

## **A Serious and Proper Education: Misadventures at an English Boarding School**

# A Serious and Proper Education

Memorandum of the English Founting School



A MEMOIR BY  
Alan Holmes

**Monmouth County, Jul 22, 2020 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.Issuewire.com)) - *Xenophobia, simply put, is the fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners. And at nine years old, Alan Holmes learns just how painful it can be to bear the brunt of such animosity.***

It's 1939, and Alan's parents decide to send him to boarding school in England. Far away from his happy home in France, the young boy is suddenly faced with not only the unchecked, pitiless torments inflicted by his English schoolmates but also the harsh treatment of a prejudiced teacher.

***A Serious and Proper Education: Misadventures at an English Boarding School*** is a follow-up to *In the Moon: A Memoir of a 1930s childhood in France*, Holmes continues the telling of his remarkable life story in *A Serious and Proper Education*, which covers the life-changing years of 1939 and 1940. Although the circumstances described, both personal and historical, are often appalling, the inner dialogue of the author's younger self is surprisingly heartwarming, hopeful, and is often humorous.

But while his life at school has plenty of its own horror stories, the outside world is experiencing its own terrible share of tragedy as well, and Alan worries over his parents' life and safety as they race to escape from invaded France before it's too late.

*Alan Holmes was born in 1930 in Paris, where he subsequently lived for ten years. Educated in France, England, and Canada, he eventually attended Yale University, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering. At Yale, he also placed much emphasis on writing.*

*During the Korean War, he served in the US Army and became a US citizen. Now in retirement, Holmes enjoys photography, painting, cycling, and writing his memoirs. His first book, "In the Moon" about his highly humorous, light-hearted childhood years in France brought on a flood of letters of praise and appreciation.*

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