

The Haltonian Magazine

83 Edition

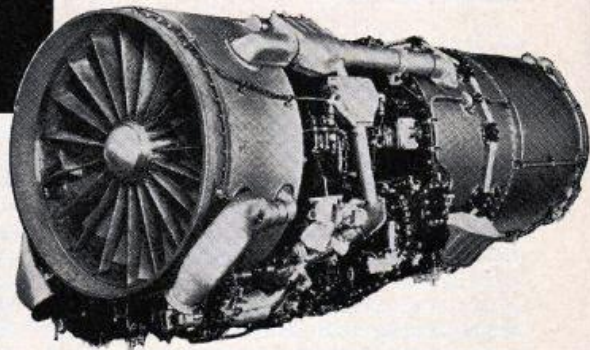
Summer 1959

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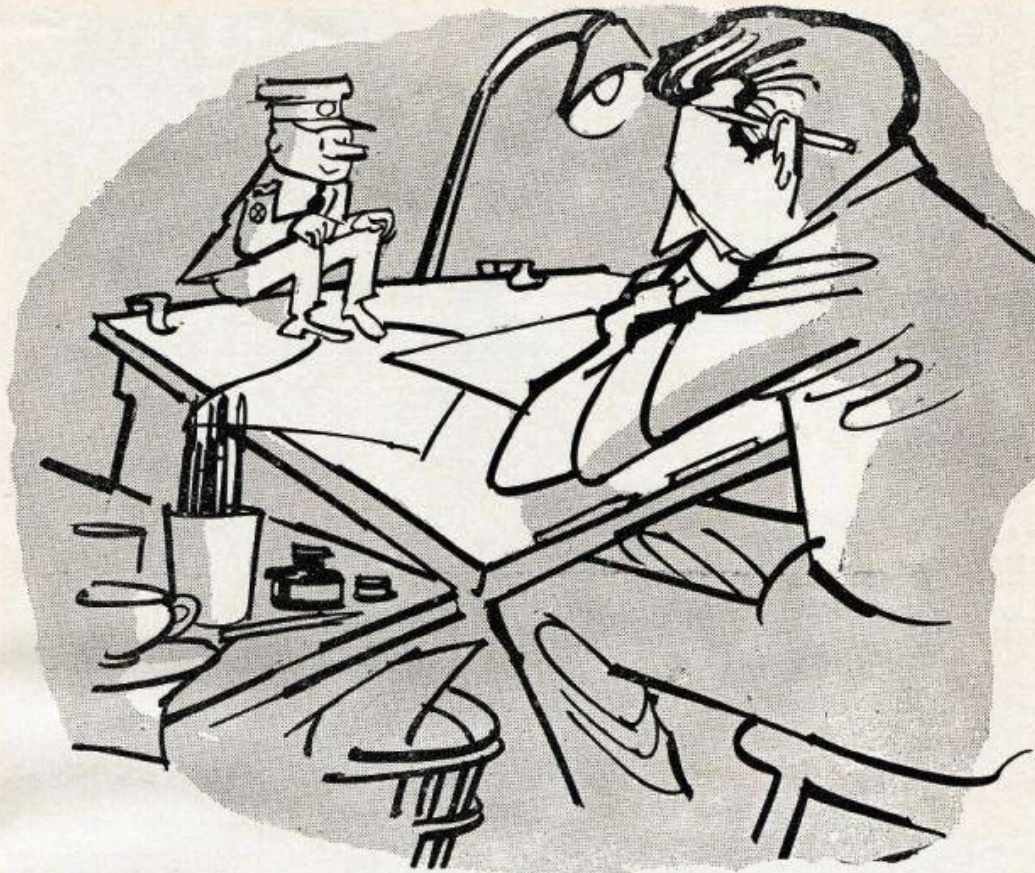
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## EDITORIAL

I address my remarks to apprentices only. This is your magazine—not mine. The editorial staff of this magazine exists for your convenience, as the machinery whereby your ideas, creations, and enthusiasms, as well as your activities, are given publicity. The editorial function is selection and arrangement of material, not blandishment, cajolery and bribery, to produce same.

There are many reasons why you tend to be reluctant to put pen to paper, and they are accepted "de facto." The unfortunate impression left, however, is that you have nothing urgent to say for yourselves. This cannot be so. Every generation has two sets of qualities—those which are standard heritage, youth, enthusiasm, self-confidence, etc., and those which are conditioned by the era itself. Concerning the latter, I agree that there is a tendency to be bewitched by mechanical substitutes. Why walk if there is a bus? On the other hand I most earnestly point out to you,

that it is your era, a technical era, an age of bewildering change and uncertainty. For this reason alone you should be tempted to examine yourselves and indulge in a little reportage.

The water isn't really cold. After the initial plunge you'll enjoy it. There is also an incentive: five pounds for the best piece of writing by an apprentice, published in the next edition: other awards if several pieces of writing are of high standard. You will have to forgive the insertion of a clause of minimum standard. Unless this is done we may be committed to payment for the one piece of writing received.

Well—a challenge and a material incentive! For what I am about to receive . . . I must wait and see.

Final congratulations to the 83rd Entry. We can't pay a fiver, but we would be delighted to hear from any of you.



The Graduation Parade of the 83rd Entry of Apprentices at Halton took place on the Henderson-Groves Parade Ground on March 25th, 1959. The Reviewing Officer was Mr. G. R. Laking, Acting High Commissioner for New Zealand. He was accompanied by Air Marshal Sir Arthur W. B. McDonald, K.C.B., A.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, O.B.E., Commandant of No. 1 School of Technical Training, Group Captain S. G. Taylor, Senior Training Officer, Group Captain E. A. Stockwell, Principal Education Officer, and Wing Commander C. W. McN. Newman, D.F.C., Officer Commanding No. 3 Apprentice Wing.

The Parade was under the command of Warrant Officer Apprentice R. B. Thomson (R.N.Z.A.F.), of the 83rd Entry. The following N.C.O. Apprentices were subordinate commanders:

Parade Adjutant	S/A/A E. J. Knoops
Parade Warrant Officer	S/A/A F. G. Harvey
Colour Bearer	S/A/A P. V. Pile (R.Rhod.A.F.)
Colour Warrant Officer	S/A/A A. J. Gassner (R.Rhod.A.F.)
Colour Escort	S/A/A C. J. Carey S/A/A A. B. Kitchingman (R.N.Z.A.F.)
Colour Orderly	S/A/A P. Wildish
No. 1 Escort Flight Commander	S/A/A C. D. Lewis
No. 2 Escort Flight Commander	F.S/A/A K. A. R. Butcher (R.N.Z.A.F.)
No. 3 Escort Flight Commander	F.S/A/A G. L. Cameron (R.N.Z.A.F.)
Standard Bearers	S/A/A C. Strike S/A/A D. J. G. DeKock (R.Rhod.A.F.)
Apprentice i/c Supporting Entry	S/A/A G. Pitcher
Drum Major Pipe Band	A/A V. G. Lorrigan
Drum Major Brass Band	C/A/A D. D. Cargill

The Entries on Parade were the 83rd and 84th

### The Commandant's Report

After the Parade the Prize-giving took place in the Burnett Gymnasium, where the Commandant delivered his report on the 83rd Entry's career at Halton. He first welcomed the Reviewing Officer, Mr. G. R. Laking, Acting High Commissioner for New Zealand. His presence was most fitting as the Graduation Parade had been commanded by an Apprentice of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, Warrant Officer Thomson, and two of the Flight Commanders were also New Zealanders. In addition, four of the Sergeant Apprentices taking part in an official capacity on the parade were Apprentices of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force. Thus it could almost be called a Commonwealth Graduation. Mr. Laking's career had been varied and highly successful. He had served in the Prime Minister's department and in the War Cabinet Secretariat. He had represented New Zealand at the United Nations, and had served on several international councils concerned with Pacific defence and aid to under-developed countries.

The 83rd Entry began with a strength of 216, but a considerable proportion had been lost by relegation, discharge or transfer to other forms of training. A total of 142 had graduated. The Commandant believed that the wastage rate was far too high, and would be reduced to an acceptable level only when the academic standard for entry was raised.

The achievements of the 83rd Entry had been of a high order, and the outstanding performances of the New Zealand and Rhodesian Apprentices merited special mention. The six New Zealanders attained the high average of 69%, with one pass with distinction and two passes with credit, whilst the average mark in all subjects of the four Rhodesians was 67%. The percentage of the Entry who succeeded in the examinations for the Ordinary National Certificate in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering was the highest for over three years. They had also shown commendable zeal in their voluntary enrolment for the General Certificate of Education, and their results were above average. The Entry had worked well in Schools throughout their three years and had succeeded in the standard curriculum.

In physical fitness, games and drill the Commandant considered that the 83rd had achieved a fairly high standard. But their trade training they began in far too over-confident a manner, so that their initial results were poor and went from bad to worse. However, both the instructional staff and the boys themselves had since made a fine effort; their failure rate was the lowest of any post-war Entry, only two Apprentices failing to graduate.

Twenty-two of the Entry were graduating as substantive corporals, the highest number since this particular scheme began. A further eleven had qualified for accelerated promotion to corporal technician.

The Commandant had been authorised to nominate two Apprentices for Prize Cadetships instead of the usual one. He had chosen Warrant Officer Apprentice Thomson (R.N.Z.A.F.) as Prize Cadet for the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, and Sergeant Apprentice D. J. Green for the R.A.F. Technical College, Henlow. Thomson was following in the footsteps of his brother, who graduated as a Flight Sergeant Apprentice with the 71st Entry in April, 1955, and was awarded a cadetship to Cranwell, where he finished by winning the Sword of Honour for the best all-round cadet. The present Thomson could be expected to do the same. In addition, Sergeant Apprentice Pile, of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force, had been awarded a G.D. (Pilot) Cadetship at Cranwell through the normal selection procedure. Two others had been offered direct commissions as Pilots, and two as Air Electronics Officers.

In conclusion, Air Commodore Coslett stressed that he had highlighted only the outstanding points about the 83rd Entry. A fine reflection on the Halton system was that those who worked hard came out at the top irrespective of their background and origins. He congratulated all the successful Apprentices and enjoined them to perpetuate the good name of Halton in the traditions of the Royal Air Force. On behalf of all the staff he wished them good luck and happy lives in their future careers.

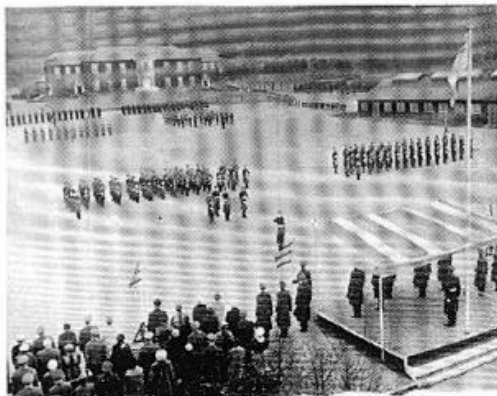
The Commandant then asked Mr. Laking to present the prizes.



Air Commodore T. W. Coslett, O.B.E., accompanies Mr. G. R. Laking, Acting High Commissioner for New Zealand, on an inspection of the parade. (Crown Copyright Reserved)  
Air Ministry Photograph

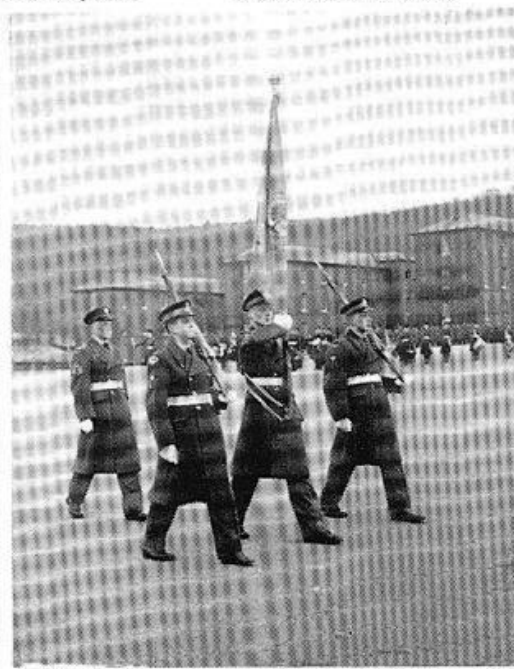
#### Address by the Reviewing Officer

The Reviewing Officer congratulated the Commandant, the Parade Commander and all who took part in the parade on their high standard and precision. He could never expect to see a better turn-out; the only improvement would have been if the Reviewing Officer had been subject to the same training and discipline as those on parade.



The General Salute

(Air Ministry Photograph)



The Queen's Colour is carried past. (Crown Copyright Reserved)  
Air Ministry Photograph

He felt proud that a member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force had commanded the parade. In view of the number of Commonwealth people in prominent positions, Mr. Laking wondered whether it might not soon be difficult for an applicant from the United Kingdom to get into the Royal Air Force at all. New Zealanders took great pride in having contributed so much to the R.A.F. and hoped this might in part repay some of the great debt they owed to the R.A.F. for its gallant defence of the Commonwealth.

The Acting High Commissioner stressed that the high standard of technical skill which Apprentices acquired at Halton was

widely recognised throughout the Commonwealth. He had been most impressed by a record of the accomplishments of graduates from Halton which the Commandant had shown him. Halton produced fine men of character, responsibility and pride of service. Mr. Laking warned the 83rd Entry that in thirty years of service ahead of them they would see many changes and much confusion. There would be no room for muddled thinking; they must be adaptable and critical. Above all they should avoid prejudice of any kind.

Mr. Laking finally congratulated the prize-winners and thanked the Commandant for the opportunity to be present at the graduation.

### 83rd ENTRY CADETSHIPS

- A Prize Cadetship in the General Duties Branch has been awarded to:—  
W.O/A/A R. B. Thomson (R.N.Z.A.F.)
- A Prize Cadetship in the Technical Branch has been awarded to:—  
S/A/A D. J. Green
- A Cadetship in the General Duties Branch has been awarded to:—  
S/A/A P.V. Pile (R.Rhod.A.F.)

### PRIZE WINNERS

- Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize (for best all-round Apprentice)**  
W.O/A/A R. B. Thomson (R.N.Z.A.F.)
- Pioneer Trophy (for the highest marks in all Technical Training Subjects)**  
C/A/A M. Palmer
- Crebbin-Robinson Cup (for the best Trade Standards Practical Fitting Test)**  
L/A/A F. Houvenaghel
- Elliott Memorial Prize (presented by the Royal Aeronautical Society for the highest marks in English and General Studies)**  
W.O/A/A R. B. Thomson (R.N.Z.A.F.)
- Quinton Memorial Trophy (for the best ex-A.T.C. Cadet)**  
L/A/A A. Cairns
- AIR MINISTRY PRIZES**
- Highest in Order of Merit, All Subjects**  
S/A/A D. J. Green
- Highest in Order of Merit, Educational Subjects**  
First Prize: W.O/A/A R. B. Thomson (R.N.Z.A.F.)  
Second Prize: S/A/A D. J. Green
- Best "Set Task", General Studies**  
L/A/A M. F. Whittingham
- Highest in Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency**  
First Prize: W.O/A/A R. B. Thomson (R.N.Z.A.F.)  
Second Prize: S/A/A D. J. G. De Kock (R.Rhod.A.F.)
- Highest Average for Practical Fitting over three-year course**  
S/A/A F. G. Harvey

## BEST TRADESMEN IN TRADES STANDARDS TRADE TEST

Airframe Fitter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	C/A/A K. E. Nicholas
Armament Fitter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	C/A/A M. Palmer
Electrical Fitter (Air)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S/A/A C. J. Carey
Engine Fitter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	S/A/A J. A. Green
Instrument Fitter (Nav.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	L/A/A M. J. Murphy
Instrument Fitter (Gen.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	A/A D. Gisborne

## LOOKING FORWARD

by W.O./A/A THOMSON, R.B., R.N.Z.A.F.

My thoughts, on writing this article, are very confused. My apprenticeship finished. I now have a career in the General Duties Branch ahead of me. This career could be a long one, or on the other hand it could not! Whatever happens, I think I will retain my present feelings about Halton—glad it's all over, but sorry to leave so much behind.

However, I would like very much to thank the educational and technical staffs for what they have taught me during my three years here. I say this with all sincerity, because I know that at times, I was downright difficult.

Ahead of me, I have another three years of concentrated training, at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. There I will have the opportunity to further my education, and also be instructed in the arts of flying and navigation. I have no illusions about an easy time at Cranwell. Once again, I will be a "rook", as green as they make them. However, I will be joining other ex-apprentices to whom I will look for guidance and advice in the early stages. My brother, who graduated from Cranwell last year, impressed on me the fact that there is a lot of work ahead of anyone accepted as a Flight Cadet. Such subjects as English, Mathematics, Physics, War Studies and maybe a foreign language, occupy a lot of time during the first two years. Nevertheless, sporting facilities are excellent, and I hope to be able to improve my proficiency at fencing. While I am on the subject, I would like to impress on all apprentices who read this, particularly those in the junior entries, that at Halton, there are excellent facilities for sport, and spare time occupation. Take advantage of them, but do not become so engrossed, that you forget your technical studies.

After what, I hope, is a successful period of training as a Flight Cadet, I will return to the Royal New Zealand Air Force to carry

out flying duties. Part of the task of this service is to share the defence of Australasia, South East Asia, and the Pacific area generally. I may be assigned to a squadron in Malaya, in Fiji, or elsewhere. This will mean opportunities to travel in South East Asia and the Pacific, and the opportunity to work with the Services of other countries.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force is, of necessity, small, but it has a fine history and tradition. I am proud to be a member of it, and a representative of it, and of my country. Though a small service, there are still opportunities for a worthwhile career. A Cranwell trained officer is recognised as being the cream of the General Duties Branch, and therefore I hope that I may not be a discredit to the training as an officer, or as a pilot.

These last remarks may seem serious, and of great portent, as surely, the choosing of one's career, is. However, there is the lighter side to life. To any Apprentice new to Halton, I would say—try and get a laugh a day out of life. A sense of humour, that at times seemed strange to others when its manifested itself in unusual ways, helped to bring me through three years at Halton in comparative sanity. I hope I never lose a sense of humour—it is wonderful what a good laugh can do.

Naturally, all these assumptions about my future may not be accurate, but immediately ahead of me, I have six months in New Zealand, doing what, I would not like to say.

Finally, I would like to pass on a little advice to Apprentices, at all stages of their training, and I hope this does not sound too paternal! Remember, if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well. Try to work but let sport and relaxation have their place. When, however, you are thoroughly "brassed-off"—forget work for a while!

We can't all do well, but believe me—it is worth trying.



## 83rd ENTRY SPORTS AWARDS

## SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS

## ATHLETICS

L/A/A Bowron, H. A. ... .. 1957/58  
S/A/A Gassner, A. J. (R.Rhod.A.F.) 1958  
C/A/A Rogers, C. J. ... .. 1957/58

## BASKETBALL

A/A Hambrook, B. G. ... .. 1958/59  
C/A/A King, I. D. ... .. 1958  
C/A/A Watkins, V. G. ... .. 1957/58  
L/A/A Whittingham, M. F. ... .. 1958/59

## BOXING

A/A Bowen, T. C. D. ... .. 1958/59

## CROSS COUNTRY

C/A/A Elliott, G. R. ... .. 1957/58  
C/A/A Harvey, F. G. ... .. 1958/59

## FENCING

C/A/A Bye, D. G. ... .. 1957/58  
A/A Constable, E. J. ... .. 1958/59  
W.O/A/A Thomson, R. B. ... .. 1957/58  
(R.N.Z.A.F.)

## HOCKEY

A/A Vickerman, F. ... .. 1958

## RUGBY

S/A/A Gassner, A. J. (R.Rhod.A.F.) 1958/59  
C/A/A Rogers, C. J. ... .. 1958/59

## SHOOTING

L/A/A Murphy, M. J. ... .. 1957

## SOCCER

L/A/A Fairclough, B. T. ... .. 1958/59  
L/A/A Verrinder, R. C. ... .. 1958/59

## SWIMMING

S/A/A Hovelmeier, E. L. ... .. 1958  
(R.Rhod.A.F.)  
C/A/A King, I. D. ... .. 1957/58  
A/A Spencer, M. ... .. 1957/58  
L/A/A Taylor, D. M. ... .. 1958

## 83rd ENTRY POSTING LIST

(In Order of Merit)

Green, D. J.	Awarded Prize Cadetship in Technical Branch	Fairclough, B. T.	Odiham
Thomson, R. B.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Gisborne, D. H.	Promoted Substantive Corporal
Carey, C. J.	Awarded Prize Cadetship in General Duties Branch	John, I. R.	Lynham
Green, J. A.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Verrinder, R. C.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell
Nicholas, K. E.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	De Kock, D. J. C.	St. Mawgan
Cheeseborough, J. A.	Leeming	Whittingham, M. F.	Abingdon
Clifford, R. J.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Turpin, R. M.	St. Mawgan
Cameron, G. L.	Awarded Direct Commission	Elliott, G. R.	Marham
Cairns, A.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Motch, M.	Kinloss
Pile, P. V.	Abingdon	Miles, A. J.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell
Webb, R. G.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Davidson, J. T.	Lynham
Winder, D.	Awarded Direct Commission	Butcher, K. A. R.	Thorney Island
Bye, D. G.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Waddington, J. R.	Promoted Substantive Corporal
Kitchingman, A. B.	Lynham	Brabrook, H. A. J.	Cyprus
Palmer, M.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Heaphy, M. D.	7 F.T.S., Valley
Gassner, A. J.	Awarded Direct Commission	Kevan, R. A. B.	Honington
Hush, J. S.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Hutchinson, R. W. A.	Flying College, Manby
Murphy, M. J.	Lynham	Viveash, C. O.	Lynham
Cochran, G. M.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Bowen, T. C. D.	Kinloss
Canton, B. V.	Coltishall	Gardner, A. J.	Flying College, Manby
Pattison, D. H.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Manocha, N. H.	Lynham
Dainty, J. D. G.	Honington	Swaminathan, P.	Lynham
Vickerman, F.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Walker, J. S.	Middleton St. George
Harvey, F. G.	Duxford	Knoops, E. J.	231 O.C.U., Bassingbourn
Morris, J. R.	Kinloss	Taylor, D. M.	Marham
Collins, P. M.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Hersey, C. P.	Binbrook
Strike, C. R.	Wyton	Scullion, J. H.	Marham
	Kinloss	Houvenaghel, F.	Idris, North Africa
	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Rogers, C. J.	Wyton
	Wyton	Shields, L. C.	Honington
	Kinloss	Lewis, C. D.	Duxford
	Marham	Tuckman, M.	7 F.T.S., Valley
	St. Mawgan	Raven, M. J.	Honington
	Tangmere	Brown, A. D.	Honington
	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Moon, J. S.	Gaydon
		Hovelmeier, E. L.	
		Parker, P. C.	St. Mawgan
		Male, A.	Wyton
		Oldham, B. W.	Gibraltar
		McLaren, D.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell
		Young, H. E.	Gaydon
		Sexton, D. J.	Honington
		Dudley, S. G.	Lynham
		Black, A.	Tengah, F.E.A.F.
		Bowron, H. A.	Lynham
		Rutter, R. A.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell

Stone, D. D.  
Stokes, P. R.  
Butcher, E. G.  
Spear, J.  
Morris, J. H.  
Bell, B. D.  
Hudson, A. E.  
Armiger, N. W.  
Sears, B. A.  
Constable, E. J.  
Withers, C.  
Jones, R.  
Hall, J. W.  
Parker, R. J.  
McCarthy, R. E.  
Castledine, W. D.  
Elliott, M. L.  
Hamlin, P. E.  
Woodgate, E. J.  
Watkin, V. G.  
King, I. D.  
Reeve, J. L.  
Coates, D. H.  
Hunt, G. E.  
Terry, I. M.  
Parker, R. E.  
Thomson, B. L.  
Paterson, R. J. K.  
Merritt, M.  
Smith, J. R.  
Wray, A. G.  
Cook, E.

R.A.F. College, Cranwell  
Cyprus  
8 F.T.S., Swinderby  
Honington  
Cyprus  
Kinloss  
231 O.C.U., Bassingbourn  
  
Stradishall  
R.A.F. College, Cranwell  
Lynham  
Wattisham  
Marham  
Marham  
Gibraltar

Linton-on-Ouse  
Gaydon  
Lynham  
Binbrook  
Binbrook  
Gibraltar  
Honington  
Honington  
Binbrook  
Upwood  
Leuchars  
Marham  
Upwood  
Cyprus  
Leuchars  
2nd B.A.F.

Sampson, J. W.  
Millard, A.  
Lines, C. A.  
Hannah, D. St. C.  
Lethbridge, D.  
Starkey-Smith, P. A.  
Hambrook, B. G.  
Biddiscombe, G. P.  
Drury, S. L.  
Haines, K.  
Bishop, S. F. K.  
Randall, D.  
Stothard, E. P.  
Anderson-Dixon, A. R.  
Higgins, D. L.  
Shiach, E. H.  
Burt, A. J.  
White, R. G.  
Jones, J. G.  
Cannon, R. E.  
Chmielowski, S. A.  
Woodard, R. R.  
Philipson, J.  
Walker, R. W.  
Hatton, P. J.  
Spencer, M.  
Payne, M. S.  
Smith, D. J.  
Cook, H. K.  
Stevens, R. G.  
Goodman, J. H.

Lynham  
Flying College, Manby  
St. Mawgan  
Abingdon  
Marham  
C.F.S., Little Rissington  
Malta  
2nd T.A.F.  
Gaydon  
Wyton  
229 O.C.U., Chivenor  
Lynham  
Tengah, F.E.A.F.  
Marham  
7 F.T.S., Valley  
Kinloss  
231 O.C.U., Bassingbourn  
2nd T.A.F.  
C.F.S., Little Rissington  
H.Q., B.F.A.P., Aden  
Marham  
Wattisham  
Cyprus  
Wyton  
7 F.T.S., Valley  
Lynham  
Tengah, F.E.A.F.  
St. Mawgan  
Upwood  
North Africa  
Malta  
Coltishall

The following ex-82nd Apprentices also qualified to Junior Technician Standard

Sharples, R. D.  
Saxton, D. E.  
Gardner, B. E.

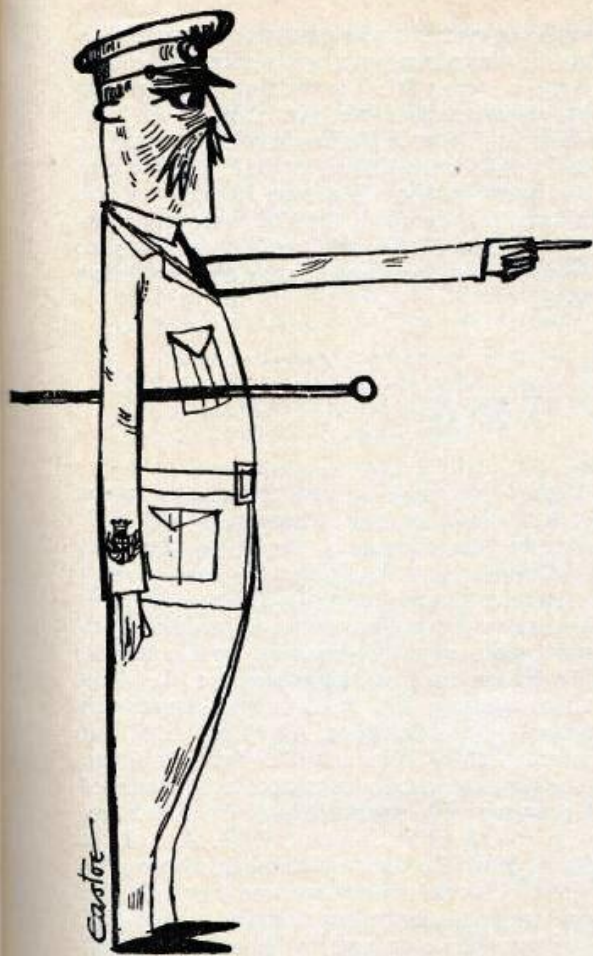
R.A.F. College, Cranwell  
Wyton  
231 O.C.U., Bassingbourn

Breaker, P. A.  
Haslett, C.  
Goldsworthy, G.

Honington  
Honington  
Lynham



"My Father says it was there in his time"



## No. 1 (A) WING

The past term has been very short due to the early Easter this year. This meant that rehearsals for parades and reviews were out, and snow and frost provided a further hindrance. Despite the lack of rehearsal time, the Commandant's Review was the best we had done and all are to be congratulated.

The Wing did very well over the Winter Term, both in the 83rd Entry Graduation and in the field of sport. Taking the Graduation first, the Wing again produced the W.O./A/A and took the two Prize Cadetships awarded by the Commandant to W.O./A/A R. B. Thomson and S/A/A D. J. Green, to both of whom we offer our congratulations. Of the eighteen prizes

## CURRENT EVENTS

awarded at the 83rd Graduation, this Wing took half. We also had 9 of the 22 substantive Corporals and 5 of the 11 accelerated promotions awarded. We wish the 83rd Entry all success and good luck in their future in the Royal Air Force. The statement that the Chancellor of the Exchequer ordered the beer tax cut to coincide with their arrival at units has not been confirmed, despite the fact they were a very good Entry.

The B.K. Trophy is again with the Wing, having been won last term by a clear victory over the holders, No. 3 Wing. In all, we collected 82 points; our nearest rivals, No. 3 Wing, had 48 points. We won both the Senior and Junior Rugby and Soccer and the Fencing. Well done the sportsmen!

An amusing break in normal routine came in February when B.B.C. T.V. and A.M. Photographers arrived to film Halton for a T.V. programme given on the 17th February. L/A/A Dawson (N.Z.) of the Wing appeared as one of the two stars. Good shots were shown of Squadron Leader Miller "dishing out ackers" to No. 1 Squadron, and of Room 6 in Block 13. This latter scene showed the room in its normal condition (who said "scruffy"?), and after it had been "bulled." In preparing the room, by far the hardest worker was L/A/A Freeman, and it was ironical that he did not appear in the film but had to lend his magnificent pair of boots for another to be photographed cleaning. During the filming there was a particularly enjoyable night in No. 1 Wing N.A.A.F.I. when the Apprentices let themselves go in boisterous singing. The film unit enjoyed themselves as much as we did, and the job, which should have taken an hour to complete, took over two hours. Our visitors were very impressed with the song about a juicy, juicy worm, and this was fully tape recorded.

At the end of the Winter term, we said goodbye to Flight Lieutenant N. S. Pluck, who left No. 2 Flight, 1 Squadron, for an accountant

officers' course, and we wish him all the best in his future appointment. In his place we welcome Flying Officer D. J. Taylor, who comes to us from Cyprus. Flight Lieutenant W. M. Robinson arrived from F.E.A.F. and had a brief stay with No. 1 Flight, 1 Squadron, before moving to No. 2 Wing. Flying Officer C. H. Davis has now taken over this Flight. At the beginning of the Summer term, Flying Officer H. S. Lewis left the wing for subsequent posting to Aden. His big efforts in coaching

rugby players over the past two seasons will be sorely missed next year, as his efforts have been largely responsible for welding together our conquering sides. We wish him good luck. Warrant Officer J. Davies has been posted as Station Warrant Officer at R.A.F. Hereford, and we wish him all success in what may be his last tour in the R.A.F. We welcome Warrant Officer R. W. S. Carnill, who joins us from Station Headquarters, as the new Wing W.O.

## No. 2 (A) WING

The Wing bands gave their usual impressive display at the Band Competition on the 23rd March, 1959, and we were once again pleased to win the award for the Best Pipe Band. A/A Lorriman was adjudged to be the Best Drum Major and, if he can keep up this performance, we have hopes that he will be the Apprentice with the longest period of tenure of this honour. L/A/A Swinburne completed the hat-trick by winning the Silver Drum.

Two days after the band competition we saw the 83rd Entry carry out an immaculate Graduation ceremony. Our congratulations go to S/A/A J. A. Cheeseborough and S/A/A A. B. Kitchingham, who were both awarded Direct Commissions as Pilots in the General Duties Branch. S/A/A Cheeseborough was also promoted to Substantive Corporal on graduation, in company with C/A/A K. E. Nicholas. To all members of the 83rd Entry we say, in the ancient manner, "fare-thee-well."

Turning to the world of sport, we fear that we cannot be so lighthearted. Our congratulations go to No. 3 Wing on winning the Barrington-Kennett Trophy, but, at the same time, we also offer a friendly word of warning. We do not intend to let them retain control of the trophy in the Summer Term. In the field of boxing, we had a more successful season. Six members of the Wing fought in the Scott-Payne championships; among those deserving mention were A/A B. Gray (91st Entry) and A/A M. McLaughlan (90th Entry), who won their bouts and then went on to fight and win in the Imperial Services Boxing Association

Championships. A/A Gray fought also in the A.B.A. finals at the Albert Hall and A/A McLaughlan fought in the Army finals at Aldershot. A/A P. Eccles also had a very successful season judging by the most impressive array of trophies, cups and medals which were sent away for engraving on his behalf. We did very well at Badminton, too, the Wing team winning the R.A.F. Inter-Apprentice Schools Championships. A full report of this meeting can be found in the Badminton Notes. The badminton team consisted, in the main, of Commonwealth Apprentices of the 91st Entry who joined us in January, 1959, A/A Rajit Singh being the most outstanding member by virtue of his pale blue pugri and long hair. We believe that he is the first Apprentice at Halton who cannot be ordered to have his hair cut!

There have been a number of postings among the permanent staff. Flt.Lt. W. M. Robinson joined us in March from No. 1 Wing to replace Plt.Off. A. Boydell, posted to R.A.F. Brookwood and thence to Malta. F.S. A. Collins also came from No. 1 Wing, in April, to replace F.S. D. Craddock, who was posted to R.A.F. Cardington. F.S. L. Newton came from R.A.F. St. Athan in April to exchange with F.S. V. Capel. Sgt. N. G. Bullen left us at the end of May to join a surveyors' course at R.A.F. Hereford. To all our departing friends we wish God-speed and good fortune in their new posts.

We hope that when these scribblings become cold print our readers are suffering under a most unseasonable English Summer and sweltering beneath a hot sun in a blue sky.

## No. 3 (A) WING

In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love; in the Spring No. 3 Wing's fancy turns (not quite so lightly, it must be admitted) to Co-ordination. The gleam in the Wing Commander's eye as he contemplates the approach of Spring must not be confused with that in more than one junior Flight Commander's eye. The former is born of dreadful certainty, the latter of gleeful anticipation.

However, much to everybody's surprise, the 83rd Entry duly graduated on the stated day, and an audible sigh of relief was heard to emanate from the Maitland area.

The most ardent weather watcher just before the Graduation parade was Flt.Lt. Wanstall, who was in charge of the Snow Plan. Having passed off this job as a sinecure he was greatly distressed by the presence of snow in the North of England during the preceding days. His supplications to the weather gods must have paid off as no snow fell and the sun, a rare visitor to these parts, even paid tribute to the 83rd by appearing as they marched off.

The only major staff change occurred

towards the end of the term. Warrant Officer Lee, the Wing Warrant Officer, left us to go to the Far East. He had been in the Wing for two-and-a-half years and distinguished himself for the zeal and efficiency he displayed, not only in the Wing, but also at Summer Camp. We welcome Warrant Officer Dingle, who took over the drill aspect of graduation so well, as proved by the excellence of the passing out parade.

3 Wing did not do quite so well in the B.K. Competition as they did in the Autumn Term. The "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" obviously coincides with the peak of our sporting prowess. But we look forward to the tennis, cricket and athletic season, and hope that not too many experts are taken away for Summer Camp. Talking of Summer Camp—that gleam comes back again to the Wing Commander's eye . . . Sqn.Ldr. Jenkins is now polishing his heavy duty boots for an average of 20 miles per day on foot in the wastes of BODMIN MOOR. Looking for lost Apprentices is a well known Summer Camp hobby; this year they will not get so far.

## HEADQUARTERS TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

Since the last issue of the magazine, there have been many changes in the Technical Wing Orderly-Room Staff. W.O. Dingle has left us to become the Wing W.O. of No. 3(A) Wing. Our loss is their gain. After a successful debut as Warrant Officer i/c the 83rd Entry Graduation Parade, he is maintaining the good work in his new capacity.

Another loss has been S.A.C.W., P. Grayson, married at Easter and demobilised to a full-time job of being a housewife. We wish her

all the very best in her new "career."

The Technical Wing football team had an outstanding success during the season, the final League Table reading:—

"Played 12 matches; won 12; goals for, 74; goals against, 29."

The tower of strength of the team was S.A.C. Jackson, from the Airfield Control Section, and the leading goal scorers were: Cpl. Buckle, 26, and Snr.Tech. Elliott and Sgt. Jones, 14 each. We look forward to similar success in the forthcoming cricket season.

## TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

### AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING SQUADRON

#### AIRFRAME FITTER FLIGHT

We have generally opened our report from this Section with news of the arrival and

departure of instructors, but, thanks be to Records, throughout this term we have remained firm as a body and have but one

arrival to record, namely Cpl. Pearsey. We welcome him into our midst and trust that he will find the worthwhile work here much to his liking.

Due to the increase of officer establishment for this flight, Flt.Lt. J. Martin was posted in as Flight Commander a few weeks ago. We understand that this is by no means his first contact with Halton, for he took up residence here with the 19th Entry and returned a few years ago as a Flight Commander in the domestic Wing. We hope that he will now have a happy and enjoyable stay in the Workshops.

Our first Chipmunk aircraft turned up at the commencement of the past term and since then has been looking forward eagerly to the arrival of his brothers. Unfortunately they have still to put in an appearance.

The Workshop, at the time of writing, is in the process of re-arrangement to conform with production line training. No doubt the new lay-out will have certain advantages and enable visitors to follow the pattern of our training much more easily.

We were pleased with the final achievements of the 83rd Entry and wish them full happiness in the next steps of their careers. We congratulate W.O./A/A Thomson on his prize cadetship and the many material prizes he gathered on graduation day. Our thanks are also due to C/A/A Houvenaghel, whose efforts during the practical test have returned the Crebbin-Robinson cup to us, after rather a long time. We hope that the 84th Entry have taken note of this and will see that it remains within the precincts of the Airframe Workshops.

### **ENGINE FITTER FLIGHT**

The past term has seen some sweeping changes, and notable occurrences, so let us deal with first things first.

Congratulations to the 83rd Entry on their 100% pass out result, also on the high percent-

age of substantive corporals, which set a new record. Well done!

Several changes in staff have taken place. We lost Senior Technicians Mouatt and Hyde, the former to Germany and the latter on his crew chief's course. Ch.Tech. Mack has gone to Henlow and Cpl. Howes to Kenya. The best of luck, chaps, in your new spheres of operation.

We welcome to the Flight Snr.Tech. Highmore, from Duxford, Cpl. Scammel, from Oakington, and Chf.Tech. Paul, known to quite a few of us, from Henlow.

Congratulations to Chf.Tech. Hepburn on the successful completion of his commissioning course and we hope he will soon settle down with his family in his new surroundings at Weeton.

The report that the hurricane that has been stoozing up and down the U.S.A., has hit the shops is definitely wrong. It's only a "little" reorganisation which was badly needed. The alterations are proceeding apace, especially since a certain boat party, when a beautiful whip was presented. Still, all work will eventually result in an improved and more modern standard of instruction, which is the ultimate goal of the staff.

Territorially the front remains a little fluid. We have regained some ground from the Gunners but have ceded some to the airframe flight.

Preparations for the annual A.O.C.'s inspection are taking place concurrently with the rebuilding programme and a lot of "pre-historic" equipment is on the way out. Snr.Tech. Paley missed his car one day and only just managed to save it from the salvage dump.

A hearty welcome to the 92nd Entry, who will obtain full benefit from these sweeping changes. You lucky people!

In conclusion, Ed, a suggestion to boost sales of the Halton Magazine. Please let us have some copies in Workshops; we are interested.

## **ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT SQUADRON**

### **ELECTRICAL FITTER FLIGHT**

This term has seen a major change, for Sqn.Ldr. G. R. Candy is enjoying the warm

sunshine of the Mediterranean, having taken the post of Command Electrical Officer, Middle East Air Force, in which we wish him every success. In parting, Sqn.Ldr. Candy sincerely

thanked the E. and I. staff for their support and enthusiasm in developing a modern and efficient apprentice training system, and welcomed the arrival of Sqn.Ldr. J. W. F. Parker, from the Central Servicing Development Unit, as a man well versed in up-to-date techniques and having a keen interest in Apprentice training; in fact the ideal combination for an E. and I. Squadron Commander. We hope that he will enjoy his stay at Halton.

It is with great pleasure that we record the promotion of Flt.Lt. D. W. Sarbutt, Chf.Tech. Ashley has also to be congratulated for his promotion this term.

A number of staff changes have taken place. Mr. Fitch, Snr.Tech. Court and Snr.Tech. Holdaway have gone to Melksham and Cpl. Evans has moved to St. Athan. On the credit side, however, we extend a welcome to Cpl. Cole, an ex-Halton Apprentice, who joins us from St. Athan, and Mr. Evans, who has moved up from Engine Fitter Flight.

Wedding bells have sounded for Chf.Tech. Hider and Cpl. Walton, who have joined the ranks of married men and receive our best wishes.

A/A Parker, 86th Entry, qualified for the progress prize this term and received an A.C. Theory text book and a slide rule. With these tools of the trade, we hope he will make even better progress.

The 83rd Entry certainly did its best and produced a 100% graduation. We now look to the 84th and 85th Entries to establish this as a regular occurrence and not an exception to the rule.

Finally, we welcome the newly arrived 92nd Entry and assure them of our full support as

they take their first strides in a worthwhile career.

## INSTRUMENT FITTER FLIGHT

We have just said goodbye to Squadron Leader G. R. Candy, our Squadron Commander, and we wish him every success in his new post. His work at Halton will long be remembered, for he certainly put the Electrical and Instrument Squadron on the map, making of it a veritable show piece.

In his place, we give a warm welcome to Sqn.Ldr. J. W. G. Parker, who joins us from C.S.D.E. with a refreshing and up-to-date knowledge of the requirement of modern aircraft.

Flt.Lt. J. Beattie, our Flight Commander, has received provisional warning of a posting to R.A.F. Bruggen, Germany, as O.C. E. and I. Flight in September. It is rumoured that he is already trying to shed a few "buckshee" jobs!

The 83rd Entry did us proud and now the 84th are beginning to "sweat" it out. We expect them to do equally well, if not better, and, if the Instrument Flight educational results are any guide, we should have some prize winners from among their midst.

Before the Summer leave is over, Sgt. Williams will have joined the ranks of the married men. We wish him and his bride a bright and happy future.

Congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. Clapham on the birth of a son.

Is it true that Sgt. Batchelor has dug his garden?

## FITTER ARMAMENT SQUADRON

The 83rd Entry has now graduated and, so far as this squadron is concerned, the critics have been confounded. Much credit for this must go to Chf.Tech. J. Little, to whom the Entry presented a whip as a memento.

The following prize winners now reap the reward of well-sustained effort and we congratulate them.

S/A/A Pile (Royal Rhodesian Air Force), G.D. Cadetship.

F.S./A/A Cameron (Royal N.Z. Air Force), Direct Commission G.D. Pilot.

C/A/A Palmer, Best Tradesman. Armament Fitter, Pioneer Trophy for highest aggregate in Final T.S.T. Promoted Corporal.

There has been the usual flow of postings in and out since the last issue. Snr.Tech. Bates and Cpl. Farrow have left for Guided Weapons Courses and we hope that the dollars last long enough.

F.S. Tomlinson has gone to Hereford and has been replaced by F.S. Davidson from Melksham. Sgt. Andrews has arrived from St. Eval. Changes are being made in the Basic Fitting Shop. A complete revision of training has been made whereby the majority of "Basic" will be covered in the first 23 weeks, thus avoiding

the two 13-week periods in the second year. A lot of work has gone in to making both the surroundings and the jobs more attractive. Many electrical soldering exercises have been introduced and first results show promise and augur well for the future.

## ENTERTAINMENT

We had to put a stop to the Jazz Concerts. They were too expensive. Only one Jazzman, Chris Barber, really paid his way, and even our open-handed Service Institute could not indefinitely support shows that were not well attended. So this year the Jazzmen—who are still the most popular entertainers with aircraft apprentices—have been playing for our dances.

An excellent little group, Kenny Ball's Jazzmen, has made three visits this Spring, and for the April Dance we were happy to welcome back the Betty Smith Quintet. Betty is fond of Halton. We did not ask her why. But she has been coming here on and off since 1953, when she made her first visit with the Freddy Randall Dixieland Band. Of her own group, four members have played in the past with Freddy Randall. All have been here many times with one group or another.

The April Dance was easily the most successful dance given by the present committee. Those apprentices who attended will not be surprised to learn that there were more than three hundred and thirty guests in the hall, and the chain of dancers in the Conga was long enough to go twice round the hall and stage. As usual, Betty infected the dances with her enthusiasm, particularly in the "party" numbers and her energetic version of "The Saints." Perhaps the most engaging number of the evening was "Momma won't 'low no Victor Silvestering here", during which the pianist seemed to be sitting on the floor, and Jack Peberdy undoubtedly was holding the double bass over his head. Betty's drummer gave his brilliant solo, "The Anvil Chorus", and towards

the end of the evening, an item that could have been described as a duet for drum and stage lighting, for Chief Technician Ayres—a good friend of entertainment at Halton—gave a dramatic display of flashing colour during the number.

A group new to Halton, heard for the first time at the April Dance, was the Dave Stannard Trio, which played during the interval. This group, composed of airmen, gives a most professional performance and could be widely employed.

At Whitsun, Kenny Ball's Jazzmen played for another successful dance, which had the very minor significance of being the last function organised at Halton by the writer of this column, who is going the way that we all must go, to another unit and another job.

It is tempting to look back over nearly two years of Station entertainment and recall those parts of it that have been most amusing, but the temptation must be resisted. Nonetheless, it would be hard to close this column without remembering one highlight (if that word is the one to describe it) in a catalogue of recollections—the memory of Humphrey Lyttelton playing on in utter darkness while the electricians fumbled desperately with the fuse box. That incident should be counted as representative of a large number of agonising hitches which have beset the committee in their business.

Finally, to those who have helped, in greater or lesser degree, with the job of entertaining the station, the writer takes this opportunity of giving thanks.

Entertainment Officer



# APPRENTICE SCHOOLS

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The Halton motto "Crescentes discimus", which the Principal Education Officer has been known to translate loosely as "We live and learn", applies no less to the Schools than to other aspects of Halton life and training. In short, we press ahead, with the Apprentices preparing steadily for examinations, external and internal. There were one hundred and forty one candidates, the highest number ever for the examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute. And also the highest number on record, over seventy candidates will seek to obtain a National Certificate this term, while a very large number are preparing for the General Certificate of Education. In this latter examination, the increase in numbers of entrants at Advanced Level in Mathematics is notable. With so many targets for so many people it is hoped that this article in the next edition of the Magazine will be full of congratulations.

To hark back a little, it is meet that the congratulations of Education Officers should be added to the many tributes paid to the members of the 83rd Entry for their very successful conclusion of their Halton training. Their average mark in all educational subjects, of fifty nine per cent., has been equalled only once, by the 82nd Entry, and theirs is the best result for a May entry for the past ten years. There were also, of course, outstanding individual successes.

Looking forward again, a cordial welcome is extended to the 92nd Entry and best wishes for success to the 84th, who leave Halton this Summer.

There has been less than normal movement in the postings of staff. Wing Commander Mayoh departed to take up an appointment at Headquarters, Maintenance Command, and to promotion. On the latter, we offer our heartfelt congratulations. We welcome as his successor Wing Commander Druett from Fighter Command, to whom, we are told, the sights and sounds (musical and otherwise) of Royal Air Force, Halton, and the Apprentice Schools are no novelty. We have said farewell to Flying Officer Fearnley, who was the previous editor of this magazine, and we welcome Flight Lieutenant Bhore, M.B.E., D.F.C., from warmer climes, as well as Flying Officers Aron and Birch and Pilot Officer Morris. Finally,

we must mention our reluctant farewells to Mr. Corser, who, after holding the position as Secretary to a succession of Principal Education Officers, has departed to keep the Officers' Mess affairs in order.

The Schools are now wearing Summer costume and have a lighter green drapery than the austere Winter pines. There are to be extensions (two new classrooms), and improvements, and all are welcome. The bust of Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Trenchard, is now all but paid for, and will, no doubt, take up its permanent position of honour in the Trenchard Library.

The Schools have continued to make extensive contributions to Station, Command, and Royal Air Force sport. In the Station sports, held on 3rd June, Schools ran out as clear winners. Amongst many notable performances were those of Flying Officer Richards, who runs for the Royal Air Force and the Combined Services, and Flying Officer J. G. Williams, the erstwhile representative of the Royal Air Force at the eight hundred and eighty yards distance, not to mention Flying Officer Wood who never stops running. Alistair has, of course, represented his country at the British Empire Games, and recent exploits include the pacing of Norris in the latter's attempt on the ten mile record. In default of anything better to do on Saturday, the 6th of June, he casually collected the Buckinghamshire three mile championship. We also congratulate Flying Officer Gold, Flying Officer Jones (who once again showed his ability not to keep his feet on the ground) and Flight Lieutenant Goodwill. Finally, congratulations to Mrs. Ingham, whose hectic training sessions on the first floor corridors stood her in good stead in the ladies' sprint.

We have reserved a paragraph to himself for Pilot Officer Humphrey Truman, who woke from his nationally famous sleep with a vengeance. Having run in the steeple chase in the Station Sports, and tugged in the tug-of-war, he lumbered in his vehicle to the tennis courts to compete in the Technical Training Command tennis championships. He returned for another tug, then trundled back to win the Command singles title. We feel that he has earned a return to the state of somnolence.

## T.V. COMES TO HALTON

by T. W. (Jock) Millett (ex 40th)



Air Commodore T. N. Coslett, O.B.E. talks with Mr. T. W. Millett

On a bright summer's day in 1941 I left Halton as a "discharged" Apprentice, and I well remember thinking, "Heaven only knows when I may see the old place again." By the time I left the Service as a master pilot in 1954, the only glimpses that I had managed were the occasions when I had flown over, and from the air little seemed to have changed. Obviously, the Chief Pilot on his cloud hadn't forgotten my final thoughts on departing from Block 6, Room 6, No. 2(A) Wing, for in January I was given the opportunity to return in a most unexpected capacity—as a B.B.C. television producer. My colleague, Douglas Fleming, said that, as he had some programme time to fill, it had been suggested that he might like to

go and see how Aircraft Apprentices of the R.A.F. worked and lived; he asked if I would like to help. Well, I was in my car heading for the Chilterns before he got the last word out!

On my way to the first meeting my mind was full of memories and these grew stronger as I came round Main Point and headed down to H.Q. Outwardly, nothing seemed to have changed much, although I **did** notice that they had painted out "Up the 40th" from the roof of Maitland Guardroom, but I suppose we of the Entry should have expected that. As I drew up outside H.Q. I also realised that I was in fact going to see the inside for the first time, as I cannot remember ever having been there before.

Anyway, on with the work, and from this first meeting with the Commandant ("I was in the 13th, what Entry were you?") we were given the freedom of the camp. Right from the start we had a problem, and that was how to tell the whole story of Halton in thirty minutes. After much discussion, it was finally decided that twenty minutes would be "live" from the airfield, and that *all* I had to do was to put the rest of Halton life on ten minutes of film! I was given two Apprentices and two camera teams, and I came back on the 5th and 6th February to start the actual filming. We had decided that, as there was so much to cover, we would "shoot" silent film and dub in the sound afterwards, so I also brought with me a midget tape recorder and a loud-hailer to control the cameras from a distance.

Thus equipped, we all arrived on the Parade Ground at 7.30 a.m. for a rehearsal of the working parade, which we needed to film for the opening of the programme. This rehearsal, with the combined Pipe Bands of 1 and 2 Wings, went off without a hitch and I was impressed by the bearing. Afterwards we started our actual filming in the Engine Revision Bay of the Old Workshops. Here was a change of scene from my day, and as far as I can recall about the only structural change in the set-up of Halton today, for the place now is

split up into partitioned bays for instruction—all nice and cosy. Here, also, we started to make film stars out of A/A Dave Andrew (87th) and L/A/A Peter Lawson, a Kiwi of the 86th, and my idea was to bring them into each film sequence. I can imagine some of the cracks they had to put up with, but I am sure that those of you who have seen the finished product will agree that both did very well and kept up the Halton standard of doing a job completely, and with little fuss. How I wish that all T.V. personalities were as easy to work with!

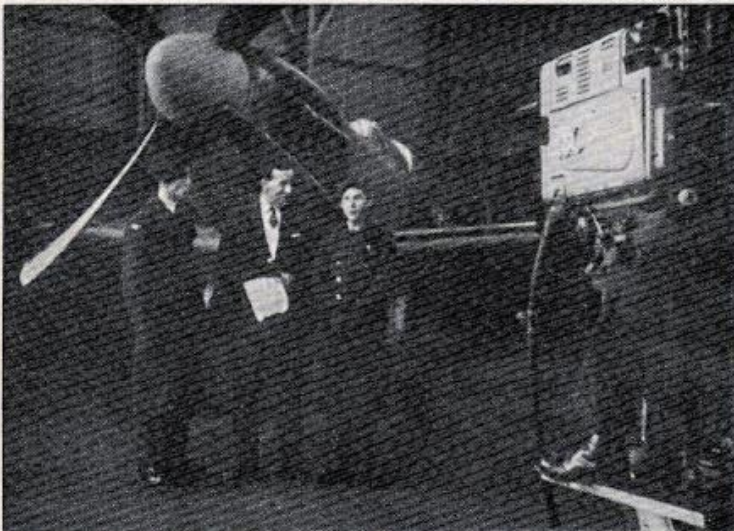
The Workshops occupied all the first morning's shooting, and in the afternoon we covered the Halton Society and, again something new to me, the Chiltern Valley Feet Warmers, as good a traditional jazz group as I have heard, even though they appeared a little nervous in front of the cameras. At the end of that day's work we had the Workshops, the Cockpit classroom, the Burnett Gym and the Halton Society in the "can", and things were going well—we should have been warned! When we arrived on the Parade Ground bright and early the next morning, we found the cameraman's nightmare—FOG. Not *too* thick, but how we wished we had filmed the rehearsal on the previous morning! Anyway, we took a chance and shot it with our hearts in our mouths. 1 and 2 Wings probably never realised, as they marched smartly

down the hill, that we were not sure that we would be able to use the film.

So on to School, and more trouble. We could not get enough power to light the Main Corridor and, in the middle of that, I found that the batteries of the tape recorder had run down and all the sound had gone for a Burton. But these little things are sent to try us; trussed and barnacled, we rearranged our schedule and finished the morning having to cut out only one sequence, and later in the day we re-recorded the sound which we had lost. After the Apprentices had finished their work we went up to film the Pay Parade in 1 Wing (£5 a week—Good heavens, what *can* they spend it on?). I chose David Andrew to be filmed receiving his pay, but it just happened that Dave came from 3 Wing. In the face of all ribald remarks he did it. We finished the evening filming in 1 Wing N.A.A.F.I., and what a carry on! I thoroughly enjoyed myself, to such an extent that I even found the nerve to stand up and yell "Up the 40th" . . . Well, they were singing about some Entry called the 83rd and I couldn't have that! I have a vague feeling that the resultant sound wave must have been supersonic, and I didn't need a wind-tunnel to prove it.

And so the filming came to an end. The film knitted together very well and our main snags arose when we got down to the stage of dubbing sound to fit the action. I can't tell all of the tricks we pulled, but I can let out one secret. When we came to dubb the sound of the Apprentices marching we found that there was hardly any sound, certainly not enough for what we needed, and we realised that it was due to the rubber heels of the 1959 boots. So we used an effects disc of the Guards marching. Believe it or not, the synchronisation was perfect.

During the morning of the 16th February the airfield was more or less taken over by the B.B.C. engineers and later in the



Mr. T. W. Millet with Cpl. A/A Dawson (86th) and A/A Andrews (87th)

afternoon we started rough rehearsals. We learned, with great regret, that my B.B.C. chum of the 35th, Cliff Michelmores, could not be with us as the 'flu bug had laid him low. Poor Cliff, I know how much he had been looking forward to taking part. Nothing daunted, I stepped into his illustrious shoes, and though slightly tremulous I hoped I could cope. At least I had the indomitable Raymond Baxter to look after me.

The day of transmission (17th February) dawned clear, if slightly misty, but the weather improved as the day grew older and rehearsals progressed. Slowly, out of chaos, the programme was taking shape. We kept most of the senior Entry amused with our cameras belting around the hangar, and many were the remarks I heard projected towards our four "stars", A/As Stone, Dawson, Andrews and Parsons, but it was all light-hearted and helped to keep an easy atmosphere. Came 3 o'clock and the N.A.A.F.I., and while partaking of "the brew" I had a shock. I knew the reputation of N.A.A.F.I. tea, but did it dull your eyesight? For the far end of the airfield had disappeared, and *while we watched* the visibility dropped from 3 miles to 100 yards!! By the time trans-

mission came at 5 o'clock it had dropped to 20 yards, and because of this most of the shots outside the hangar were spoiled. But live Outside Broadcasts must go on, and so they did. The rest of the camp were let off at 4.30 so that they could watch the programme, and to date we have received no anonymous threatening letters, so we assume that it was not so bad.

We tried to give an honest picture of what life is like at Halton today, and I personally think that we did so. Strangely enough, we have received quite a few letters from ex-Halton types who thoroughly appreciated going back to the Camp via television, as I did myself.

My own personal summing up is that no matter what the Entry number, the Halton Apprentice has not changed. He has more scope and freedom and wider horizons than in my day, and it is obvious that the Service is going to depend much more on you who are to come. The other main impression was of the officers at Halton. It is quite surprising how many ex-Apprentices are now at Halton House, and a very good thing too—or is it? I wonder if all the tricks of Halton Apprentices can be anticipated by those who once were there; somehow I doubt it!

## PHILATELICS ON ACTIVE SERVICE

by Sqn.Ldr. F. Settington

War would seem to be the time when the Service man sadly closes his stamp album, wraps it, seals it and packs it away until such times as the bugles sound truce. War was not, however, consistently "blood and sweat and tears." Not always were the guns smoking. There were long periods of heavy boredom, periods of watching and waiting, of advance and retreat, of refit and relaxation. Such periods gave countless opportunities to the philatelist who, no longer a domestic collector with all his paraphernalia, still retained an eye for the main chance.

Fourteenth Army moved south in Burma in 1945 in the historic race against the monsoon. Village after village and town after town was liberated in this frantic thrust to beat the open-

ing of the rain clouds. Japan itself lacked essentials and Japanese rule had not been over indulgent. The Burmese, therefore, were short of many essentials, and especially of food. We did what we could, which was little enough. In return we were offered coconuts, plantains, and bottles of "zu" (rice wines or spirit). The odd enquiry also produced stamps—stamps of the pre-war British regime overprinted in black with the silhouette of a peacock, emblem of Burma—national stamps of Japan in values of yen, overprinted for use in Burma, in values of cents, Burmese Independence stamps (the independence was, of course, an anomaly)—Japanese occupation stamps printed in Java, and new Burmese stamps of common usage. The stamps were received in a variety of condi-

## JOT AND TITTLE

by Blue Marker

(Being the ruminations of a Wing diary keeper in the nature of a mirror on the Halton scene).

### March 195-

To a newcomer, it is clear that much is being planned to re-establish Halton as the true source of technical excellence in the modern Royal Air Force. There are signs that the shackles of wartime and its aftermath of political crises are being cast aside by a new and forward-looking generation, whose prospect covers in an epic sweep, the wonders of conquest of the stratosphere, and the space beyond. The enigmatic Lawrence, chafing his A.C. twice's blue-serge, penned this generation's brief—"to write their will across the sky in stars."

In the early 1920's, when Halton was set up as the place of guidance for a new-air-minded generation, the conquest of the air offered exciting challenge. What was it the poet said?

"Born of the sun,  
they travelled a short while  
towards the sun,  
and left the vivid air  
signed with their honour."

That generation kept its account, and paid in full. Perhaps we may take some pride in serving at Halton at the beginning of a new era of challenge beyond the air, and into the void. *Per ardua ad astra.*

### April 195-

The month has retired in a burst of Spring glory. Leafy coats of many colours supplemented the Apprentices' preparations for the annual inspection by the A.O.C. The formality of Barrack architecture is now softened for a season with the rich natural beauty of the Halton setting. Cricket has come; and shirt sleeve order. Soccer and rugby pitches settle down to Summer sleep. The -st Entry crane eagerly forward to July, graduation, leave and the life beyond.

After the A.O.C.'s Inspection the Station stood down from its tasks for 48 hours, over what turned out to be a beautiful Spring week-

end. The disappearance of thousands of Apprentices to their week-end leisure, at very short notice, bespoke an astonishing efficiency in dispersal which bodes well in these days of short notice atomic threat.

### May 195-

NIL. \*See author's note below.

### June 195-

Anything but glorious. The Chilterns, which seem to smile upon our barrack life and work with such benign approval on sunny days, wore more often than not the forbidding frown of some frustrated god, with dark clouds for headdress and sweeping rain for raiment. Spiteful lightning from time to time illuminated a growling, bad-tempered month of atrocious weather.

In the intervals of calm between the storms, life has been made lively with many a stirring athletic battle at the stadium and equally exciting galas at the swimming baths. Cricketers, generally, are in a frustrated mood.

The first stirrings of end-of-term excitement are making themselves felt. There is talk of Summer Leave. The glamour of tours in Italy, Spain, Belgium, France and Germany is brightening many an Apprentice eye. The -st Entry arrive at the very last month of a long, three-year training journey. For them the prospect of August leave must indeed be wonderful.

### July 195-

The term ended on 31st July. As ever, the final two weeks were dominated by the preparations for the passing-out of the Senior Entry. Few who have not experienced the training here can imagine the mounting excitement which must grip the young men who have now completed their training and examinations.

Their passing-out Parade was a brisk affair of traditional form. Pipe ribbons flew bravely

in a stiff breeze and the Queen's Colour was borne bravely and steadily on the wing by its honoured bearer. The Entry's day of excitement also included a cheerfully splendid prize-giving; and a dance in the evening, at which the famous Mr. D's Band gave ample cacophonous, if not musical, value for money.

The Wing itself has had a most busy term, with its share of sporting triumphs and disappointments. However the Barrington-Kennett Trophy was eventually, and narrowly, won in a contest which included cricket, tennis, shooting, athletics and swimming. A term-long struggle for supremacy in these sports came to final issue in the very last race of the very last contest (which was swimming). No. — Wing, to our great pride, won amidst scenes of fantastic excitement.

#### **August 195-**

We are on leave, and there is peace in the lines.

#### **September 195-**

The Wing has shaken down nicely since returning to training. Most leave stories told of rain where there should have been sunshine, but here and there a decent tan bespoke determined efforts to use what little sun there was. Early in the term the -nd Entry announced their seniority by gagging at the crack of one sunny dawn. Their noisy exuberance, inspired by the ubiquitous bagpipes, spent its force upon the unsuspecting sleepers in this great sprawling camp.

The new Entry arrived in the Wing about one hundred strong. It is possible to see in their young faces the greatness of the Service of their choice and the nation of their birth. Some will fail. Some will decline the rigours of this life. But most will go on to success and prove, as always, that there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it.

#### **October 195-**

The Wing is deeply involved in its ordination tasks this term. The Battle of Britain celebrations, including public displays at Halton Airfield and in Aylesbury, have been accomplished.

Plans for the Graduation of the -nd Entry, their passing-out parade, Church Service of

dedication, prize-giving and dance; plans for the Wing Christmas Dinner, Christmas Concert, Christmas Draw and the end-of-term Presentation Parade are all under way. If there is not time, this month, to dwell herein on more philosophical things, it is because we are furiously busy.

#### **November 195-**

November has been a month of traditional aspect—fog and gloomy weather persisting. If the weather, as a subject, intrudes often in this diary, it is because the meteorological and the human barometers have a distinct affinity, in terms of morale, at Halton.

Christmas and the dying year will soon be upon us, and we look to the New Year with confidence of many lessons learned. The Wing performed splendidly in Review before the Commandant on — November, 195-

#### **December 195-**

Our term of co-ordinating duty is over. The -nd Entry carried its day of graduation glory handsomely. For four hectic months we have weathered a storm of detail in a sea of organisation. The glow of success has been our haven. We have touched topic on thirty seven matters of community interest and arranged the outcome of each.

If any one thing lent enchantment more than another during the term it would be the splendid carol singing indulged in by the Wing Apprentices at their end-of-term concert. They sang all the right words in full voice and harmony to bring a touch of the fleeting magic of the Christmas Season to the walls of a N.A.A.F.I. Institute more used to the juke-box junket.

#### **January 195-**

January brought snow, frost, ice, fog and a little sunshine in its train. The bitter weather was only bearable when the last-named phenomenon put in its pale appearance. The Wing has been slow to gear up since its return from Christmas Break. The loss of playing field facilities through snow, ice and dense fog soon makes its mark on the general physical tone. There are times, after the fulsome comforts of the festive season, when the wintry Chilterns and the angularity of the Barrack Area produce home longings in young lads, doubt-

less intensified by thoughts, now and then, of the lass who had been left behind. Roll on the welcome green of Springtime!

#### February 195-

The most exciting event of the term so far came about with the descent of hordes of B.B.C. ladies and gentlemen bent on putting R.A.F. Halton on the nation's C.R. tubes. They were everywhere with their cameras, light meters, tapemeasures, lights, microphones, recording machines and all the paraphernalia of "T.V." Even we at Halton, who are used to mass effect in terms of humanity, could not help observing that there were a lot of cooks stirring this particular B.B.C. broth. Their quaint, bicycle-wheeled camera trolleys had ample retinues, some of whom were seen to work, others to look, yet others to listen; and an odd fringe of courtiers merely were there. We assumed that they are employed to do the worrying.

#### March 195-

This has been the ultimate month of a very short and hectic term. Would that Easter were

not a movable feast! The term has been notable for a quite high epidemic, particularly from the attentions of the influenza germ which this year seems to be biting sharply. We have the misfortune in our Wing to be hosts, in the hospital sense, to epidemic victims. Our spare Barrack Block is used as emergency accommodation for the whole school.

It is not however, without its humorous side. All the potions dispensed by our harrassed doctors do not seem half so effective in clearing up an epidemic as the prospect of Easter Leave. As this approaches, epidemic figures miraculously tumble; and in the stillness which follows the termly exodus to home and mother, we can look across at No. - Block, now quite empty, and reflect on our own local manifestation. This, somewhat facetiously, we have come to call our own miracle of Easter.

\*(Author's Note: We were away on a course. Our Deputy was not diary-minded).

## THIS IS ALL GREEK

In ancient Greece there lived a rum merchant who had a son called Nexus. Even in those days the idea of earning an honest drachma was not to be spurned, so when Nexus reached his nineteenth birthday. Dad hied the pair of them to the legal firm of Smart Alexis and Smart, legalists. There it was agreed that Nexus should be trained in the intricacies of the law under the guidance of Smart Alexis himself, the senior partner. Hamstrung however, by a mass of hire purchase commitments, because he wanted to keep his wife quiet when he went to the Olympic Games, Dad couldn't quite raise the zephyr, and a solemn covenant was therefore drawn up whereby Dad was to pay half the fees spot cash immediately, and Junior himself was to pay the other half, as soon as he had won his first case.

So there proceeded apace the training of Junior who learned law and waxed crafty. However, two weeks after passing out, Nexus hit the jack-pot with eight healthy draws in Plato's Parnassan Pools, so that, forthwith, he stank with libri, solidarii and denarii. He found thereafter that the conversation at the

Muse and Medusa, punctuated with quarts of Samos, of greater appeal than the somewhat more arid forensic disquisitions offered by the law courts. Nexus therefore denied the law and took on no cases.

Smart Alexis therefore, short of his half fee, checked a couple of his tomes and sued Nexus. "If I win", he said to himself, "the Court will award me the money I am claiming. If I lose, Nexus will have won his first case and must pay up according to the agreement. Win or lose, the lolly is mine." And he wrenched his elbow while patting himself on the back.

Nexus heard about it all just before afternoon closing time at the Muse, and, under the stimuli of both intellect and wine, laughed a mighty laugh "Surely", he thought to himself, "my ex-mentor is the Colossus of clots. If he wins, then I haven't won my first case, and don't therefore pay the money. If he loses the Court decrees that I don't pay. Win or lose, the lolly is mine: I'll take him on myself".

Even with Greek lawyers, both can't be right. Would anyone from the barrack rooms care to suggest a solution.