

The Haltonian Magazine

Volume 11 No. 2

Christmas 1939

(Scroll down)



THE
HALTON
MAGAZINE

Vol. XI. No. 2

Christmas 1939

"WELLINGTON" LONG RANGE BOMBERS
IN THE RAID ON GERMAN NAVAL VESSELS
AT KIEL
4TH SEPTEMBER 1939

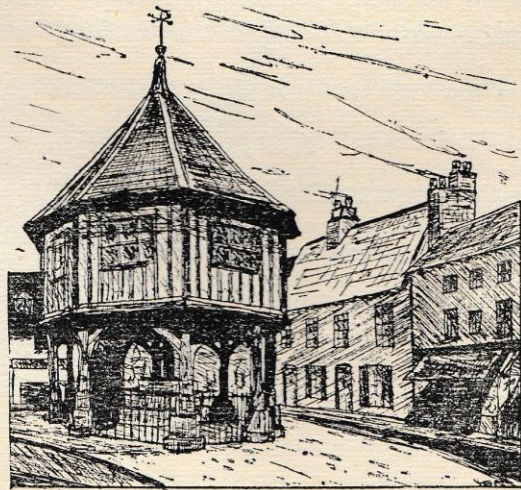
FIRST BRITISH AIR ACTION



VICKERS-ARMSTRONGS LIMITED

AVIATION WORKS AT WEYBRIDGE AND
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THE
HALTON
MAGAZINE



Volume XI
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Christmas
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EDITORIAL

Once again we present a Christmas Number of *The Halton Magazine*, and with it the Editorial Staff take the earliest opportunity of wishing our contributors and readers as Merry a Christmas as the circumstances of the times may allow. And we will add the wish for a Happy and Prosperous New Year without any qualifications whatever. We cannot foresee what fortune the year may bring ; but we can be quite certain that if we perform the duties that come to us to the best of our abilities, we can face ill fortune as well as good with an untroubled mind. In war it is not the buffets of the enemy that are the hardest things to bear. It is the tedious, monotonous grind that puts the severest strain on our endurance, the daily routine effort which is neither spectacular nor glorious and for which no medals are pinned on our manly breasts. But that is the effort which tells in the end. If there is one luxury in war that we cannot afford to indulge in, it is the luxury of being fed up. *The Halton Magazine* offers itself as a modest contribution to the spirit of cheerful endeavour which is one of our most powerful national weapons. Accordingly, such references to the war as are made in the pages that follow are for the most part of a flippant nature. We don't intend to let it get us down. As one of our Halton poets has expressed it, in a noble and inspired stanza :

“Beneath the hammer blows of war,
The bombast and the buzz,
Stands Halton where she stood before?
You bet your boots she does !”

All at Halton will join in wishing Godspeed and good luck to the Entries that have passed out since the publication of our last Summer Number. A Passing Out is always an inspiring event to anyone with imagination. To-day, it has a special significance. The tough old war dogs among us, who were youngsters twenty-five years ago, know well what it means, and you who experience the thrill of packing your kit and going out into the Service at such a time must forgive them if you detect a trace of envy in their glances as they watch you on your way.

* * * * *

A number of interesting and important events took place towards the end of the Summer Term, after our Summer Number had gone to press ; and ordinarily a full account of them would have been given in these pages. But a shadow has fallen between last term and this, and events of the "pre-leave" period have strangely receded, so that we look at them as at objects seen through the wrong end of a pair of field glasses. It is difficult to get the perspective right.

* * * * *

Parents' Day, perhaps the most popular function of the Halton year, took place on 1st July, when as usual a large gathering of visitors, parents, relatives and friends was entertained on the Station with the diversions which have become traditional. Barrack blocks, workshops, schools and aerodrome were, as usual, open to inspection, and the Halton Society gave an attractive display of its many activities. For the young brothers and sisters the lure of the Fun Fair suitably rounded off what we hope was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

* * * * *

The last of our full pre-war vintage Entries, that of August 1936, had its Passing Out Inspection on 25th July, with the ceremonial which it has since been necessary to curtail for the "duration." The Inspecting Officer was the Air Officer Commanding, Reserve Command, Air Marshal Sir Christopher L. Courtney, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. We extend our warmest congratulations to Sergeant Apprentice T. R. N. Wheatley-Smith, of No. 4 (Apprentices) Wing, to whom the Air Council awarded a Cadetship at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell—adding our commiserations that circumstances must deprive him of the full peace-time advantages of his success.

* * * * *

The good wishes of all at Halton go to Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, D.S.O., who relinquished the command of the Station to take up a war appointment elsewhere. Although he had been at Halton only a relatively short time Air Commodore Dacre's enthusiasm and his encouragement of our manifold activities had quickly made themselves felt, and we must regard his departure as one of the misfortunes of war.

* * * * *

Happily, however, we are able to welcome in his place Air Commodore Sir Oliver Swann, K.C.B., C.B.E., who has returned to the Service to take over the war-time command of the Station. Sir Oliver not only had a distinguished career in the last war and afterwards held many important commands in the Royal Air Force : he

was also, as a Naval Officer, one of the earliest seaplane pioneers. The following quotation from the first volume of the official history, *The War in the Air*, will be of interest to our readers in this connection :

“ While the *Mayfly* was building at Barrow-in-Furness, Commander Oliver Swann purchased an Avro aeroplane and with the help of subscriptions from other officers and officers’ wives, made many experiments with a view to adapting it for work over the water. He tried different types of floats on the machine, and at last on 18th November, 1911, he succeeded in getting off the water for a very short flight. He was the first in England to achieve this feat, and from that time forward the development of seaplanes progressed rapidly.”

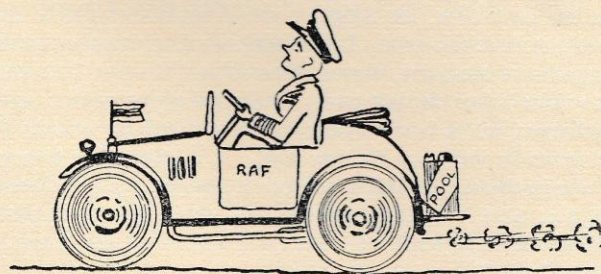
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The change from peace time training to war time has naturally affected us in more ways than one, but we will not embarrass a benevolent Censor by reference to these matters. We have said goodbye to the N.C.O.’s and Airmen of No. 5 (Airmen’s) Wing, who completed their training rather more rapidly than had been expected : we have learned to adapt ourselves to the rigours of the “ black-out ” ; we sacrificed our normal mid-term week-end to the exigencies of duty. But broadly speaking, we have carried on as before. Apart from some unavoidable reduction in outside fixtures, games have been played with the usual zest ; and the Halton Society is manfully providing recreation and relaxation for our leisure hours. We can assure our friends and readers outside the Station that—All is Well on the Halton Front !

* * * * *

One cannot conclude these notes without a reference to the new Halton Badge, approved by His Majesty the King. A committee appointed by the A.O.C. selected the design from among the many suggestions submitted by personnel of the Station and the Royal College of Herald’s cunningly fashioned it in accordance with the rules of their ancient and learned mystery. The result is to be seen on the front of our cover.

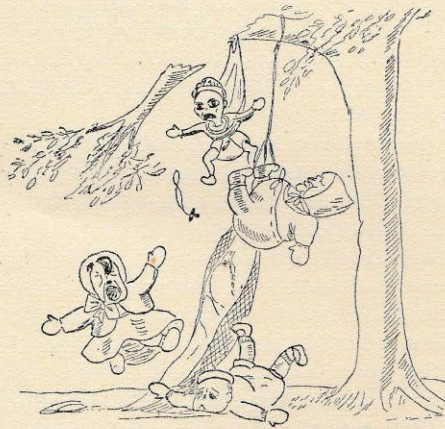
The county of Bucks is famous for its noble beech woods, and the picture of their changing beauty from the fresh green of spring through the ample foliage of summer to their final autumn splendour is one which must endure in the memory of all who have served at Halton. Thus the choice of the beech tree is surely appropriate as the badge of this Station. Its motto, *Crescentes Discimus*—“ We Learn as We Grow,” is also, we hope, no less an appropriate description of our activities.



NURSERY RHYMES FOR LITTLE NAZIS

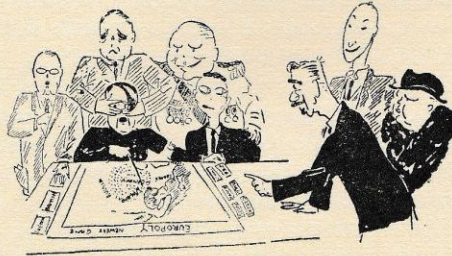
I

Hush-a-bye Hitler, on der tree top,
Ven der Vind blows der Ribben vill
trop,
Ven der bough breaks der caboodle vill
fall,
Und DOWN vill come Hitler and
Goebbels and all.



II

There was a crooked man and he played
a crooked game:
He had a crooked nature and Adolf was
his name.
He found some crooked pals, oh, as
crooked as you like,
And they all lived together in a very
crooked Reich.



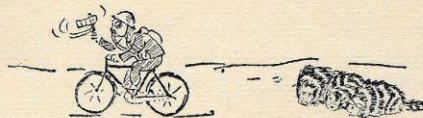
III

Goering, Goering, plump and purring,
How does your figure grow?
A harvest moon and a barrage balloon
And medals stuck all in a row.



IV

Ding, Dong, bell!
WHAT a nasty smell!
Herr Himmler's got to windward
And Hess is there as well.



GREAT PRIZE COMPETITION

“Halton Magazine” Creates International Sensation

“Mein Hat,” Gaspes Goebbels

Once more *The Halton Magazine* leaps to the forefront of contemporary journalism and bags the onions with the announcement of a Stupendous Prize Competition. It is now twelve years since this Magazine flabbergasted civilisation and caused a buzz of conversation in Weston Turville by its offer of a £1,000,000 prize for the first aircraft apprentice to swim the Atlantic, followed by its epoch-making scheme for the free insurance of its readers against Damage from Moth Balls and similar everyday perils. Now once more, in the hour of crisis, with a shrill toot of the toscin and the challenging war-cry of the Wallaby Patrol (Wala-wala-wala-bumps-a-daisy !) we crash again into the centre of the stage and astonish mankind. Briefly, our offer is as follows :

The Halton Magazine offers a first prize of £5,000,000 in cash and a pocket cigarette-lighter (slightly damaged) to the registered reader of the Magazine, who, starting from Main Point in a machine of his own design and unaided construction, flies non-stop to Berlin and, within twenty-four hours of his taking-off, returns to Halton and hands to the Editor of the Magazine a hair of Hitler's moustache.

There are no other conditions and no entrance fee. In addition, a consolation prize of 9d. and a packet of disinfectant will be awarded to any competitor who,

while failing to achieve the first object, nevertheless returns to Halton with a medal detached from the pocket of Marshal Goering's pyjamas.

Intending competitors should complete the form printed below and post it to the Editor (all envelopes must bear a 1½d. stamp). That is absolutely all you have to do. What could be more simple and yet more magnificent? Do not waste a moment, or someone more enterprising will have got in first and your chance of winning this colossal prize will have vanished. Think of what you could do with the money. Work out (it will be an amusing entertainment for the black-out hours) how many cups of coffee you can purchase if *you* are the lucky winner. Oh boy, oh boy! So complete and post the form without delay and get busy.

Now read some of the opinions on our great offer expressed by famous men and women :

"I think your scheme is just too cute and I'm kicking myself for not having thought of it first."—The Editor of *The Times*.

"While maintaining a strictly neutral attitude, I hope your boys pull it off on a 'tache and carry basis."—President Roosevelt.

"Cable figure you are asking for full film rights in the story."—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

"I enclose my signed photograph for presentation to the winner."—Mae West.

"A splendid notion. A hair of the dog that bit you."—Lady Astor.

"I thank you."—Arthur Askey.

Now complete this form :—

Name
Rank, Number and Size of Shoes
Colour of eyes
Colour of braces
Tooth paste normally used (if any)
Are you a spy in the pay of a foreign power?
(If the answer to this question is "Yes," name the foreign power and the colour of your false beard)
Favourite film star
Favourite flower
Favourite aunt
Have you Macleaned your boots?
I wish to be enrolled as a registered Competitor in <i>The Halton Magazine's</i> great "Hitler's Moustache" Competition, and agree to abide by the rules and to accept the Editor's decision as final and (unless I get first prize) as extremely binding.
Usual signature or thumb print

WING NOTES

No. 1 Wing

EDUCATIONAL NOTES :—In the last issue of *The Halton Magazine* the key-note of the educational remarks of No. 1 Wing was “change.” It is still “change,” the most important point being that we are now on “Active Service.”

This has made it more difficult for the Senior Entries to display their talents to the fullest extent. We hope this will not deter them from solving the problems before them in the Service.

Good luck and God-speed to Entries passing out.

It is gratifying to note that the apprentices of this Wing are not allowing anything to interfere with their work in school. To those who find that the evenings drag we would say be patient. Try to plan your lives anew. Try to make them fit in with the new conditions. Make more use of the Reference Library. Take more interest in the Halton Society. You will find notes on the Society's activities on other pages, and information can always be obtained at the school.

We have lost the services of Flight Lieutenant Dawson and Flying Officers Back, Hutchings and Woolcock. We are sorry to lose them, but we wish them every success.

We welcome Mr. E. N. Marriott.

ATHLETICS :—This season was a disappointing one—the Seniors finishing last in the B.K., and the Juniors only second after leading for the first two nights. As usual with this Wing, the strong individuals were there, but were badly supported.

The following gained Station colours :—Collison, Davidge, Hacche, Williams and Hammond.

In the Bucks County Championship L.A.A. Webster and L.A.A. Hammond gained winners' medals, while A.A. Williams was a member of the 440 yds. relay team, which was victorious in the Bucks County, Southern Counties Junior and A.A.A. Junior Championships.

In the Station Sports L.A.A. Webster was our only winner.

The performance of the Juniors gave promise of better things next year, A/A Salmon showing considerable promise as a sprinter.

BASEBALL :—The Wing again enjoyed a good season, though not so successful as last.

The Seniors played excellently, beating Nos. 2 and 3 Wings, but losing to No. 4 Wing, and so finished second in the B.K. Trophy. The Juniors also put up a fine show, considering that most of their players were in their first season, and also tied for second place.

“A” Squadron played in the final of the Babington Cup Competition, and although losing, made an excellent impression and worthily upheld the Wing's sports traditions.

The Wing had two representatives in the Station team, Pearce (B) and Hill (B), both playing regularly throughout the season. The Wing has now lost Pearce and will lose Hill also before next season. A tribute must be paid to Pearce, who was undeniably one of the finest players ever to don a station uniform.



CRICKET :— No. 1 Wing enjoyed a fairly successful season, playing six friendly games, of which four were won and two lost. In the B.K. we tied with No. 4 Wing for the Senior Trophy, but

our Juniors did not do so well, losing all their games.

Several of the team, Ringer (*Captain*), Brown (462), Brown (240), H. Brown and Barnet, played for the Wing Staff.

Appreciation must be offered to Flight-Sergeant Robinson for his help in managing the team.

HOCKEY :—Owing to the passing out of the January 1937 Entry, the Wing lost many valuable players, but the Junior Entry have filled most of the positions very well. The team is by no means satisfactory yet, but we hope that practice will improve it.

All fixtures have been cancelled so far, except the game with Hazell's. This was drawn, but we might have won had our players played together more, especially the forwards. The defence is quite efficient ; with Maggs and Weston as backs and Byrne at centre half, we have a good backbone on which to build our team.

At the time of writing, the B.K. matches have not taken place, but we feel we can hold our own against the other Wings.

We heartily thank Sergeant Winslade and Sergeant Beasley for obtaining our fixtures and organising our team.



RUGBY :—The passing out of the 35th Entry deprived the Wing of its captain, E. Davies, and many excellent players. This, together with the cancellation of all Wing fixtures to date, has made the selection of the B.K. team rather a problem.

However, it is hoped that the experience gained by the many members of the Wing who have represented the Station will more than overcome these setbacks.

Those who have played regularly for the Command Apprentices 1st XV are :—A.A. Kinsley, A.A. Collins, L.A.A. Hobson, C.A.A. Mathews, and S.A.A. Minns, while A.A.'s Davies, Bennet, Ewing and Bevan, and S.A.A. Wright have played for the 2nd XV.

Finally, thanks are due to Flight Sergeant Schofield and Corporal Smith for all the work they have done for the rugby in this Wing.

SOCCER (Seniors) :—The cancellation of our fixtures at the outbreak of war, has been a serious difficulty in the way of building a team for the B.K. competition, since most of our games have been too easy and won by wide margins. Our only hard games so far have resulted in odd goal victories at the expense of No. 2 Wing and R.A.F., Hendon.

Smith, Rutter, Evans and Hammond have been selected for Station teams this season.

Team :—Rutter ; Bates, Morris ; Haste, Bone, Smith ; Foster, Hammond (*Captain*), Brown, Evans, Hodgkins.

SWIMMING :—The Wing swimming this year was rather uneventful, owing to the outbreak of war. It cut short our season, and we only managed to run off the Wing sports and the B.K. of which, we only won the Junior Events.

All trips and matches with away teams were cancelled, which disappointed the team as we were looking forward to a good season.

To those in the January '37 Entry who have left us we wish the best of luck, and we rely on the August '38 Entry to win the B.K. next year.

To the August '37 Entry all the best in passing out.

No. 2 Wing

By the time these notes are published, we shall have lost the August 1937 Entry and the January 1937 Entry will have rapidly become "Old Timers." We wish them all good luck and know that they will be a great credit to the Wing.

Since the happy days of peace, several changes have taken place in our officer and warrant officer personnel. Squadron Leader G. A. Atkinson has departed for a station in the West country and the Army has claimed Flight Lieutenant S. H. Woolf. We were all very glad to hear of Flying Officer P. F. Picton's promotion, but we were more than sorry to lose him from the Wing. We are sure he will give a good account of himself in his new sphere and wish him every success.

We welcome Flight Lieutenant H. W. Alen-Buckley and Pilot Officer W. H. Terry, who have come back to the Service after many years' absence to do their "bit," and Pilot Officer R. Law, M.C., late of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

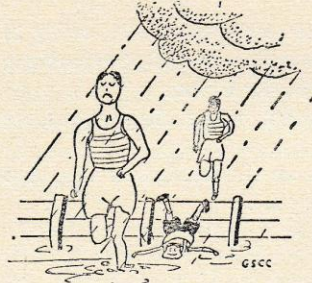
Last summer we again did very well in the Efficiency Competition and shared "Flag" honours with No. 1 Wing for the period ending January, 1940. Once again we won the "Landon Model Aircraft Cup" with 646 points to No. 4 Wing's 326 points.

Now that the "black-out" is the order of the day, we amuse ourselves in the evenings with whist drives, impromptu concerts and dances in the Institute, and a lot of unsuspected local talent is being discovered. These have been a very popular feature of the war-time regime.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES :—The term has, on the whole, been quiet and uneventful. After the Senior Entry had departed, the August 1937 Entry settled down to prepare for its passing out examination in educational subjects which at the moment of writing these notes has not yet taken place, but which should be a thing of the past when the magazine appears. We wish the Entry the best of good luck, not only in their contest with the examiners, but in the times that lie beyond.

The August 1938 Entry has on the whole done a valuable and steady term's work on a revised syllabus, and if it maintains this standard should in due course pass out creditably.

Staff changes necessitated the posting of Flying Officer Chant and Mr. Harrison to No. 3 Wing. Mr. Bonner and Mr. Murphy have been attached to No. 2 Wing throughout the term.



ATHLETICS AND CROSS-COUNTRY :—

Now that we are more or less settled, and have lost nearly the whole of last year's seniors' team, we are in the process of team building. Talent is good and once the idea of packing is grounded in, the team will stand as good a chance as any team we have had. A.A. Palmer has been selected as Vice-Captain of the Station Cross-Country Team.

FENCING :—In view of the present crisis, the activities in regard to Fencing have not been great. We have still three of the old team left, and some very keen A.A.'s of the August 1938 Entry who are shaping very well, and should be good next year. We are practising as often as possible, but owing to change of routine, this is only once a week.

RUGBY :—It is pleasant to be able to write of Wing Rugby without adverse criticism. At the beginning of the season laws were laid down—tackle low ; pack tight ; heel from the loose ; go hard in forward rushes. With an excellent service behind the scrum and smooth working threes the Wing succeeded in beating each of the other Wings in B.-K. Trophy games with a commendable total of 103 points against 8. (Photograph of team faces this page.)

August '38 Entry please note.

SHOOTING :—In Shooting we have had an exceptionally good half year. No. 2 Wing Team won the Bucks County Championship and we have to congratulate A.A.'s Cox and Bass for obtaining places in the Inter-Services 20. A.A. Bass was also first in the Remington Palma Competition, Class "D."

Sergeant Nee was the Bucks County Champion in the small bore competition ; he also secured a place in the Inter-Services .22 and .303 competitions and again won his International Cap for Ireland, but this is no more than we expect from this N.C.O.

SOCCER :—So far the Wing Team have had only three games, the first being a friendly game with Wendover Football Club, which resulted in a win for Wendover by 5—4. The game was very interesting and showed some good talent from the January 1937 Entry, whom, unfortunately, we shall miss on their passing out. The other two games, against No. 1 Wing, resulted in a win for each team. We have had several fixtures cancelled owing to petrol shortage on the part of our visitors. As we have a strong team, and the players are all working well during training, we are looking forward to good results in the B.K. Competition.

The outstanding Apprentices of the Wing this year are : A.A. Southwell, who keeps his place secure in the Station team, and A.A. Townsend who has proved his services to the team in the capacity of Captain.

SWIMMING :—Swimming has retained its high standard in No. 2 Wing this year and although time is much more limited than it was previous to the new routine, it is noticed that the sport is just as popular as ever.

We have been unlucky in losing one of our most vigorous and enthusiastic supporters, Warrant Officer Dewhurst on his posting elsewhere.

We must also mention the loss of some fine members of our teams in the past. From the January 1937 Entry, chiefly S.A.A. Hurdle and L.A.A. Jones.

In the Inter-Squadron competitions keen rivalry was apparent, and "C" Squadron must be congratulated on winning the Senior Trophy, as must "A" Squadron, who won the Junior.

We had bad luck in the B.K. this year, being second in both Senior and Junior events, but we are satisfied that we put up a really good show.

The August 1938 Entry have some very useful swimmers among their number, and we expect to see them well in front in both Senior and Junior B.K. Competitions next year.



TP

"TECHNICALITIES." "Get those windows open at an angle of forty-five per cent., an' see as 'ow no dust calculates be'ind these 'ere pipes."

No. 3 Wing

The outbreak of war has resulted in a general exodus of the majority of our Officers and N.C.O.'s.

We are exceedingly sorry to lose our Commanding Officer, Wing Commander T. Humble, who has been posted. Reports have reached us that he has described his new appointment as a delightful station, and we congratulate him on his new command.

We extend a hearty welcome to our new C.O., Wing Commander D. L. Allen, A.F.C. The Wing Commander has rejoined the Service on the outbreak of hostilities, and the Wing is very fortunate in having such an experienced officer.

We are sorry to lose Flight Lieutenant W. T. Clyde, who has rejoined the Indian Army. Flying Officer Moore and Flying Officer Lodge have also been posted to new stations. The services of all these officers will be greatly missed, as their interests in Wing activities were very keen and varied.

We welcome Flight Lieutenant S. N. H. Phillips, M.C., and Flying Officer C. Channing, A.F.C., who have lately joined the Wing.

Warrant Officer Streeter has been posted to a new station. He has been with us since the inception of the Wing, and was largely responsible for the high standard and keenness of the Model Aircraft Section. We shall miss his services.

We congratulate Warrant Officer B. Turrell, M.C., on his promotion, and wish him every success on his appointment as Wing Warrant Officer.

347K
The August 1936 Entry have left us. May we say without fear of contradiction, that this Entry has been one of the finest to pass out at Halton. The passing out parade will long be remembered with pride and rejoicing by those who were fortunate enough to see it.

We are sorry to lose the services of the Technical Warrant Officers and N.C.O.'s who have been posted to Station Headquarters, but we thank Warrant Officer Trimm, Warrant Officer Cresswell and Warrant Officer Shaw on their very kind offer of help in our sporting and social activities.

We congratulate L.A.A. Bird on winning the prize for the best basic fitting of the January 1939 Entry.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES :—Parts of the county have been under flood recently—perhaps as a result of the amount of water which has passed under the Halton bridges since our last notes. Storm water.

With the departure of our summer seniors the Service has been supplied, at a most appropriate time, with a fine body of men : they will give a good account of themselves.

Generally, the normal minor interests of peace are overshadowed by the major calls of war, and changes in staff may be covered by a brief welcome to those who have joined us and good luck to those who have gone to their allotted work elsewhere.

To apprentices generally one may suggest that although training has become more intense, although we have changed from quick time into a steady double, the pace

should be "cross-country"—quick progress but always a bit in hand for the sprint to the tape.

For passing out purposes, however, greater credit will be given for the record of work done during the whole of training as against actual examinations, and the luxury of taking things easily with dependence on eleventh hour cramming will be a bad policy even for the most brilliant.

ATHLETICS :—Great interest was taken in athletics this year. The Wing Sports were highly successful, "C" Squadron winning the Trophy by a comfortable margin.

Senior representatives in the B.K. just failed to win the much coveted Cup, after almost having it in their grasp. The juniors, although keen, were very inexperienced, and failed to distinguish themselves.

Outstanding personalities :—A.A. Groves, an all-round athlete, who won the Victor Ludorum in the Station Sports ; A.A. Knowles, Station and R.A.F. sprinter ; A.A. Gauntlett, pole vault ; L.A.A. Fox, Station runner ; L.A.A. Clifton, high jump.

BASEBALL :—The outstanding feature of last season's games was the consistently high standard of individual play, and the really excellent team-work and spirit of both senior and junior teams.

In the B.K. Series of games the seniors were runners-up. In spite of the absence of A.A. Staples from the seniors' first base, through injury, in the decisive match, a fitting opposition was provided for the winners, No. 4 Wing, whom we congratulate on their win and sportsmanship.

The Junior B.K. was won by No. 3 Apprentices Wing in fine style, thanks to the coaching of A.A.'s Staples and Warren.

During the season several pleasant encounters were had with other stations. Cardington furnished an almost 100 per cent. Canadian team, which was defeated by No. 3 Wing both at home and away.

We wish luck to the late "seniors" in their new stations, and "home runs" to the "juniors" in the coming season.



BOXING :—Having taken into consideration the lack of training facilities during the "black-out," we are preparing a somewhat formidable team from both the new and older Entries.

We are very hopeful that they will give a good account of themselves in the forthcoming Barrington-Kennett Boxing Contest.

The Wing is fortunate in having the services of Sergeant Willis, who has considerable experience in organising boxing contests. His most able help will be Corporal Welsh, whom, it is hoped, will show his worth in any Royal Air Force contests.

CRICKET :—The Season opened with trial matches, to select players for both senior and junior teams.

The standard of play was quite good and resulted in two promising teams being selected.

The juniors experienced very bad luck in their first B.K. Match, losing to No. 4 Wing by only two runs. The seniors shared the same fate, losing by a narrow margin to No. 2 Wing.

The juniors, however, were not to be discouraged by their defeat, and went on to beat Nos. 1 and 2 Wings very comfortably.

C.A.A. Oliver, L.A.A.'s Robinson and Beadle are to be highly commended on their fine batting performances, while C.A.A. Swift, and A.A.'s Godden and Jones did some creditable bowling.

By fielding a scratch team in their last match, owing to the absence of regular players, the seniors suffered still another defeat at the hands of No. 1 Wing, thus gaining only one victory in the B.K.

A combined team of seniors and juniors played two matches against Bucks Territorials, winning both in convincing style. A.A.'s Baker and Cramer are to be particularly praised for their fine second wicket stand of 105 runs in the last game.

C.A.A. Oliver, L.A.A.'s Clifton, Fox, Gauntlett and Williams, and A.A.'s Baker and Lowrie were selected to play for the Station "A" team.

Finally we wish to extend our most sincere thanks to Flight Sergeant Neate for his admirable support and untiring efforts throughout the season.

HOCKEY :—Owing to the opening of hostilities there has been very little hockey played so far this season.

There have been a few practice games and these have produced a good number of players who, with a little more experience, should develop into players of outstanding ability.

We have played one game in the Barrington-Kennett Trophy against No. 1 Apprentices Wing. This resulted in a win for the Wing by three goals to one. A good game was enjoyed by all the players, A.A. Wyatt being outstanding in goal.

The outlook is definitely very promising, and, with a little more team-work, our B.K. Teams will give a good account of themselves.

SOCCKER :—Owing to the outbreak of hostilities very few soccer games have been played. What Wing trials we have had seemed to be very promising and with the assistance of three of our last season's players we have built a very promising Wing team, with which we hope to do well in the near future.

"C" Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Knock-out Competition last season after a very keen struggle, for the second time during the three years since the formation of No. 3 Apprentices Wing, and are eager to complete the hat-trick.

So far, we have had very little opportunity of seeing what talent we have in the August 1939 Entry, but we hope to be able to get some useful juniors from this Entry.

No. 4 Wing

EDUCATIONAL NOTES :—Education, like many other parts of Station life, suffered some disorganisation in the first month of the war. Fortunately the Education staff returned from leave earlier than usual, and the extra time thus gained was very useful. Just before going to press a certain stability has been achieved.

The most serious handicap this term has been the many changes amongst Education Officers. It would take too much space to record them all. But we cannot let pass without note the departure to an administrative post of Squadron Leader F. B. Farthing, who has spent many years at Halton. His cheerfulness and enthusiasm we miss very much. Flying Officer K. G. Gardner has gone too. The Wing owes him many thanks for his hard work in the Wing Libraries.

As expected, the August 1936 Entry passed out very well. Their School results equalled the best of the last five years and they have every reason to congratulate themselves. The succeeding entries are doing a shortened course, but the amount of work to be done is not cut down much, except in General Studies, for which a new war syllabus has been devised. The January 1938 Entry will find itself in the throes of examinations by the time they read this magazine. With the changes of programme and staff their education has been disturbed and difficult. We wish them more than the usual amount of luck in their examinations. 371w

BARRINGTON-KENNETT TROPHY :—Pride of place in these notes goes automatically to the success of the Wing in regaining, after a lapse of eleven years, the premier award in the field of sport.

On the last occasion the Wing, then under the late Wing Commander Hicks, no doubt hoped to retain the much-coveted prize for a second time in succession and it is true that the same hope is now cherished by Wing Commander Swann and all concerned.

The Inter-Wing battles raged for a year from September 1938, and many desperate encounters in both senior and junior sections indicated, towards the close of the contest, that there would be a very tight finish. This actually was the case and our nearest rivals, No. 3 Wing, fought grimly to the end to such effect that the final destination of the Trophy was in the balance until the very last events (Senior and Junior Baseball) were decided.

The opposition experienced from all quarters, however, was of the keenest character and great credit is due to the boys who so stoutly and ably carried their Wing to a hard-won victory.

We can only say that if ultimately we must suffer defeat, we hope it will be with the same grace and good-will as that shown by the vanquished.

In some of the contests, notably Athletics, Fencing, Shooting and Swimming, the margin between winners and losers was infinitesimal, but we excelled in the following :

Senior Athletics	..	..	Winners
„ Baseball	..	..	„
„ Cricket..	..	..	Tied 1st Place with No. 3 Wing
„ Cross-Country	..	..	Winners

Senior Fencing	..	..	..	..	Winners
„ Soccer	..	..	..	..	„
„ Water Polo	..	..	..	..	„
Junior Cricket	..	..	..	..	Runners-up
„ Cross-Country	..	..	..	..	Winners

These notes are being written just as the 1939/40 Competition is about to begin in earnest, and by the time they appear in print we shall no doubt have had some rare struggles with those whose determination it must be to wrest from us our laurels.

We have great hopes of our hockey side and the rugger and soccer teams are shaping well from all recent appearances. Other sections have scarcely got going as yet, and it is too early to judge latent talent.

ATHLETICS :—The past year has been conspicuous for the extremely high standard of success maintained in practically all events. Many honours have been gained and it was largely due to the stirring efforts of this section that the B.K. Trophy came our way.

In view of this the following table of performances in the twelve B.K. events is interesting :—

Won 3 times	..	..	..	..	12 Points
2nd 6 „	..	..	..	..	18 „
3rd 3 „	..	..	..	..	6 „
—					
Total					36 „ (Possible 48 points)

All deserve credit for the way in which the team spirit was maintained even when difficulties beset them.

Wing Captain S.App. Wheatley-Smith set an excellent example in this connection, ably assisted by C.App.'s Skinner and Flint and L.A.A. Colebridge.

In the R.A.F. Apprentices Championships we provided four winners and three runners-up, the team being placed second to R.A.F. Cranwell.

Individual performances were :—

Half Mile	..	S.App. Wheatley-Smith	..	..	Winner
Mile	..	C.App. Skinner	..	..	„
High Jump	..	L.A.A. White	..	..	„
Pole Vault	..	L.A.A. Broughton	..	..	„
Discus	..	A.A. Pollitt	..	..	Runner-up
Javelin	..	A.A. Ventalls	..	..	„
Hurdles	..	A.A. Currie	..	..	„

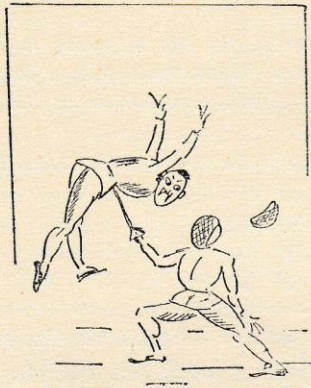
The Station Championship Mile and Half Mile events were won by S.App. Wheatley-Smith, who also was selected to represent Bucks County Athletic Association, and the R.A.F. in the Inter-Services Championship with C.App. Skinner.

Other successes were the winning of the Moffatt Trophy (Senior Apprentices' Cross-Country) and the second place in the D. O. Finlay Trophy.

MINIATURE BORE SHOOTING :—The .22 Season has just re-opened as we write and keen interest is being shown by the new Entry in the Station Rifle and Pistol League.

Four contests have so far taken place, two pistol and two rifle. The Wing marksmen have recorded wins against No. 1 and No. 2 Wings in the former, and a win over No. 3 Wing in the latter, the remaining result versus Hospital not yet being announced.

STATION REVOLVER SHOOTING :—This contest was won by L.A.A. James.



FENCING :—Championship results were as follows :—

Foil	..	S.App. Creamer	..	Runner-up
Epée	..	L.A.A. Gibbs	..	Third
Sabre	..	C.App. Williams	..	Third

SWIMMING :—We had no really outstanding success in this department, but managed to hold our own.

In the B.K. events we were placed third and so keen was the competition that only one point separated us from the winners.

From the total of eighteen events in both sections we were victorious on one occasion only, but made up for this by high positions elsewhere and gaining a total of 49 points against the winners' 56.

Our senior water polo team won each of the three games played, whilst our juniors won one and narrowly escaped defeat in the other two of their three matches.

The Naval Apprentices, appropriately enough, proved too tough a proposition for any of us and carried off the Inter-Squadron Swimming Championship and the Senior and Junior Water Polo.

They sailed through the Station Relay League (Davey Cup) without a single defeat, but "B" Squadron were second with only one defeat.

Swimming blues were awarded to S.App. Partridge and L.A.A.'s Mackereth, Rideout and Rutter.