

The Haltonian Magazine

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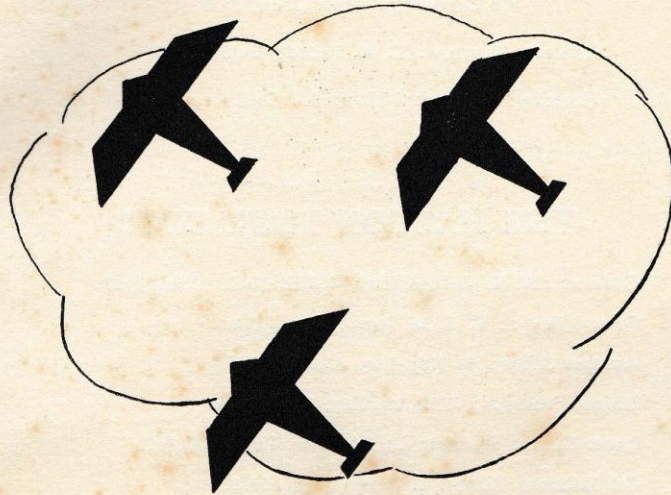
Vol. XI. No. 1

Summer 1939



The Visit of His Majesty the King to Halton, April 14th, 1939.

Frontispiece.



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EDITORIAL

With this number *The Halton Magazine* takes upon itself a new shape. We believe that this will add to the dignity of its outward appearance, as well as enabling us to set out the contents, both letterpress and illustrations, in a more attractive form. We hope that this innovation will be approved by our readers in whichever of the Continents they may be temporarily residing.

The shadow of Halton does not grow appreciably less. Though the counter-attractions of our lusty younger brother, Cosford, have drawn away some of our aircraft apprentice population—the Fitters Armourer folded their kit at Christmas and silently stole away—other personnel have taken their place and the pace and intensity of the training programme are by no means diminished. We continue to fulfil our primary purpose of furnishing the expanding Air Force with skilled aircraftmen of the highest trade group unperturbed in spirit—if not always in syllabus—by the crises and alarms that from time to time are said to make themselves felt beyond the bounds of the Camp.

The activities of Halton are nowadays so manifold and varied that the task of chronicling them in an adequate way in the necessarily limited space at our disposal grows increasingly difficult. We try, however, to find at least a corner for everyone, though sometimes our notes and reports must needs be confined within narrower

limits than we would wish. We would take this opportunity of thanking all those who have so faithfully provided us with the records that fill our news pages. It is an unavoidable misfortune which makes it necessary for the magazine to go to press too early in the term to allow our Sports and other news to be fully up to date.

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The outstanding event of the year has been the visit to Halton of His Majesty King George VI, on April 14th, 1939, the first occasion on which the Station has had the honour of an inspection by the reigning monarch. An account of the visit is given elsewhere in this number.

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Empire Air Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20th, when, as is now the custom, the Station was "at home" to our neighbours and friends of the general public. The weather, though not as good as we had indented for and hoped to provide, was better than last year's depressing downpour, and the large number of visitors appeared to enjoy the opportunity of seeing this great training establishment pursuing its daily working routine. A P.T. Display, as usual most effective, was given in Blundells Meadow, and a Flying Display by Service aircraft was another popular feature of the entertainment provided. In all, 12,978 people visited the Station, and as a result Air Force charities benefited by the amount of £300. The amount last year was £129.

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At Christmas we said good-bye to the January 1936 Entry, who passed out on the completion of their three years' training. The Inspecting Officer was Air Marshal Sir Frederick W. Bowhill, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Coastal Command. In his address to the apprentices the Air Marshal spoke of the resolution of all ranks of the Royal Air Force, in these uncertain times, to play their part in maintaining the security of the Nation and the Empire.

* * * * *

We extend our warmest congratulations to Sergeant Apprentice J. H. Deas and Sergeant Apprentice R. H. Clifford, of the January 1936 Entry, to whom the Air Council awarded Cadetships at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. Sergeant Apprentice Clifford was also awarded the Viscount Wakefield Scholarship.

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By the time this number is in the hands of its readers the August 1936 Entry will likewise have completed its training and be on the point of passing out. We wish the apprentices of the Entry all good luck in the Service career which lies before them.

* * * * *

Congratulations to Pilot Officers H. J. R. Dunn and B. O. C. Stevens, who were gazetted to commissions on December 17th on the successful completion of their training at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. Pilot Officer Dunn was awarded the Aeronautical Engineering Prize for his Entry.

Congratulations likewise to Pilot Officers W. O. Mould and H. J. Winch, who received their commissions on February 15th, 1939.

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The Flight Mechanics' Course was transferred from Halton at the end of March last. Its place has been taken by No. 5 (Airmen's) Wing Conversion Course, which comprises the Fitter I Conversion Course from Henlow and the Fitter II Advanced Course to Fitter I. The former Course first came into being at Halton in 1933, moving to Henlow in December 1935, whence it has now returned to its native heath. The Fitter II Advanced Course is composed of ex-apprentices who passed out from this Station some three years ago and are now returned to imbibe further technical instruction from the never-failing Haltonian springs. At the moment of writing these notes No. 5 (Airmen's) Wing is commanded by Squadron Leader B. D. McE. Hart, and the Wing Education Officer is Captain A. Gillespie, B.Eng., A.M.I.Mech.E., both late of No. 2 (Apprentices) Wing.

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On June 26th Halton received a visit from a party of Rumanian journalists, accompanied by the Embassy Attaché and representatives of the British Press, who were on a visit to this country as guests of the British Council. Lord Lloyd, the Chairman of the Council, came with the party, who spent what we hope was an interesting morning inspecting the Workshops, School, and other aspects of Halton life.

On June 6th we had expected to entertain a party of Turkish journalists on a visit to England, but unfortunately at the last moment the arrangements had unavoidably to be cancelled. We are always glad to welcome distinguished representatives from other countries, not only on account of the interest of the visits themselves, but because they afford evidence that those in authority regard this great R.A.F. technical training centre as a representative national institution embodying, it may be thought, the best and most modern expressions of technical and Service education in the widest sense of the term.

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Postings to and from Halton are nowadays so many and so rapid that we can no longer attempt to record them all. We must, however, say a word of farewell to Group Captain C. B. Cooke who recently left us to assume command of R.A.F. Station, Hednesford. Group Captain Cooke was for some five years Senior Engineer Officer at Halton and much of the detailed work of re-organisation necessitated by the expansion programme fell on his shoulders. So, too, did the task of bowling out opponents on the Station cricket field. The good wishes of all Haltonians went with him to his new command.

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Parents' Day this year was held on Saturday, July 1st, and we shall hope to give an account of this popular function in our next number.

VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING TO HALTON

On Friday, April 14th, the Royal Air Force Station, Halton, was honoured by a visit of inspection by His Majesty King George VI. Among the officers in attendance on His Majesty were : Air Chief Marshal Sir Cyril Newall, G.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M., Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sir Charles Burnett, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, and Air Vice Marshal P. C. Maltby, D.S.O., A.F.C., Air Officer Commanding, No. 24 Group.

On the arrival of His Majesty at 11.30 hours the Royal Standard was broken at the Flag-staff at Station Headquarters, and shortly afterwards the tour of inspection was begun. This included visits to the new and old Workshops, the Swimming Bath, the Church, the Apprentices' School, the Aerodrome, Nos. 1 and 2 Wing Barracks and the new Gymnasium, and His Majesty was enabled to see the normal working routine of the Station in progress and the surroundings in which the daily lives of the apprentices and other personnel of the Station are spent. In the course of the tour a number of officers and other ranks were presented to His Majesty.

Lunch was taken in the Officers' Mess, after which His Majesty walked across to watch and listen to the Station Pipe Band, who had played, during luncheon, on the Hockey Pitch in front of the Mess. Meanwhile, the aircraft apprentices of the four Wings, with the Naval Apprentices, had lined St. Michaels Avenue, and along Chestnut Parallel were drawn up the personnel of No. 5 Airmen's Wing, Station Headquarters, the School of Cookery, Civilian Employees, Comrades of the Royal Air Force Association, Halton Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and No. 39 R.A.F. Company of the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service. Through these cheering crowds the Royal car proceeded from the Officers' Mess to Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Hospital, the inspection of which concluded His Majesty's visit.

The day was one which will be long remembered by all the personnel of the Station. His Majesty wore the uniform of a Marshal of the Royal Air Force, and the absence of any elaborate ceremonial gave an impressive simplicity to the occasion. It was as though, away for a few hours from affairs of State, His Majesty was making personal and comradely contact with the officers and airmen of the Service in which he had himself formerly served ; and it was this atmosphere, almost one might say of informality, which made the visit especially memorable.

His Majesty later sent the following gracious message of appreciation to the Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Station, Halton :

“ I greatly enjoyed my visit to Halton yesterday and shall be glad if you will express to all concerned my entire satisfaction with everything that I saw.
“ George R.I.”

To this message the A.O.C. replied :

“ With humble duty I beg leave to thank your Majesty for your encouraging message to all concerned with your visit to Halton which has been so greatly appreciated by all ranks.

“ Air Commodore Dacre.”

Photographs of the visit appear as the Frontispiece to this number of the Magazine.

REPAIRS IN THE ULU*

A time-honoured C.T.T.B. question revolves round aircraft damaged "on the blue" and the subsequent repairs to be undertaken. The opportunities for applying one's ingenuity in this direction are becoming increasingly rare in these days of modern aircraft, but in January of this year the crew of a ——— aircraft, belonging to No. ——— Squadron, were called upon to exercise their talents.

The Squadron, *en route* to Rangoon from Seletar, landed at Tavoy, Burma, where one machine damaged its under-carriage and starboard lower plane. The crew, consisting of Pilot Corporal, Fitter I and L.A.C. Fitter II, were left behind to await the arrival of spares from Singapore by boat. Meanwhile the local population, a cosmopolitan crowd of Burmans, Chinese and Indians, turned out in full force to inspect the damage, but from the voluble chatter it was difficult to determine whether they were discussing a suitable repair scheme or whether they were attributing the accident to evil spirits who had plucked the strange bird from out of the sky.

Accommodation for the crew was provided by the Public Works Department, and one Abdul, appointed mess-cook, the latter preparing excellent curries but professing ignorance of rissoles (strange fellow). The inevitable wait for spares was a little monotonous, for apart from the construction of a tail trestle there was nothing to be done. The hospitality of local Europeans provided honorary membership of the Tavoy Club, a trip to the coast for swimming and a visit to a tin mine. One was able to observe certain manifestations of Burmese nationalism.

After a wait of two weeks, spares arrived in the form of a main plane and complete under-carriage assembly. In the absence of suitable jacks some difficulty was experienced in raising the machine sufficiently to change the under-carriage, but by digging shallow trenches under the wheels, enough clearance was obtained. The curiosity of the natives was rather cunningly exploited by a Burmese police sergeant, who persuaded them to lend a hand as required—they were prone, however, to lift in the wrong places. With the machine in rigging position and the port wing supported under the bottom plane, it became necessary to take the weight of starboard top plane. This was done with the aid of two sloping poles placed under front and rear spars, adjacent to the outer struts and secured in the ground with pegs.

Willing hands lifted the new plane into position, but at the same time threatening the stability of the all-important poles. At this stage, rain fell in no uncertain manner, and with the natives sheltering beneath the planes, it was left to the British other ranks to preserve the prestige of the white man by battling on under adverse conditions. The starboard wing was rigged by taking pin-centre lengths from the opposite side and when this was done, tools were stowed for the day. And so away to the bungalow to quaff a refreshing drink (need it be said ?).

* Malay for up-country.

The taxiing test, carried out next day, appeared to give great satisfaction to the unofficial helpers, and the running up of the engine a source of delight to the small boys who exposed themselves to the slip-stream.

In appreciation of services rendered, one Burma cheroot per head was distributed all round (including the small boys), and the police sergeant unofficially promoted to Flight Sergeant.

In a way one regretted leaving Tavoy ; true it had been tedious at first, but it had provided a change of scenery, new faces (even though they were brown) and the satisfaction of completing a job " out in the blue." Two escort planes arrived, and after the Flight Commander had given the repaired machine an air test, three machines took off and headed south.

P. H. and F. M.



THE "ENGLISH" EXPLAINED

I had never been to England before, so soon after I arrived at his country house my host explained the " English " to me. He said :—

" What is wrong with foreigners is that they may be clever, but they have not character. They talk too much and hit a man when he is down, and they dress like monkeys, and don't play cricket. Also they have no sense of humour.

" Natives are different from foreigners, and what is wrong with them is that they are mere children, and all right if you keep a firm hand on them and show that you are master, but otherwise liable to take advantage. Most of the natives," he said, " belong to England because England is Motherland of a mighty Empire."

So I asked what an empire was, and he said something like this :—

" An empire is a lot of temperate countries called Dominions inhabited by Colonials and a lot of tropical countries called Colonies, inhabited by natives. It is very important that you never mix the two, because if you call the Dominions Colonies they get very cross and are likely to barrack at Test Matches, because they are very excitable and speak with accents and have rather bad manners and don't play cricket.

" The English," he also told me, " are kept very busy at their national task of setting natives and foreigners an example. They have various ways of doing it,

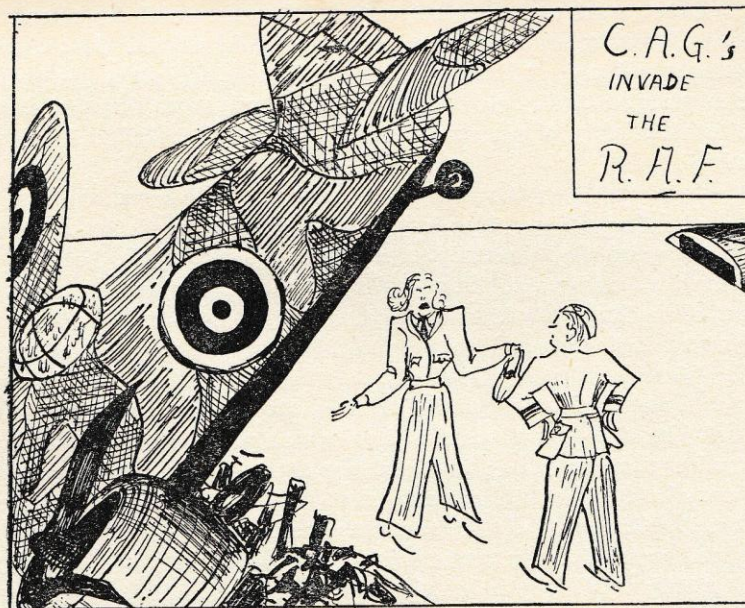
and one of these is known as 'muddling through.' It means never thinking about what you are going to do, and then when you do it, you are sure to be right. Foreigners are always thinking ahead, and that's a great mistake for it brings evils like Dictatorships and eating frogs, and the Continental Sunday. The English do not believe in logic and get on very well without it. The English are very anxious to help foreigners disarm, because it cost them a lot and prevents them trading with England. England always wins quarrels, and that is known as maintaining its prestige, and it is a good way of showing foreigners that battleships, etc., don't pay.

"The English also teach foreigners how to be honourable by horse-racing (called the Sport of Kings), cricket (called the King of Games), and Common Sense (which has no other name). The English have a great dislike for foreign occupations, such as theorising, swank, pose and bureaucracy.

"The reason why the English are good at governing inferior races is because they are always just," said my host. "They have a genius for pulling things off and putting things over. They shoulder the white man's burden by dressing every night for dinner in the tropics, and keeping up a standard, and playing polo, etc.

"Fortunately for the natives, the English are very kind. Children and dogs like them and they never hit a man when he is down, and though they are poets at heart there is no nonsense in them." I think I saw what he meant.

M. St. J. D.



"But Mr. Officer darling, I used to pilot a 'Flying Flea'!"



To face page 48.

WING NOTES

No. 1 Wing

The Wing has done as well as one could expect this term after losing so many A.A.'s to the Royal Navy and Cosford. We managed to win two Junior B.K. events in the Rugby and Boxing, a performance creditable to those concerned. Changes have taken place in the Wing; we have lost our Sports Officer, Squadron-Leader Crowe, M.C., D.F.C., and his place has been ably filled by Flight-Lieutenant Sharman, M.C. We greet you, and trust you like both us and Halton.

All personnel who knew Warrant-Officers Hoad and Payne will join in sincere congratulations on their promotion and wish them every success at their new Stations. I know we shall miss their interest in Baseball, Rugby, and Swimming.

It is also rumoured that a certain Mess will miss a good cook.

Now for our star performers. We are proud to mention:—

Sergeant Laver : 303 Champion after a tie, with S.A. Moore (No. 3 Wing).

L.A.A. Welster : 2-mile Walk record-breaker, both for the Station and Bucks County, and selected for the 7-mile Walk, A.A.A. Championship at the White City.

L.A.A. Hoare : who represented this Station in the Inter-Services Boxing Championships and was unlucky (disqualified in the last round of a very even fight).

Corporal Welling : Winner of the Novices Epée Competition at Uxbridge, and a representative of the Wing and Station at the Royal Tournament.

We will close with a welcome to all new arrivals, and congratulations to those promoted in the Wing during the last six months.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.—Since the last issue of the Magazine a good many changes have taken place in School life, as might be anticipated in such a rapidly accelerating Service. Reclassification of apprentices and their trade requirements have involved changes in syllabus and times of attending School. Changes of administration of the Fleet Air Arm have produced the dark blue kitted apprentice sitting alongside the light blue clad apprentice and changes of international outlook have resulted, on certain days, of that curious phenomenon, the gas-masked apprentice. In spite of these changes the members of No. 1 Wing have experienced no difficulty in adapting themselves to the new conditions and are forging ahead with their usual keenness and confidence.

As a result it is hoped that the January 1937 Entry will produce a good showing at the Final Passing Out Examination. Good luck to them and God Speed.

When these notes appear in print the Intermediate Examination for the August 1938 Entry will be a thing of the past. To those in this Entry we would say settle down into a steady stride, work well, play well and seize every opportunity to advancement and progress in the next two years. This will stand you in good stead for your future career in the Service.

We are sorry that Mr. Barnard left us after so short a stay and extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Hutchings, who has come to replace him. Mr. Dawson, who was helpful to us on the stage switchboard, is leaving us at the end of this term. We wish him every success in his new Station at Malta.

BOXING :—This season's Boxing was once again a success for, against very good opposition, we were successful in winning the much-coveted B.K. Junior trophy.

We started the season as usual by having our Novices' Competition, which attracted a keen crowd.

The next contest was the Inter-Squadron eliminations for the selection of the B.K. teams, Junior and Senior. Some excellent bouts took place in spite of the fact that we lost many of our best boxers when No. 1 Wing Armourers went to Cosford.

During the course of the season the team visited Ruislip, Cranwell, and Cosford. The trips were a welcome change and the good sportsmanship shown by all our opponents was very much appreciated by the No. 1 Wing team. We were unlucky to lose in the Finals of the Junior Championships at Ruislip but everyone present admired the pluck of our team shown in a very interesting evening.

In spite of the success of the season we have had to suffer some very severe losses ; first the lads who went to Cosford, then Flight-Sergeant Hillman. We were all very sorry to lose him, for he has shown his sportsmanship and experience in many ways, but we are fortunate in having a good substitute in Flight-Sergeant Schofield, who was posted here soon after Flight-Sergeant Hillman's departure. Yet another severe break was to come, Mr. Izzara, our little firework boxing instructor, has left us. Although we were all pleased to hear that he had re-enlisted and was coming back to Halton, we regret his being posted to No. 3 Wing.

Two newcomers in A.A.'s Shearer and Williams, posted from No. 4 Wing, both put up excellent shows but were unfortunate to lose to champions of more experience. A.A. Brown and C.A. Hessel pluckily fought against big odds, and although Brown conceded almost a stone in weight he won all his bouts in the B.K. Our little captain, L.A.A. Roberts, deserves a word for his energy in doing all he could to get new members. His enthusiasm is an example for the whole team and it acts like a tonic. We should mention that A.A. Hoare represented Halton at the Inter-Services Championships at Portsmouth and was unfortunate to be disqualified.

Before we close we must thank our Commanding Officer for the encouragement and help he has given us again this season, also Warrant-Officer Smith for his interest and assistance in boxing since his arrival here. We extend our thanks to the many others who have helped to make this boxing season the success it was.

CRICKET :—The season having just commenced, we are at present in doubt as to our future successes. However, we have played Hoxton Manor, away and at home, and while we gave a good account of ourselves in the former, we suffered a heavy defeat in the latter.

We have been considerably weakened by the loss of two of our most prominent players, they having transferred to the Naval Wing.

We were well represented in the Station team *versus* Chatham Artificers.

Despite the fact that as yet the juniors have only taken part in two trial matches, it is very probable that they have shown that a strong team can be formed for the coming B.K.

To conclude, we must thank Sergeant Robinson for our fixtures and his interest in both teams.

FENCING :—No. 1 Wing had a fairly successful season. In the Apprentices' Championships, held at Uxbridge, A.A. Mason was runner-up in the Sabre. In the B.K. team we were narrowly beaten by No. 4 Wing in the final. In the R.A.F. Novices' Competition, held at Uxbridge, Corporal Wellings won the Epée. In February the eliminating contest for the R.A.F. Training Command was held at Uxbridge. The winners were picked to fence at the Royal Tournament at Olympia and Corporal Wellings won the Epée. At Olympia he came seventh in the final pool of the R.A.F. Epée Championship.

Corporal Dawson has aided the Wing considerably with evening classes of instruction in No. 1 Wing Gymnasium. He was mainly responsible for the B.K. Team doing so well. S.App. Heggie represented the Station in the Foil, also A.A. Mason in the Sabre. Next season we hope to be even more successful.

HOCKEY.—We have had a fairly successful season, having played 21 games, of which we have won 13, drawn 4 and lost 4, scoring 62 goals and having only 40 scored against us. We were unlucky to lose the B.K. Trophy.

The Wing has been regularly represented in the Station XI by C.A. Sinnott, L.A.A. Stewart and A.A. Soggee. C.A. Sinnott was awarded the Station colours.

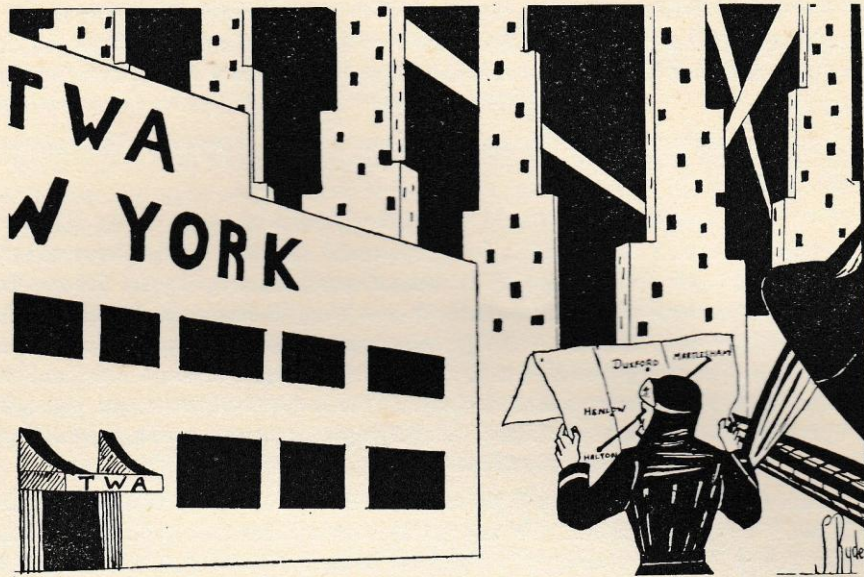
Our thanks are due to Sgt. Winslade for obtaining for us so many fixtures and for his interest in the team.

SOCCER :—*Junior XI*.—The juniors had a very fine season which resulted in many victories over outside teams. We had great expectations of winning the B.K., but unfortunately lost a hard game to No. 3 Wing.

Throughout the season we were handicapped, due to some of the best players being posted to other Stations. But it is hoped that next season things will be more settled and that we can win the B.K. trophy.

The team consisted of :—Rutter, Bates, Hogben, Haste, Bone, Paterson, Foster, Webb, Smith, Evans, Hodgkins. Reserve : Keil.

The team express their sorrow at the loss of Sergeant Frost, and we wish to express our gratitude and thanks which are due to Flight-Lieutenant Sharman, Mr. Woolcock and Sergeant Robinson, for their untiring efforts on behalf of Wing Soccer, and also to the N.C.O.'s in the Wing who have assisted and coached us in playing the game.



To hell with Navigation!

No. 2 Wing

The Wing is unfortunate in losing Squadron Leader R. D. McE. Hart, who is now commanding No. 5 Wing. He has been in the Unit since 1935, and his keenness and interest in all the Wing activities will be much missed. We welcome Squadron Leader G. A. Atkinson, who takes his place as second-in-command, and hope that he will enjoy Halton even better than his late post at Group Headquarters at Donibristle.

We congratulate Warrant Officers Salway, Beattie, Bakewell and Crosland, on their well-earned promotion and wish them every luck in their new rank.

Warrant Officer Dodds and Warrant Officer Dean have joined the Wing as Technical Warrant Officers, and to them we offer a hearty welcome.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES :—The tranquil stream of Educational Instruction in No. 2 Wing during the two preceding terms has now entered the examination rapids. At the moment of writing these notes, the August 1938 Entry is grappling with its Intermediate and we wish good luck and success to all. By the time the Magazine appears we shall have learned the worst. Shadows of the approaching "Finals" have fallen upon the January 1937 Entry, for whom the Engineering Drawing and General Studies Set Tasks have already provided preliminary skirmishes with the enemy. The August 1937 Entry have been sailing steadily on the quiet expanse of second year work. It is time they began to put on full sail.

A word in the ears of the August 1938 Entry. Careers at Halton are often made or marred in the second year. The Intermediate Examination has been safely negotiated: the "Finals" are a mere speck on the distant horizon. But the work

of this year is no less important. Resist the temptation to slacken effort. The ranks of A.C.2 in the R.A.F. are strewn with the unhappy bodies of ex-apprentices who imagined that the second year was specially designed by Providence for an easy time. That is a fatal error.

There have been several staff changes. Captain Surrige and Mr. T. P. Williams left to take up posts in Malta and at Hendon respectively. Mr. Fry has been posted as Station Education Officer to Thornaby. We hope they will find life on their new Stations enjoyable. Mr. Lill has been posted to the Wing and Mr. W. T. Williams has come from No. 3 Wing to take over the work of Mr. Fry.

BOXING :—The season has from every point of view been very successful and has especially produced some fine talent from among the August 1938 (our Junior) Entry.

In order to gain experience in the early part of the season a Tournament was arranged with Juniors of the Aylesbury Boxing Club. After a very sporting evening, we were defeated by the very narrow margin of 2 points. A very creditable performance.

On February 16th a team comprising Nos. 1 and 2 Wings went to Cosford to complete against A.A.'s of that Station. The ultimate result was a draw, but here again valuable experience was gained.

In the Barrington-Kennet Competition we were successful in winning the Senior Cup and also the Barton Challenge Cup for the best aggregate of both Senior and Junior Teams. The team are to be very heartily congratulated on such a fine performance, and the instructors are no doubt satisfied that their efforts have achieved such a gratifying result.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING :—The Wing had a fairly successful season. We had runs against Upper Heyford, R.A.F. (Apprentices) Ruislip and R.A.F. Bicester, which we won. Our outstanding runners were A.A. Holmes, C.App. Bullock, L.A.A.'s Caporn and Twite. These were selected to run for the Command. In the B.K. we were beaten into second place by No. 4 Wing.

The Junior team were rather weak this season as we had to rely on our August 1938 Entry, and owing to lack of experience of packing, were beaten into third place in the Junior B.K. Anyhow there is plenty of talent, so we shall hope for a successful season in the term which is coming.

FENCING :—We wish to extend our congratulations to W.O. Bakewell on his promotion. His posting to Cranwell deprives us of a most able instructor to whose enthusiasm and interest our very successful season is due.

In the Barrington-Kennet Competition, No. 2 Wing lost to No. 4 Wing (the winners) by the narrow margin of 15 fights to 12. In this we won the Epee pool by 6 fights to 3. L.A.A. Allen and L.A.A. Lyons won all their fights in the Sabre and Epee respectively.

In the Individual Championships at Uxbridge, L.A.A. Allen won the Sabre pool.

In the Station Team Championships, held at Uxbridge, No. 2 Wing was well represented. Flight Sergeant Pope, L.A.A. Allen and C.App. Hagley (Sabre), and L.A.A. Lyons and A.A. Dixon (Epee) being selected to represent the Station.

Unfortunately, a variety of causes prevented the programme of fixtures being carried out, but matches were held at Upper Heyford, Bicester, Ruislip and Henlow. Station representatives from No. 2 Wing were C.App. Hagley, L.A.A. Allen, A.A. Sixsmith in Sabre ; L.A.A. Lyons, A.A. Dixon and A.A. Devonshire in Epee ; and L.A.A. Cooper in Foil.

As the Senior Entry passes out in the middle of the next season, it is hoped that the enthusiasm shown by the Junior entries towards the close of last season will continue, so that the Wing may do even better in the future.

HOCKEY :—The season produced some very good and exciting fixtures. The standard of Hockey played was very good. Several promising players have arrived with the August 1938 Entry, the most outstanding of these being 574505 A.A. Smith and 573990 A.A. Hughes. The Wing was well represented in the Station Hockey team, six positions being filled by L.A.A.'s Bock and Tapply, A.A.'s Everitt, Hughes, Smith (505) and Painting. Hockey blues were awarded to L.A.A. Bock and A.A. Everitt. The B.K. matches were disastrous, the Seniors losing all their matches and the Juniors winning one only, but we hope to do better next season.

RUGBY :—The Wing will be well represented in the Station Apprentices' XV and, with many good players in the Aug. 38 entry, both Senior and Junior Wing XV's for next season should be well up to standard.

SHOOTING :—This last season has been one of many successes for the Wing. We won the first stage in the Nobel Cup for R.A.F. teams, and in the second stage were runners-up.

The S.M.R.C. Junior Spring Competition was won by the Wing, represented by C.App. Elliott and A.A.'s Bass, Cox and Edwards.

Representing the R.A.F. in the Inter-Services Match were Sergeant Nee and A.A.'s Cox and Bass. These three have also been awarded this season their County Badges.

An outstanding achievement was the winning of the English Junior Championship by C.App. Elliott with A.A. Cox, also of 2 Wing, second.

At Kimble .303 meeting, "B" Squadron won the Squadron Composite Team Match, and other Wing representatives did well to figure in the prize list.

A most notable effort was given by Sergeant Nee in winning the Bucks County .303 Championship.

In both the Station League and Station .22 Pistol League, the Wing was runner-up.

Master Shot badges were won by Sergeant Nee and A.A. Bass, who are also in the final round of the Queen Alexandra's Competition.

SOCCER :—The Wing had a very successful season.

The Seniors failed to win the B.K., but put up a very fine show against No. 3 Wing, who went on to win the B.K. Seniors.

The Juniors made a good effort and won the Junior competition.

A.A. Southwell of the Junior team was selected as outside-left for the Command Soccer team, and L.A.A. Rickaby as right-half for the Command Reserves.

To add to the Wing's success, the Wing Staff team went through the Inter-Wing Knock-out competition to the final and won the competition by defeating No. 4 Wing Staff after a very sporting game.

No. 3 Wing

We have bidden farewell to the January 1936 Entry, who have left us since our last contribution to the Magazine. We wish them the very best of luck in their new Units. 33rd

No reference to the Entry would be complete if we did not mention the Passing Out dinner. Those who were privileged to attend will not easily forget the occasion. S.App. Dunstan and his Committee are to be heartily congratulated on their achievement. The Entry found it possible to enjoy themselves heartily without forgetting that they were Airmen !

We are sorry to lose Flying Officer Abraham, who has been posted to No. 3 S. of T.T., Manston. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

Warrant Officer Stocker has been posted to No. 24 (T) Group. As one of the select band who helped to form the Wing in 1936, we shall greatly miss his experience and help in every Wing activity.

We extend our congratulations to the following who have been lately promoted :

Warrant Officer Keats.

Flight-Sergeant Matthews.	Sergeant Norton.
Flight-Sergeant Endacott.	Sergeant Robinson.
Sergeant Farmer.	Sergeant Readhead.
Sergeant West.	Sergeant Hamley.
Sergeant Holbrook.	Sergeant Kite.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.—Recent events include the passing out Finals for the January 1936 and August 1936 Entries and the arrival of the January 1939. A welter of examinations, records and time-tables. How nice it would be if some good fairy would invent a substitute for examinations which, it seems, are liked only by statisticians, who use the results to prove their unreliability.

There have been changes in location and organisation ; welcome and unwelcome. True to our national traditions we have grouched and gone on.

The Wing will have no cause to be ashamed of the August 1936 Entry if they do themselves justice.

At Christmas we lost Mr. Griffiths, who was transferred to Cosford. We miss his cheery company. Mr. Jones is welcomed to our staff from No. 1 Wing.

In the newly arrived Conversion Course are several ex-apprentices : there is no small pleasure in meetings which show that some, at least, of our past labours were not in vain. But one notes that the things remembered best were not always parts of the syllabus.

BOXING :—The Juniors have been showing great improvement considering the short time they have been here. We are looking forward to producing some excellent material for next year. We are unfortunately losing our Seniors in July when they pass out from Halton.

In the Aircraft Apprentices Individual Championships, A.A. Cowley won the Fly Weight, and considering that in a previous meeting he was beaten by the same opponent, it was an exceptionally interesting contest which produced some excellent boxing.

A.A. Jones won the Light Weight contest against a clever boxer ; this proved to

be a very evenly balanced contest. We miss Sergeant Wilby, our instructor, who has been posted to Cranwell. We wish him all success in his new appointment.

Sergeant Willis has been appointed Wing Boxing Instructor; his keenness and experience will be of the greatest assistance to us.

We wish all those passing out a happy and successful future and feel sure that if they maintain their interest in boxing every opportunity lies before them.

CRICKET :—The Cricket season having just commenced it is not possible to give any news of our activities. Practice games, however, have justified our hopes of fielding a strong team in the Senior and Junior B.K. Matches. Flight Sergeant Neate, a keen cricketer himself, will be a great asset in instruction and selection.

We have a well-filled fixture list and as a result a great deal of experience will be gained, particularly for the Juniors.

WING DRUMS :—The bands of No. 3 Wing held the following positions at the last Drums Competition, December 1938 :—

Pipe Band	..	1st.
Flute Band	..	2nd.
Trumpet	3rd.

A.A. Gauntlett again won the Station Pipes, which makes a record, as he has never failed to win it since he has been here. L.A.A. Jeffery was again a close second. A.A. Boulter was fifth in flutes and S.App. Bownes second in trumpets.

FENCING :—Owing to the lack of a fencing room, the Gymnasium being used for other purposes, and the Burnett gymnasium not then completed, we made rather a poor start this year. However, the difficulties were eventually overcome and keen interest was shown by a good number of A.A.'s. The selected Wing team entered for the B.K. were narrowly beaten by No. 1 Wing, 14 victories to 13. A team from "C" Squadron, coached by Corporal Cannon and managed by Sergeant Willis, was entered for the Apprentices' Championships at Uxbridge, and although a fine display by S.App. Smedley and C.App. Blower gave us hopes, we were beaten by Cosford, who eventually won the competition. Defeated but by no means disgraced, we hope next season to have the wins on our side.

RUGBY :—The Rugby season which has just finished, has been a very satisfactory one for the Senior Team. They won the Senior B.K. Trophy and also completed the season without defeat. The Senior Team had nine of its members playing regularly for the Command Team, they were, S.App. Moore, L.A.A. Fox, L.A.A. Williams, A.A.'s Jones, Baker, Rich, Vaughan, Powell and Staples.

Unfortunately for the Wing and also Station Rugby, these A.A.'s belong to the August 1936 Entry, which is due to leave us in July. It is to be hoped that they will take the same interest when they join their new Units. The Junior Team unfortunately, did not have a very successful season, losing to all the other Wings in the B.K. Tournament.

The January 1939 Entry did not join us until the season was well advanced, though in the short time available several promising players were discovered. If the January 1938 and 1939 Entries are to maintain the high standard set by previous Entries, a lot of hard work and keenness will have to be shown by all those interested in Rugby.

SHOOTING :—The Junior B.K. Team repeated last year's success by winning with an average score of 98.5, which placed them 25 points ahead of their nearest rivals.

The Senior team also won convincingly. This team created the record score of 349 points, placing them 31 points ahead of their nearest rivals. The above results reflect very creditably on the keenness of the team and their coach, Flight Sergeant Stevens, who takes a very great amount of trouble in their training.

At the Annual .303 Meeting at Kimble, "B" Squadron won the Apprentices' Team Match. At this meeting S.App. Moore was placed second after a tie shoot against Sergeant Laver (1 Wing), who is an experienced marksman. This is an extremely creditable performance on the part of an Apprentice.

Two A.A.'s of the Wing were selected to fire for the R.A.F. 40 in the Inter Services Matches, and three A.A.'s of the Wing were selected to fire for Bucks County in the .22 competition. To date the Wing Team (Halton F.) has survived to shoot in the seventh round of the "National Team Handicap"; the result is not known as we go to press.

The high standard of shooting in the Wing during the past year has been due to the keenness and support of the marksmen of the 1936 Entry, encouraged and advised by Flight Sergeant Stevens.

It may be confidently expected that we will hear more of No. 3 Wing marksmen when they leave us on passing out. There can be little doubt that most of them will be seen at Bisley in the years to come, as representatives of the Royal Air Force.

SOCCER :—As reported in the Winter number the Junior team won the B.K. Competition. The Senior team failed against Nos. 1 and 4 Wings, and beat No. 2 Wing.

The R.A.F. Inter-Wing Knock-Out Competition produced some very good games. No. 3 Wing won the Halton Division by beating Nos. 1 and 4 Wings. In the next round Cosford were beaten at Cosford by 1—0. In the following round, Eastchurch were beaten at Eastchurch by 3—1. The final, played at the Stadium at Halton, between 3 Wing and 2 Wing, Cranwell, produced a fine exhibition of football, and it was only after extra time had been played that Cranwell won by 5 goals to 4.

No. 3 Wing Inter-Squadron Competition was won by "C" Squadron, whose team was strong in all positions. All the Senior team except one are due to pass out in July, and there will be keen competition for senior team places next season. Soccer in the Wing showed a great improvement after Christmas. This was due to good team work and a "full out" spirit shown by all players.

Good luck, and many more good games, to all players who are leaving us this term.

SWIMMING :—Having lost much of our talent with the exit of the January 1936 Entry, we looked forward to the new Entry (January 1939) and happily found sufficient keenness to bolster our hopes for the B.K.

In the Davy Cup Competition, held during the winter months, "C" Squadron were considered "dark horses," by all and sundry, but the R.N.A. won all their matches, beating "C" 3 by a very small margin; it is hoped, however, that the training afforded will assist us all in the coming events.

We shall soon be losing our "prized possessions," C.App. Nicholas, A.A.'s Rissiter, Thompson, S.App. Bownes, A.A. Griggs and those of the Senior Entry who have helped us so well.

Here's wishing them success in their new sphere, and may we see their names often in the Swimming world.

No. 4 Wing

EDUCATIONAL NOTES :—These notes are being written before the results of the final examination are available. Nevertheless, there are indications that the August 1936 Entry will do very well indeed. This creditable showing is obtained in spite of the unsettlement and changes which have accompanied the reorganisation and expansion of the Air Force. We were unfortunate in having Mr. Farthing away with recurrent attacks of influenza, and Mr. Critchley left the Wing to be Senior Education Officer at Hednesford on April 1st, 1939. He was not replaced until May 31st, 1939.

The Junior Entries, not having an examination in the middle of the year, have not been in the limelight, but have gone on working steadily.

A word about the Wing Libraries. Both the reference and the recreation libraries could be used more by aircraft apprentices. Often during term the reference library is little used and then as an examination approaches there is a rush for books. Many more books are being added to both libraries and apprentices are urged to make the best use of them.

ATHLETICS :—In spite of the fact that we experienced great difficulty in running off Preliminary Events, the weather clerk gave us an ideal day for the Finals, which took place on Thursday, May 18th.

The usual programme found its humour in various unorthodox events. Such as the amusing efforts of a certain member of "C" Squadron Staff, who excelled himself in finding out ample accommodation for the Pop and Bun, but insufficient wind for the balloon.

And in the Veteran's Race a previously unknown star ran a very close second !

After a very exciting afternoon "B" Squadron succeeded by winning the day, followed by "C" Squadron, Naval Squadron, and last but not least "A" Squadron.

A marked improvement was noticed in the timing and general organisation of the programme, and the day was brought to a close when Mrs. Swann kindly consented to present the prizes.

BASEBALL :—The season started with plenty of enthusiasm, and practice commenced immediately after Easter.

It is hoped that this enthusiasm will be maintained throughout the season.

So far, inclement weather has caused the postponement of several matches in the Barrington Trophy fixtures, as also did the Final Examinations for the passing out Entry.

At a Command Baseball meeting it was arranged that, in order to get through the fixtures more quickly, Nos. 1 and 2 Wings shall play off, and also Nos. 3 and 4 Wings,

these matches being of five innings each ; the winners of each of these groups to meet in the Final on June 14th, this match to be of nine innings.

No. 4 Wing has great hopes of carrying off the Trophy.

On May 24th an exhibition match was played at Cardington between Nos. 3 and 4 Wings, the match being much enjoyed by all.

The Junior Entries are showing keenness for the game, and these are being coached in order to fill the places of the August 1936 Entry, which will pass out before the close of the season. The loss of these players will sadly deplete our Wing Team.

The following A.A.'s and N.A.'s have been selected to play in the Command Team :

N.A.'s Morris, Garner, Montgomery.

L.A.A. Handel, A.A.'s Mockford, Smallwood, Aldous.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING :—The past season has been one of the most successful ever experienced. The successes of the Wing can be chiefly attributed to the team spirit and enthusiasm which was maintained throughout the season, both by the members of the teams and the people " behind the scenes." The natural talent found in the Junior Entries came rather as a surprise. This, combined with their keenness, provided a team which won the Junior B.K. event, and also became runners-up in the Junior Inter-Apprentices' Championships.

This year we were very fortunate in having an almost ready-made team for Senior competition. It was almost without exception the team of the previous season. Conscientious training and hard work by all concerned, placed the Senior B.K. Trophy and the Moffatt Trophy in our care for 1939.

Throughout the season many enjoyable friendly fixtures, both home and away, were held, and although the Station team required the services of many of our best runners, for almost all the fixtures, an undefeated record was maintained.

Mention must be made that our captain, S.App. Wheatley-Smith, ran for the R.A.F. in the Inter-Services Championship. This honour came to the Wing at the very end of the season, and so befittingly brought a very successful season to a close.

FENCING NOTES :—Good fortune has followed the team throughout the season. The beginning of the Easter term found us without our January 1936 fencers, but we rallied round the gym, and soon had a team practising every night, with the help and enthusiasm shown by Flight Lieutenant Smeathers and the N.C.O.'s in the Wing.

In the B.K. we had a very close match with 2 Wing, but finished with a victory of 30 points to 24.

The deciding match followed with 1 Wing, who only lost by 4 points after some really exciting assaults.

In the R.A.F. Apprentices' Championships 4 Wing came third to Cosford and Cranwell in the team event. In the individuals we had representatives in the Foil : S.App. Creamer, runner-up ; C.App. Williams, third in the Epée ; A.A. Catlin, third in the Sabre.

We finished the season by teaching members of the Naval Squadron, January 1938 and January 1939, who will have to find the team for the coming year, as once more the team places will be left vacant by a " passing out " Entry.

We have no doubt though that they will carry on and do even better under 4 Wing's keen instructors.

HOCKEY :—Since the Christmas number, the Wing Hockey XI has played 6 matches, winning 4 and drawing 2, which was a satisfactory state of affairs.

Owing to inclement weather the following matches were not played : Hendon (away), Ruislip and Tring Hockey Club.

In the B.K. Trophy contests, both Senior and Junior teams were placed third.

The Londonderry Cup was won by "B" Squadron for the second year in succession.

GOLF :—A meeting was held on May 11th, 1939 under the chairmanship of W.O. Pearce, to get together a team.

Eight Apprentices were present, representing all Squadrons.

As a result a match was arranged and played on Saturday, May 13th, and proved enjoyable. The standard of play was not high and several balls were lost, but improvement will come with practice.

If some arrangement can be arrived at to assist in the matter of balls and clubs, the game should become popular.

RUGBY :—The season closed very satisfactorily, the results of 14 games played against 1st XV.'s being 6 wins, 2 draws, and 6 losses. All were excellent matches and thoroughly enjoyed.

Since Christmas as much time as possible has been spent in training the Junior Entries in order to fill the vacancies which will be left by the passing out Entry. The Juniors, including the Naval Detachment, appear to be strong in talent, so we anticipate getting together a strong team next season.

The latter part of the season was devoted mainly to Inter-Squadron matches, the points counting towards the Londonderry Cup, which was won by "C" Squadron with 8 points.

SOCCER :—The Wing as a whole had a successful season. The results of matches are tabulated below :—

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals	
					For	Against
Seniors ..	11	10	1	0	56	20
Juniors ..	7	5	2	0	29	23
Staff ..	15	13	1	1	74	20

The Wing Senior Team won the B.K. Trophy in a decisive manner ; and also put up a splendid game in the Semi-Final of the R.A.F. Apprentices' Championships, being beaten by No. 3 Wing 4—3.

The Junior Team was inexperienced, but by dint of hard practice and keenness, they improved their play, and by winning the last five consecutive matches, indicate that next season they should prove difficult to beat.

No fewer than nine Apprentices from the Wing represented the Station during the season, and two were selected to play for the R.A.F.

The names of A.A.'s representing the Station are : L.A.A.'s Hibbert, Thain, Kelly ; A.A.'s Jackson, Miller, Bennett, Cluett, Payne, and N.A. Barker.

Representing the Royal Air Force : L.A.A. Thain and A.A. Bennett.

Naval Wing

From a mere 50 before Christmas we have now grown to the very reasonable figure of 360, and before long hope to be able to give an even larger display of white cap covers as we march to and from Workshops and Schools. Of this latter number, 170 of us came from the Royal Air Force, the remainder direct from the "beach." However, we are now all well-seasoned mariners together, and an atmosphere of tarred hemp and salt water pervades some of the Maitland blocks and buildings. Should you pass our way of an evening you would be surprised at the flow of nautical expressions (perhaps not always quite correctly used !) that float down on the gentle Halton breezes, while the nautical gait that many of us have developed since we shipped our fore and aft rig would do justice to the oldest shellback that ever spliced the mainbrace !

So far our sporting activities have been confined mostly to team building in preparation for later on, but already the Davy Swimming Cup is safely in our possession, and, fittingly enough, No. 4 Wing Swimming Cup, while we certainly lent "weight" (especially our "anchor") to the tug of war team, with which No. 4 Wing won at the Airmen's Sports.

No. 5 Wing Conversion Course

This unit was previously at Henlow under the command of Squadron-Leader W. Dickison, D.S.M. The move to Halton was noteworthy for the clockwork regularity with which the movement programme was carried out. Complete equipment and stores were transported by road without a hitch in the time schedule, so that although the last stores detachment arrived on April 17th, the Course was fully settled down and able to commence work on the 19th. It may be mentioned that the arrival of numbers of its members in 250 private cars caused considerable consternation and special parking arrangements had to be quickly made.

On May 8th, Squadron-Leader R. D. Mc. E. Hart took over command, with Squadron-Leader W. Dickison, D.S.M., as Chief Technical Officer, and Flight-Lieutenant J. A. Farrell who came from Henlow with them as Adjutant.

The Course has quickly shaken down to work and is now running smoothly. Every effort has been made to look after the comfort of the members and to provide recreation and sporting facilities.

ATHLETICS :—Arranged in conjunction with Headquarters Units, the Station Airmen's Athletic Sports were held at the Stadium on May 12th, 13th, and 14th. When considering Athletic Sports in connection with No. 5 Wing it must be taken into consideration that most of our men are W.O.'s and senior N.C.O.'s who have gone considerably past the age when they are at their best in such activities. However, in spite of this we were able to make a good showing of entries, and if we did not gather a great harvest of points we were able to contribute towards the success of the meeting.

CRICKET :—A cricket team has been formed and gear purchased. Several