

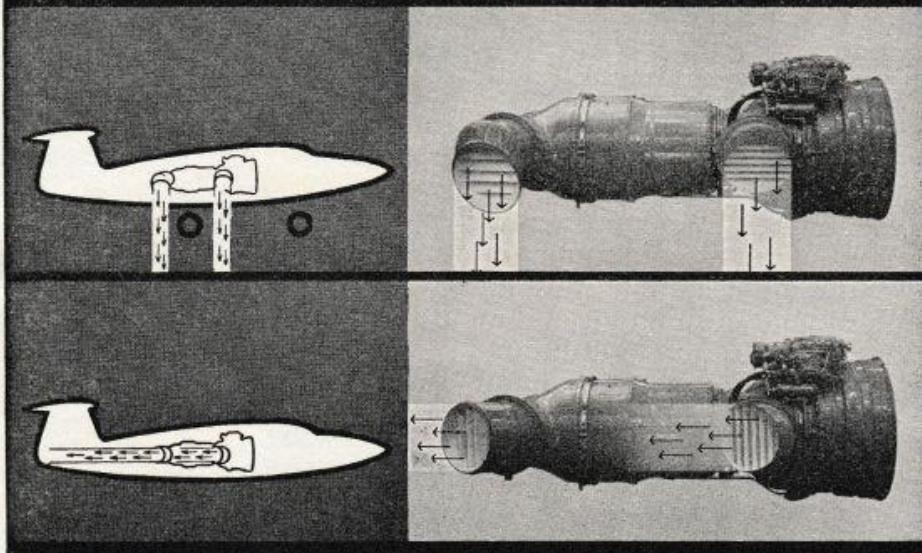
The Haltonian Magazine

88 Edition

Spring 1961

(Scroll down)

LIFT and THRUST from ONE ENGINE— the Revolutionary BS 53 Turbofan



...ANOTHER ENGINEERING ADVANCE BY BRISTOL SIDDELEY

The new Bristol Siddeley BS 53 high-ratio turbofan represents a major engineering breakthrough in the field of aircraft propulsion. Because the BS 53 can be fitted with movable nozzles evenly disposed around the centre of gravity which give directional control to its total thrust, this remarkably versatile engine provides the airframe designer with a *single power source for all conditions of flight*.

VTOL, STOL and normal take-off capability in the same aircraft. Suitable for subsonic or supersonic applications.

High cold-flow ratio gives high thrust for low weight, low fuel consumption and low noise level.

Conventional installation. Operational simplicity. Independent of all fixed ground installations.

Problems of ground erosion, recirculation and ingestion of debris reduced to a minimum.

The Bristol Siddeley BS 53 has already been selected for the Hawker P 1127 VTOL light strike fighter and is supported by the Mutual Weapons Development Programme for NATO.

BS BRISTOL SIDDELEY ENGINES LIMITED



EDITORIAL

A member of the Royal Air Force is called upon to travel beyond the confines of this group of islands. If the sociologists be right, in common with his kind, he is loth to learn the language of the people of his temporary domicile. During the period of his posting he collects odd transmutations of colloquial phrases. These anglicised gimmicks at a later stage are proofs of itineration additional to passport visas. Normal communication while overseas is through a consolidated medium of English, gesture, emotional pantomime, and any residum of school-learnt language. The result is an effective gibberish which may be

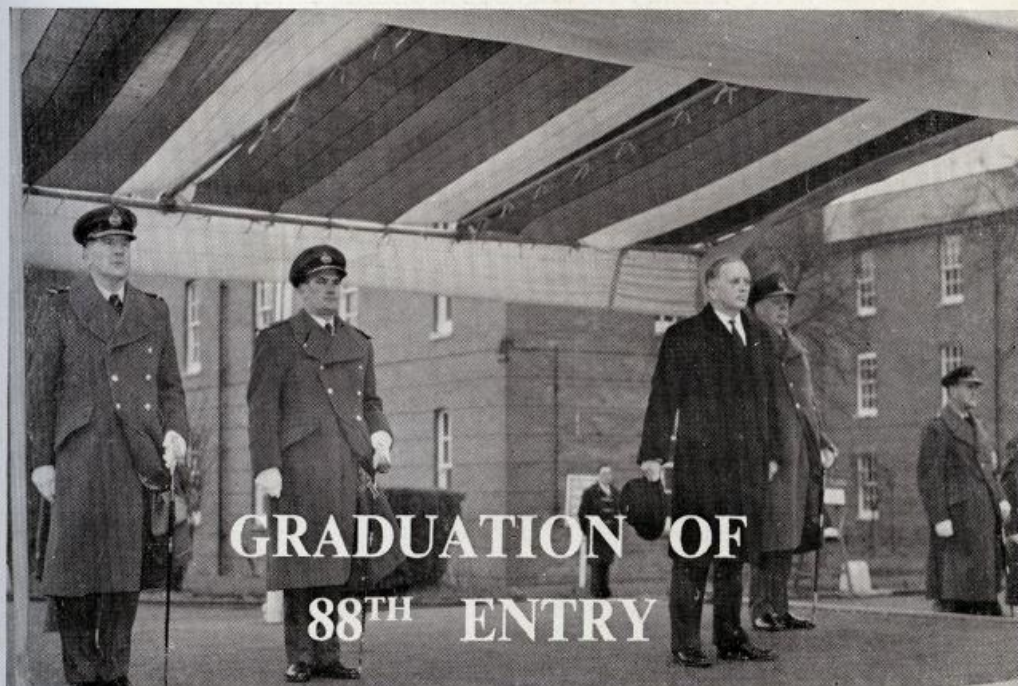
no worse than the language of a report in 'law-French' of a judgement given by Chief Justice Richardson at the summer assizes at Salisbury in 1631.

'fuit assault per prisoner la condemne pur felony que puis son condemnation ject un Brickbat a le dit justice que narrowly mist, and pur coe immediately fuit Indictment drawn per Noy envers le prisoner, and son dexter manus ampute and fix al Gibbet sur que mesine immediatement hange in presence de Court'.

From which it would seem that the Englishman is wrong about something.

The Editor reminds all Apprentices that payment will be made for all items submitted by them, which are published. Up to fifty pounds per issue is available for this purpose. In the past this sum has been quite safe.





The Graduation Parade of the 88th Entry of Aircraft Apprentices took place on the Henderson and Groves Parade Ground on December 21st, 1960. The Reviewing Officer was Sir Maurice Dean, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air. He was accompanied by Air Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Technical Training Command, Air Vice Marshal J. Marson, C.B., C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding No. 24 Group, Air Commodore T. N. Coslett, C.B., O.B.E., Commandant of No. 1 School of Technical Training, Group Captain S. G. Taylor, Senior Training Officer, Group Captain D. M. B. Pitt, M.B.E., Principal Education Officer, and Wing Commander R. J. Palmer, M.B.E., Officer Commanding No. 1 Apprentice Wing.

The Parade was under the command of Warrant Officer Apprentice J. Swinden. The following N.C.O. Apprentices were subordinate commanders:

Parade Adjutant C/A/A C. C. Duncan
Parade Warrant Officer C/A/A J. Alderdice

Colour Bearer S/A/A M. J. Roberson
Colour Warrant Officer C/A/A A. G. Sims
Colour Escort L/A/A L. T. Kiggell
L/A/A P. C. Mitchell
Colour Orderly A/A A. Pengelly
Escort Squadron Commander S/A/A P. J. Morrison
No. 1 Flight Commander C/A/A J. R. Evans
No. 2 Flight Commander C/A/A A. R. Wilson
No. 2 Squadron Commander S/A/A M. F. Bell
No. 1 Flight Commander C/A/A P. Dougherty
No. 2 Flight Commander C/A/A G. J. Palfrey
Standard Bearers L/A/A R. J. Pilcher
A/A C. Robins
Apprentice i/c Supporting Entry S/A/A A. W. Street
(R.N.Z.A.F.)
Drum Major Pipe Band L/A/A V. G. Lorriman
Drum Major Brass Band A/A E. S. Brackstone

The entries on parade were the 88th and 89th.



Part of the March Past

The Commandant's Report

In the Burnett Gymnasium after the Parade the Commandant began his report by welcoming the distinguished visitors. It was the first time to his knowledge that the Permanent Under-Secretary had been Reviewing Officer. Sir Maurice Dean's career in the Civil Service began in 1929 when he left Trinity College, Cambridge and entered Air Ministry. Since then he has been in the Control Office for Austria and Germany, in the German Section of the Foreign Office, in the Ministry of Defence, the Treasury and the Board of Trade. At Air Ministry now, Sir Maurice is responsible for financial control within the R.A.F. His interests outside work are golf, sailing and carpentry. The Commandant thanked him for appearing as Reviewing Officer.

Since its induction the 88th Entry diminished from 270 to 146 Apprentices. However the total wastage of 106 does not represent a complete loss to the service as 21 Apprentices were relegated to junior entries, and 43 were

transferred to a lower level of trade training within the R.A.F. The remaining 39 were discharged for medical or technical reasons or by purchase. To reduce this wastage the academic standard for entry to Halton has been raised and a scheme of supervised study has been introduced for the junior entries. These measures and the great effort of the training staffs are achieving the desired results.

The entry maintained a good standard of drill and discipline and matured rapidly during their term as senior entry. 36 Apprentices were promoted to N.C.O. rank and justified the confidence placed in them. In sports, 57 Apprentices became members of school representative teams and 36 of them were awarded school colours. This was an unusually high representation in youth competitions and meant a large contribution from the 88th Entry towards our successes in Rugby, Soccer, Shooting, Badminton, Boxing and Fencing.

The 88th can be proud that of the 211 British

and 8 foreign Apprentices who sat the final trade training examination, only one failed and he qualified for advanced trade at Senior Aircraftman level. The Commandant was particularly pleased with the armament fitters as this was their fifth consecutive 100% achievement.

The average mark in the final educational exam was 56.6 which is below the level reached by previous entries. Only 21 Apprentices obtained Class 'A' passes. The Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering was awarded to 28 Apprentices. Four of these were passes at distinction level. In G.C.E. at 'A' level three Apprentices obtained full passes and one a pass in pure mathematics only. At 'O' level the entry obtained 141 subject passes.

The entry achieved one first class and four second class passes in the City and Guilds final examination. In the intermediate examination

there were two first class and 32 second class passes.

The special service attainments of the 88th Entry were several. Two Apprentices were awarded cadetships to Cranwell or Henlow, two were awarded Direct Entry Commissions as aircrew, four were promoted to Corporal on graduation, ten qualified for promotion to Corporal Technician after one year, and 75 were qualified for promotion after two years three months.

In conclusion Air Commodore Coslett directed the attention of the 88th Entry to the high positions of responsibility both in service and civil life, the commissions, honours and awards already obtained by their predecessors which, he remarked, clearly indicated the opportunities now lying before the graduates. The Commandant wished them good luck and a happy and successful career and then called upon Sir Maurice Dean to present the prizes.



Address by the Reviewing Officer

The Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air said he felt deeply honoured to be Reviewing Officer, especially since he had read the impressive records of gallantry, commissions, and skills of previous Apprentices. He congratulated the Commandant on the excellence of the Parade, and the Apprentices on their successful graduation, their commissions and awards. Sir Maurice also congratulated the parents whom he was delighted to see for they deserved a full share of any praise.

When it came to giving advice to the young men he felt rather diffident for he remembered Wordsworth's saying 'The child is the father of the man'. He confessed that in his own family he more often received advice than he gave it. However Graduation Day is a milestone and Sir Maurice felt that it ought to be celebrated with helpful words.

Knowledge has not kept even pace with civilization. There have been stationary and

retrogressive ages. The Apprentices completed their training in a progressive age and now was the time for them to extend their skills and knowledge and to make their mark.

The graduates are lucky to have been trained to work with their hands. Many people are happiest when they can achieve some balance between head work and hand work. The Reviewing Officer himself had found that carpentry in his spare time brought its own unique satisfaction.

He also thought the Apprentices were lucky to have been brought up to discipline for one has only to read the daily papers to see the personal distress and unhappiness that a lack of discipline can bring. The important thing is to be interested in one's work and the achievements of past Apprentices have proved the opportunities for advancement and satisfaction in the R.A.F. The rest is up to the graduates and Sir Maurice wished them good luck on their journey.



The Prize Winners

88th ENTRY — CADETSHIPS

CADETSHIPS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO:—

W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN
S/A/A P. J. MORRISON

88th ENTRY — PRIZE WINNERS

MONSIGNOR BEAUCHAMP MEMORIAL PRIZE (for the best all round Apprentice)
W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN

PIONEER TROPHY (for the highest marks in all Technical Training Subjects)
A/A N. G. MACKIE

CREBBIN-ROBINSON CUP (for the best Trade Standards Practical Fitting Test)
Mechanical Trades A/A N. J. FOLLIARD
Electrical and Instrument Trades A/A G. J. NAVARRO (V.A.F.)

ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE (presented by the Royal Aeronautical Society for the highest marks in English and General Studies).
W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN

AIR MINISTRY PRIZES

HIGHEST IN ORDER OF MERIT, ALL SUBJECTS
W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN

HIGHEST IN ORDER OF MERIT, EDUCATIONAL SUBJECTS

FIRST PRIZE: W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN
SECOND PRIZE: L/A/A R. A. FOUNTAIN
THIRD PRIZE: S/A/A M. F. BELL
BEST 'SET TASK', GENERAL STUDIES
A/A N. J. FOLLIARD

HIGHEST IN ORDER OF MERIT, GENERAL SERVICE EFFICIENCY

FIRST PRIZE: W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN
SECOND PRIZE: S/A/A P. J. MORRISON
THIRD PRIZE: S/A/A M. F. BELL

HIGHEST AVERAGE FOR PRACTICAL FITTING OVER THREE YEAR COURSE
L/A/A P. F. PANIING

BEST TRADESMEN IN TRADE STANDARDS TRADE TEST

AIRFRAME FITTER 1st	A/A N. J. FOLLIARD
AIRFRAME FITTER 2nd	L/A/A W. P. HINDLEY
ARMAMENT FITTER	A/A N. G. MACKIE
ELECTRICAL FITTER (Air)	W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN
ENGINE FITTER	L/A/A D. BRIGGS
INSTRUMENT FITTER (Nav)	A/A M. B. SPANNER
INSIRUMENT FITTER (Gen)	A/A V. C. HOSKING

BURMA DEFENCE SERVICES PRIZE

(for the best Burmese Apprentice in Order of Merit)
A/A D. A. McINIYRE

88th ENTRY SPORTS AWARDS

SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS

ATHLETICS

A/A B. A. DAVIS	1959/60
A/A R. E. HOUGHTON	1960
A/A J. H. LANDMAN	1959/60
L/A/A R. F. S. PRIOR	1959
A/A F. G. SINCOCK	1959
S/A/A N. J. ROBERSON	1960

BADMINTON

L/A/A J. Le JEUNE	1959
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BASKETBALL

C/A/A J. ALDERDICE	1958/59/60 (Capt. 1959/60)
A/A N. L. ATKINSON	1959/60
S/A/A M. F. BELL	1959/60
A/A H. C. A. TOLEDO, (Ven. A.F.)	1960

BOXING

L/A/A D. BRIGGS	1958/59
C/A/A C. C. DUNCAN	1958/59/60 (Capt. 1958)
A/A T. SAW PETER (Burma A.F.)	1959/60
C/A/A P. J. TIERNAN	1958/59/60 (Capt. 1959)
L/A/A D. E. WILDING	1959/60

CRICKET

A/A B. G. EDRICH	1958/59/60 (Capt. 1960)
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CROSS COUNTRY

S/A/A P. J. MORRISON 1960
 W.O./A/A J. SWINDEN 1960

FENCING

A/A R. R. FEBVRE 1960
 (Capt. 1960)

HOCKEY

A/A A. E. JENNER 1960
 A/A V. L. MAUNG HLA (Burma A.F.) 1958/59

RUGBY

A/A R. T. BENDLE 1959/60
 A/A A. G. HANCOCK 1959/60
 C/A/A/ G. J. PALFERY 1959/60
 A/A F. G. SINCOCK 1959/60
 L/A/A I. J. VERNALLS 1960
 A/A R. P. WILLS 1959/60

SHOOTING

A/A G. H. EMERY 1959/60
 A/A E. A. LEHMANN 1959/60

SOCCER

A/A B. G. EDRICH 1959/60
 A/A C. ROBINS 1959/60
 A/A A. B. TURNER 1959/60
 (Capt. 1959/60)

SWIMMING/WATER POLO

A/A A. EVANS 1960
 (Capt. 1960)
 A/A G. W. LYDDON 1960
 L/A/A R. J. PILCHER 1959

88th ENTRY POSTING LIST (in order of merit)

Swinden, J.	Cadetship Honington. Substantive Corporal	Evans, J. R.	Lyneham
Fountain, R. A.	Waddington	Jenner, A. E.	Stradishall
Bell, M. F.	Direct Entry Commission	Broadbent, K.	Leconfield
	Finningley	Ridings, W.	Waddington
Roberson, N. J.	Direct Entry Commission	Blevins, C.	Middleton St. George
	Lyneham.	Plummer, R. G.	228 O.C.U. Leeming
	Substantive Corporal	Ball, M. J.	Wyton
Hindley, W. P.	228 O.C.U. Leeming	Sturges, D. J.	Waddington
Morrison, P. J.	Cadetship Scampton.	Learmonth, J. J.	Leuchars
	Substantive Corporal	Clark, M. C.	Lyneham
Brown, I. J. A.	Leuchars	Jones, A. W.	Linton-on-Ouse
Pond, R. F.	Honington	Shaw, A. S.	Scampton
Jury, A. R.	2. A.N.S. Thorney Island	Hart, D.	Scampton
Wilson, A. R.	Coningsby.	Robins, C.	Honington
	Substantive Corporal	Wilson, R. J.	C.S.E. Watton
Vernalls, I. J.	Waddington	Hosking, V. C.	Wittering
Pilcher, R. J.	232 O.C.U. Gaydon	Lyddon, G. W.	Waddington
Sheridan, K.	I.F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse	Panting, P. F.	Middleton St. George
Lea, F.	Aldergrove	Allsopp, R. W. H.	Scampton
Briggs, D.	Wittering	Evans, A.	1 F.T.S. Linton on Ouse
Alderdice, J.	Lyneham	Lorriman, V. G.	Honington
Spanner, M. B.	Lyneham	Lampshire, P. C.	Lyneham
Folliard, N. J.	Duxford	Whorton, T. R.	Ballykelly
Bentley, J. S.	229, O.C.U. Chivenor	Spann, J.	Leconfield
Lomas, R. A.	Wittering	Hobson, R. E. F.	St. Mawgan
Jenner, R. N.	Scampton	McNee, I. R.	C.F.E. West Raynham
Palfery, G. J.	Lyneham	Pritchard, A. S.	1 F.T.S. Linton on Ouse
Britton, G.	Honington	Mullen, A. J.	Duxford
Mackie, N. C.	F.C. Manby	Febvre, R. R.	Gibraltar
Thorburn, P.	Marham	Palmer, P.A.	Leconfield
Tiernan, P. J.	Australia	Tilbury, A. J.	Marham
Sims, A. G.	Lyneham	Bendle, R. T.	Wyton
Nicolle, M. J.	C.S.E. Watton	Griffin, B. A.	College, Cranwell
Cripps, D. E.	Lyneham	Rush, R. A.	232 O.C.U. Gaydon
Knight, J. S.	College, Cranwell	Allen, M. G.	Middleton St. George
Duncan, C. C.	St. Mawgan	Sobey, W. A.	St. Mawgan
Parker, J. W. A.	Wyton	Goddard, P. R.	Lyneham
		Stuart, J. H.	Leuchars

Houghton, R. E.	Ballykelly	Jones, A. P.	Waddington
Stratford, C. C.	Wyton	McDermott, D. J.	5 F.T.S. Oakington
Leech, F.S.	Wittering	Hancock, A. G.	Marham
Walton, A. G.	229 O.C.U. Chivenor	Turner, A. B.	228 O.C.U. Leeming
Basson, T. J.	Lyneham	Atkinson, D. W.	Ballykelly
Alderslade, K.	Scampton	Turnbull, W. G.	Wyton
Milnes, P. K. L.	Waddington	Price, A. C.	Waterbeach
Hodge, N. V.	2 A.N.S. Thorney Island	Collins, R. T.	St. Mawgan
Millar, J. M. G.	229 O.C.U. Leeming	Stubblings, S. K.	8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Davis, B. A.	C.F.S. Little Rissington	Whitehead, R. A.	Marham
Hill, G. S.	Waterbeach	Pilon, R. F.	Honington
Wellard, R. F. W.	Coltishall	Nolan, B. N.	C.F.S. Little Rissington
Pegden, K. G.	Watton	Attwood, F. E.	Coningsby
Pengelly, A.	Watton	Harvey, R. J.	Honington
Atkinson, N. L.	Wyton	Graham, R. H.	F.C. Manby
Richardson, B. M.	Stradishall	Jackson, M. K.	College, Cranwell
Le Jeune, J.	Lyneham	Prior, R. F. S.	2 A.N.S. Thorney Island
Stephens, D. J.	Stradishall	Smith, B. V.	8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Dougherty, P. P. A.	Honington	Wickens, R. J.	C.F.E. West Raynham
Truelove, P. L.	Scampton	Epps, A. K.	Scampton
Bennett, D. E.	Stradishall	Nightingale, J. J.	C.F.E. West Raynham
Hudson, A. D.	Marham	Craig, R.	Lyneham
Downer, D.	Wyton	Toates, M. J.	Scampton
Ramsey, M. G.	Waddington	Chivers, L. J.	Marham
Holden, B. J.	Aldergrove	Graham, P.	Lyneham
Firth, A. D.	College, Cranwell	Howe, D. N. H.	2 F.T.S. Syerston
Reid, D. R.	Middleton St. George	Fallows, D.	Scampton
Mitchell, P. C.	Honington	Edrich, B. G.	Waddington
Smith, A. D.	Scampton	Boyd, P. G.	C.F.E. West Raynham
Emery, G. H.	Ballykelly	White, J. L.	Stradishall
Smith, J. E. R.	C.S.E. Watton	Green, S. G.	Honington
Parker, G. C.	St. Mawgan	Derbyshire, F. G.	College, Cranwell
Whiting, W. H.	Leuchars	Godber, D. J.	8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Harrison, B. P.	Wyton	Langdon, B. J. A.	Wittering
Bagshaw, P. C.	2 F.T.S. Syerston	Fitch, B. F.	4 T.T.S. Valley
Holyland, D.	F.C. Manby	Will, G. K. P.	Leuchars
Ward, R. R.	Conningsby	Lyen Tin Hmung	*Repatriated
Maxwell, F. A.	Waddington	Dabbs, W. E.	Watton
Hands, P. J. F.	St. Mawgan	Newton, R.	Waterbeach
Humphreys, A. J.	Queens Flight	Timberlake, C. P. W.	4 T. S. Valley
Daley, K. L.	Lyneham	Ashworth, M. K.	F. C. Manby
Marsh, G. A.	Duxford	Crisp, J. A.	A.F.D.S. Coltishall
Voisey, J. J.	Lyneham	Davis, R. A.	Wattisham
MacDonald, D.	Leconfield	Lee, P. A. A.	Honington
Masters, M. J.	Honington	Boydell, E. T.	College, Cranwell
Bayliss, P. R. W.	Lyneham	Bocking, D. M. J.	C.F.E. West Raynham
Conner, A. R.	St. Mawgan	Turnbull, F. S.	Leuchars
Sincock, F. G.	Waddington	Pilcher, R. E.	Scampton
Ball, K. A.	Honington	Goodburn, A. D.	Lyneham
Story, D.	8 F.T.S. Swinderby	Baiden, M. E.	C.F.E. West Raynham
Vass, W. J.	A.F.D.S. Coltishall	Maung Hla	Repatriated
Wills, R. P.	Waddington	Crump, W. J.	Marham
Holland, J. A.	Stradishall	Theed, R. L.	Marham
Connell, S. C.	Finningley	Bevan, G. M.	Waddington
Hopsen, D.	Wyton	Ranson, M. F.	Lyneham
Chettle, J. R. S.	Stradishall	Ryland, P. J. D.	Ballykelly
Gilbert, C. F.	Lyneham	Jones, A. E.	Lyneham
Holmes, P. C.	Waterbeach	Green, V.	4 F.T.S. Valley
McIntyre, D.	Repatriated	Burgess, E.	Scampton
Day, J. B.	4 F.T.S. Valley	Browne, C. E.	Coltishall
Palmer, A. H.	229 O.C.U. Chivenor	Chapman, J.	228 O.C.U. Leeming
Heap, R.	Leconfield	Landman, J. M.	Honington
Tully, B. D.	Scampton	Furness, R. K.	St. Mawgan
Evans, E. O.	Middleton St. George	Rodd, M. J.	Wattisham
Smith, J. R.	Waddington	Covens, T. F.	Lyneham
Sedgley, D. I.	Waddington	Htun Yin	*Repatriated
Nobbs, M. J.	Middleton St. George	Valera, G. E.	*Repatriated
Robinson, S. R.	F. C. Manby	Navarro, G. J.	*Repatriated
Knapp, P. W.	Wittering	Toledo, H. T. A.	*Repatriated
Kiggell, L. J.	Waddington	Saw Peter, T.	*Repatriated
Puckett, R. F.	Wittering		
Trowbridge, A. R.	Wittering		
Body, D. L.	Wyton		
Hill, C. J.	Lyneham		
Wilding, D. E.	St. Mawgan		
Keith, A. J.	Lyneham		
Lehmann, E. A.	Leuchars		
Hancock, N. A.	Scampton		

*Satisfactorily completed the course although not reaching Junior Technician Standard

The following Apprentice failed to achieve Junior Technician Standard but qualified as Senior Aircraftman in the Trade of Instrument Fitter (Gen.)

Arak, A. I F. T. S. Linton on Ouse

CURRENT EVENTS

No. 1 (A) WING

The Graduation of the 88th Entry was the highlight of the Winter Term in the Wing. The Snow storm of the previous day had been dispersed—in spite of the snow plough—and on a dull but pleasant day, the 88th provided an unusually large audience with an extremely smart Graduation Parade. Their achievements and postings are recorded elsewhere in the magazine. We wish them good luck as they take up their duties as far afield as Australia and the cold North of Scotland. Their departure has left many gaps in our sports teams and the Wing Band, which will not easily be filled.

The Wing has again enjoyed a very successful term at sport, and retained the B.K. Trophy, having won the Shooting, Cross Country, Senior Basket Ball and Boxing. In both Shooting and Boxing it can justly be claimed that we 'came from behind' to pip No. 2(A) Wing when the odds were indeed against us. Despite the loss of the 88th Entry bandmen who had such a big part in our previous band Competition results, we again won the Band Competition after a very close struggle.

We congratulate the 90th Entry for their kindly gesture in entertaining the children of the Okenden Venture Homes to a Christmas party. That this was a very happy and successful event was confirmed by a large number of 'thank-you' letters which were received from the children afterwards. During the Term the 88th Entry paid several visits to Stoke Mandeville Hospital to entertain the patients with their Entry Music Makers. This seemed to boost the morale of the Entry as much as the patients.

The 94th Entry have moved in from 3(A) Wing and bring with them a good reputation for their prowess on the Sportsfield and we look to them to do their share, and more, to keep the B.K. Trophy in the Wing.

The arrivals and departures which must be recorded are Squadron Leader J. J. Miller to the Staff College, as forecast in the last issue,

and we wish him good fortune and a successful swot. A warm welcome is extended to Squadron Leader R. T. Lang who now takes Command of No. 1 Squadron to pilot the 92nd to their graduation. Squadron Leader R. T. Lang comes to us from the Far East Air Force Survival and Parachute School and we hope he will find equal reward for his labours in the Halton Jungle. We also record with regret the departure of Flight Lieutenant Willis who returns to Flying Duties, and Warrant Officer Ross of the P.T. Staff who was posted on promotion, Flight Sergeant Jervis leaves No. 2 Squadron shortly enroute for Cyprus. We extend our thanks for their good work at Halton and wish them good luck in the future.

We welcome Flight Lieutenant E. Roberts and Flying Officer G. H. Parkinson and also Flight Sergeant Wright who replaced W.O. Ross, following a tour of duty at Steamer Point Aden.

Two Apprentices in the Wing—C/A/A Winterhalder and L/A/A Spinks have qualified for their Gold award in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. C/A/A Winterhalder receiving his award at Buckingham Palace shortly before Christmas. With the arrival in the Wing of the 94th Entry the total of Silver awards to Apprentices in the Wing at present has risen to nineteen.

The N.A.A.F.I. modernisation nears completion, and the new look Apprentices Club, with its improved amenities and modern decor, will, we hope, meet a long felt want in the Wing. We understand that the staff are having more than their share of troubles, in making some of the new fangled gadgets produce coffee at the right end.

Rumours which claim that the Barrack Blocks are next in line for modernisation are rife, but there is no truth in the rumour that the Apprentices will camp out in the Wendover Forest during the period of modernisation of their Blocks. We hope that in the next issue we can report that a start has been made on this long overdue scheme.

No. 2 (A) WING

The often quoted mists and mellow fruitfulness of Autumn were never very evident last term. The sport fields soon looked like the Thames estuary at low tide, and ankle deep puddles lurked everywhere to trap the careless foot. The weather men provided a little consolation when they told us it was even wetter in 1727.

There were only two staff changes during the term, despite various rumours. Flt.Lt. B. E. C. Forse and Sergeant Sibert both joined us from foreign parts, and we wish them a happy and productive tour. The 93rd Entry also joined us from foreign parts, they settled down very quickly, and were soon giving vigorous displays on the square and the sports fields.

Fate again looked unkindly on our efforts in the B.K. competition last term, in fact most unkindly, as we only managed to win one event, the junior basketball. We succumbed narrowly in the boxing, an event which we were expected to win, but 1 Wing managed to get home by a short lead. However the Wing made a major contribution to the Schools runaway win in the Sigrist Trophy inter School boxing competition. In the cross-country and shooting, despite several good individual performances, we could not manage to foil the leathery lunged, and eagle-eyed ones from across the square. Congratulations to 1 Wing on their successes, and a word of warning that this state of affairs will not last long!

And so to the band competition, for which both Wings practised hard, during the weeks beforehand, weird and wonderful notes could be heard echoing around the square as pipers tried out a new piece, or trumpeters clambered up the scale. On the day, we failed again, but after a close struggle.

On the square, the 88th Entry, in their capacity of graduating entry received most attention, but we did have our moments, notably on Battle of Britain Open day, when the 89th Entry entertained the many visitors with a very well executed drill display.

The end of term was welcomed with even

greater fervour than usual, after such a long term. All the usual end of term festivities took place, and the Christmas Dinner proved of much interest to both sides. The Apprentices were indeed an awesome sight as they fell upon their portions of turkey and plum pudding with shouts and flashing knives; however the staff survived the encounter bloody but unbowed.

The final scenes for most of the Wing were enacted in a very seasonal snowstorm as the 91st and 93rd Entries clambered onto the buses and were whisked away. The remainder stayed until the following day, and, heavily muffled, watched the Graduation Parade of the 88th Entry. As they marched off the square, we realised as we dispersed, that next term it is our turn again.

No. 3 (A) WING

NURSERY TITBITS

The glorious Summer Holiday (at least three days of sunshine) was over and we returned to the fold. The only browned off (literal) members were those of the higher income bracket (the S.N.C.O's) and those few Apprentices who 'indulged' at Air Force expense. Everyone else was browned off (metaphorical).

The 96th arrived and one of their first experiences was being pushed into the back woods (they hadn't had time to be uniformly dressed) to watch the Battle of Britain display. In between eating and sleeping they were drilled into the dust in the gay abandon associated with the A.B.C. weeks where everyone seems to converge to ensure their downfall. Unfortunately their brilliance or otherwise was not tested by the Commandant owing to bad weather.

Two important visits were made in the Winter term. The Corbett Committee inspected the N.A.A.F.I. Club on 13th October and the Chief of Air Staff, Royal Rhodesian Air Force visited the Wing Area on 23rd November.

Few staff changes occurred. Flt.Lt. Tom Allan left us at Christmas and was replaced by Flt.Lt. Tritton. He held all too short a stay in the Wing and was much liked by his charges.

We shall miss his camera and popping flash bulbs and wish him all success in civilian life.

Cpl. Vernon, the W.W.O's 'man' also left us. It isn't often that we get down to Corporal level when writing for the magazine but he does deserve special mention. He was in 3(A) Wing for almost 3 years and did all sorts of odd jobs with constant efficiency and cheerfulness. He also assisted in running the Junior Soccer team and was an inspiration to its players. Somewhat crestfallen at the prospect of being whipped off to El Adem just before Christmas, he brightened up about 30 minutes after the news was broken with the realisation that there was, at least no fog at El Adem 'No fog, Corporal, just sand-storms' I told him. Pause 'Oh well, sir, it will make a change'. Would that more of us enjoyed his resilience!

Christmas term, as always, ended on a flurry of excitement. First the 3(A) Wing Boxing Championships, which were a great success. A/A's Moss (1 Sqn.) Clifton (2 Sqn.) McCaw (1 Sqn.) Bevan (3 Sqn.) and Smith (3 Sqn.) did particularly well. Then came the Christmas Dinner (a beautiful menu and exquisitely served as always) followed by the Christmas concert. Sqn.Ldr. Perioli worked himself into the ground for this and came up with a good variety show including guitars, skiffle, a shadowgraph group and a modern adaptation of Lady C., the whole backed up by a good stage and spotlights which could actually change colour! On the Saturday before the end of term No. 1 Squadron showed their superiority on the sports field and in the business of decorating

rooms. Room 1 Block 1 (94th Entry) came up with some very subtle decorations to win the competition, including an ornamental wreath placed on the S.N.C.O's bunk. This is predominantly a German custom, obviously inspired by P.O. Saloman, their Flight Commander. Maybe they had another interpretation in mind.

The Wing packed up and went home in a snow blizzard. Thinking of the difficulties of the Officer i/c Snow Plan on Graduation the following day the Adjutant phoned up his opposite number in No. 1 Wing and offered the services of extra shovels and brooms, only to be told that the whole of No. 1 and 2 Wing had been mustered on Henderson/Groves Parade ground spaced out at suitable intervals, armed with umbrellas.

The Christmas break was presumably spent quietly in an orthodox manner at home by all except the Roman school of Navigatores, who under Centurion Taylor, expedited themselves to inspect the work of Hadrian and make sure his wall was still standing. Most of it still is we are relieved to hear from that ardent trekker of the backwoods, which was more than he could say of his tents after a heavy fall of snow.

Well, we are all back from Christmas and most of the resolutions have gone by the board. The 94th moved to take over 1 Wing, and the 97th are now with us. The area is currently filled with denims and very short hair cuts as they get under way, whilst the 96th dream of things to come when A.O.C.'s time comes around again.

TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

AIRFRAME FITTER SQUADRON

As the new year surges to life and the quickly budding hedge-rows give promise of an early Spring, one is tempted to muse on what the coming year will bring forth.

Completely unaware of all this, but keenly intent on their job, a number of volunteer A/As under the able direction of Flt.Sgt. Richards, work assiduously to prepare a German rocket propelled 'Komet' for its resting place in a museum. This was no doubt the brain child

of Wernher-Von-Braun whose later efforts i.e. V1s and V2s wrought such havoc in this country almost 20 years ago.

The enthusiasm displayed by the 'after duty' Apprentices portends well for the retention of the Crebbin-Robinson Cup for the 88th Entry worked so hard and richly deserved.

As hoped the 88th duplicated the 100% Graduation of the 87th, and we, therefore, look to the 89th to make it a 'hat trick'. This will require the 89th to give it 'all they've got', in a sincere attempt not only to just 'pass the

board' but when they move to their new station to put to the greatest possible advantage all they have acquired at Halton.

The 93rd Inter was a commendable effort. They have certainly justified the confidence of those who have their interest at heart and provide the proof that to emulate the best requires that the pupil must give of his best.

Finally may we all extend the warmest of welcomes to Mr. Bardell the new airframe supervisor who comes to Halton on promotion from St. Athan. This capricious mistress we call Halton in all her varying moods is always glad to welcome the return of one who has been lost to us for almost 20 years.

ARMAMENT FITTER SQUADRON

'Now thrive the Armourers'—the 88th Entry made it 'five in a row' by achieving a 100% pass-out. Well done the 88th Entry! The reflected glory pervades the section like a breath of Spring.

We have said farewell to Squadron Leader Hawken and Flying Officer Bailes who did much spade work in re-organising the section and syllabus. In their places we extend a hearty welcome to Squadron Leader Black (ex 35th Entry) and Pilot Officer Stephens.

All ex-Apprentices will be sorry to learn of the death of Mr. W. J. Harrison affectionately known by all as 'Chimpy'. He had been associated with apprentice training since 1938 and always had the boys interest and future very much to heart.

Senior Technician Mottram will be leaving us shortly for a sojourn in warmer climes e.g. Cyprus. We welcome back Senior Technician Deakin who is joining us again after a tour in the Far East. Congratulations to Senior Technicians Cripps and James on their promotion. We are now divested of all our Corporals. (Warrant Officer Bailey will be short on the Guard Roster).

The communications with P. and R. are certainly not modern, but very effective. It's done by HAND.

ELECTRICAL FITTER FLIGHT

The 88th Entry Electrical Fitters are to be congratulated on following the example of

their predecessors and obtaining a hundred per cent graduation. This was no doubt inspired by the outstanding example of W.O.A.A. Swinden who walked off with most of the honours and prizes. Once again a new Entry joins us, the 97th, and we wish them a happy career in their new life in the service.

This term, the second year progress prize went to A/A Haslett of the 91st Entry. We congratulate him on his achievement and hope that he will continue to do good work. Congratulations are also due to C/T Crow who has obtained the much coveted 'Crown'. After years of hard work, he can now relax from his studies.

There have been several internal postings this term, the first being Mr. Evans who retired last November. We hear that he has started a new career in schools, thus illustrating that there is still life in the old dog yet. C/T Eamer has migrated from G.E.T. to us and takes over in the Basic Workshop from C/T Lawrence who has deserted us for that haven of peace, Station Workshops. We wish them both success in their new jobs. We are very glad to welcome back Sgt. Connolly who was unavoidably detained in Hospital on and off for a year and also congratulate his wife on presenting him with a baby daughter.

Now that S/T Byron has a car, he has relinquished the job of Treasurer in the Section Social Club. It was his drive and enthusiasm which really got the Club on its feet, and for this we remain eternally grateful. His last assignment, with Sgt. Taylor's help, was in organising the Christmas Draw and Dance. It was held in No.1 Wing Sgt's mess and was a roaring success. Over the past year, friendly rivalry has existed between Sgt. Taylor and F.S. Johns as to who had the hardest job. Now they have a chance to find out, as they've swapped. Sgt. Taylor is now wading through the statistics in the Progress Section, while F.S. Johns walked ten miles a day carrying out the duties of supervisor.

The instructors played the now traditional football match with the passing out Entry. It turned out to be a very close competition, the Apprentices won by only ten goals to nil.

Finally to end on an unhappy note. One of our instructors Cpl.Tech. Walker has become

'Demob Happy', much to the consternation of everybody. We can only hope that he has made the right choice in deciding to leave for the jungle of civvy street.

AIRFIELD TRAINING SQUADRON

Another Christmas, another year and the 88th Entry have gone. Whether it is the constant battle to keep up to date, or the intensity of the training during the airfield phase together with the pace of living these days we don't know, but for each entry which passes through the airfield the ten week phase seems to pass more and more quickly. The old year finished with the 88th achieving a hundred percent pass (towards which we like to think that we gave some small contribution) and both airfield prizes being taken by armourers. The winner of the trophy being A/A Smith and the runner up L/A/A Tilbury.

Another 'Airfield Staff' dinner and dance was held at the 'Bell' in Aston Clinton, where, thanks to a great deal of hard work by Chief Technician Thomson, a most enjoyable evening was had by all.

More aircraft in the shape of Hunter 4's, another Canberra B2 and even a helicopter have arrived. A face lift in the form of re-painting is taking place in the hangars. The choice of colours for No. 4 hangar caused some rather rude remarks but the finished job is a very great improvement. With all hangars painted a greatly improved road, and even 'wonder of wonder' a pale blue and cream staff toilet, any old hands visiting the airfield after a long absence will think they are in the wrong place.

Senior Technician Fletcher has departed to C.S.D.E. and Mr. Goold to the Armament Workshops.

We welcome Sergeant Oldham from Aden, Sergeant Barraclough from Little Rissington and Senior Technician Dawson from Acklington. May they bring a wealth of practical experience with them and pass it on to the members of the 89th Entry and all successive entries.

INSTRUMENT FITTER FLIGHT

The Instrument Training Flight has recently undergone some changes in Staff. Cpl. Naylor has now been issued with his 'Winged Helmet' and we wish him the very best of luck in his new role as U/T Flight Engineer. The staff are already missing his sardonic wit and Bay 9 will not be the same without him. Sgt. Batchelor will shortly leave us to start training as U/T Guided Missile Fitter. We wish him good luck and every success in the future. Cpl. Worton has finally taken the plunge and obtained an exchange posting to Melksham, (Rumour has it that he is taking the Nav. Inst. A.P.'s with him). To fill these rather large gaps in our ranks we have enlisted the aid of Snr.Tech. Wardell from Airfield Training Squadron to take over Sgt. Batchelor's empire in Autopilot and Cpl. Watson from F.E.A.F. to take over Cpl. Naylor's domain in Auto. Stats.

A few congratulatory notes are in order:—

Congratulations for recent increases in family establishment to Cpl. and Mrs. Colbeck—a son; Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan—a daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Clapham—both!

In the promotion stakes, congratulations to Sgt. Chalkley on his recent success on T.S.T. Board and his recent elevation from the working classes.

Other T.S.T. successes are Cpl. Colbeck Cpl. Hilton and we offer our congratulation to the 88th Entry on graduation and we wish them the very best of luck for the future.

The last day in October was a sad one for the Instrument Training Flight. It marked the passing of Mr. Jack Connolly B.E.M. one of Halton's longest established instructors. Mr. Connolly who had instructed at Halton since 1940 was regarded as one of the corner stones of Halton tradition.

A representation, to pay our last respects, included his fellow instructors, the officers, N.C.O.'s and aircraft Apprentices from the section.

SCHOOL NOTES



Little has happened so far this term to shake the staff from their winter routine. The quality of hibernative calm that reigns over the usually boisterous corridors, and shrouds even the engines' department in a blanket of muted tranquillity, has lulled us in to a sense of well-being. 'Spring is just a month away so let us wait for it.' The heating works well; the rigours of winter have ravaged the ivy-clad walls but left a comfortable warmth in the interior.

Even the movements of personnel have slowed to a lethargic trickle. Flt.Lt. Rodgers has left for Cranwell where his confidential manner and air of a man with a thousand secrets should fit snugly into the marble halls of that venerable institution.

Flt.Lt. James has replaced him as adjutant and followed up his earlier signs of promise by completely re-organising the layout of the common room notice boards. Flt.Lt. Gates finally disappeared into a nearby wine cellar

and has been replaced by Fg.Off. Welsh a dour classics scholar whose command of barbaric latin is matched only by the barbaric haircuts of Fg.Off. Jones another addition to the General Studies section.

Apart from these few events the rest is as usual. Tea-break still dominates the daily routine but all major crises, all major endeavour, are being prepared for the coming of Spring, when, with the rising of the sap, the Education Branch will once more put forth its limbs and plunge with renewed vigour into the struggle. The Empire will never die, so long as Spring hopes eternally.

Talking of the sap rising reminds one that the 90th Entry are now the Senior Entry in Schools. They fit in well with the philosophic calm. In fact one is often scarcely aware of their existence. Doubtless they will not remain quiet for much longer.

BAND NOTES

Although not the busiest term of the year as far as the number of engagements is concerned, three annual engagements which do fall in the Winter Term bring Apprentice Bands very much into the public eye and in

circumstances where they may be compared with other military bands. Battle of Britain celebrations, Remembrance Sunday and the Lord Mayor's Show all call for the highest standards of playing and once again the bands

CHURCH NOTES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The New Church

Many ex-Apprentices are enquiring about the rebuilding of St. George's Church, and here is the answer at the time of writing. The plans for the new church have been approved at Station level and are doubtless in process of being approved higher up the line. The new Church will be built between the Apprentices' Schools and the Tring Road, with an entrance path from Chestnut Avenue, and a wider road from the Schools Car Park. The new St. George's will seat 600 (excluding the choir), which means that it will be roughly the same size as the old church, but will be a brighter and better place of worship. It is much to be hoped that Haltonians the world over will take a practical interest in the interior of the new Church, and enable those on the spot to produce something worthy of a wonderful tradition here in Halton. The writer of these notes will by then have retired from the Service, but will continue to take an interest in Halton Church, and is confident that all concerned will leave no stone unturned to make the interior of the new St. George's worthy of the cause for which it is being built.

Posting

By the time these notes are in print, the Rev. W. T. Boyd will be in 2 T.A.F. Known among the families as the 'Hospital Vicar', Padre Boyd has made a deeper impression on the Halton Families than any C. of E. Padre within living memory. It is a pity that the Apprentices did not know this exceedingly worthwhile chaplain but the Hospital and families are more than a whole-time job. We wish him well and offer

our hearty congratulations on his promotion, which was truly and well earned. A very beautiful Chapel is something by which we shall always remember him, and Padre Boyd has really done more for the chapel than would have been thought possible.

Graduation Services

A feature of the Passing-Out of the Entries unknown to the Apprentices prior to the fifties is the Graduation Service at which the Passing-Out Entry make a formal declaration of assent to certain questions, e.g. 'Will you maintain and set forward whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are of good report, wherever you are appointed to serve?' To hear an Entry reply in one voice, 'I will do so by the help of God' to a question of this nature is quite a moving experience. Most Apprentices are sincere about this, and take it more seriously than they will admit. They look forward to the occasion, and the two senior Padres (P.M.U.B. and C. of E.) take it in turn to provide V.I.P. preachers. Thus, the preacher at the next Dedication Service (89th in March) will be the former President of the Methodist Conference, none other than the Rev. Dr. Leslie Church. Dr. Church is the father-in-law of the Principal Chaplain, Methodist in the R.A.F. viz., the Reverend David Rowlands, and is also a personal friend of the present C. of E. senior padre. For the Service the Ladies of the Wing, that is to say the wives of the Wing, Squadron, and Flight Commanders all set to and decorate the Burnet Gym for the occasion in a most striking and attractive manner. Usually in the Wing Colours!

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE

The past year has seen a marked increase in the number of W.R.A.F. personnel at Halton and, with the gradual disappearance of our National Service airman, more posts are being filled by airwomen, especially in the administrative and catering trades.

A steady stream of trainees goes through the Dental Training Establishment, the airwomen finally qualifying as Dental Surgery Attendants or Dental Hygienists. We can be justly proud that the Royal Air Force was first in the field with the latter form of training.



563627 SGT. T. GRAY, V.C.

PORTRAIT GALLERY 3

563627 SERGEANT THOMAS GRAY, V.C.

Born at Urchfort, Devizes in Wiltshire on May 17th, 1914; Thomas Gray was the fourth of seven brothers. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force as an Aircraft Apprentice of the 20th Entry in September, 1929 for training as a Fitter A.E. (Aero Engine) and served his three years in No. 1 Wing, Halton.

Passing Out in 1932 as an A.C.1., F.A.E., he was posted to Abingdon to service the Fairey Gordons of No. 40 Squadron and the Hawker Harts of No. 15. Whilst there he became a u/t air gunner; qualifying for his 'Wing Brass Bullet' in 1933 and at the same time becoming L.A.C.

Gray returned to Halton in 1934 for a conversion course to Fitter 1 and was posted to Henlow to complete the course in 1935. There followed a posting to No. 58 Squadron (Vickers Virginias) at Upper Hayford as L.A.C. Fitter 1 and he continued as part-time air gunner, flying being his main interest now. When 'A' Flight of No. 58 was paired-off to become No. 51 Squadron, they were equipped with Avro Ansons and moved to Driffield in 1936; Gray going with them. '51' moved to Boscombe Down in the following year and from there, Gray was posted to No. 1 Air Observers School for training as an Observer, completing the course in 1938 with a subsequent posting to No. 12 Squadron at Andover, flying Fairey Battles and promotion to Corporal. Keen on everything connected with flying, Gray was exceptional in navigation and gunnery—so much so, that in 1938 he was awarded the Silver .303 Bullet for winning the 12 Squadron Annual Air Firing Competition. In January, 1939, Gray was promoted to Sergeant and at the outbreak of war in the following September, he went to France with the Squadron.

On May 10th, 1940 the German forces invaded the Low Countries and desperate measures were needed to halt the Nazi 'Blitzkrieg'. On May 12th, No. 12 Squadron was asked for six volunteer crews to bomb two bridges across the Albert Canal at Vroenhoven and Veldwezelt. The whole Squadron stepped forward, so the C.O. asked the next six crews



Sgt. T. Gray, V.C. as an Aircraft Apprentice

on the duty roster if they would undertake the job. They agreed and it was decided to send three Battles to bomb each bridge.

On take-off from the airfield at Amifontaine, one aircraft went u/s, leaving two Battles to attack the Vroenhoven bridge (piloted by Fg.Off. N. M. Thomas and Plt. Off. T. D. H. Davy) whilst the other three set course for the bridge at Veldwezelt led by Fairey Battle P2204 ('PH-K') piloted by Fg.Off. D. E. Garland with Sgt. T. Gray as his observer and L.A.C. L. R. Reynolds as air gunner. The other two of this formation were piloted by Plt.Off. I. A. McIntosh and Sgt. Marland. A forward escort of eight Hurricanes from No. 1 Squadron

tried to clear a way through the swarms of German Fighters covering the target area (estimated at one time to number over 100) and lost six in the trying, whilst the Battles approached their targets through an inferno of flak. At 9.15 a.m. the two Battles attacking the Vroenhaven bridge were crippled by the flak and Fg.Off. Thomas was shot down and captured whilst Plt. Off. Davy, after ordering his crew to bale out, nursed a burning aircraft almost back to base before crashing. Meanwhile Garland led the second formation in low to the Veldwezelt bridge through a cloud of flak and all three were shot down. McIntosh's aircraft was set on fire, but he managed to drop his bombs before crashing to captivity whilst the other two crashed in flames with no survivors, but not before crippling the bridge.

After the raid, local patriots secretly buried the bodies of Garland, Gray and Reynolds and their grave remained a secret until after the war when the Allied authorities were notified and the bodies transferred to Lanaken and subsequently to the War Graves Commission Cemetery at Haverlee.

On June 11th, 1940, Fg.Off. D. E. Garland and Sgt. T. Gray were awarded posthumously the Victoria Cross, and an extract from the official citation reads:—

'Much of the success of this vital operation must be attributed to the coolness and resource of Sergeant Gray, who navigated Flying Officer Garland's aircraft under most difficult conditions in such a manner that the whole formation was able successfully to attack the target in spite of subsequent heavy losses.'

It is not generally known that four of Gray's brothers also joined the Royal Air Force—three of them as A/A's on No. 1 Wing Halton. Their names are given here as a tribute to a



Sgt. Thomas Gray, V.C.

very gallant family. They were:—

562123 Flt. Sgt. A. Gray—17th Entry

567089 Flt.Lt. R. Gray—30th Entry

579285 A. C., J. Gray—46th Entry—Killed in

Flying Accident at Hullavington, 1945.

1324983 Sgt. R. Gray—Pilot—Killed in Flying Accident.

Author's Note: The Author is indebted to Flt.Lt. R. Gray, R.A.F. (Rtd.) for the loan of personal documents and photographs and invaluable assistance.

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