

**PETER RODERICK OLIVER ARCHIVE**  
**SHERBORNE SCHOOL (ARCHON CODE: GB1949)**

Peter Roderick Oliver was born 28 August 1907, the son of Major Edward William Oliver (Indian Army) and Betty Oliver. He attended Gorse Cliff Preparatory School and in September 1921 joined Sherborne School (Lyon House) where he remained until December 1925. After leaving Sherborne he went to Sandhurst and was then commissioned into the 13<sup>th</sup> (Coke's) Frontier Force Rifles. During the Second World War, Oliver fought with the 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. 13<sup>th</sup> Frontier Force Rifles and was mentioned in despatches. He was killed in action at Taungtha, Burma on 22 February 1945 and is commemorated at Taukkyan War Cemetery, 20. G. 13.



A highly competent mountaineer, Oliver made a number of notable ascents in the Himalayas, including the second ascent of Trisul in 1933 (23,360 ft.) with only one porter, an endeavour which involved 4000 feet of climbing on the last day. He was a member of both the 1936 and 1938 British Everest expeditions. As a talented artist, his illustrations were used in a number of books on Himalayan mountaineering, including Hugh Ruttledge's *Everest: the Unfinished Adventure* (1937).

**Ref. SS/OS/O/Oliver, P.R./**

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| 1 | <p>P.R. Oliver's diary of his 1938 Mount Everest Expedition.</p> <p>The diary which covers the period 1 March-28 June 1938 is handwritten in pencil. Bound in red leather, with embossed gold lettering on the cover: 'MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION 1936 [sic]. P.R. OLIVER'. With a waxed cloth and cardboard case.</p> <p>[Presented by William Marcus Oliver (1909-) to Sherborne School, c.1975]</p>  | 1938 |
| 2 | <p>Ice axe used by P.R. Oliver on his 1938 Mount Everest Expedition.</p> <p>[Presented by W.M. Oliver to Sherborne School, c.1975]</p>  | 1938 |
| 3 | <p>Three colour photographs of paintings and sketches made in Tibet by P.R. Oliver in 1938 during his Everest expedition:</p> <p>3/1 – Watercolour painting of Shekar Dzong [a town at the base of Mount Everest in Tibet] by P.R. Oliver, 1938.</p> <p>3/2 – Crayon sketch of a Sherpa by P.R. Oliver, 1938.</p> <p>3/3 – Pencil sketch by P.R. Oliver of a woman entitled 'Lobsang, Jachen 8-3-38.'</p> <p>The paintings were originally given [by W.M. Olivier?] to Oliver Holt who gave them to his son, Ben Holt. Photographs taken by Ben Holt, 2012.</p> | 1938 |
| 4 | <p>Printout: obituary for Peter Roderick Oliver, <i>The Shirburnian</i>, July 1945.</p>   | 1945 |
| 5 | <p>Photocopy: extract from the Lyon House (Sherborne School) House Letter, no.36, July 1945.</p> <p>Lists former pupils who have been killed during the course of the Second World War, including a photograph of P.R. Oliver wearing army uniform.</p>   | 1945 |

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| 6  | Printout: P.R. Oliver's entry in the Sherborne School Book of Remembrance, n.d. [c.1945]  | 1945 |
| 7  | Book: H.W. Tilman, <i>Mount Everest 1938</i> (Cambridge University Press, 1948).<br><br>Donated to the Sherborne School library in May 1948.  | 1948 |
| 8  | Photocopy: obituary for Charles Warren, paediatrician and mountaineer, who died 30 March 1999, n.d. [c. April 1999].<br><br>Includes a photograph of Warren with the other climbers (including P.R. Oliver) on the 1936 Everest expedition.   | 1999 |
| 9  | Sales catalogue for an 'Exploration and Travel' themed auction held by Christie's London on 29 April 1999.<br><br>Lot 102 in the auction comprised the archive of Peter Oliver, which included a carbon copy of his 1938 Mount Everest Expedition diary. The sale catalogue includes photographs of Oliver and of his expedition teams.<br><br>With correspondence between Thomas Venning, Christie's Book Department, and George Tatham, Sherborne School, concerning P.R. Oliver's diaries held at Sherborne School, 11-25 February 1999. | 1999 |
| 10 | Printout: John Harden, 'Peter Oliver (g 25) Mountaineer and Soldier', <i>OS Record</i> , 2011.  | 2011 |

Rachel Hassall  
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