

The Haltonian Magazine

67 Edition

February 1954

(Scroll down)



**SUPERMARINE**

**SWIFT**

**THE CHOICE OF THE R.A.F.**

What attributes are required in a modern fighter ?  
Speed, rate of climb, fire-power, manœuvrability. To  
these must be added endurance—to climb to height,  
find the quarry and return to base. With the right  
combination of these — as in the Swift — a fighter pilot  
knows he has the measure of any potential rival.

VICKERS-ARMSTRONGS LTD., SUPERMARINE WORKS



AT 277



We have, first, the duty of recording the departure of Air Commodore J. G. W. Weston, C.B., O.B.E., Commandant since February, 1952, and the arrival in his place of Air Commodore G. N. E. Tindal-Carrill-Worsley, C.B., C.B.E. From the nature of Service life, Service magazines must note such changes with distressing frequency; but seldom can a Commandant's posting have been accompanied by such general regret as the departure of Air Commodore Weston. The Air Commodore (now, we are glad to note, the Air Vice-Marshal) had endeared himself to all ranks at Halton, achieving the difficult (to most, impossible) task of gaining universal popularity without sacrificing respect. Our congratulations and best wishes accompany him and his family in his new posting as Air Officer Commanding No. 90 Group.

Our new Commandant comes from the post of S.T.S.O. at Flying Training Command, and has had a distinguished career. He has held various Staff appointments, and graduated from the Joint Services Staff College in 1949, subsequently attending the course at the Imperial Defence College. Earlier, he was Deputy Director of Armament Development at the Ministry of Supply. There may be some connection between his being an armament expert and the noted phenomenon that the things that go bump in the night are now going bump all day round this Station. We have pleasure in welcoming the Air Commodore and his family and wishing him the best of success in his latest sphere.

Group Captain E. Knowles, M.B.E., has also arrived to take up his post as Principal Education Officer here, and we welcome him and his family on their return to the scene of former labours. The Schools have already felt the impact of his arrival, their academic calm having been somewhat shattered by various office and laboratory changes: many a bewildered B.Sc. or B.A. is to be seen peering short-sightedly at various doors in the hope of identifying his new home. These uprootings may be all to the good—the Main Corridor is said to be getting quite congested with a succession of cupboard-less skeletons making a bolt for the side-entrances.

Then, of course, there has been the Graduation of the 67th Entry, to all members of which we wish the best of luck in their appointments. They were a charming lot, in some ways, and by this time are no doubt putting the Air Force right on many essentials. By way of compensation

for the loss of the 67th Entry there has come the 76th. How they will shape, it must be left to our corresponding issue of 1957 to reveal. Let us wish them the best of luck.

The Magazine exists, however, to provide a link with the past as well as to chronicle the activities of the present generation of Aircraft Apprentices. Ex-Apprentices will be glad to know that their organisation, somewhat sketchy at the moment, is showing every sign of life, and Sqn.Ldr. Scilley, bursting with ideas and showing a drive and energy that are positively frightening, is determined to put 'Old Haltonians' on the map, and appears to be succeeding.

Apprentices will be pleased to know that sales of their Magazine have now reached a level where we can, we believe, have few (if any) competitors amongst comparable publications in this country. By the end of October the total sales for the present year will be 12,000—an astonishing figure, reflecting credit on those concerned, whose efforts are, of course, voluntary and part time.

Best wishes for 1954 to all our readers.

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## ANNIVERSARY

*(Last December 17th was the 50th Anniversary of the achievement of powered flight by the Wright Brothers.)*

When from that barren field they rose that day,  
On trembling wings, with little power to spare,  
And found their brain-child had o'ercome the air;  
Did thoughts of theirs to future pathways stray  
To seek a fleeting vision of the way  
The child would flourish in some others' care?  
If so, I know the COMET'S like was there,  
In tranquil flight, where e'er its journey lay;  
But not in dreams would they the SWIFT perceive,  
This pampered infant dressed in beauty's guise,  
And with a pose, that never will deceive,  
Or hide its real intent within the skies.  
For if such truths, in nightmare they had learnt,  
With troubled hearts, their plans they would have burnt.

F.W.S.



## GRADUATION PARADE OF THE 67th ENTRY

The December weather was very kind to the 67th Entry when, on the 15th, they were reviewed at their Graduation Parade by Air Marshal Sir Dermot A. Boyle, K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Fighter Command. The mist cleared early and the parade made a very striking scene under bright sunlight.

Air Marshal Boyle was accompanied by Air Vice-Marshal N. H. D'Aeth, C.B., C.B.E., representing the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Technical Training Command; Air Commodore J. G. W. Weston, C.B., O.B.E., Commanding R.A.F. Halton; Group Captain R. J. Carvell, Senior Training Officer, No. 1 School of Technical Training; and Wing Commander E. Donovan, D.F.C., Officer Commanding No. 2 Apprentice Wing.

The Parade was under the command of F/S/A/A G. T. Milne, and the other parade appointments were as follows:

Colour Bearer:	S/A/A L. Baker
Colour Escort:	C/A/A G. D. Mitchell
	C/A/A J. C. A. Rumble
Colour Warrant Officer:	S/A/A A. F. Plumbley
i/c Junior Entries:	S/A/A Enwright
Parade Warrant Officer:	S/A/A G. B. Aitken
No. 1 Flight Commander:	S/A/A G. Hosie
No. 2 Flight Commander:	S/A/A P. R. Wild
No. 3 Flight Commander:	S/A/A N. R. J. Seekings
Drum Major, Military Band:	C/A/A A. Skipp
Drum Major, Pipe Band:	A/A P. J. Holman

Later a large audience, including the 67th Entry and their parents, assembled in the Burnett Gymnasium where, after welcoming the Reviewing Officer, the Commandant read his report on the Entry.

Altogether 162 British and Pakistani apprentices were graduating at a quite satisfactory standard. In particular the Armament and Instrument (Navigation) Fitters showed an improvement in technical subjects, as did the Pakistani apprentices as a whole. Thirty-nine per cent. of the Entry gained the Ordinary National Certificate in Engineering



*Air Ministry Photographic Reproduction Branch*

—a figure which compares well with the recent average of thirty-six per cent. Six Pakistani apprentices qualified as candidates for this Certificate.

The Entry did well in outside activities. Four members of the Halton Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society have been accepted as Student Members of the Society, and one of them, A/A Brown, received the Laurence Deane Memorial Prize for his paper on Rocket Propulsion. The Entry did very well in Sport, forming the backbone of many teams, and twenty members gained their School Colours.

### **THE PIONEER TROPHY**

The Commandant made particular reference to the Pioneer Trophy presented by the R.F.C. and R.N.A.S. Ex-Boys Association which was available for presentation for the first time. Life had been hard in the Boys' Technical School at Halton in the First World War in shaky huts, with no laundry facilities, hard beds, and pay at 8d. per day, but the boys had managed to enjoy themselves and some of them had gone far in the Service. Certainly their friendships still endure and a few of them regularly attend each Graduation Parade at Halton. We are very grateful for the Trophy which is to be awarded to the apprentice in the



One of the Entry's Banners

Graduating Entry who is placed highest in All-round Technical Training, and consists of a handsome shield, a replica of a part of which will be retained by the winners.

### **THE REVIEWING OFFICER**

After presenting the prizes Air Marshal Boyle addressed the Assembly. He congratulated the 67th Entry on the smartness of their parade and at the same time commended all those officers and N.C.O.s whose efforts had brought the Entry's drill to such a pitch.

They would find things very different when they arrived on their stations—from having been the "Receivers" they would now become the "Givers." He was pleased to hear that so many of the Entry were going to try to become pilots and wished them luck in their attempts. Halton had developed their characters and their technical, administrative, and educational abilities. The basic theory was essential and unchanging, and it was the job of Halton to see that they were well equipped in this respect.

### **R.P.A.F. APPRENTICES**

Air Marshal Boyle had a special word for the R.P.A.F. Apprentices of the 67th Entry. "It cannot be easy for you," he said, "with a different language, in a different country, a very different climate, and the difficulties of finding technical equivalents, but, in spite of all that, I gather you have done well, and I congratulate you." He trusted that they had absorbed something of the spirit of Halton which is the spirit of the Royal Air Force, and drew attention to Lord Trenchard's idea that the wearing of the blue uniform could become an instrument for understanding between the nations of the world.

### **A WORD TO THE PARENTS**

The Reviewing Officer thanked the parents and was glad to say that an increasing number of the public were nowadays watching Royal Air Force ceremonies and getting to know what the Air Force could do. The parents of the boys of the Sixty-Seventh Entry were entitled to our gratitude because they had sent their sons to Halton during a time of depression, thus demonstrating their faith in the Royal Air Force and the future of the country. "The Royal Air Force is grateful to you and, more important, in the days to come your sons will be grateful also."

### **A FINAL WORD TO THE ENTRY**



The Bear March

As individuals in a modern service the members of the Entry would have to think for themselves and plan for themselves for their own good and for the sake of the job they were doing. "I wish you every success," the Air Marshal concluded, "as graduates of this great School with all the prestige, training, and efficiency which goes with it. Finally, I wish you success as loyal and devoted members of your respective Air Forces."

## PRIZE-WINNERS

**Monsignor Beauchamp Prize (for the Best All-Round Apprentice)**  
F/S/A/A Milne Dundee Harris Academy

**Highest in Order of Merit, All Subjects**  
C/A/A Daughtry Stanley Junior Technical School, Croydon

**Highest in Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency**  
1st F/S/A/A Milne Dundee Harris Academy  
2nd S/A/A Wild Kingston Grammar School, Surrey

**Highest in Order of Merit, Educational Subjects**  
1st S/A/A Plumbly Ryde County Secondary Modern School  
2nd A/A Grayston Stevenston Junior Secondary School

**Highest in Order of Merit, T.S. Practical Fitting Test  
(and Winner of Crebbin Robinson Cup)**  
L/A/A Gilbert The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, Bucks.

**Highest Average for Practical Fitting Test over 3 Years Course**  
A/A Hutchings Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Crediton, Exeter

**Highest in Order of Merit, General Studies  
(and Winner of Elliott Memorial prize presented by Royal Aeronautical Society)**  
A/A Thorman Finchley Catholic Grammar School

**Highest Pakistan Apprentice in Order of Merit (Winner of Azhar Trophy)**  
L/A/A Amir Hussain Khokar

**Highest Ex. A.T.C. Cadet in Order of Merit (Winner of Quinton Trophy)**  
C/A/A Daughtry Stanley Junior Technical School, Croydon

**Pioneer Trophy, Highest Aggregate in Final T.S.T.**  
C/A/A Hunt King's School, Ottery St. Mary, Devon



Three of the Prize Winners (Air Ministry Photographic Reproduction Branch)



### Best Tradesmen in T.S. Test

Airframe Fitter: L/A/A Woolford Fairfield Road Secondary School, Bow, E.3  
 Engine Fitter: 1st C/A/A Daughtry Stanley Junior Technical School, Croydon  
 2nd S/A/A Hosie St. John's Grammar School, Hamilton  
 Armament Fitter: L/A/A Siraj-Ud-Din Ahmed  
 Electrical Fitter (Air): A/A Ansell Selsdon County Secondary School, Surrey  
 Electrical Fitter (Grd): C/A/A Bright Stanley Grammar School, Newcastle  
 Instrument Fitter (Nav.): L/A/A Gilbert The Royal Grammar School,  
 High Wycombe, Bucks.  
 Instrument Fitter (Gen.): C/A/A Hunt King's School, Ottery St. Mary, Devon

### Sergeants

Seekings Friends' School, Saffron Walden  
 Wild Kingston Grammar School, Surrey  
 Plumbley Ryde County Secondary Modern  
 Aitken Arbroath High School  
 Baker Wolverton Grammar School  
 Hosie St. John's Grammar School

### 67th ENTRY POSTING LIST (in order of merit)

Daughtry, P. R.	Boscombe Down	Kemish, D. M.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Hunt, J.	226 O.C.U. Stradishall	Iddon, D.	B.C.A.M.S. Binbrook
Milne, G. T.	West Malling	Newbold, J. M.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Seekings, M. R. J.	Wyton	Medhurst, D. W.	Boscombe Down
Gilbert, R. D.	Scampton	Thorpe, B. L.	Coltishall
Hosie, G.	West Malling	Jones, J. D.	233 O.C.U. Pembrey
Wild, P. R.	West Malling	Upfield, C. R. W.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Grace, J. W.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Davis, R. E.	Wattisham
Ambrose, D. W.	231 O.C.U. Bassingb'ne	Snook, J. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Bright, J.	228 O.C.U. Leeming	Tordoff, T.	Wittering
Holman, P. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Cain, A. J.	Pembroke Dock
Aitken, G. B.	Scampton	Rumble, J. C. A.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Neale, J. C.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Heaton, R. J.	228 O.C.U. Leeming
Wooding, R. J.	Horsham St. Faith	Humphries, M. F.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Green, E.	Boscombe Down	Curd, F. C.	West Malling
Trathen, A. M.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Mole, P. C.	West Malling
Alexander, W. J.	Kinloss	Ansell, G. W.	Coltishall
Plumbley, A. F.	Boscombe Down	Lloyd, D. N.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Sweeney, M. C.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Budgen, J. E.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Kelly, J. F.	Wattisham	Curtis, R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Grant, K. A.	32 M.U. St. Athan	James, D. M.	Church Fenton
Grayston, W. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Goodwin, R. W.	Leuchars
Laing, A. J.	Leuchars	Brown, D.	M.O.S. (U) Farnb'gh
Phillips, G. G.	Lindholme	Pettet, L. P.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Woolford, R. F.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Reid, S. G. M.	Wattisham
Pritchard, D.	34 M.U. Stoke Heath	Cook, A.	B.C.A.M.S. Binbrook
Baker, L.	Linton-on-Ouse	Anderson, D. G.	Horsham St. Faith
Gordon, D. R.	B.C.A.M.S. Binbrook	Dewson, J.	Scampton
Cotton, T. F. F.	Wittering	Denhard, D. E.	Coningsby
Wilson, J. A.	226 O.C.U. Stradishall	Yates, R. V.	Wyton
French, W. G.	231 O.C.U. Bassingb'ne	Jones, M. B.	Lindholme
Holt, J. D.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Riches, B. R.	B.C.A.M.S. Binbrook
Pead, D. P. R.	238 O.C.U. Colerne	Dunn, G.	Leuchars
McComb, A. W.	Wittering	Sterling, S. C.	Lindholme
Savage, P. D.	Hemswell	Parker, I. D.	B.C.A.M.S. Binbrook
Turner, C. A.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Riley, A. Y.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Pollitt, G.	Boscombe Down	Arnold, J. T.	Horsham St. Faith
Benson, J. H.	B.C.A.M.S. Binbrook	Holman, P. J.	Scampton
Gladwell, T.	B.C.A.M.S. Binbrook	Mayne, D. W. G.	Boscombe Down
Milner, P.	32 M.U. St. Athan	McDougal, I.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Thorman, D. S.	Coltishall	Alexander, W. H. L.	Aldergrove
Toop, J. C.	Coningsby	Day, K. J.	West Malling
Coleman, K. A.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Illingsworth, E.	Church Fenton
Shea, L. W.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Chowns, P. N.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Gomlinson, C. N.	Linton-on-Ouse	Thompson, H. A.	Scampton
Mitchell, G. D.	Pembrey	Lidstone, P.	Waterbeach
Welburn, N.	231 O.C.U. Bassingb'ne	Carter, M. P.	Leuchars
Warren, W. H.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Hartfield, A. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Cadwallader, D.	Coningsby	Searle, D.	Coningsby
Large, C. E.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Lloyd, E. G.	226 O.C.U. Stradishall
Archer, R. W.	St. Eval	Simmons, J. C.	West Malling

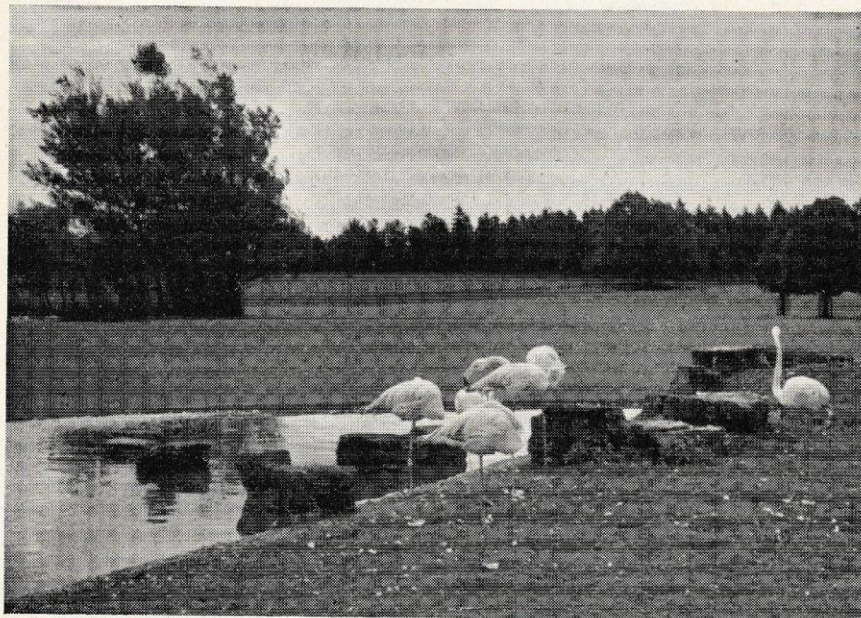
Bateman, J.	Linton-on-Ouse	Kendall, R. B.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Joyce, L. W.	Linton-on-Ouse	Forrest, M. P.	231 O.C.U. Bassingb'ne
Murray, E.	Linton-on-Ouse	Adams, J. F.	Wattisham
Bysouth, W. E.	Hemswell	Ash, M. G.	West Malling
Lynch, D. J.	Coltishall	Hutchings, W. E. L.	Linton-on-Ouse
Coggan, M. T.	Coltishall	Inder, M.	St. Mawgan
Jarvis, A. F. M.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Selby, J.	Scampton
Van Lokven, H. W.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Sparks, M. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Wells, G.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Wood, J. B.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Sutton, V. C.	32 M.U. St. Athan	King, D.	West Malling
Stint, D. T.	Waterbeach	Edwards, G.	Scampton
Sutherland, A.	Coltishall	Blackstone, A. V.	Linton-on-Ouse
		Price, R. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan

**The following ex-66th (Aug. 1950) Entry also Qualified as Junior Technicians**

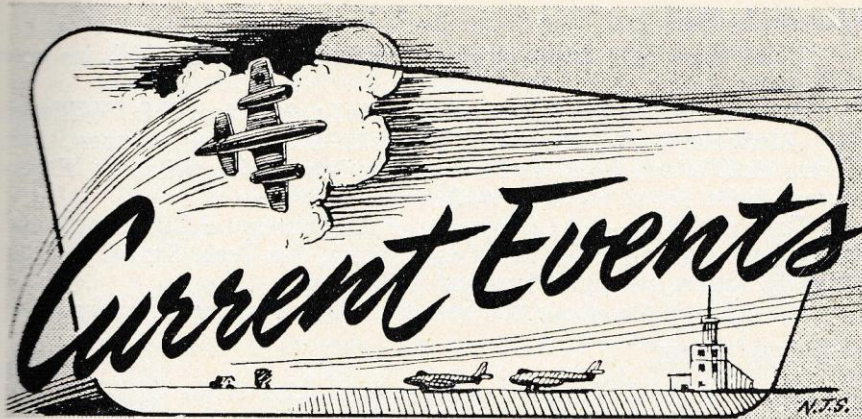
Knight, G.	Marham	Spooner, P. C.	233 O.C.U. Pembrey
Nellthorpe, D. W.	Coltishall	Roberts, H. K.	32 M.U. St. Athan

**ROYAL PAKISTAN AIR FORCE**

Khokar, A. H.	Abbas, S. J.	Hussain, M.	Yamin, M.
Saleem, M.	Iqbal, M.	Yasin, M.	Haq, I. U.
Hussain, I.	Shah, S. A. A.	Shafiq, M.	Durrani, M. A.
Qureshi, M. A.	Hussain, A.	Sahibzada	Ahmad, S. M.
Ayub, M.	Rafiq, M.	Qureshi, N. A.	Khan, M. A.
Ahmed, S. U. D.	Khan, M. Q.	Ahmad, B.	Abdullah, A. M.
Khan, A. M.	Awan, M. B.	Khan, M. A.	Abedi, S. A. H.
Joel, N.	Haider, G.	Majid, A.	



“Flamingoes” ————— by A/A Jowle (68th)  
(Winner of prize photograph competition)



## Wing Notes

### NO. 1(A) WING

The term has been notable for steady effort rather than spectacular events. The beginning of the term gave the Wing the surprise task of receiving the 75th Entry and sending the 74th to No. 3(A) Wing. The need for extra accommodation caused the School of Cookery to leave us for No. 2(A) Wing. The 74th departed to No. 3(A) Wing and we trust the move has not unduly interrupted the Entry's training and it has settled down in its new surroundings. The 75th Entry duly arrived and quickly settled down to its training. Early impressions of the Entry are good and it has made its presence felt at work and sport. We hope the Halton Magazine notes of Summer Term, 1956, will bear witness to the fulfilment of this early promise.

The 68th Entry has reached the final stage of its training and Final "schools" and "workshops" are terms often heard in the Wing. It is not true, however, that one A/A asked for a size 6 7/8ths wet towel on the last clothing parade. Everyone knows that such an item is not a stores issue, but is made up from local resources. Good luck, 68th, during the next term.

The 71st Entry has still some way to go for its final phase, but it is reminded that the hurdle of 3rd Interim has to be taken next term and the responsibilities of being Senior Entry in the Wing will have to be faced at Easter.

### Sporting and Recreational Activities

In the field of sport the Wing has more than held its own. The B.K. Junior Boxing was won for the Wing and the Seniors put up quite a creditable show. Our successes in this respect are largely due to the keenness of F.S. Sully who has devoted much time to training his teams. In shooting the Wing has done very well and special congratulations go to A/A Wilson-Apperson for the award of a Life Membership of the National Rifle Association for his outstanding performances in competition shooting. Soccer, Rugger and Hockey are all being played with enthusiasm and A/A Tamjid of the 68th Entry is congratulated upon being selected to play for Technical Training Command at Hockey.

The Wing has also been well represented in the choir, bands, Judo and Halton Society activities throughout the term.

### Changes in Staff

There have been many changes in permanent staff, which we note as follows:—

To the Wing—Sqn.Ldr. Spencer, Flt.Lt. Martin, W.O. Williams, Sgts. Hopkins, Beale, Davidson, Edwards, Brown and Lambert, Sen. Techs. Hall, Webb, Dyett and Tuck, and Cpls. Smith, Wilcocks, Etherington, Walls, Snow, Mussett, McQueen and Fletcher.

From the Wing—Flt.Lt. Ramsay, W.O. Harrison, F.S.s Hogarth and Hogg, Sgts. Carton, Ellis, Wood and Walsh, Sen.Tech. Smithers, Cpls. Pengelly, Kyffin, Dearn, Malone and Wilkinson.

We wish all the above the best of luck in their new surroundings.

### NO. 2(A) WING

There can be little doubt that the graduation of the 67th Entry in December provided the most notable item of news from No. 2 Wing. The towels and ice packs have now disappeared, as indeed have the members of the Entry themselves. As is usual, before departure they ensured that all blocks in the Wing were suitably ventilated but, on this occasion, the organisation was sufficiently adequate to ensure that they went on their way a little lighter of pocket and the rehabilitation fund sufficiently replenished to defray any subsequent claims for barrack damages.

Reverting to a more serious note, the Entry is to be congratulated on the standard achieved on the Graduation Parade and we are sure its members will admit, with their well-known magnanimity, that a small portion of the subsequent blaze of glory should shine on the Drill Instructors who laboured so long, so hard and, let it be admitted, so successfully to achieve the desired result. May we take this opportunity of wishing the 67th Entry every success in their new units and assure those who are receiving them that they are not so bad when you get to know them. This last, of course, may take a little time.

The aftermath of graduation is, naturally enough, the relief of repressions inflicted on the next Senior Entry of the Wing. The term "the Entry" has already been heard to be whispered by certain members of the 70th and no doubt their voices will become more vociferous as the months pass by. It might be apposite at this time, however, to suggest that such an appellation, if it is to be anything but a mockery, should properly be written in the sweat of the brow. It's a hard life isn't it, 70th?

The winter sports programme is now in full swing and Wing representatives are hard at work appraising likely candidates for the B.K. teams. This, of course, with the exception of the boxing competition which is already past and, alas, went without success for No. 2 Wing. Most of the members of the team are still in training with the Scott-Paine and Sigrist Trophies competition in view and a noticeable improvement in individual performance is evident.

On the sporting side also, the Christmas term saw the revival of two inter-squadron competitions which had been allowed to lapse since 1938. These were for the Wing Boxing and Swimming Trophies. The boxing provided wins for No. 1 Squadron Seniors and No. 2 Squadron Juniors whilst in the Swimming No. 1 Squadron swept the board, winning the Senior and Junior competitions and the Water Polo. In the Junior competition the winning margin was but half a point, the issue not being decided until the final event. Both these competitions were fought out in an excellent spirit which reflected great credit on the participants but it was also noticeable that for both boxing and swimming the reserve

strength was woefully weak, indeed, in certain instances it was non-existent. If No. 2 Wing is to take its rightful place in the field of sport, at the top, many more apprentices must be prepared to put in the long hours of training necessary to lift the standard from the mediocre to winning class. After all, it has been rightly said many times that a team is only as strong as its reserves will allow. Look to it, 70th and 73rd. There is a niche for you in the hall of fame.

Christmas saw many traditional activities appropriate to that time of the year, probably the most notable being the Christmas Dinner followed by prize-giving. The cooks did an excellent job and the faces of the diners certainly indicated that their efforts were deeply appreciated despite the fact that the waiters were not quite up to West End standard. But the noise!!! The dinner also saw the farewell appearance of the Commandant, Air Commodore Weston. He will probably remember the spontaneous outburst of "For he's a jolly good fellow," which accompanied his departure, for many a long day. May No. 2 Wing take this opportunity of wishing him every success for the future.

At the time of writing large numbers of somewhat worried-looking youths in civilian clothes may be seen wandering around the station. These form the embryo 76th Entry who are due to join us in the latter half of January. We trust that the rather cold welcome afforded them by the weather—induction took place during the first snow storm of the winter—will not be considered as symptomatic of the feelings of those of us with whom they will come in contact during their service at Halton. By the time this issue of the magazine is in print they will already be familiar, too familiar they would probably say, with the voices of the drill N.C.O.s and are probably wondering why they joined. May we, in extending a very warm welcome, also assure them that the first few years are always the worst—or so the "old sweats" say. If you work hard and play hard the time passes quickly enough.

Finally, we welcome to No. 2 Wing two new officers, Flt.Lt. J. C. Burch and Fg.Off. J. Bouchier, and a new Wing Warrant Officer in the person of W.O. A. G. Carter. Flt.Lt. Burch joins us from navigator instructor duties at R.A.F. Thorney Island, whilst Fg.Off. Bouchier is a recently commissioned officer as far as the R.A.F. is concerned. However, he has previous service in the Royal Navy to his credit and we wish him every success in his new career. W.O. Carter comes to us from recruit training at Hednesford and is, therefore, well conditioned to the duties he has to undertake at Halton.

### **NO. 3(A) WING**

This term has been marked by the arrival of the 74th Entry into the Wing. After the initial unsettled period they have now become used to life in No. 3 Wing and are beginning to give of their best.

School Examinations for the 69th and 72nd Entries produced the Annual Orders of Merit and showed that these Entries are making good progress at their work, and we are hoping that this standard will be maintained right through their training here.

Sporting activities have been pursued on Wednesdays and at the week-ends and we are hoping to produce some strong teams for the B.K. Competition during the year. This term we were fortunate in winning the Wing Senior Boxing Competition, which makes a start towards our aim of retaining the B.K. Trophy.

We welcome Flight Lieutenant D. H. Gardner to No. 2 Squadron, Pilot Officer I. T. Bennett to No. 3 Squadron and Pilot Officer H. C.

Jamieson to No. 1 Squadron and hope that they will enjoy their tour of duty in the Wing. Flight Lieutenant W. J. Bishop has left us to take over control of Airfield Training, and Flight Lieutenant A. W. J. Robinson has left No. 1 Squadron to take charge of the Instrument Fitting Workshops. We shall not say good-bye to these officers as they are still on the station and we hope they will continue to take an interest in the Wing and will visit us from time to time.

We also welcome Sergeants Bedford, Beeney and Picken, who have been posted in to bolster up the small Permanent Staff.

Congratulations to C/A/As Ettridge, Abbott and Rork on their recent promotion to the rank of Sergeant Apprentice. We also congratulate L/A/A Dickens on his appearance in the Technical Training Command Hockey Team in their match against Transport Command.

The Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, 15th December, was a great success, and we would like to thank the Station Catering Staff for producing such a fine meal. After the dinner the usual "Prize-Giving" was held when various articles were presented to various personalities to the great amusement of all those who were present. The prize cake for the best decorated room was won by 74th Entry, No. 1 Squadron, and the second prize went to 72nd Entry, No. 2 Squadron. Attempts to persuade the C.O. to sing in the N.A.A.F.I. failed, and the evening ended with a grand sing song in the Canteen.

Various outings to sporting events and other activities have been organised during the term, culminating with five coachloads of No. 1 Squadron visiting London to see a show at the London Palladium.

The Spring Term is our quiet term, as we do not have a Graduation or an Intake, but we shall spend it in preparing for the 69th Entry's Graduation in July, which we hope will be a most successful event from every aspect.

## THE SENIOR ENTRY — THE 68TH

In the coming months the 68th Entry will be approaching their Graduation Parade, and in the Sergeants' Mess the Instructors with their "usual" in their hands may well be saying "Not a bad lot really." Or will they?

In the three years we have spent here we have seen many changes, including the arrival of the wardrobe and bedside mat. We have also tried many things which now bring smiles and blushes to our faces. In our first year we attempted to tip the Senior Entry, only to learn that it didn't work, and that the water in the fire buckets was a little on the cold side. Then, during Summer Camp, certain members of the R.A.F. Regiment will remember an evening's plunge into the water tank. Many will recall our weekends to the "burg" and, of course, "Tomb-stone City" and its "sporting" activities.

We have had many proud moments, too: the Presentation of the Queen's Colour by Her Majesty; the Coronation; and our privilege of representing the Apprentices at the R.A.F. Review.

The best of luck to the Senior Entries of the future, and above all to the "Brats"! Cheerio!

# Technical Training Wing

The Wing has now been in existence for approximately six months, and whilst much has been accomplished for smoother day-to-day working in the various trade groups, this has been largely a period of consolidation of existing organisation, and planning for the future. In this planning, due consideration has been given to harmonising the existing syllabus of each trade with the latest amendments to Trade Requirements. Each syllabus has now been redrafted ready for discussions with Higher Authority.

Plans have also been prepared for reorganising some of the Old Workshops bays so that phases in each trade are balanced with each new syllabus, and the best use is made of the space for larger Entries. These plans are tied up with Works Services for which approval is awaited to modernise machines in basic phases, and to improve workshop lighting. We are ambitious that during 1954 many of these plans will become reality; as however, final approval for the schemes now worked out has not yet been given, we cannot at the moment give details of the changes that are likely to occur.

Finally, we are sorry to report the loss of Sqn.Ldr. J. Tickle, who has gone to join 2nd T.A.F. During his term as T.T.O. Electrical and Instruments Trade Group, he has taken a very sincere and fatherly interest in his job and he will be greatly missed. His place has been taken by Sqn.Ldr. M. D. Smith from Air Ministry, and we welcome him to his new job and look for big things in the future. Flt.Lt. Chiverton, T.T.O. Airfield Training, is also leaving us for Wellesbourne Mountford. We shall be extremely sorry to lose him. The best wishes of the Wing go with both of these Officers.

## AIRFIELD TRAINING SECTION

Since our last report to the magazine things have been fairly uneventful at Airfield Training.

The 67th are, at the time of writing, about to graduate; our best wishes for the future go with them.

The 68th have left us to face the music in the New Year . . . to them, Good Luck!

We had hoped to welcome the 69th with new and later types of aircraft, but still the Hastings, the Canberras, and the Meteors do not materialise! The Mosquitoes continue to groan beneath the weight of "enthusiastic" apprentices who tear out their bowels with gusto, and who (less enthusiastically and with some apprehension) endeavour to put them together again. (This could be a fairy story, but if we are good, and do not offend Santa Claus we might get some new aircraft one day!)

We are however, able to make increasing use of the Projection Room now that more suitable instructional films are available, and we think that more may be done in this field.

We trust that the favourable impression that the 69th Entry have made to date will not change with the "chilly season" we usually get in January and February.

## INSTRUMENT FITTER WORKSHOPS

Training still presents many problems, not the least being our shortage of Instructors. Cpl. McShane has left us to join a mobile autopilot classroom, and Mr. Harrison has resigned to join Air Trainers Ltd. Mr. A. Edwards is also resigning in January, a loss which will be keenly felt by all trainees, he being the Mk. 9 Autopilot expert.

The 67th have now left us with a 100% record. "Well done 67th!" Particularly to C/A/A Hunt (General) on coming top in Instrument Trade Test subjects (2nd in all trades), and 2nd in the Final Order of Merit, and to C/A/A Gilbert (Navigation) for retaining the Crebbin-Robinson Cup for the Section and for coming 5th in the Final Order of Merit. Present indications suggest that the 68th Entry may bring similar honours to the Section.

The syllabuses have now been re-written, although no obvious changes have been made. New instruments are still being included—mainly new marks of existing instruments; early marks are being deleted. Nitrogen is now the responsibility of the Airframe Fitters.

## AIRFRAME FITTER WORKSHOPS

Last term was marked by an unusually large number of movements of staff. We welcome Ch.Tech. Longstaffe; Sen.Tech Walker; Cpl. Littley and Mr. Hume. We have said goodbye to W.O. Macintosh who has been posted to the Far East; Ch.Tech. Pointing whom we congratulate on his posting to O.C.T.U. and Mr. Packer on his retirement.

The extra aircraft required for the increased number of apprentices in the junior entries arrived during the term. The expansion of the training phases to accommodate two classes each is proceeding steadily, and when completed, will enable us to deal comfortably with the larger entries.

A number of visits were made during the term. Selected apprentices of the 67th Entry visited Messrs. Handley Page, Reading, on 10th November, 1953, but were disappointed in not being able to view the "Victor" as this aircraft is not at Reading. They did, however, see a new Transport aircraft, constructed in the new "Sandwich Skin" method.

Members of the Instructional Staff paid visits to R.A.F. Station, Bassingbourne, R.A.F. Duxford and R.A.F. Abingdon, and also to Messrs. Marston Excelsior, Martin Baker and Aircraft Materials Ltd. These visits provide a useful link between Halton, R.A.F. Operational Units and Industry, and enable us to keep our instruction up-to-date.

## GENERAL ENGINEERING TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The General Engineering Section has settled down during the last term, and is now a recognised section of Technical Training Wing. In spite of the increase in numbers due to the size of the 75th Entry, training has continued smoothly with the help of the Civilian and Service Staff. At peak periods, the workshops are now well and truly crowded.

Changes have occurred in the staff and our best wishes are extended to Cpl.Tech. Cork, one of our Allied Trades instructors, who has completed his service and retired.

## ENGINE FITTER WORKSHOPS

The last term has seen the departure of a number of "old faces" and an influx of new to such an extent that confusion might easily arise



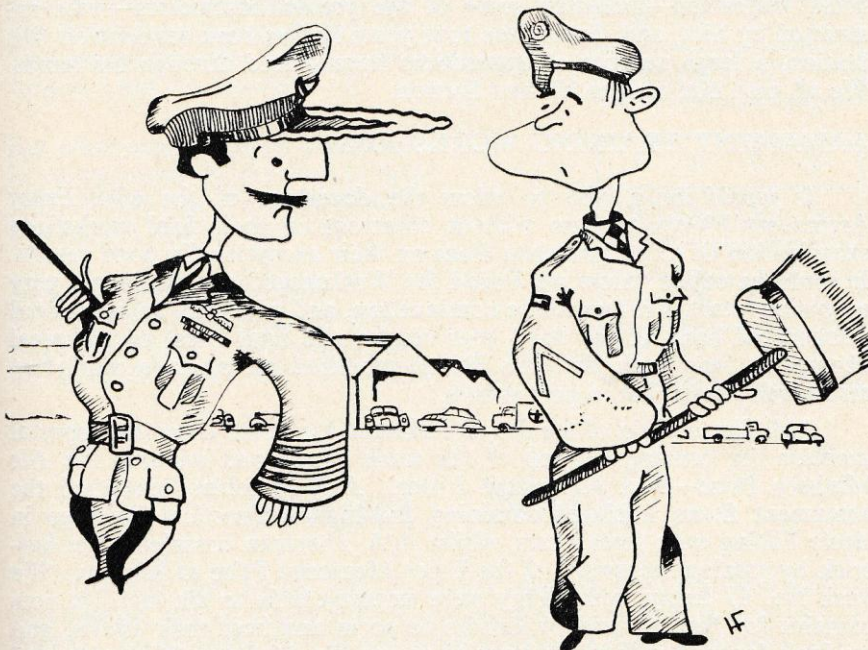
out of the term "Junior Entry" as this might now apply to some of the instructional staff! We have received no fewer than thirteen service instructors and to them we offer a most hearty welcome.

Most notable among the departures is that of W.O. Harrison who has left us on posting to the O.C.T.U. at Jurby, I.o.M. We wish him the very best of luck for the future. F.S. Hogg has left us to join the instructional staff at S.T.O.M. and F.S. Hogarth is now teaching at Henlow. Snr.Tech. Dickins has "one foot on the boat," and will be very much missed not only by us, but also by the A.T.C. at Chesham, where he has given yeoman service to the cause. Mr. Saunders has retired after twenty-six years with the R.A.F. He will be remembered by many of all ranks in the R.A.F. and we wish him every success and good health in the future. We would also like to express our best wishes to Mr. Ware who is facing a long and serious illness, and to wish him a safe and speedy recovery.

Finally, congratulations to Cpl.Tech. Redfern, Cpl. Wilson (Blacksmith and Welder), Cpl. Wilson (Eng.Fitt.S.) and Cpl. Pengelly on their promotion. Sgt. Pengelly has since left us on posting to Abingdon.

#### ELECTRICAL FITTER WORKSHOPS

We welcome to the training staff Cpls. Hughes, Taylor and Hutchinson, and one new Civilian Instructor, Mr. W. F. Gomer. Among those who have departed is Sgt. Graham who was selected for highly specialised work on Rocket Projectile Development. As Sgt. Graham had studied and was extremely interested in the possibility of Interplanetary Space Travel by rocket projectiles, this post may hasten the day of his Lunar arrival. Snr.Tech. Russ (M.T.S. & O.) is "on the boat" and has left for pastures new in a warmer climate, whilst Sgt. Stibey will continue instructional duties at Cosford. They all carry our best wishes in their new appointments.



"I say, Old Man, would you mind moving your car—I can't get my bike out."

(Winner of  $\frac{1}{2}$  guinea prize for the best cartoon—A/A Fryer, 72nd)

Hard work by "Chiefy" Hall and his merry men has resulted in Bay 7 breaking out into a rash of new classrooms ingeniously constructed from metal tubing and hard-board, and finished in restful shades of green and buff. These rooms, when completed, will occupy the whole of one side of the bay, with the technical practical equipment opposite the appropriate room. Facilities are provided in the rooms for the projection of "stills" from the recently acquired Aldis Film Strip Projector, which will be used as a training aid more extensively than heretofore. It is hoped that the same re-organisation will extend to Bay 8 in the very near future.

Prior to passing out on 15th December, the 67th Entry enjoyed a visit to Rotax Electrical Works where the various aircraft and M.T. electrical components manufactured by the firm were seen in the process of manufacture and assembly. For the purpose of gleanng hints and, possibly, new methods of instruction, Flt.Lt. Harris, accompanied by Messrs. Bradley and Trip, visited Bankside Power Station, and the Apprentices School of the British Electricity Authority. Other visits were made by Messrs. Parkhouse and Clarke to the R.A.F. Station, Bassingbourne, where they were gratified to receive very favourable reports on the technical knowledge and work of former members of the 65th Entry, and by Sgt. Budding and Cpl. Shepard to R.A.F. Duxford.

A new engine driven generator test rig has now been installed in Bay 8. This rig, on which the latest and most powerful types of aircraft generators can be tested, may eventually replace the existing testing equipment, and we hope, simplify the present complicated testing procedure.

As these notes were being written, news was received of the pending departure to Cardington of the well-known and popular figure of W.O. Detain. Not only was Mr. Detain well known in the workshops, but also throughout the electrical trades of the R.A.F. A large number of electrical tradesmen—including some of the present instructors—were instructed by him, and, during the four years he has been resident on this Station, a large number of apprentices have passed through his hands. We all wish him well on his new Station.

#### ARMAMENT TRAINING WORKSHOPS

It would be a pity to allow the departure of the 67th Entry Armament Fitters to pass without comment on their final workshops examination or to congratulate them on their exceptionally good results. It could be called "How we Foxed the Workshops" as, after a not very auspicious start, a rather worse continuation, and with only an occasional glimmer of hope in the third year results, the final burst of technical absorption was such that the Entry produced an average workshop result well above that of past entries.

A/A Siraj-Uddin of the Royal Pakistan Air Force deserves a special mention for coming out top of the trade group and winning the Air Ministry Prize—Best Armament Fitter. A/A Hutchins continued the armament fitters habit of obtaining the highest Practical Average in Basic Fitting over three years, whilst A/A Thorman completed the hat-trick by gaining the award of the Elliot Memorial Prize at Schools. We wish No. 67 Entry well. They were unpredictable to the last. It now remains for Nos. 68 and 69 Entries to go in and beat their efforts, and we look forward with pious hope to seeing No. 76 Entry "Chipping and Chiselling" until the next issue of the magazine.

We welcome Cpl. Anderson—ex-51st Entry—to the ex-apprentice strength on the instructional staff, and cannot fail to record that his return to Halton was celebrated by the birth of a daughter to the Anderson family. Our congratulations also to Sgt. Morton—ex-44th Entry—on his promotion; we may now look forward to even bigger and better lighting effects when the Dramatic Society goes into production again.

There are many new personnel amongst the instructional staff, most of whom appear to have had a deal of sand in their shoes recently (or to have lived in a jungle). We welcome them to Halton, and hope that they will soon get settled into our way of life.

### THE OBJECTIVE TYPE

Now this is one I *should* get right,  
I only 'Genned' it up last night;  
Of course the oil must flow that way,  
And so the answer must be—'A'

A	B	C	D
X			

But wait a bit, there's something wrong,  
The pressure there is far too strong,  
And so it's even clear to *me*,  
The answer after all is—'B'

A	B	C	D
X	X		

And yet there is a snag somewhere,  
For aren't the pipelines full of air?  
This means the valve spring is not free,  
And so I feel the answer's—'C'

A	B	C	D
X	X	X	

But what would happen if the oil,  
In summertime should start to boil?  
Well, in that case it's plain to see,  
The answer can be only—'D'

A	B	C	D
X	X	X	X

This is a corker, no mistake,  
It's made my head begin to ache!  
But dash it all, I'm not quite stuck,  
For after all, there's still—'POT LUCK'

A	B	C	D
?	?	?	?

F.W.S.

## School Notes

The first very happy duty is to welcome the new Principal Education Officer, Group Captain E. Knowles, M.B.E., and Mrs. Knowles, to Halton. In his early days in the Service, Group Captain Knowles taught Apprentices here and is well acquainted with some of the more ingenious ways they have of expressing their personalities. One thing is certain—

that in the endless contests between Man and Machine there is no doubt on which side the Group Captain will be found. He has had many difficult and important tasks to face in the past at the Air Ministry and in Pakistan and has also had experience in Flying Training Command. We wish him a very successful reign.

There are other new faces. After very long tours Sqn.Ldr. Druett and Sqn.Ldr. Hardstaff have been posted, the former to the Armament and Gunnery School at Leconfield as Senior Education Officer, and the latter to the Second Tactical Air Force, Germany. The School owes them both a great deal. Wing Commander Stephen has taken over Sqn.Ldr. Druett's post in addition to his other duties and Sqn.Ldr. Hardstaff has been replaced by Sqn.Ldr. Dowsett who knows Halton well and is equally at home with all we connect with the wind tunnel. Sqn.Ldr. Bloomfield has been replaced by Sqn.Ldr. Wilson and Flt.Lt. Dines and Flt.Lt. Burr have also gone. They will all be missed, Flt.Lt. Dines particularly by the Senior and Rover Scouts. There are still more departures and arrivals. Fg.Off.s White, Deveze, Bergner, Bowden, and Gaskell have gone, and Flt.Lt. Hanslip, Fg.Off.s G. Lawrence, Nisbett, Walker and Bleasdale, and Plt.Off.s Harris, Harrison, W. Lawrence, and Whinray have come.

Flt.Lt. Hailey and Flt.Lt. Durrant arrived too late to be mentioned in the last issue of the Magazine, and in addition to their work at School have taken on the Model Engineering and Handicrafts Sections of the Halton Society.

The work in School progresses well in spite of secondary depressions in the shape of changes in staff and organisation which succeed each other all too frequently. There has been a substantial addition made to the qualifications necessary to obtain the Ordinary National Certificate by the Progress Examination being brought into line with the Intermediate and Final Examinations and made to count for the award of the Certificate. This starts with the 70th Entry.

There is also another change starting with this Entry. The Instrument Fitters will come under the aegis of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in place of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers as heretofore.

One sequel to the Graduation of the 66th Entry has been most encouraging. Fifteen Whitworth Prizes were awarded for the best candidates among the five thousand five hundred obtaining the Ordinary National Certificate last July and C/A/A E. Benson, the best of the Armament Fitters in his Entry, was successful in obtaining one of these prizes. This is the second Whitworth Prize awarded to Halton since 1951 and our warmest congratulations go to Benson on his fine achievement, of which the Armament Fitters will be justly proud.

There have been a few important changes of rooms at the School although the outward austere regularity of a Government building has been preserved. The Physics Laboratory has been moved from the main corridor where it occupied the lower half of Lecture Hall 'B' to Room 73 at the back of the School where the interior lighting is better and nobody looks down on anybody else. Lecture Hall 'B' becomes a lecture hall again. The Oral Studies Room has moved to the "crypt" and becomes a neighbour of the Visual Aids Room nearby.

The School Library has received a special honour. With Viscount Trenchard's approval it will be designated "The Trenchard Library." It is hoped that the name will long be an inspiration to those who work there.

## OBITUARY

### AIR COMMODORE I. M. BONHAM-CARTER,

C.B., O.B.E.

The Funeral Service for Air Commodore I. M. Bonham-Carter, C.B., O.B.E., took place at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Halton, with full military honours, at 1130 hrs. on Tuesday, 5th January, 1954.

The Pall Bearers included Air Commodore G. N. E. Tindal-Carroll-Worsley, C.B., C.B.E., Commandant No. 1 School of Technical Training. The Service, which was fully choral, was taken by the Rev. G. Hyslop, M.A., Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief, assisted by the Rev. R. T. Parsons, M.B.E., Senior Church of England Chaplain, Halton. The airmen on parade were under the command of Wing Commander J. W. Taylor, O.B.E.

Twenty-five years ago Air Commodore Bonham-Carter came to Halton as Commandant, and in a way he has remained there ever since. In this station of so much youth, there is usually someone present old enough to remark when some particular effort has gone well—"B-C" would have liked that," or when something reveals any slackness—"do you remember Bonham? he wouldn't have stood for that."

At first we thought that this austere embodiment of discipline would be a martinet. Then we learned that the austerity and stern discipline started with himself. How he lived for us! and how, hating anything savouring of demonstration, he received at the end affection, and something bordering on hero-worship from all ranks. Even the youngest Apprentice had a picture of an ideal officer to treasure for life.

A word should perhaps be said about the way he overcame the handicap of losing a leg in World War I. We all realised the toll it took of his strength, because he did so much more than those who were fit. When he bade farewell to a party of Apprentices going abroad for the first time he quoted—and no one had a better right—these lines from "If"—

"If you can force your hand and nerve and sinew  
To serve their turn long after they have gone  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the will, which says to you 'Hold on'."

We all loved him. In a service this overwhelming respect and affection is beyond any formal honours.

An approving glance from him was like promotion; and in that private graduation list which we all keep in our hearts in the Service somewhere very near the top will always stand the name of Air Commodore I. M. Bonham-Carter, C.B., O.B.E.