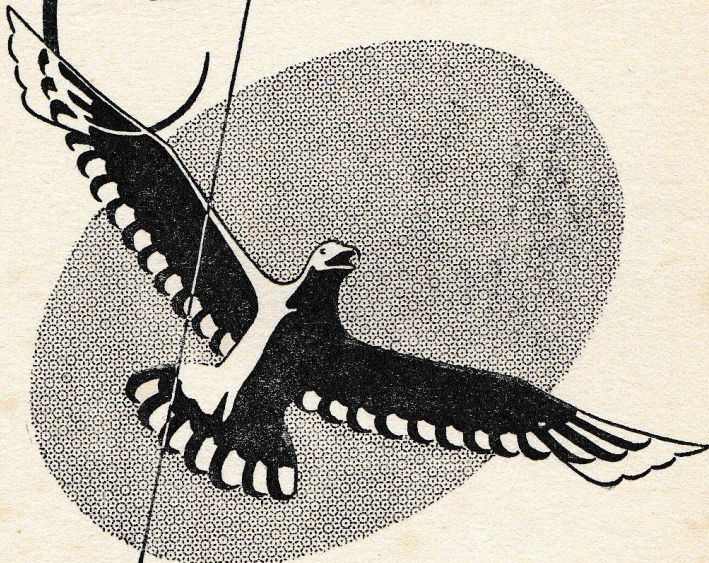


The Haltonian Magazine

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MAGAZINE

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VOL. IX, No. 1

SUMMER, 1937



HIS MAJESTY THE KING
Marshal of the Royal Air Force.
(Photograph copyright by Vandyk)

To face page 3.

THE KING'S MESSAGE
TO
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
AND OTHER AIR FORCES
OF THE EMPIRE



THE King, on his Accession to the Throne, has addressed the following message to the Royal Air Force and other Air Forces of the Empire :—

“On my accession to the Throne, I hasten to assure the Air Forces at home and overseas that I look forward to the maintenance of my close connection with them, which has been such a happy feature of my life ever since I became a junior Officer in the Service in 1918, and served with the Independent Air Force in France.

“As Air Chief Marshal, I have watched with keen appreciation the way in which the Service has proved more than equal to the many tasks which a rapid expansion has imposed upon it.

“I know full well that the Air Forces of the Empire will maintain to the full the great traditions that they have already established, combining with the highest efficiency and zeal a fine chivalry of service and a deep and steadfast loyalty.”

GEORGE R.I.



SINCE our last issue a page of history has been turned, and we take this first opportunity of offering to King George VI the loyalty and affection of all ranks. His long association with the Royal Air Force, dating from the days of the Great War, combined with the keen personal interest which His Majesty has always taken in the youth of England, establish, we feel, a doubly happy link with the Service, and consequently—it is permissible to think—with Halton.

* * * * *

ON Saturday, June 26, the King and Queen visited Hendon to witness the Royal Air Force Display, and later in the day the King sent the following message to the Secretary of State for Air :

“ I heartily congratulate all ranks of the R.A.F. on the splendid demonstration of flying given at the Coronation Display at Hendon to-day. During my long and highly prized association with the R.A.F. I have attended many displays but none that has testified more clearly to the efficiency and organising ability of the Service.

“ I appreciate the courage and determination with which the Royal Air Force are meeting the heavy demands made upon them. I look forward to seeing something of their daily work from time to time, and in the meanwhile, the Queen and I send to all ranks our best wishes for their welfare.”

* * * * *

THREE ex-Haltonians of the January 1932 entry—L. F. Cooper, J. G. Fraser and C. D. Milne—graduated from the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, last December and are now serving as Pilot Officers.

In addition to passing out from the College very creditably, Cooper was awarded a full blue for Rowing and a half blue for Soccer, and held the rank

of Flight Cadet Corporal. Milne achieved the distinction of passing out at the top of the order of merit list, and was awarded the King's Medal, the Viscount Wakefield Scholarship, the Aeronautical Engineering Prize and the John Chance Prize. He also represented the College at Fencing and Swimming, and attained the rank of Flight Cadet Sergeant.

It is with great pleasure that we record these successes, and we offer to the three officers concerned our heartiest congratulations, and best wishes for their continued success in the Service.

* * * * *

THE normal working of the airman pilot scheme, combined with the expansion of the Service to meet the requirements of adequate National defence, have recently brought promotion to commissioned rank to the following ex-aircraft apprentices, whom we most cordially congratulate on their selection :

- Sergeant S. C. Bastin.
- Sergeant R. M. Christmas.
- Sergeant H. Z. Foreman.
- Sergeant L. Fox.
- Sergeant L. Jobbins.
- Sergeant H. C. Marshall.
- Sergeant J. W. Monk.
- Sergeant J. E. Pebody.

These officers have a splendid record in the Service, for two passed out from their Flying Training Schools with Special Distinction, and a further three obtained a Distinguished Pass. We shall follow their careers with interest.

* * * * *

THE Royal Air Force again has had to carry out difficult patrol work on the outskirts of the Empire, and it is with much satisfaction that we record the awarding of the Air Force Cross to Flying Officer K. G. Stodart, and the Air Force Medal to Sergeant Deakin, whose names appeared in the King's Birthday Honours List.

Flying Officer Stodart passed out from Halton with the September 1925 entry, while Sergeant Deakin belonged to the January 1921 entry at Cranwell.

* * * * *

ON May 29th the Station was thrown open to the public on the occasion of Empire Air Day, and we welcomed a record number of visitors at Halton. Considerable interest was shown, not only in the more spectacular events taking place on the aerodrome, but also in the educational, training and social sides of an aircraft apprentice's life. This detailed interest is a sure indication of a keener appreciation of the part which the Royal Air Force will play in National defence, and should help to ensure a steady flow of personnel to the Service.

* * * * *

THE particularly happy ties which exist between Halton and the general public were further strengthened on Saturday, July 3rd, when the Station was "at home" to the parents of Aircraft Apprentices on the occasion of the annual Parents' Day. On these occasions parents have an opportunity of

seeing Service life at Halton in all its aspects, and fine weather did much to make the occasion an outstanding success. A continuous programme of activities was arranged, and visitors had an opportunity of inspecting the Barrack Blocks, Workshops, School and the Aerodrome.

We welcome the opportunity which these occasions provide for establishing personal contact with those members of the public whose interest in Halton is not merely the detached interest of the man in the street, but that of people who have made an effort to make themselves acquainted at first hand with the life which their sons are leading. It is perhaps a happy augury that the pride of the apprentices in Halton was in no small measure shared by their parents.

* * * * *

IT often is our complaint with life that it is too monotonous ; that nothing ever happens to give us an opportunity for distinguishing ourselves. To many of us the opportunity comes and is not recognised, or demands so great a sacrifice that we think twice before seizing it.

In February last year, Corporal A. C. Wood of the January 1921 entry from Cranwell, was flying as a passenger in an aircraft belonging to No. 60 (B) Squadron in the neighbourhood of Nidhauri, India, when the machine went into a spin and crashed. The incident and a sequel to it were recorded in *The Times* of 23rd January, 1937, from which we quote the following extract :—

“ Last night’s *London Gazette* announces the award by King Edward VIII of the Albert Medal to Corporal Archibald Charles Wood, No. 60 (B) Squadron, R.A.F. Kohat, in recognition of his conspicuous gallantry when the Royal Air Force aircraft in which he was a passenger was wrecked near Nidhauri, India, on the 8th February, 1936.

“ Corporal Wood, who was uninjured but dazed by the crash, re-entered the blazing wreckage in an endeavour to save the pilot. In doing so he received very severe burns as a result of which his left hand had to be amputated.”

Corporal Wood is the only ex-apprentice who has ever won this coveted award, and we are proud to include his name among the select few who have earned the peace-time Victoria Cross. We sincerely hope that his courage will enable him to overcome the disability which remains as a result of his achievement.

* * * * *

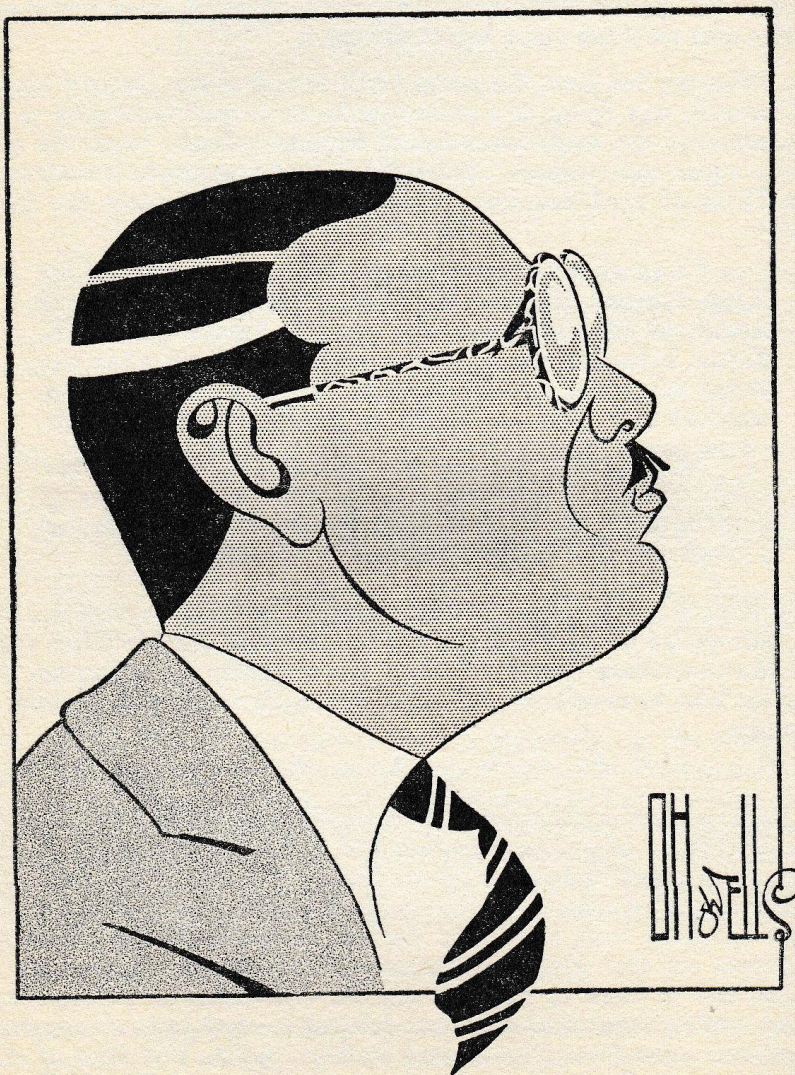
THE large increase in the number of apprentices at Halton has brought home the need for a central organisation and a central Committee for dealing with the many activities handled by the Halton Society. There have been for some time very good reasons why the general committee of the Halton Society, —which consisted very largely of the same officers as the Committee of Management of the *Halton Magazine*—should manage the affairs of the Magazine, and in April of this year the old Committee of Management was dissolved, and its duties and functions delegated—with certain reservations—to the general committee of the Halton Society. All the activities of Aircraft Apprentices during leisure hours thus are controlled by one Central Committee of the Halton Society.

THE London University Air Squadron arrived on 4th July for its period of annual training, and will remain at Halton until the 31st July. We take this opportunity of welcoming them to the Station, and hope that their stay with us will be both pleasant and instructive.

* * * * *

WE say good-bye to the August '34 entry with regret. They are the first of the increased entries under the expansion scheme. They have done well at Halton and will, we are sure, do well in the Service. We wish them all the best of luck.

HALTON PERSONALITIES No. 4.



Dr. A. H. Robson, M.C., M.Sc., Ph.D., Principal Education Officer.

SUFFOLK AIRMINDED! (Deep depression "goes west")

The Royal Air Force, Mildenhall,
Found "bombers" had begun to pall,
And so, to mitigate their plight,
They said "We'll have a 'Weather Flight.'"
Then their Flight's Gauntlets (all ex-works)
Two officers and sundry "erks,"
Left Duxford, Cambs., by air and road
To settle in their new abode.
More airmen came from H.A.D.*
To help them cope successfully.

* * *

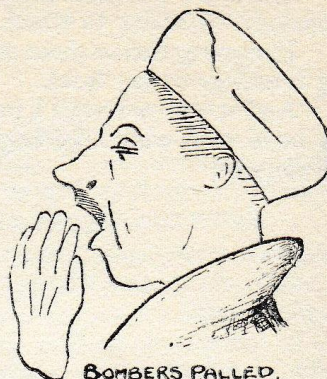
Now every morning, thick or clear,
A Gauntlet tours the troposphere.
The pilot looks about and writes
Particulars of different heights.
He sends a message right away
To make the forecast for the day,
While Met. Hut people hum and croon,
And then release a toy balloon.
They smoke a pipe, and have a chat
On wind direction, and all that.
But when the climb is made in fog
The Sergeant Pilots say "The dog!"†
Whereat their cronies make reply
That only birds, and so forth, fly.

* * *

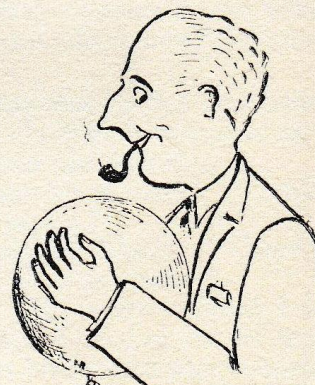
The newest little A.C.2
Is quite au fait with what they do,
And cooks and canteen girls discuss
The alto-fracto-cumulus!
The local school-ma'am gets annoyed
At ignorance of aneroid,
And makes the young offenders parse
A phrase or two on millibars.
The errand boys shout in the street,
"Low cloud, ten-tenths, five hundred feet."
The plumber whispers to his mate,
"Conditions will deteriorate."
From Bury down the line to Quy
They have a knowing weather eye.
In fact, from Shippea Hill to Soham
They have the "gen."‡ and mean to show 'em!
And many are the yarns and "tall,"
Of what goes on at Mildenhall.

* * *

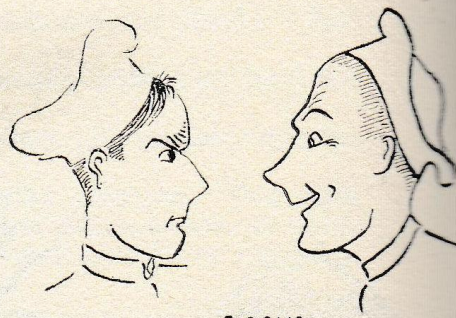
* Home Aircraft Depot, Henlow.
† To put it politely.
‡ Genuine knowledge or information.



BOMBERS PALLED.



MET. BALLOON



COOKS
DISCUSSING



WEATHER EYE

AERONAUGHTIES—



“ Forced Landing ! ”

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