

Hammers' History

10 years ago . . .

16 Sept. 1961. There were only 27,000 present for the home game v Chelsea—evidently many thought they would not get in! Those not present missed a great deal, for in a very robust game Phil Woosnam was off the field for 19 mins. of the second half and Lawrie Leslie's cut knee put him out of action for the last half-hour. John Dick (8 mins.) and Malcolm Musgrove (20 mins.) had given us a good lead, and when Leslie went off Bobby Moore did a great job in goal to keep a clean sheet and bring us a 2—1 win.

20 years ago . . .

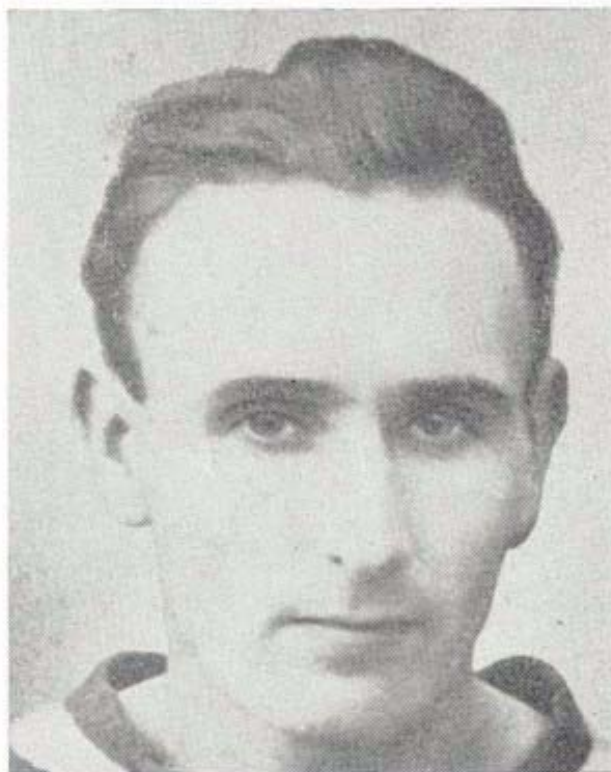
8 Sept. 1951. Injuries hit us badly; among those out were Tommy Dixon, Tommy Southren, Derek Parker, Steve Forde, Ernie Gregory and Ken Tucker. The effects of National Service were noted in the programme with the words: "*Service calls also provide us with a weekly problem.*" We defeated Barnsley at home by 2—1, but in the following week lost away games to Swansea Town (1—2) and Sheffield United (1—6). That made the Blades' total 32 from their first nine matches (they ended in the middle of the table).

9 Sept. 1961. An interesting line from the report of our 4—2 win at Aston Villa before a 32,000 gate: "*Even when our 'keeper was beaten Hurst kicked off the line when covering well.*" Geoff had made his first appearance of the season five days earlier when we lost by two clear goals at Blackpool, deputising at right-half for the injured Andy Malcolm.

30 years ago . . .

13 Sept. 1941. We were held to a 1—1 draw by Charlton Athletic at The Valley in the London War League, after beating Chelsea by 8—4 at Stamford Bridge a week earlier. Appeals for "clothing coupons" to provide football kits were a regular feature of the programme.

OLD HAMMER



SYD BISHOP was nicknamed "Sticks"—a reflection of his lithe 5-ft. 11-ins. and 11-stone. He was born in 1900.

He played for Ilford F.C. in the Isthmian League and had some games for Crystal Palace Res., but we signed him in 1920 and our Handbook that year said: "*The possibilities of his developing into a First Team half-back are very apparent.*"

It did not take long, for he occupied the right-half spot at Wembley in the F.A. Cup side of 1923, and in the following year was reserve for England v Ireland.

However, Syd struck a bad patch of form in the 1925-6 season, and was transferred to Leicester City during the following campaign. It did him a power of good, for he played so well with the Midlanders that he gained four full caps in 1927 v Scotland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

He later returned to London to play for Chelsea.