

The Haltonian Magazine

77 Edition

Summer 1957

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# EDITORIAL

NO one yet knows how the details of the Defence White Paper will be implemented. As far as it affects our service we have our hopes and fears. We naturally wish, as far as possible, to retain the organization and methods with which we have all become familiar and which go so far to make service life more than the act of putting on a uniform. Changes must occur if we are to retain our position as a world power, but we must be sure that the changes are not so great or so far-reaching in character that we say with the doctors, "it was a good operation, but the patient died". We, as a nation, have always prided ourselves on our ability to make changes fit into the existing pattern. This we must do again. If the Royal Air Force is to survive the operation our traditions and loyalties must be maintained and for that, the old forms must go on. There is a fund of loyalty in our service, one has only to read the Old Haltonian Section to find its concrete expression. But loyalty can only attach itself to recognised and accepted institutions and forms. We have no desire to start again with a Sandys-Ward Memorandum.

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This is the first issue of the Magazine at the new price. We hope, and confidently expect, that there will be no falling-off in our sales as

a result of the sixpence increase. We cannot yet say how our Profit-and-Loss Account will look when the books are made up, but we hope that we can realize a small profit on each issue. If our hopes are fulfilled, we can attempt to improve the general standard of the publication. This can be achieved to some extent by the use of more expensive materials and blocks but, without some effort on the part of the contributors, the attempt can only be partly successful. We therefore ask our regular contributors to make their articles a little more interesting and a little longer than is the case at present. To the Apprentices, the real members of Halton, for whom this Magazine is produced, we can only repeat our hitherto unsuccessful plea for original material.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 78th Entry will graduate as this issue appears in print. We would like to wish them the best of good fortune in their new life and to thank them for the contribution they have made to the life at Halton. The Editor at least, can say that it has been a pleasure to teach them. If they retain the good spirits which have marked their progress through Halton they will always enjoy their life and work. It is always better to travel in hope than to arrive.



The Inspection

Sport &amp; General

## GRADUATION PARADE OF THE 77<sup>TH</sup> ENTRY

THE Graduation Parade of the 77th Entry of Apprentices at Halton took place on April 17th, 1957, on Henderson-Groves Parade Ground. The Reviewing Officer was Air Marshal Sir Douglas Macfadyen, K.C.B., C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Home Command. He was accompanied by Air Marshal Sir George R. Beamish, K.C.B., C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Technical Training Command; Air Vice-Marshal G. B. Beardsworth, C.B., Air Officer Commanding No. 24 Group; Air Commodore E. D. McK. Nelson, C.B., A.D.C., Commandant of No. 1 School of Technical Training; Group Captain A. K. Hunter, O.B.E., Senior Training Officer, No. 1 School of Technical

Training; Group Captain E. A. Stockwell, Principal Education Officer, No. 1 School of Technical Training, and Wing Commander P. Peters, O.B.E., D.F.C., Officer Commanding No. 3 Apprentice Wing.

The Parade was under the command of Flight Sergeant Apprentice G. E. Forsey, 77th Entry. The other N.C.O. Apprentices who were subordinate commanders were :-

Parade Adjutant	S/A/A J. Lancaster
Parade Warrant Officer	S/A/A H. J. Wolstenholme
Colour Bearer	S/A/A J. A. Ratel
Colour Warrant Officer	S/A/A B. R. Curd

Colour Escort S/A/A A. R. Hill  
S/A/A D. R. Murley  
Colour Orderly C/A/A T. W. Orchard  
Escort Squadron Commander  
F.S/A/A D. L. Finn  
No. 1 Flight Commander  
S/A/A D. J. MacPherson  
No. 2 Flight Commander  
S/A/A A. E. Horton  
No. 2 Squadron Commander  
F.S./A/A J. W. W. Glover  
No. 1 Flight Commander  
S/A/A G. E. A. Smith  
No. 2 Flight Commander  
S/A/A F. D. Young  
N.C.O. i/c Ensign S/A/A D. S. Moss  
Standard Bearers C/A/A A. Martin  
C/A/A C. M. Shattock  
Apprentice i/c Supporting Entry  
C/A/A I. V. Maude  
Drum Major Military Band  
A/A A. J. Clay  
Drum Major Pipe Band A/A J. Squires  
Entries on parade were the 77th and 78th.

#### THE COMMANDANT'S REPORT

After the Parade the guests assembled in the Burnett Gymnasium for the Prize Giving. The Commandant welcomed the Reviewing Officer, Air Marshal Sir Douglas Macfadyen, and Lady Macfadyen. Air Marshal Macfadyen was, he said, his last 'headmaster' at the Royal Air Force Staff College, Bracknell; he had then been Commandant there.

Turning to a review of the 77th Entry's career at Halton, the Commandant said that the Entry had commenced training in May 1954, with an intake strength of 220. To this number had been added during the three years of their training 64 Apprentices relegated from earlier entries. Of this total of 284, 103 had been lost by either discharge, transfer to lower trade level or relegation to junior entries, leaving a total of 181 who were graduating. Of this total, 5 were Apprentices of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, one of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force, five of the Royal Ceylon Air Force and 11 of the Burma Air Force.

In Trade Training the Entry had given, overall, an average performance. Their standard in the early part of their course had not been very high, but there had been a distinct improvement towards the end which could not be put down entirely to the expected quickening of mind and body before final exams. During the time that the 77th Entry had been here they had seen considerable improvement in the training equipment for most of the trades. The necessity of removing the Swift from operational flying had been a misfortune, but it was an ill wind which had at least blown some good to Halton in that it had provided what were probably the most up-to-date examples of aircraft engineering ever seen in a training establishment. A Hunter and two Canberras had also been acquired and there had been, he said, a steady improvement in the detail equipment and training aids produced by the local industry of the training staff. On the other hand, the 77th Entry's training had been hampered in a considerable area of the workshops by building repairs and alterations. They had also been involved in three different arrangements of organisation and had suffered from the resulting changes and instability in administration.

The Commandant said that the story was much the same on the educational side. During the earlier part of the course their performance had been barely average, with a few outstanding Apprentices but also with some marked weaknesses. Towards the end, however, there had been evidence of real effort to achieve good results in the Final Examination. This effort had resulted in quite a strong finish, on which the Entry was to be congratulated. The five New Zealand Apprentices had done especially well, with an average mark of 74%. One of them, Sergeant Apprentice Bridson, had achieved the outstandingly good average of 90% for all subjects in the Final Examination. This was, in fact the best result of any Apprentice since the war. Of the other overseas Apprentices, the Burmese had averaged 43% and the Ceylonese 40%, both satisfactory results in view of the language difficulty experienced by some of them.

Referring to special educational qualifications he said that 19 R.A.F. Apprentices, 3



The March Past in Slow Time.

Sport &amp; General

New Zealand Apprentices and one Burmese Apprentice had qualified for Ordinary National certificates in Engineering. This attainment was an improvement over recent entries but was still not as high as he would like to see it.

The Entry's standard of discipline and General Service Training had been quite good. Although the 77th was a small entry there had been no difficulty in producing the required number of N.C.O. Apprentices of reasonably good quality. The morning's Parade had, he thought, been a fair reflection of the sound standard achieved, both in quality of N.C.O. Apprentices and in the Entry's overall General Service Proficiency.

Four candidates had been sent forward to the R.A.F. Selection Board at Cranwell, recommended for cadships. Of these one had been accepted for a General Duties Cadetship (Navigator) in the Royal Air Force.

In conclusion, the Commandant said that the Entry had been good average, just a little above the level of post-war entries as a whole but with definite improvements on the standards of the entries immediately preceding it. He had hopes, he said, that the 77th were leading the way to a steady improvement of post-war Apprentice standards. On this encouraging note the Commandant wished them the best of good fortune and a fair voyage as they set out on their service career.

He then asked Air Marshal Sir Douglas Macfadyen to present the prizes.

#### ADDRESS BY THE REVIEWING OFFICER

Addressing the Commander-in-Chief, the Commandant and Members of the 77th Entry, Air Marshal Sir Douglas Macfadyen

said he had witnessed a most inspiring parade and would like to congratulate the Entry on their splendid bearing and deportment throughout. He complimented Flight Sergeant Apprentice Forsey for his excellent word of command and the way he handled the parade.

Air Marshal Macfadyen said that the day should be a very proud one in the lives of the members of the 77th Entry. They had successfully completed a three year course which had given them a grounding in technical subjects second to none. Henceforth they would have to accept personal responsibility for all they did. He spoke of the way in which they would find that their experience was being constantly widened and went on to say that they would probably discover for themselves the importance of teamwork. The



Apprentices from New Zealand

Sport &amp; General

foundation of success of any unit, he said, indeed the whole Air Force, must rest on team work.

The Reviewing Officer went on to speak of discipline. This was, he said, really another aspect of team work. Discipline did not consist, as many people seemed to think,

almost entirely of square-bashing or, alternatively, a set of iron rules directed at the inconvenience of the individual. It was a form of team work and could, in addition, be a form of self respect. It was common knowledge, he said, that a well disciplined unit was always a happy one.

To the parents of members of the 77th Entry he offered his congratulations on their sons' successes. They would, he said, be well looked after in the service. He personally felt that there was no life more interesting, more



Burmese Apprentices

Sport &amp; General

full of adventure and fun or one more likely to bring out the best in a man.

Air Marshal Macfadyen went on to speak of the effect of changes in the Government's defence policy upon the Royal Air Force. He asked people not to be too discouraged by the reports which had appeared in the press recently. Many of these reports, he said had been either inaccurate or exaggerated.

The R.A.F. would not be switching over to guided missiles tomorrow. Manned aircraft would be used for some time in the foreseeable future. It was true that the services were going to reduce in number, but in the R.A.F. this reduction would be effected amongst officers by retiring those who had completed their tours and would not, in any case, expect advancement, and for other ranks by a reduction in the intake of National Servicemen. Prospects in the R.A.F. were still first class. Of course, the reduction in numbers would mean that those in the regular

Air Force would have to attain higher standards than ever. The Air Force would look to Halton for these higher standards. For many years, he said, Halton Apprentices had been the backbone of the R.A.F. Great numbers of ex-Apprentices had been commissioned and no less than twenty-eight had attained Air rank. The conclusion he drew from this was that for the Apprentice who wanted to get on, the opportunity was there.

It was the Reviewing Officer's privilege to have the last word, Air Marshal Macfadyen said in conclusion. His advice to the 77th Entry was to have pride in their work and pride in themselves. No matter, relatively, how unimportant the job appeared, there was only one standard in the R.A.F. and that was the best. One of the secrets of success in this world was to show willingness, to do that little bit extra that may not be expected. If they seized with both hands the opportunities which offered themselves they would rise above the normal level in their success.

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### 77th ENTRY CADETSHIP

A Cadetship in the General Duties Branch has been awarded to F.S./A/A J. W. W. Glover

#### PRIZE-WINNERS 77th ENTRY

**Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize (for the best all-round Apprentice)**  
Sgt.App. D. W. Bridson (R.N.Z.A.F.)

**Pioneer Trophy (for the highest marks in all Technical Training Subjects)**  
Sgt.App. D. W. Bridson (R.N.Z.A.F.)

**Crebbin-Robinson Cup (for the best Trade Standards Practical Fitting Test)**  
Air.App. B. H. Ellis

**Elliott Memorial Prize (presented by the Royal Aeronautical Society for the highest marks in English and General Studies)**  
Sgt.App. D. W. Bridson (R.N.Z.A.F.)

**Quinton Memorial Trophy (for the best Ex-A.T.C. Cadet)**  
Sgt.App. T. C. Hocking

**BURMA DEFENCE SERVICES PRIZE**  
**(for the best Burmese Apprentice in Order of Merit)**  
Cpl.App. Soe Hlaing



**AIR MINISTRY PRIZES****Highest in Order of Merit, All Subjects**

Sgt.App. D. W. Bridson (R.N.Z.A.F.)

**Highest in Order of Merit, Educational Subjects**

First Prize: Sgt.App. D. W. Bridson (R.N.Z.A.F.)

Second Prize: Sgt.App. T. C. Hocking

**Best "Set Task", General Studies**

Air.App. J. P. V. Algar

**Highest in Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency**

First Prize: F.Sgt.App. D. L. Finn (R.N.Z.A.F.)

Second Prize: Sgt.App. D. R. Murley

**Highest Average for Practical Fitting over Three Year Course**

Ldg.App. M. J. Cumberland

**Best Tradesmen in Trade Standards Trade Test**

Airframe Fitter	...	...	...	...	Air.App. M. G. Kift
Armament Fitter	...	...	...	...	Cpl.App. R. N. Martin
Electrical Fitter (Air)	...	...	...	...	Cpl.App. G. A. Francis (R.N.Z.A.F.)
Electrical Fitter (Ground)	...	...	...	...	Ldg.App. P. G. Rodgers
Engine Fitter — 1st	...	...	...	...	Sgt.App. D. W. Bridson (R.N.Z.A.F.)
Engine Fitter — 2nd	...	...	...	...	Ldg.App. S. J. Richey
Instrument Fitter (Nav.)	...	...	...	...	F.Sgt.App. D. L. Finn (R.N.Z.A.F.)
Instrument Fitter (Gen.)	...	...	...	...	Sgt.App. G. E. A. Smith (R.N.Z.A.F.)

**77th ENTRY POSTING LIST (in order of merit)**

Bridson, D. W.	St. Eval	Raynor, R. C.	Stradishall
Hocking, T. C.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Stewart, P. M. G.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Francis, G. A.		Ward, R.	F.E.A.F.
Smith, G. E. A.		Marsh, B. L.	Boscombe Down
Horton, A. E.	Thorney Island	Cardew, M. J.	Wittering
Finn, D. L.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Young, F. D.	2nd T.A.F.
Martin, R. N.		Long, R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Parker, W. F.	Boscombe Down	Gair, G.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Glover, J. W. W.	Dishforth	Stride, J. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Moss, D. S.	Awarded G.D. Cadetship	Tedman, E. C.	Stradishall
Neale, R. W.	Honington	Faulkner, R. E.	F.E.A.F.
Andrew, I.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	McGowan, W. L.	Valley
Cumberland, M. J.	Dishforth	Youngs, B. E.	Wittering
Neville, T. P.	2nd T.A.F.	Lewis, J. P.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Richey, S. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Hawes, D. F.	Cranwell
Hill, A. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Buckley, J. F.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Ellis, B. H.	Valley	Shattock, C. M.	Stradishall
Wilkinson, D. J. C.	Duxford	Kift, M. G.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Owen, A. E. R.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Bassett, B.	N. Luffenham
Aitchison, R. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Forsey, G. E.	Waddington
Sufrin, D. R.	Chivenor	Buller, R. S.	Pembray
Clemo, L.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Stevens, P. J.	Boscombe Down
Garland, T. F.	Wyton	Hobbs, A. C.	32 M.U. St. Athan
MacPherson, D. J.	Valley	Meads, W.	Stradishall
During, A. N.	Boscombe Down	Codd, P.	Chivenor
Curd, B. R.	Waddington	Mathews, R. E.	Boscombe Down
Smith, E. C.	Gaydon	Lancaster, J.	Wyton
Utton, D. J.	Odiham	Sudden, P. F.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Williams, G. R.	Driffield	Murley, D. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Wolstenholme, H. J.	Dishforth	Pringle, A. D.	Gaydon
Fox, L. G.	Boscombe Down	Soe Hlaing	Wittering
Dawdry, M. F.	Boscombe Down	Rodgers, P. G.	Honington
Martin, A.	F.E.A.F.	Walker, E. J.	Tangmere
Sherrington, C. R.	Bassingbourne	Algar, J. P. V.	Leuchars
Knot, D. B.	Waddington	Lyon, P.	Honington
Harcourt, P. B.	Little Rissington	Bird, H. W.	Honington
Rowe, D. F.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Palmer, M. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Dorr, F. W.	Boscombe Down	Smith, B. H.	Waddington
		McLennan, J.	Boscombe Down
		Mathews, A. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan
		Ford, M. P.	Coltishall
		Hilliard, M. J.	

Arnold, B. J.	Gaydon	Barden, P. G.	Boscombe Down
Bishop, I. S.	Boscombe Down	Ryan, P. D.	Boscombe Down
Redwood, E. G.	West Raynham	Davies, W. D.	Boscombe Down
Campbell, I. R.	2nd T.A.F.	Hawkes, S. R.	Marham
Rogers, J. E.	Boscombe Down	Yates, M. J.	Waddington
Thom, I. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Farrow, E.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Wheeler, G. R.	2nd T.A.F.	Avery, J. R.	North Weald
Tucker, G. G.	Tangmere	Potts, D. J. C.	Chivenor
Durham, V. F.		Finney, B. J.	Boscombe Down
Richards, P. J.		Wilkins, B. G.	Honington
Navaratne, J. B. O.	Wyton	Sneddon, I. R.	Leconfield
Wratten, B. L.	Cranwell	Homfray, K.	Boscombe Down
McEwen, M. I.	Valley	Woodhouse, N.	2nd T.A.F.
Harkness, J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Mudd, D. W.	Wyton
Hurrell, K. G.	Waterbeach	Young, R. M. S.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Dingle, D.	Boscombe Down	Muller, A. C.	*
Cox, K. M.	Hemswell	Gibson, N. R.	Marham
Bell, A.	Waddington	Hebden, G. P. A.	F.E.A.F.
Elgar, B. G.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Bythe, P. A.	Wattisham
Wheatley, G. E.	Cranwell	Roberts, N.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Fricker, R. D.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Bates, J. R.	2nd T.A.F.
Fuller, R. A.	Bassingbourne	Barker, W. M. S.	*
Ansell, P.	2nd T.A.F.	Ba Thaug	2nd T.A.F.
Sheldrick, J. T. G.	M.E.A.F.	Morgan, D. H.	
Beauchamp, J. D.	Helston	Maung Aung Win	Syerston
Nancarrow, B.	Wittering	Little, R.	N. Luffenham
Windebank, A. J.	2nd T.A.F.	Lilley, W. E.	2nd T.A.F.
McCulloch, J. G.	Dishforth	Davis, P. A.	F.E.A.F.
Norris, V. R.	Marham	Craggs, D. L.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Gilbert, P. A.	2nd T.A.F.	Rogers, G. P.	Boscombe Down
Ratel, J. H.	Church Fenton	Jamieson, R.	Stradishall
Gardiner, D. W.	Leconfield	Kennell, K. G.	2nd T.A.F.
Aung Khin		Bates, B. R.	Little Rissington
Sale, E. J. M.	Boscombe Down	Fryer, C. A. H.	*
Knot, J. C.	Stradishall	Soe Myint	*
Goodall, T. A.	Boscombe Down	Betts, K. W.	*
Frame, J. P.	2nd T.A.F.	Aung Kyi	*
Ridley, D.	2nd T.A.F.	Thaug Sein	*
Nute, H. G.	Chivenor	Howard, F. E. J.	*
Smith, G. G.	Wyton	Mg Mg Thein	*
Brooks, P. G.	Waddington	Watson, D.	*
Ottewell, D.	Leeming	Abeyanayake	*
Bray, J. H.	Boscombe Down	Maung Myint	*
O'Brien, P.	F.E.A.F.		

\* Satisfactorily completed the course although failing to reach Junior Technician standard

**The following Apprentices ex-76th Entry also qualified as Junior Technicians**

Allday, J. A.	Waddington	Holmes, D. M.	2nd T.A.F.
Freeman, G. C. N.	2nd T.A.F.	Howarth, J. A.	2nd T.A.F.
Donegan, T. F. G.	2nd T.A.F.	Coward, J. G. E.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Payne, D. A. A.	Church Fenton	Rountree, E. G.	Dishforth
Marston, F. A. R.	2nd T.A.F.	Hay, A.	2nd T.A.F.
Askew, G. S.	2nd T.A.F.	Sutherland, P.	2nd T.A.F.
Downs, B. S. G.	2nd T.A.F.	Richards, G.	2nd T.A.F.

**77th ENTRY SPORTS AWARDS  
SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS**

**Athletics.**

L.A.A. Snedden, I. R.	1956
S.A.A. Murley, D. R.	1956
L.A.A. Dingle, D.	1956
C.A.A. Cox, K. M.	1955, 1956
S.A.A. Smith, G. E. A.	1956

**Basket Ball.**

A.A. Ba Thaug	1956/57
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**Boxing.**

A.A. Abeyanayke	1956
A.A. Little, A. R.	1956

**Cross Country.**

C.A.A. Cox, K. M.	1956
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**Hockey.**

A.A. Freeman, G. C. N.	1956
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**Rugby.**

S.A.A. Young, F. D.	1956/57
A.A. Sudden, P. F.	1956

**Swimming.**

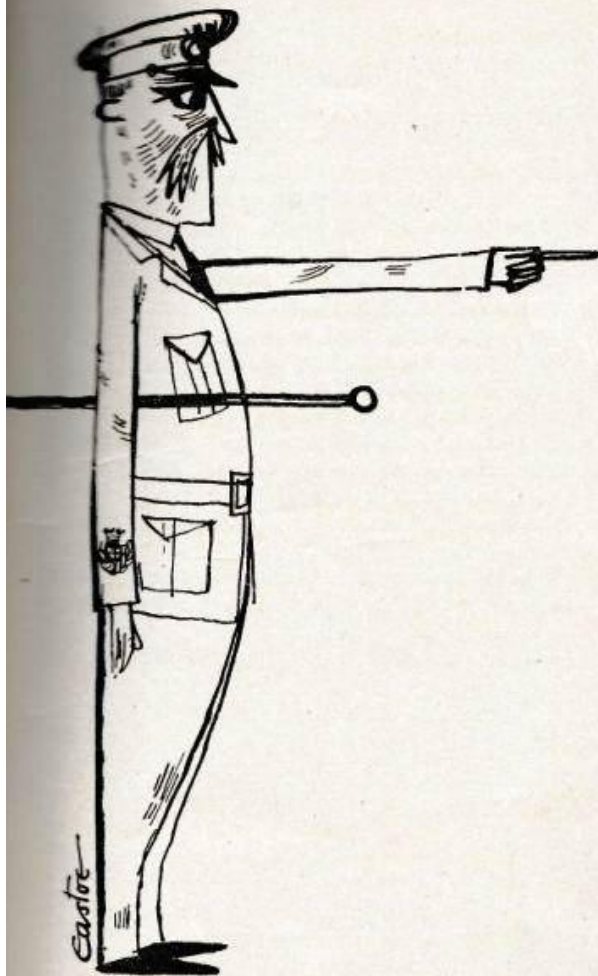
S.A.A. Young, F. D.	1956
C.A.A. Martin, F. D.	1956

**Tennis.**

C.A.A. Gibson, N. R.	1956
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**Soccer.**

L.A.A. Long, R.	1956/57
A.A. Hawkes, S. R.	1956/57
A.A. Morgan, D. H.	1956/57



### NO. 1(A) WING

AT the time of writing, the Spring term is drawing to a close and, as we approach the threshold of another seasonal change, our thoughts and expectations have been much concerned with the graduation of yet another Entry, the 77th, who, during their time together as a complete entry, spent practically two-thirds of their apprenticeship training in No. 1(A) Wing. Scanning the list of Prize-winners, it is rather regretful to note that A/A Ellis B. H. of No. 3 Squadron is our only Wing representative who is to be congratulated on winning the Crebbin-Robinson Cup. Nevertheless, let us not be dismayed, neither will we allow this small point to stop us from offering our congratulations to S/A/A Bridson

## CURRENT EVENTS

D. W. of No. 3(A) Wing on his excellent achievement in lifting six of the most important prizes of all, thereby qualifying himself to join the roll of illustrious New Zealanders who now seem to make a habit of repeating, here at Halton, what their fellow countrymen have done before them.

Among our own graduating Apprentices, pride of place must be given to F.S/A/A Glover who is to be congratulated on his award of a Cranwell Cadetship in the G.D. Navigational Branch of the Royal Air Force, and to S/A/A Hill of No. 2 Squadron who graduates as a substantive Corporal. Well done Hill. Coupled with these successes, may we wish the best of good luck and good fortune to the remainder of the 77th Entry who successfully graduated at Easter.

It is interesting to note that no less than 22 members of the graduating Entry have, on this occasion, been posted to R.A.F. Boscombe Down, and it is believed that, except for R.A.F. St. Athan, this is probably the only Station to receive so large a number of graduates in recent times. To those who have been sent there, we declare that they will certainly be in good company for the end of this term will also see the departure of our Commanding Officer, Gp.Cpt. W. D. G. Watkins, D.S.O., D.F.C., D.F.M., who will be greatly missed. He is also going to R.A.F. Boscombe Down for a second tour of duty there, and on this occasion, to take up his new appointment as Superintendent of Armament Trials, Ministry of Supply, where we hope his stay, and that of Mrs. Watkins, will be a happy and a very pleasant one.

We welcome as our new C.O., Wg.Cdr A. A. Pedder who joins us from Headquarters 2nd T.A.F., as did the Group Captain just two years ago. We feel confident that he will find

the Wing in a pretty healthy state, and it goes without saying that we all hope he will quickly settle in his new office and that both he and his family will enjoy their stay among us.

Other postings-in during recent months include Flt.Lt. Hamilton from Headquarters, No. 22 Group and F.S. Jarvis from the Administrative Course, R.A.F. Hereford to No. 1 Squadron, and Flt.Lt. Henry from R.A.F. Middle Wallop and F.S. Collier from R.A.F. Padgate (now closed) to No. 2 Squadron, to all of whom we extend a hearty welcome and wish a pleasant stay at Halton where a full tour can be full indeed. Flt.Lt. Harrison-Broadley, whom we welcomed to No. 3 Squadron in our last issue, will no doubt have been missed in recent months, yet this is only to be a temporary absence while he is attending the O.A.T.S. Course. By way of explanation, this of course has no connection with his appointment as Officer i/c Halton Riding Stables but simply a commonly known abbreviation for the Officers' Advanced Training School course.

A very happy Spring term event which cannot go unrecorded was the birth of twin daughters to Mrs. A. Methven. Good show Padre, and all good health and much happiness to the newly-born pair of Waltzing Matildas.

In March too, we received a short visit from Ex-Apprentice Oke of the 76th Entry and from him learned the good news that he and

our Autumn Term's F.S. A. A. Moy were already attending the Officer Cadet Training Unit, R.A.F. Kirton Lindsay prior to undergoing air crew training. Here we seem to have a couple of Ex-Apprentices who do not intend to let the grass grow under their feet.

It is not the intention to deal very fully in these notes with any aspect of our sporting activities during the term now ending as they are adequately covered elsewhere. Nevertheless, we would like to mention in passing, that our Inter-Flight competitions, which include Drill, grows from strength to strength and all games, especially soccer, have been keenly contested at a very high level of sportsmanship. In our B.K. contests, congratulations must be extended to the Junior Rugger team which trounced both Nos. 2 and 3 Wings with most decisive wins of 20-nil on each occasion. Most praiseworthy too were the efforts of our Senior Hockey team who won both their matches, and the Senior Rugger boys who beat No. 2 Wing and held the formidable No. 3 Wing fifteen to a hard-fought draw. Within the Wing, we congratulate No. 2 Flight, No. 3 Squadron and No. 1 Flight No. 1 Squadron on gaining first places in their respective "A" and "B" Inter-Flight Soccer League Championships and individual commendations go to A/A (Yul Brunner) Pearce of No. 2 Squadron, for being the most progressive Rugger player during term, and to A/A Simpson of No. 3 Squadron for winning the Drop and Place Kicking competition held one blustery Sunday morning in April last.

#### NO. 2(A) WING

After what was surely the kindest winter season in history we emerged into a spring with the highest recorded temperature ever. It is difficult to feel depressed at this season (even after pondering on the B.K. results) and one tends to forgive Halton for all its shortcomings in the past because of the possibilities of the future.

During the term our squadrons have seen a number of changes of staff notably our Adjutant, Flt.Lt. W. R. Lane, who was unexpectedly called to recruit training at Bridgnorth muttering under his breath as he left something about frying pans. We extend a hearty welcome to his successor, Flt.Lt. C. Ecclestone, who at extremely short notice was

persuaded to leap from his chair in No. 3 Squadron to assume the mantle of responsibility. We welcome in turn his relief Fg.Off. J. I. Bisley from the Administrative Wing. To a further new arrival, Plt.Off. D. K. Wright from Jurby we give a warm welcome. Welcome to Flt.Lt. P. G. Hill Turner from Aldergrove who replaced Fg.Off. G. H. Smith lately departed for the mysterious east. Finally a very fond farewell to Sgt. Taylor of No. 3 Squadron who leaves us to join Administrative Wing: we shall all miss him greatly.

It would be gratifying to be able to report that the warmth and sunshine 'of the spring' were reflected in our sporting achievements. Gratifying but untrue. So far as the B.K.

finals were concerned we lost all our matches to No. 1 Wing with the exception of the Junior Hockey, which we drew. At times, particularly during the Senior Soccer, it appeared that the good manners of which we are justifiably proud in No. 2 Wing were too much for us, judging by the polite way we allowed those other chaps to get to the ball first. Our matches against No. 3 Wing however, showed much more spirit and provided many exciting moments. We have the players it seems, but the need to play together more is still very evident. Our prowess in Boxing however was rather more favourable. Against keen opposition we secured third place in the Hubert Scott Payne competition, and in addition we provided six of the team members who took part in the inter-Apprentice Wing match against Locking.

In the Band competition too things were rather more in our favour. After a fairly close contest we succeeded in winning the Pipe Band competition. The turnout and performances generally reflected a commendable effort on the part of all band members. Congratulations in particular to A/A Squires of 2 Squadron in winning the Drum Major's Sash for the third time in succession, also to

S/A/A McKeever who won the Commandant's Silver Trumpet.

Considering the novelty of the project the response to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has been surprisingly small. It is hoped that many more Apprentices will accept the challenge which it offers to young men. Names to Sqn.Ldr. R. G. M. Walker, please.

Thank you Jnr.Tech. ex-F.S/A/A Le Count and you other members of the 76th Entry for your very generous offer. After winding up the entry fund, the sum of £27/17/1 has been forwarded to the Sunshine Homes for Blind Children.

Finally, to the members of the junior entry, the 86th, we extend a welcome, and our warmest congratulations to those members of the 77th Entry who graduated successfully. In particular we would like to congratulate A/A Algar on winning the prize for the educational set task; also L/A/A Cumberland for the very high standard which he has achieved in his practical work throughout his Apprenticeship. Also L/A/A Richey, C/A/A Martin and C/A/A Francis for the highest awards in their trades.

### NO. 3(A) WING

The Easter Term proved to be a very busy one for the Wing, mainly because we were the co-ordinating Wing for the Graduation of the 77th Entry, and if the list of prize winners for that Entry is a guide then it was the appropriate Wing for the job, for out of twenty-one prizes No. 3(A) Wing walked away with fifteen of them.

Our sincere congratulations to F.S/A/A Finn and S/A/A Bridson on being granted cadetships\*; the former a G.D. Entry to Cranwell and the latter to Henlow. Incidentally S/A/A Bridson deserves special mention for passing out the highest in order of merit, all subjects, and for gaining five other prizes. Congratulations also to S/A/A Hocking and S/A/A Horton on passing out as substantive Corporals.

During the Easter Term we welcomed Flt.Lt. McNamara to No. 1 Squadron, and Fg.Off. McDonald to No. 3 Squadron, whilst

\* Subject to confirmation by the R.N.Z.A.F.

at the time of writing Sqn.Ldr. Newman, D.F.C., No. 2 Squadron, is about to leave us for an Army Accounting course at Devizes. We wish him well, and thank him for the efforts he made at Halton, especially those on the typewriter!

We welcome Sqn.Ldr. T. Williams, O.B.E., D.F.C., in his place, and trust that he will soon get the hang of making out T.A.I.4s and Forms 618.

In the Boxing world we congratulate Cpl. Floyd, No. 1 Squadron, on his success in the R.A.F. Individual Championships, and also on his representing the R.A.F. in the I.S.B.A. Championships.

Soccer was in the news in a very big way this term in the fight for the Apprentice and Boy Entrants Championship. No. 3(A) Wing being successful after a re-play and extra time at Locking. A very noble effort indeed, and our congratulations, already made known, are re-iterated.

The Station Seven-a-side Rugby Competition held in April provided a further trophy for the Wing. L/A/A Dew and his men proved to be worthy winners. This competition was closely followed by the B.K. Trophy which is now lodged safely in No. 3(A) Wing, where we hope it will remain for the next few terms.

The Initial Training Flight continuing its success of last term passed on the 85th Entry to the Squadrons, and is now preparing the new boys of the 86th. During the latter part of the term a very fine Inter-Squadron Boxing competition was staged by the I.T.F., and many good bouts were witnessed. The spirit showed by the 85th Entry during the boxing was first class throughout.

Yet another I.T.F. achievement was the winning of the cross-country event in the Cock-O' The Walk Competition. (Well done the 85th! See you maintain this winning attitude throughout your service). Continuing in this vein we offer our congratulations to the Wing Trumpeters for winning the Inter-Wing Competition, and, judging by the high standard of the fanfares heard on various occasions in the Wing, they are worthy winners.

Finally a word to the 78th Entry, now the senior Entry. Make certain that, wherever you go during your service career, you always give of your best at all times; be proud of being ex-Halton, and never be afraid of accepting responsibility.

## TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

### HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

It is with regret that we say farewell to our C.O., Wg.Cdr. W. E. French, who will have left us for Tengah by the time this magazine is in print. Not only will we be losing a very capable C.O. but also a good friend. Wg.Cdr. French arrived at Halton in the Spring of 1955 when Technical Wing was a baby of some few months. He has carried the infant Wing through its many teething troubles with patience and understanding.

On the technical side we have seen many improvements during the two years of Wg.Cdr. French's reign, by his tireless efforts we have at last obtained some really modern equipment with hope of some more to come. In addition to the provision of modern equipment the Wing Commander has done much to assist in improvements to training accommodation and in making the training syllabuses more realistic. His help and advice in personal problems has been appreciated by many. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

We welcome Wg.Cdr. French's successor, Wg.Cdr. E. F. Thornicroft, A.F.C., D.C.M., and hope that he will have a pleasant tour of duty at Halton.

W.O. Cadman has left us for Germany and we wish him every success at his new station.

During his spell here the Wing benefited greatly by his Saturday morning G.S.T. lectures.

We extend a hearty welcome to the new Wing Warrant Officer, W.O. Nuttall.

We congratulate Cpl. Aurelius of the Wing Orderly Room on his recent marriage.

### AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING SQUADRON

#### Airframe Fitter Flight

We are happy to report that Venom airframes have now replaced the Vampires as the medium for composite airframe instruction, and for both Apprentices and instructors they will undoubtedly provide a stimulating change. It may well be, also, that machine-shop practice will be re-introduced shortly, and this, we know from experience, is anticipated avidly by the Apprentices.

The Apprentices entering the elementary airframes and pneumatics phases of their course will profit in so far that replacements for the Prentice airframes in those phases have now been received, and we welcome the return of the Basic Workshop Practice phases as our responsibility; the shake-down period is over, and both instructors and Apprentices have settled in quickly.



Airframe 2nd year Progress Prize presented to L/A/A Vaughan (79th) by the Commandant

There have been some very welcome additions to the staff, and F.S. Keay, Ch.Tech. Newnham, Sgts. Ruth and Crinson, and Cpls. Chubb, Wallace, Deane, and North-Graves have settled down well in their very worthwhile tasks at Halton.

Cpl. Farmer leaves us for civilian life and we wish him a happy and prosperous future.

#### Engine Fitter Flight

The term now ending sees the departure of the 77th Entry and they go with our best wishes for the future. We would like especially to congratulate S/A/A Bridson on his fine performance.

The Workshops have taken on a new look with the completion of class rooms and painting and, although the painting caused a certain amount of disruption to training, everyone took a realistic view and figuratively put up the "Business as Usual" sign. The installation of strip lighting progresses so we should be well on the beam when the dark days of next winter appear.

So during the past eighteen months, the roof has been overhauled, classrooms built, shops repainted and lighting partly installed. That only leaves the floor to be re-surfaced, and that is being considered.

All successful graduates of the 77th Entry are to be congratulated, particularly A/A Ellis who brought back the Crebbin-Robinson Cup for the best practical fitting test. We wish them all every success in their careers.

Our congratulations, also, to A/A Vaughan of the 79th Entry who received the Instructors' Progress Shield from the Station Commander at a parade held in the Shop on Friday, 12th April, 1957.

Towards the end of the term, a number of postings came up and we have lost Snr.Tech. Brooks, Cpl. Strachan and Chf.Tech. White. F.S. Dimond is on leave pending posting to Germany and it looks as though we may be losing W.O. Williams in the near future. We will miss those who have left and if we also lose W.O. Williams the Engine Flight will need an extremely good replacement to measure up to the "mighty atom's" standard. Postings in have included F.S. Clegg, Sgt. Gray, Sgt. Cooper, Cpl. Taylor and Cpl. Frost. They can be sure of every assistance during the settling down period.

So life goes on and we shall soon be thinking of final revision for the 78th Entry and trying to establish more records. Finally we are trying to build up a "Modern Developments" phase, but this is a painfully slow process, as most of the items we want are cloaked in secrecy and security and are hard to come by, but we keep trying.

#### ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT SQUADRON

##### Electrical Fitter Flight

Training this past term has not proceeded without interruption, due mainly to the arrival of the contractors who, by now, have transformed the face, if not the character of the old place.

In spite of painting and electrical installations, training proceeded, slightly modified perhaps, but we can truthfully say "We never Closed". Some pangs of nostalgia may be felt by the older members of the staff at the passing of the D.C. system, but it is hoped that the new A.C. supply with its fluorescent fittings will lighten their darkness.

During the last term we have had the usual changes of staff, the posting of W.O. Latham being perhaps the major one, and we wish him well in his new post at R.A.F. Bassingbourne, and trust that he uses that famous stick sparingly.

We extend a welcome to W.O. Chubb who returns to Halton after 30 years—you just can't escape once you have the Halton brand!

Welcome also to Cpls. Walker and Ryan who, we hope, will be with us for some considerable time.

Development work in the section has been slowed down this term due to the upheaval; the same cannot be said, however, for the section's birth rate. The Flight Commander is now coping with twins, closely followed by Sgt. Smith with a bouncing boy.

Much thought and planning has been given to improvements and alterations in the layout of the flight. A closer integration with the Instrument Training Flight will be brought about, as all basic electrical and electronic theory will be taught in a new series of laboratories to be constructed in Bay 8 in the near future. Numerous moves and changes will no doubt take place before the "New Look" is complete, and—dare we say it?—the ancilliary trades (it is rumoured that the Engine Fitters are rapidly becoming redundant) will have to ease over yet a little more to make room for "black box boys".

### **Instrument Fitter Flight**

This term has been a period of upheaval because of the painting and decorating which has taken place; but at the end of it all the workshops can boast a bright new look. However the Instrument Flight is only at the beginning of many changes, for Sqn.Ldr. Candy has developed a blue print which when developed, will completely alter the

lay-out of the flight and completely modernise the training.

We welcome the 85th Entry who joined us at the beginning of the term and trust that the enthusiasm so far displayed will never be damped.

The 77th Entry have just had the results of their final trade test and we wish them all the best of luck. We are proud of the fact that F.S/A/A Finn did so well and will watch his future with interest.

It is with profound regret that we must record the imminent departure of W.O. F. A. Rymills on his retirement from the Royal Air Force. Although only with us for a little while, he has proved to be a real pillar of strength to the section, an individual possessed of that precious gift known as 'tact'. Wherever he may go we wish him 'bon voyage'.

We also say goodbye to Cpl. Nottage; our loss is Middle Wallop's gain. Also after only three months with us, Sgt. Cornock is leaving us for Germany, and carries with him our best regards. Snr.Tech. Lane is on P.W.R. His departure will leave a big gap to fill!

A hearty welcome is extended to Sgt. Norton, Sgt. Jones, and Cpl. Johnson who have just joined our staff. May their stay with us be a happy one.

We must congratulate F.S. Hazel, Sgt. Smith, and Sgt. Cornock on the happy events which came their way during the term. Who was it said "Just another nut to crack"?

Who is the civilian instructor whose electronic calendar is only seven days out?

### **ARMAMENT ENGINEERING SQUADRON**

The painters have now completed the re-decoration of the Armament Workshops and we are all pleased with the results of their labours. The bright colours add to the atmosphere of Spring which has obviously effected certain members of the staff. Sgt. Dobbin is becoming well known to the Aylesbury shopkeepers due to his frequent visits to buy wedding presents (we don't know if a moustache-cup will be of any use to Cpl. Swarbrick).



The 77th Entry have now graduated and we wish them good luck. We hope they will not forget all they have been taught and strongly advise them to continue their studies so that they can make the most of the great opportunities which await them in the era of Guided Missiles. The Armament trade group can now "come into its own" if its members can qualify themselves academically and seize the initiative in what should be their own field. We, for our part, will strive to introduce the relevant basic studies at Halton as soon as we are given the necessary details. A welcome is extended to the 86th Entry and we wish them every success. We hope that they and the other junior entries will take part in the advance into the new age.

By the way, we hear that despite the economy cuts the Treasury is unlikely to spare more than a couple of million pounds off the E. & I. Squadron budget, so they may still require Bays 1 to 5 to fling the Empire even further. There is no truth in the rumour that they have asked for the Royal Festival Hall, but in the light of the remarks emanating from Bay 9 recently, we doubt if the Varsity trainer, which they have asked for, would have enough head room! (Note: We are not accepting any more applications for transfer to the Armament Branch).

Congratulations to the "married men" on providing the major part of this season's Technical Wing Rugby Team, and to Cpl. Tech. Deakin for coming second in the R.A.F. Small Bore Pistol Championship—good shooting, corporal.

The following staff changes are reported: Posted out; W.O. Skevington, Technical Training Command; Sgt. Blake, 2nd T.A.F. Posted in; W.O. Delves, No. 66 Group; Chf. Tech. Foot, West Malling; Chf. Tech. McHugh, Stradishall; Chf. Tech. Aubrey, St. Athan; Chf. Tech. Kneen, Bassingbourne; Snr. Tech. Vickers, Coltishall; Cpl. Day, West Malling.

Finally we have a query. The late Lord Trenchard, in his wisdom, commented to the effect that "without armament there would be no need for an Air Force". Can any one of our readers quote us the date and place where he stated this profound axiom?

## AIRFIELD TRAINING SQUADRON

Apart from the "pleasant views of the Chilterns", our many visitors to the Airfield have seen much to interest them in the way of improvements to training. The Armament department have spread their tentacles far and wide, with harmonising and Hunter gun pack installation in No. 1 Hanger, bombing-up on a Canberra B.2 outside No. 3 Hanger and bomb fusing in a building erected adjacent to No. 4 Hanger. The butts have been modified necessitating much manual labour on de-leading. As yet, there have been no whispers of taking over the airfield for a guided weapons range. The Instrument section is being rehoused in the building once used as the Cookhouse, now converted and redecorated and, at long last, the cockpit classroom has been rejuvenated with the installation of new Hercules engines; in the event of a "take off" it is considered that the run is obstruction free. The last Giles character has passed through the Lincoln, and the power plants have been given a reprieve and passed to the Engine Fitter Flight. The construction of component servicing bays in Nos. 2 and 3 Hangers has been the work of Maintenance Section.

Our congratulations are extended to Snr. Tech. Garrett and Cpl. Perry on their promotions. For the "Hatch" and "Match" column we must congratulate Sgt. Taylor, B. now 'father of one', and our best wishes to Cpl. Elliott on his marriage.

We were pleased to welcome back to the fold Jnr. Tech. Davies and Jnr. Tech. Millington, after Advanced Training Courses at Melksham. Amongst our departed staff we were sorry to lose F.S. Herage to Thorney Island, Sgt. Taylor (212) to Middle Wallop, and Cpl. Constable to Cyprus. To the credit side we are pleased to welcome F.S. Kapl for Air Traffic Control, Sgt. Ware, Sgt. Hutton, and Cpl. Mouat to augment the instructor strength, and Cpls. Fletcher, Spoons, Lemon and Denny for Flying Flight and Maintenance Flight.

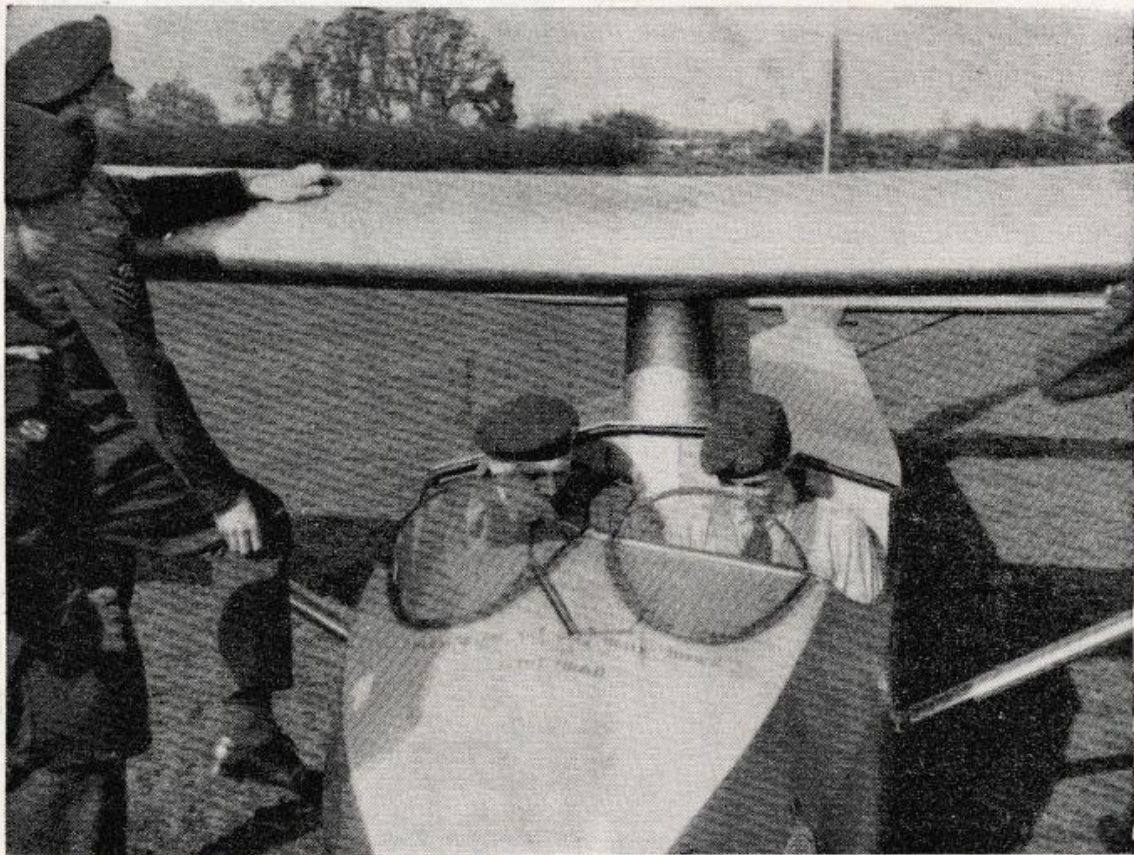
We wish every success to the 77th Entry on Graduation and in their future careers.

## Glider Flight

Gliding for the 77th Entry has suffered many setbacks during the past few months owing to bad weather in the first place and in the second place—perhaps surprisingly!—to fuel restrictions. A total of 200 launches were carried out with 14 boys, but of these only two managed to gain their British Gliding Association 'A' and 'B' Certificates. The successful Apprentices were :—

C/A/A Francis  
C/A/A Stewart

There is hope in Glider Flight that the 78th Entry will show unprecedented keenness and, with the onset of good weather, outdo the gliding achievements of all previous entries. Of course, in order to achieve good results the Apprentices who elect to learn to fly must be prepared to co-operate and work hard every time Glider Flight is operating throughout the term. There is no reason why this should not happen.



C/A/A Hunter in cockpit receiving instruction

## Apprentice Schools

One of the outstanding events of last term was an inspection of the school by the Under Secretary of State for Air, Mr. C. I. Orr-Ewing, O.B.E., M.P. He spent a con-

siderable time in the Schools, visiting most of the sections and a number of classrooms and showing great interest in the training that was in progress.

The Venezuelan boys who came to us over a year ago are now gradually being absorbed into the main body of the school as they become proficient in the English language and other basic subjects. Five gained No. 85 Entry in February 1957 and it is hoped that more will be passed into formal training with No. 86 Entry.

Wg.Cdr. Patterson, O.B.E., has left us on posting to the Air Ministry where he will undertake special duties during the last few months of his service; he is due to retire at the end of the year. Wg.Cdr. Patterson will be well remembered as the Senior Education Officer of the Engines Department and, after the recent reorganisation, as the officer in charge of the Applied Sciences department. In these two departments he worked tirelessly to raise the standards in the school and was ever ready with constructive and statesman-like advice to those who sought it from him. His responsibilities also extended to the

Schools Technical Committee of which he was Chairman, a duty of overriding importance in a school of this nature. We extend our very best wishes to Wg.Cdr. Patterson for his last few months in the Royal Air Force and during his retirement. In his place, we welcome Wg.Cdr. A. T. Mathews who comes to us from Headquarters, No. 24 Group. We also say farewell to Flt.Lt. A. E. Gostling who has been posted to F.E.A.F. after a four-year tour of duty at Halton. Flt.Lt. Gostling will be especially remembered for his sterling work in connection with cricket on the station where, as an accomplished batsman and officer in charge of the game, he contributed more than his share to several highly successful seasons. We wish him good fortune in his tour overseas.

It is pleasant to welcome Flt.Lt. C. A. Thomas back to duty after several weeks of absence owing to a serious illness.

## Band Notes

### The Royal Tournament

By the time these notes are in print our Pipe Band will again have appeared on display at the Royal Tournament. At the moment they are being carefully rehearsed for the event and we confidently look forward to an excellent performance as a result. It is of interest to recall the first occasion when our Apprentice bands were featured at the Royal Tournament. It was on 24th May, 1934 when the Corps of Drums of Nos. 1 and 2 (Apprentice) Sections joined forces with the adult combination stationed at R.A.F. Uxbridge, forming the "Massed Drums of the Royal Air Force". His (late) Majesty, King George VI (then Duke of York) inspected the parade in the arena and subsequently took the salute.

### Inter-Wing Pipe Band Competition

The end-of-term competitions continue to reveal a high standard of playing and marching efficiency and that which preceded the graduation of the 77th Entry was no

exception. From a strictly musical aspect, the piping was very good, more attention being paid on this occasion to intonation and articulation. The drumming was also good and even the bass drummers, who are often criticised for "bashing" the drum, played with firm but quiet discretion, being "felt" rather than "heard". The net result was a well balanced ensemble, in each case. The adjudicators task was thus made all the more difficult in choosing the winning band, but it was decided that No. 2 Wing just "pipped" No. 1 Wing, with No. 3 Wing closely behind.

The trumpeters put up a very good show, the Silver Trumpet being awarded to S/A/A McKeever of No. 2 Wing. No. 3 Wing carried off the inter-wing trumpeting honours, and the Drum-Major's honours were accorded to A/A Squires of No. 2 Wing.

Note: A word of advice to trumpeters—learn your trumpeting from "the book" and pay more attention to phrasing and articulation.