed to the epileptic fits he had in theology which delayed his ordination. He spent four years at St George's before returning to England.

He did not return to Africa and taught at his old school, St Francis Xavier, Liverpool, in the preparatory section. He battled with illness all his life and although he had wonderful ways with the younger boys, their 'unlimited animal spirits' wearied him. He showed great courage and patience in his ill health. He was renowned for welcoming visitors and serving the community in all sorts of quiet ways.

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