

The Haltonian Magazine

79 Edition

Spring 1958

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AIRPORT WORKS CAMBRIDGE

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EDITORIAL

It is a great privilege to be able to publish in this issue articles by two Air Officers, Air Marshal Sir George Beamish and Air Vice Marshal H. D. Spreckley. Air Marshal Sir George R. Beamish, K.C.B., C.B.E., retiring from his position as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Technical Training Command and from the Royal Air Force, has kindly sent a message of farewell. No one will be able to read that message without being impressed by the wisdom of the advice it contains. Air Marshal Beamish takes with him into civilian life our thanks for the benevolent guidance he has bestowed on the Command and for the interest he has taken in Halton throughout his tenure of office. We wish him the best of good fortune for the future.

We should like to take this opportunity to welcome Air Marshal Beamish's successor as A.O.C.-in-C., Air Marshal Sir W. B. McDonald, K.C.B., A.F.C.

Air Vice Marshal H. D. Spreckley, C.B., O.B.E., Air Officer Commanding No. 24 Group, contributes the article "Looking Back" in this edition. This is something of an occasion: "Looking Back" has never before been written by an A.O.C. No. 24 Group. It is both a comfort and an inspiration to think that the Air Officer who controls Apprentice training should himself have been "through the mill."

The request in the Autumn 1957 edition of the Magazine for information about a Halton Song Book elicited one reply. This was from W.O. P. J. Hyland (28th Entry, 1 Wing) of St. Athan. He writes that he has two Halton Song Books in his possession. One of these, with words by A. C. Kermode and music by R. H. Cort, was published in 1930 by the Halton Debating Society, price two shillings and sixpence; the other, words only, was published in 1935 by the Halton Society.

Since W.O. Hyland's information reached us a third Song Book has come to light. An officer moving into a new flat found in a cupboard a dusty, battered volume bearing the legend "Halton Debating Society, Minute Book, 1925." The Halton Debating Society

was the forerunner of the Halton Society and concerned itself with many other activities besides debating. Among the records of debates, mock trials, expeditions and stage shows which the minute book contains is a booklet, price sixpence, published as a supplement to the Summer 1928 edition of the Halton Magazine. Its contents are the words and music from "an original comic opera" called "Time Flies." Judging by the date and the fact that it was published by the Halton Magazine it would seem that this is the book which was the subject of last edition's enquiry. However, W.O. Hyland has offered to lend his song books to the Halton Society: advantage will probably be taken of his offer and the Printing Section of the Halton Society will consider the possibility of reprinting a song book of some sort.

As for the Minute Book, going back over a quarter of a century as it does, this is a valuable historical document. It will probably be bound and placed in the Trenchard Library. Glancing through the book at the records of lively debates which used to be held, we are led to wonder why there is no Debating Section within the present Halton Society. Can it be that present-day Apprentices have less to say for themselves than those of a generation ago?

We have made an attempt to widen the scope of the Magazine slightly this issue by including reports on units at Halton not normally covered. The attempt has not been entirely successful but we hope to be able to do better in the Summer 1958 edition. For the present the best we can do is a short article on each of the School of Cookery, Administrative Wing and the R.A.F. Regiment.

The 79th Entry are now a term removed from Halton. We hope they are all enjoying life in the Service proper and that they are finding Halton training has adequately fitted them for the work they have to do and the life they have to live. To the 80th Entry, now undergoing their final trials and tribulations, go our best wishes for success.

GRADUATION OF THE 79TH ENTRY



Prize winners of the 79th Entry

Air Ministry Photograph

THE Graduation Parade of the 79th Entry of Apprentices at Halton was scheduled to take place on 18th December 1957. The Parade was to be reviewed by Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude B. R. Pelly, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.C., A.D.C., Controller of Aircraft, Ministry of Supply, accompanied by the following: Air Marshal Sir George R. Beamish, K.C.B., C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Technical Training Command; Air Vice Marshal H. D. Spreckley, C.B., O.B.E., Air Officer Commanding No. 24 Group; Air Commodore E. D. McK. Nelson, C.B., Commandant of No. 1 School of Technical Train-

ing; Group Captain A. K. Hunter, O.B.E., Senior Training Officer, No. 1 School of Technical Training; Group Captain E. A. Stockwell, Principal Education Officer, No. 1 School of Technical Training; and Wing Commander R. A. Milward, O.B.E., D.F.C., Officer Commanding No. 2 Apprentice Wing.

Owing to incessant rain the Parade itself was cancelled, and in its place a film show was given in the Station Cinema. We record that Flight Sergeant B. G. Chase of the 79th Entry had been chosen to command the Parade, with the following N.C.O. Apprentices as subordinate commanders :—

Parade Adjutant S/A/A M. E. Thresh
 Parade Warrant Officer S/A/A S. G. Boustead
 Colour Bearer S/A/A D. A. Barnwell
 Colour Warrant Officer S/A/A B. J. Dellar
 Colour Escort S/A/A F. C. Haywood
 S/A/A J. R. Mitchell
 Colour Orderly C/A/A G. Walker
 Escort Squadron Commander F.S./A/A L. E. Hurse
 No. 1 Flight Commander S/A/A J. C. Collier
 No. 2 Flight Commander S/A/A E. G. Griffin
 No. 2 Squadron Commander F.S./A/A A. R. Gordon
 No. 1 Flight Commander S/A/A R. Stephens
 No. 2 Flight Commander S/A/A A. J. Jones
 N.C.O. i/c Ensign C/A/A E. Cameron
 Standard Bearers S/A/A J. Thompson
 S/A/A B. T. Priaulx
 Apprentice i/c Supporting Entry F.S./A/A M. A. Firmin
 Drum Major Brass Band A/A P. P. Walden-Hughes
 Drum Major Pipe Band A/A J. Squires

THE COMMANDANT'S REPORT

After the film show the guests assembled in the Burnett Gymnasium for the Prize Giving. The Commandant first welcomed the Reviewing Officer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude Pelly, who as Controller of Aircraft in the Ministry of Supply was responsible for the development and supply of the new aircraft and equipment needed to maintain the R.A.F. at its highest efficiency. He also welcomed the parents, relatives and friends of the 79th Entry.

The Commandant reviewed the Entry's career at Halton. They began in January 1955 with a strength of 308. Of these 171 were lost by relegation to a lower Entry, discharge or transfer to a lower trade level, whilst 40 had joined the 79th by relegation from senior entries, making a total of 177 who were graduating. This number included one Apprentice of the Royal Rhodesian Air Force and five of the Royal Ceylon Air Force.

In trade training the Entry had excelled in

practical work without being inferior in academic ability. The outstanding feature of their educational training had been the numerous successes in external examinations beyond the minimum requirements of their course. 26 Apprentices had been recommended for the award of the Ordinary National Certificate in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering. There had been a gratifying upsurge of interest in purely voluntary examinations less closely related to the training programme. In the General Certificate of Education 21 Apprentices had scored 29 passes spread over six subjects. And in the City and Guilds of London examinations 14 Apprentices had passed at either Intermediate or Final grade in various specialist subjects.

The Entry's general service activities had culminated in the provision of a Royal Guard of Honour and Colour Escort, 130 strong, on the occasion of the visit to Halton in May 1957 of H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent. The



The Reviewing Officer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude B. R. Pelly, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.C., A.D.C., presenting Corporal Apprentice D. A. Hoyle with his prizes. Air Ministry Photograph

congratulations which their bearing earned them were well deserved.

Those members of the 79th Entry who had played in the school bands were singled out for special commendation on their ability and enthusiasm. The Apprentice bands not only gave colour to parades at Halton, but had earned the distinction of taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show. Moreover, under the leadership of Sergeant Apprentice Dellar of the 79th Entry they had provided the fanfare of trumpets which sounded the Last Post at the Cenotaph Service of Remembrance. This honour was to be repeated each year.

Three members of the Entry were graduating as substantive corporals and three as junior technicians recommended for accelerated promotion. A further three had been granted cadetships.

The Commandant congratulated all the successful Apprentices of the 79th Entry, and on behalf of all at Halton he wished them the best of good fortune and a fair voyage as they set out on their Service careers.

In conclusion he thanked the Commander-in-Chief, Air Marshal Sir George Beamish, for the interest and guidance he had given to Halton, and wished him a long and happy life in his coming retirement.

He then asked Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude Pelly to present the prizes.

ADDRESS BY THE REVIEWING OFFICER

Air Chief Marshal Sir Claude B. R. Pelly, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.C., A.D.C., first explained why an officer serving with the Ministry of Supply had been chosen for the honour of presenting the prizes. He emphasised the Ministry's responsibility for the development of all the weapons and equipment which the Apprentices would be servicing in the R.A.F. of the future. Working on research in experimental establishments and at the Ministry of Supply were, he said, some 200 officers and over 250 airmen, all ex-Apprentices from Halton. In collaboration with civilian scientists and technologists they were developing the weapons of the future. For this work the finest men in the R.A.F. were needed.

Sir Claude Pelly felt sure that some of the graduating Apprentices would one day find themselves taking part in this vitally important work by servicing and testing the complex weapons which must be kept ready at all times. Many notable contributions in this sphere had been made by former Halton Apprentices, among them the A.O.C., Air Vice Marshal Spreckley. However they would first have to build a considerable experience of normal Service life.

The Air Chief Marshal told the Apprentices that he really envied them the sound basic technical training which Halton had given them. From them the Service would demand all they could give of technical skill, hard work, good discipline and really serious responsibility.

He wished the 79th Entry every success and assured them that they had chosen the right career.



Ceylonese Apprentices of the 79th Entry. Left to right: H. Dasanayke (Kandy), S. G. Bousted (Colombo), W. L. Lourensz (Colombo), O. S. D. Samarawickrema (Kolonnawa) and A. R. Pereira (Nawala). Photo: Sport and General

79th ENTRY CADETSHIPS

Cadetships have been awarded to :

C/A/A D. A. Hoyle	Technical Branch
C/A/A R. H. Gibson	General Duties Branch
S/A/A N. L. Rockett	Equipment Branch

PRIZE WINNERS

Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize (for the best all round Apprentice)
Cpl.App. D. A. Hoyle

Pioneer Trophy (for the highest marks in all technical training subjects)
Air.App. R. S. Ball

Crebbin-Robinson Cup (for the best trade standards practical fitting test)
Air.App. P. Mole

Elliott Memorial Prize (presented by the Royal Aeronautical Society for the highest marks in English and General Studies)
Sgt.App. J. C. Collier

Quinton Memorial Trophy (for the best Ex-A.T.C. Cadet)
Cpl.App. B. C. McNichol

AIR MINISTRY PRIZES

Highest in Order of Merit, All Subjects
Cpl.App. D. A. Hoyle

Highest in Order of Merit, Educational Subjects
First Prize: Cpl.App. D. A. Hoyle
Second Prize: Cpl.App. B. C. McNichol

Best "Set Task," General Studies
Ldg.App. D. B. Anderson

Highest in Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency
First Prize: F.Sgt.App. B. G. Case
Second Prize: F.Sgt.App. L. E. Hurse

Highest average for practical fitting over three year course
F.Sgt.App. B. G. Case

Best Tradesmen in Trade Standards Trade Test

Airframe Fitter	...	...	Sgt.App. R. Stephens
Armament Fitter	...	...	Air.App. R. S. Ball
Electrical Fitter (Air)	...	...	Air.App. D. G. Dicker
Electrical Fitter (Ground)	...	...	Cpl.App. P. E. Roberts
Engine Fitter — 1st	...	...	Air.App. A. D. Moorhouse
Engine Fitter — 2nd	...	...	Ldg.App. G. A. Bastin
Instrument Fitter (Nav.)	...	...	Cpl.App. M. P. Marchant
Instrument Fitter (Gen.)	...	...	Cpl.App. D. A. Hoyle

79th ENTRY POSTING LIST

(in order of merit)

Hoyle, D. A.	Binbrook	Clements-Jewery, K. C.	Colerne
Hurse, L. E.	Awarded Technical Cadetship	Roberts, P. E.	Hemswell
McNicol, B. C.	Finningley	Wright, D. W.	Abingdon
Southwell, H. F.	Wyton	Vaughan, G. W.	R.A.F. College Cranwell
Collier, J. C.	Lindholme	Gower, A. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Case, B. G.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Colyer, R. B.	Wyton
Fuller, B. J.	Odiham	Gentle, D. A.	West Raynham
Gibson, R. H.	Promoted Substantive Corporal	Gordon, K. R.	Upavon
Rockett, N. L.	Kinloss	Aspinal, W. J. P.	Ternhill
	Wyton	Barnwell, D. A.	Promoted Substantive Corporal
	Honington	Else, M. C.	Finningley
	Awarded G.D. Cadetship	Bailey, M. J.	Binbrook
	Lyneham	Lusted, P. R.	Marham
	Awarded Equipment Cadetship		Upwood

McLaughlin, P.	Dishforth	Distin, G. J.	Wyton
Williams, D.	F.E.A.F.	Spikings, M. T.	Finningley
Stephen, R.	Abingdon	Sprosson, T. H.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Slade, K. G. W.	Stradishall	Warburton, R. D.	Abingdon
Brewer, F.	Singapore	Lambert, A. J.	Colerne
Ball, R. S.	Singapore	Pearce, T.	Wyton
Griffin, E. G.	Abingdon	Boonham, A. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Deller, B. J.	Coningsby	Land, R. D.	Marham
Priault, B. T.	Abingdon	Hurrell, O. C.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Pring, E. W. S.	F.E.A.F.	Napier, F. T.	F.E.A.F.
Mitchell, J. R.	Finningley	Hebblewhite, J. B.	Singapore
Berry, C. W.	Abingdon	Abbott, R. B. C.	Coltishall
Gowans, T. A.	Gibraltar	Chelly, F.	Lynham
Bastin, G. A.	Swinderby	Smith, A. J.	Benson
Belben, M. J.	Colerne	Dixon, W. C. G.	Finningley
Davison, C. N.	Linton-on-Ouse	Field, A. E. W.	Finningley
Thresh, M. E.	Singapore	Marchant, M. P.	F.E.A.F.
Sanders, C. A.	Gibraltar	Caddick, B.	7 F.T.S. Valley
Wass, J. J.	F.E.A.F.	Woodward, R. K.	Coningsby
Marchant, D. J.	Wyton	Jarvis, C. H.	M.E.A.F.
Hedges, M. C.	F.E.A.F.	Bousted, S. G.	Royal Ceylon Air Force
Coldrey, C. H.	St. Mawgan	Heath, B. D.	Swinderby
Bryers, D. H.	Wittering	Littlefield, R. A.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Moorhouse, A. D.	Linton-on-Ouse	Cousins, B.	Finningley
Will, G. G.	Linton-on-Ouse	Holland, G. W.	Horsham St. Faith
Mole, P.	Stradishall	Creagan, J. D.	Finningley
Harman, P. G.	Coltishall	Halliday, D.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Ranola, G. L.	Stradishall	Niblett, W. P.	Lynham
Fowler-Tutt, J. A.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Goodyear, K. H.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Cooksey, M. G.	Dishforth	Bullock, M. J.	Ballykelly
Powell, A. P.	Benson	Cobie, L. C.	7 F.T.S. Valley
Jehson, A. Mc.	Linton-on-Ouse	Hocking, M. G.	Binbrook
Hill, A. W. G.	Wyton	Ditcham, J. J.	Royal Rhodesian Air Force
Burgess, R. M.	St. Mawgan	Anderson, D. B.	Colerne
Taylor, B. S.	Upavon	Pereira, A. R.	*Royal Ceylon Air Force
Browning, A. H.	F.E.A.F.	Bakewell, J. R.	Swinderby
Taylor, D. S.	Cyprus (Akrotiri)	Randle, M. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Cope, L.	Coningsby	Hutchinson, B.	Ballykelly
Hayes, J. M.	F.E.A.F.	Gill, P. Mc.	Gibraltar
Hunter, I. T.	Leuchars	Drackett, M. G. E.	Duxford
Thomson, J.	Malta	Hogarth, D. F.	Abingdon
Palmer, T. G.	231 O.C.U. Bassingbourne	Meyrick, A.	R.A.F. College Cranwell
Gate, B. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Green, M.	Wittering
Crocker, R. S.	Wyton	Organ, C. S.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Mitchell, G. P.	Linton-on-Ouse	Hunter, J. W. B.	Kinloss
Roberts, P. H.	Cyprus (Akrotiri)	Bastable, R. R.	Wyton
Cameron, E.	Abingdon	Fursdon, E. J.	Singapore
Ormiston, J. P. Y.	Middleton St. George	Franklin, T. P.	St. Mawgan
Holdsworth, T.	Linton-on-Ouse	Hill, N. P.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Smith, C. J.	Marham	Pitfield, B. E.	231 O.C.U. Bassingbourne
Jones, A. J.	Abingdon	Carr, D. E.	Colerne
Haywood, F. C.	Singapore	Shaw, P. M.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Edwards, R. T.	Wyton	Scott, C.	Wyton
Samarawickrema, V. S. D.	Royal Ceylon Air Force	King, K. G.	Feltwell
Collier, D. A.	Aldergrove	Hider, G. D.	Wyton
Wyatt, P. F.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Averley, R. J.	Coltishall
Hubbard, R. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Casey, T. M.	Abingdon
Scott, P. L.	Coningsby	Murphy, B. G.	Malta
Darling, R. S. W.	Wittering	Manthorpe, G. H.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Anderson, J.	Coningsby	Barker, M. A.	M.E.A.F.
Healey, W. T.	Binbrook	Coutts, R. A.	Abingdon
Holt, M. A. J.	R.A.F. College Cranwell	Harrison, F. E.	Watton
Purdom, R.	Cyprus (Akrotiri)	Lourensz, W. J.	Royal Ceylon Air Force
Roissetter, I.	Wittering	Price, R. T. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Middleton, D. J.	Wyton	Dasanayake, H.	*Royal Ceylon Air Force
Birch, B. W.	Abingdon		

*Satisfactorily completed the Course although failing to reach Junior Technician Standard.

The following Apprentices has passed the Trade Standards Test but has yet to pass the Final Schools:

Channon, M. W. E. G. 32 M.U. St. Athan

The following Ex-78th Entry Apprentices also qualified as Junior Technicians:

Gates, J.	Finningley	Harris, M. T.	Singapore
Honour, G. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Wheaton, N. S.	M.E.A.F.
Kidson, A. E.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Dicker, D. G.	St. Mawgan
McGregor, H. G.	Binbrook	Merrison, R. K.	Wittering
Olsen, A. C.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Simpson, J. A.	Binbrook
Smethurst, P. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Trotter, M.	Binbrook
Stevenson, A.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Walker, G. F.	Aldergrove
Turner, T. D.	Marham	Jones, R.	Wittering
Freeman, L. A.	R.A.F. College Cranwell	Bowery, J. W.	Binbrook
Crook, B.	Singapore	Slater, A. L.	Wittering
Evans, R. G. H.	Upwood	Norton, B. M.	Abingdon
Frost, R. J.	Singapore		

79th ENTRY SPORTS AWARDS**SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS****BASKETBALL**

A/A Ball, R. S.	1956, 1957
A/A Sprosson, T. H.	1956, 1957
S/A/A Griffin, E. G.	1957
A/A Chelly, F.	1957
A/A Smethurst, P. R.	1957

BOXING

S/A/A Jones, A. J.	1956
A/A Fursdon, F. J.	1956
L/A/A Napier, F. T.	1956

CROSS COUNTRY

A/A Hocking, M. G.	1957
S/A/A Ranola, G. L.	1957
C/A/A Aspinal, W. J. P.	1957
C/A/A Hoyle, D. A.	1957
A/A Stevenson, A.	1957

CRICKET

A/A Trotter, M.	1957
A/A Evans, R. G. H.	1957

HOCKEY

A/A Norton, R. N.	1957
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RUGBY

L/A/A Pearce, T.	1957
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SHOOTING

A/A Franklin, T. R.	1957
A/A Bowery, J. W.	1957

SOCCER

C/A/A Fuller, T. R.	1956, 1957
A/A Bryers, D. N.	1956, 1957

COMPETITIONS!!!

For some time past the Halton Magazine has offered a prize of three guineas for the best Set Task published. This competition is now to be widened to include any kind of literary work published in the Magazine. The prize will be awarded each issue, provided that, in the opinion of the Editor, a sufficiently high standard has been reached, for the best Apprentice article or short story submitted. The winning entry will be published, together with any runners-up of suitable merit.

Photographs and Cartoons

In addition, two new prizes are to be awarded. The Halton Society offers a prize of one pound for the best photograph taken by an Apprentice. The winning photograph

will be published in the next edition of the Magazine. Runners-up may also be published.

The Magazine will award a prize of one pound for the best cartoon submitted. This, too, will be published. Cartoons should be drawn in Indian Ink on white paper, not less than octavo in size. Shading may be washed in in blue ink or water-colour. The caption, if any, should be written in the margin below the drawing.

CLOSING DATE

Contributions for all three competitions should be in the hands of the Editor, Halton Magazine, Apprentice Schools, by Friday, 11th April. Any contributions received after this date will be considered for the Autumn, 1958, Edition.

86th EYE OPENERS**G. S. Paper**

Write a sentence showing the meaning of "Literary."

'They have a small "literary" of pigs at the bottom of the garden.'

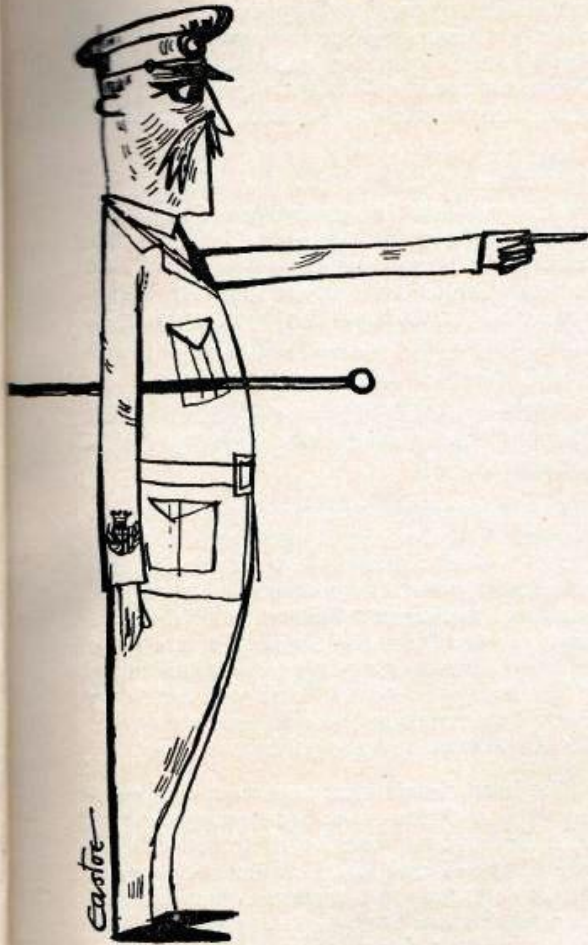
'She tore up the sheet of paper and left "literary" all over the room.'

From an essay on R.F.C. History:

'Baron von Rickmansworth, the famous German air ace ...'

Inter-war service history:

'The Army defeated the Mad Mullah time and a game.'



NO. 1(A) WING

Since the last issue of the Magazine we have seen quite a large exodus of Veteran N.C.Os. from the Wing Staff who have decided to take their premature release from the Royal Air Force as offered in A.M.O. N.587/57.

Among these, pride of place must be given to Flight Sergeants Goodman and Earwicker who have seen many Apprentice Entries come and go during their continuous service of eleven and nine years respectively at R.A.F. Halton. The others, whom we shall also miss, include Flight Sergeant Collier, Sergeant Scullion and Sergeant Chapman, and to all of them we wish the best of luck and prosperity

CURRENT EVENTS

during their resettlement in civilian life. Of the newcomers we welcome Sergeant Webb, who has already settled well and made his mark in No. 1 Squadron, and Sergeants Birch and Low both of whom have joined No. 2 Squadron.

Another fairly recent newcomer, whom we welcomed most heartily in the last issue of the Magazine, is Padre Gordon Bennett, who is not only attending to our spiritual welfare but is also infusing the whole Wing with enthusiasm by the introduction of our Talent Nights and by his interest in Wing Soccer training.

Church Parades too now seem to be accepted with more goodwill if not enthusiasm since the Wing has dropped the "Parade" aspect. All our ex-Apprentice readers will be interested to know that for a normal church attendance Apprentices march themselves to St. George's where the Officers and N.C.Os. join them for the Service.

During the early part of the Autumn term No. 1 Squadron underwent a minor operation in that No. 3 Flight lost its identity and all those residing in No. 10 Block were scattered throughout the remaining 6 Flights of the Wing. This was to make way for the introduction of our Initial Training Flight composed at first of members of the 87th Entry. By the time this issue of the Magazine is available, they will have joined the Squadrons and made way for the 88th Entry, whom we welcome and wish every success during their stay at Halton.

We wish the best of good fortune to all those of the 79th Entry who successfully graduated and are now posted far and wide. In particular we congratulate Corporal Ap-

prentice Hoyle of No. 3 Squadron on winning a Technical Cadetship to the Technical College, Henlow, and Sergeant Apprentice Southwell and Corporal Apprentice Aspinall, both of No. 2 Squadron, on their awards of pro-

motion to substantive Corporal. Finally we offer our congratulations to Apprentice Hadden of No. 3 Squadron for winning the Silver Drum, an event which has been recently reviewed in the end-of-term Band Competition.

NO. 2(A) WING

As we go to press we have to say goodbye to Wing Commander R. A. Wilward, O.B.E., D.F.C., who departs for Old Sarum, and to welcome his successor, Wing Commander E. Stephenson, from South Cerney. Other newcomers to the Wing are Flight Lieutenant B. Brownlow, from No. 213 (Night Ground Attack) Squadron via Bircham Newton, Flight Lieutenant P. R. Shrimpton from 63 Squadron and Flying Officer G. V. Shipley from 98 Squadron. Flying Officer J. F. Eynon, from Cyprus, takes over as adjutant from Flight Lieutenant C. Eccleston, who has left for Filton. Sergeant Winkett, from West Kirby, has replaced Sergeant Saint and Sergeant Henderson has joined the Physical Fitness Section.

A dampener on this term was the influenza epidemic. Whether it was of the Asian or the European variety it filled No. 2 Block for quite a time with sufferers from Nos. 1 and 2 Wings. Medical statistics reveal a remarkable incidence of rapid recovery just before the mid-term break.

The Wing made a very promising start in this term's Barrington-Kennett Competition with a fine win in the Senior Boxing. In the overall contest we narrowly lost to 3 Wing, the decision resting on the last contest. Despite hard training we went down badly in the Cross-Country; however, the Wing supplied three of the School Team against Chepstow, including the captain. In the Basketball we won the Senior event, and although last in the Junior match, our team shows plenty of promise for the next season. Overall, we finished equal second.

NO. 3(A) WING

For the past three or four months the Wing has reverberated to the many drilling machines hard at work in the barrack blocks, and the hurrying and scurrying of workmen bent on modernising the ablutions side of the domestic

This year saw the introduction of the Inter-School Swimming Championship, in which Halton came equal winner with Cosford. But for the wave of 'flu it might well have been a clear win for Halton. As it was, several 2 Wing swimmers helped the School to its shared victory.

Within the Wing, the Inter-Squadron Cross-Country Championship was won by No. 1 Squadron.

An outstanding achievement this term was that of A/A Downey in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. On parade he was presented by the Commandant with an illuminated parchment signed by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and a green enamel badge bearing the cypher of the Duke of Edinburgh in silver. This was for Series Two: it is interesting to note that the tasks for the third series have not yet been devised.

The latest news is that we have to congratulate C/A/A Gibson, who has been awarded a G.D. Cadetship to the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, and S/A/A Collier, who passed out as Corporal, was highest in the order of merit in General Studies, and won the Elliott Memorial Prize, presented by the Royal Aeronautical Society.

C/A/A Nichol, who was second in the order of merit in Educational Subjects, C/A/A Roberts, who was the best Electrical Fitter (Grd.) in the Trade Standards Test, and A/A Ball, who won the Pioneer Trophy for the highest aggregate in Final T.S.T., are others of the 79th Entry who gained distinction. We wish them all success.

accommodation. Paint brushes have been busy, and slowly but surely a renovation is taking place. Full marks to the A.M.W.D. for this concentrated, if somewhat delayed, onslaught on the barrack blocks.

As forecast in the last issue of this Magazine, Flt.Lt. Jenner, A.F.C., has now left us and is back on flying. We welcome in his stead Flt.Lt. Holbrook, and wish him well in his new appointment.

Other changes in staff concern Flt.Lt. D. Williams, who has now left the Service to try his hand as a salesman, and Plt.Off. Robinson who on completion of his National Service has returned to his first love—farming.

During the Christmas Term our three Corporal Drill Instructors, Sunnucks, Floyd and Vane were posted to R.A.F. Bridgnorth. In their place we welcomed Sgt. Bradford to No. 2 Squadron, Sgt. Christmas to No. 1 Squadron and rumour has it that a third N.C.O. destined for No. 3 Squadron will be appearing in the near future. No doubt F.S. Aldous will be delighted to make his acquaintance as soon as possible. Talking of this particular Flight Sergeant makes one wonder what would happen to the morning parades should he fail to make his customary appearance.

Prior to Christmas leave many barrack rooms were decorated, trees were festooned

with gaily coloured lights, windows dotted with pseudo snow and many breath-taking "pin-ups" were prominent. A number of rooms had a theme, perhaps in one or two cases bordering on the macabre: a corpse covered by a shroud, the result of an Inter-Wing Ballistic Missile failure; a hanging effigy in uniform, punishment apparently meted out to a "Rotten Apple." A prison with barred windows completed the grim assortment.

Happy to say goodbye to the Halton "Prison" the 79th Entry gave a very pleasant "Passing out" dinner to themselves and the Wing permanent staff, a very generous gesture originated by their predecessors, the 78th Entry.

We wish the 79th Entry 'God Speed' and success in the future and offer sincere congratulations to S/A/A Rockett who has been awarded a Cadetship in the Equipment Branch.

To the junior entry, now the 88th, we say work hard, play hard and give of your best at all times.

TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

HEADQUARTERS

We wish success to the 80th Entry and look forward with them to good results in their final trade tests. We wish them good stations and happy experiences in their future service. The usual rate of change of Tech. Wing Headquarters staff continues and we have said farewell to Flt.Lt. Domoney on his posting to Church Fenton after 15 months as Tech. Wing Adjutant. He was previously a Flight Commander in No. 3 Wing and had a good understanding of the Apprentices, always maintaining that "there is nothing much wrong with the Apprentices of today." In his place we welcome Plt.Off. G. W. Leaney, who returns to Halton after 23 years, having graduated with the 24th Entry in September, 1934; we wish him a happy tour of duty.

W.O. Nuttall is leaving the Service in January, to become a Chancellery Messenger and Guard in the Foreign Office, and we wish him

every success in his new life. His place is taken by W.O. Dingle, to whom we extend our welcome.

S.A.C. Sohl is also leaving the Service in January, and we wish him the very best of prosperity in his civilian career.

AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING SQUADRON

Airframe Fitter Flight

How we envy those other seats of learning, run by another Ministry, whose continuity of training is not being constantly disturbed by staff transference, for during the past term we have said farewell to Ch.Tech. Walker, Sgts. Aspinwall, Power and Tidmus, Cpls. Bicknell and Hardeman. We wish them all well in their new surroundings. In their stead we welcome Ch.Techs. Ransdale, Ayres and Hamer, and Flt.Sgt. Richards, and hope that they will enjoy their time with us.

At the beginning of December Mr. J. Cahill departed from Halton, on retirement, after 29 years service in the instructional field. His earlier career was most interesting for he was a pioneer in the Tank Corps and reached the position of Captain Commander. Ever since those days he has been keenly interested in that field and has followed closely the development of the "ironclads."

It has been decided that the Swift aircraft at present reposing in the Advanced Airframes bay are to be replaced by Hunters. One has already reached us, and we are expecting the remainder to arrive within the next few weeks. Dame Rumour has also been whispering the word 'Javelin' in place of 'Venom.'

At the time of writing we are in a disturbed state within the building, for the painters are engaged in giving us a 'new look.' We are struggling to continue training amidst spray and dust, but no doubt when it is all over it will prove to have been worth while.

A depression descended over the Shop when the results of the 79th Entry finals came through. But we were a little consoled when it was discovered that nearly all were through on the practical and oral side. It appears however, that Dr. Ballard was feeling a little contrary towards the end of term and dished out a rather unusual dose of medicine to this entry. What a lot that chap has to answer for.

Engine Fitter Flight

By now, the 79th Entry will be settling down at their new Stations and the 80th are about to follow suit. It is pleasant to recall that only one of the 79th failed the final board so that the overall result was very near the elusive 100%. In this connection it is worth noting that in addition to the hard work put in by Apprentices and Instructors, the Final Revision team did a first class job.

On the equipment side, we are rather better off than we were a few months ago. We are receiving Avon 200s and some Hercules 230s. Also, the Systems phase now has a Hunter in position and this will help Apprentices to tackle the inaccessible parts under more realistic conditions. One wonders whether Ap-

prentices give a thought to the cost of the stuff they handle in their training.

Since the last issue, the following have been posted in: Sgt. Hunter from Honington, Sgt. Undery from Stradishall, Ch.Tech Hartley from Trade Standards, and Cpl. Sullivan from Malta via Kirkham. We have lost by retirement four civilian instructors who have been with us for a long time. They are Mr. G. Ward, Mr. C. Mitchell, Mr. R. A. Pinn, and Mr. R. A. Lipscomb. They will be missed and with our thanks for the work they have done, we couple our wishes for a happy retirement.

The Propeller and Power Plant phases are now established in No. 3 Bay owing to the infiltration (or was it open aggression) by the Electricians into No. 6 Bay. The O.C., E. & I., has said that "his territorial ambitions are now satisfied." We seem to have heard that one before and our remaining Bays are now protected by minefields and Avon "hot ends" which can traverse all approaches. Armament Squadron, please note.

Training goes on fairly smoothly and the syllabus is under constant review in the light of information on equipment likely to arrive. It seems probable that the next year will see some extensive changes.

ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT SQUADRON

Electrical Fitter Flight

Our notes begin by welcoming Flying Officer D. W. Sarbutt, who has occupied the "chair" since the last issue, and wishing him a happy tenure of office. Amongst the other arrivals, to whom a hearty welcome is extended, is Chief Technician Hider. As the previous issue contained our best wishes to him on the occasion of his departure to "down under" it might be necessary to ask the Editor for additional space, in future issues, to allow for our "Hails" and "Farewells" to him. Welcome reinforcements to the instructional staff include Sergeant Davey, Corporals Cox, Graves, Holdaway, and Atkinson, and on the civilian side Messrs. Eves, Fitch, Pennington, and Robinson.

We hope that Mr. Burroughs and Mr. Robinson will have completely recovered in health and will be in harness again by the time these notes are read.

There is one departure to record, that of Corporal Brooks, and we wish him success in his new career.

The expected visit of "old boy" Senior Technician Dyde duly materialised when the Trade Test Board for the 79th Entry assembled. Unfortunately this did not inspire the Entry to produce any outstanding results. To those graduating we say "Well done" and tender them our best wishes in their future activities.

More progress can be reported in the task of reorganising our available space to enable us to meet future training requirements. By the time this Magazine is in print Bay 8 should have been fitted out with the glass partitions, behind which integrated training will proceed. Now that Bay 6 has been evacuated by the Engine Fitters a re-allocation of the "application" phases has been made. Thanks to the efforts of the instructional staff, the construction of screening walls and necessary additional test equipment has proceeded very satisfactorily. It is even rumoured that Mr. Brand's "cocktail-bar" will soon be in full operation.

Now that any attempts to extend our training area into Bay 5 are to be forcibly resisted we must consider the use of infiltration tactics. Perhaps the teaching of electrical mysteries to the Engine Fitters will prepare the ground for a fifth column movement.

Instrument Fitter Flight

At the time of publication we are about to break up for the Easter Recess and our feel-



Instruction in Instrument Workshops

Photo: Fg.Off. T. S. R. Parkin

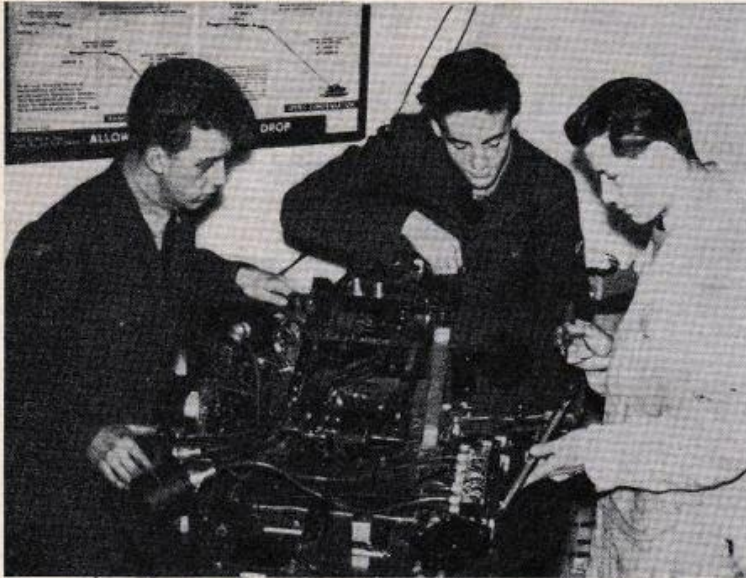
ings are very mixed indeed for this term has brought with it the usual crop of difficulties associated with staff shortages and constructional changes. However, the arrival of a number of new instructors should, after they have passed the S.T.O.M. course, ease the situation. In this light we welcome Corporals Owen, Burt, Crossan, and Butler.

We also welcome W.O. Briggs, who has arrived from Australia to fill the post of supervisor, and Sgt. England from F.E.A.F. Sgt. England is also to be congratulated on his promotion and on being awarded the B.E.M.

It is with sincere regret that we say farewell to Sgt. Smith who, somewhat reluctantly, is retiring from the Service to begin a career in Australia. Sgt. Smith carries with him our wishes for his future, but knowing him as we do there is not much to worry about. However it is nice to know that the Jones end of the "Smith and Jones" combination will carry on for another few months!

Who can this Chief Technician be, gyrating in our midst? Can it be Chf.Tech. T. U. B. Lane in a new uniform? Where did all the material come from?

We also say farewell to the 'Glad and Sorry' Entry—the 79th, and wish them all the best



Instruction on the Automatic Pilot

Photo: Fg.Off. T. S. R. Parkin

of luck. It is with pride that we congratulate C/A/A Gibson and C/A/A Hoyle on obtaining cadetships, and S/A/A Collier on graduation as a corporal. We are also very proud of A/A Mole in that he brought the Crebbin Robinson Cup back to its rightful place. It was disappointing, nevertheless, to have nine failures and to those remaining with the 80th we say "Better luck next time," but really it is up to yourselves.

ARMAMENT ENGINEERING SQUADRON

Once again we bid farewell to a number of newly qualified Armament Technicians of the 79th Entry who have now embarked on the great adventure of a Service Career. We hope they will be a credit to us and to the great tradition to which they are heirs, and we wish them good luck and success in the future. Congratulations to A/A R. S. Ball on winning the prize for 1st Armament Fitter.

The Squadron continues to make progress in obtaining more up-to-date equipment and we are glad to say that we have had reasonable success in obtaining 'bits and pieces' of new Armament Equipment. In many cases this success has been due in no small part to the assistance of ex-Apprentices both in and

out of the service, who have gone out of their way to help. We would like to express our sincere thanks to those who have appreciated our needs in this respect. Equipment which may appear to be fit only for salvage to an operational unit or development establishment can often provide a valuable training aid making all the difference to the realism of the instruction given to Apprentices on up-to-date armament equipment, which by virtue of its recent introduction is often in short supply. Please remember us when you are

wondering what to do with that shop spoiled sputnik or those G.W. components that have been gathering dust in your Servicing Section. We wouldn't say no to a Valiant Fuselage or even a Canberra nose section. By the way we would like to hear from ex-Apprentices of recently graduated entries. Let us know how you think we can help your successors to prepare themselves for the task which you are now facing.

Now to local news. Five civilian instructors have joined us from Kirkham, they are Messrs. Avis, Gould, Brennan, Page, and Turnock. We welcome them and hope they will be happy at Halton. "Tubby Avis" just couldn't stay away from the old place! Service postings to us include Cpl. Stetton from 2nd T.A.F., Cpl. Taylor from Kirkham, Cpl. Thomas from Treleaver, and Cpl. Mercer from Norton Hall.

Ch.Tech. Kneen and Ch.Tech. McHugh have gone to Marham, and Sgt. Dobbin to 2nd T.A.F.

AIRFIELD TRAINING SQUADRON

Our loss is to be Air Ministry's gain as Sqn.Ldr. Paxton leaves us after three years command from the commencement of the

Airfield's rise to Squadron status. We have made considerable advancement in realistic airfield training under his leadership and he has stayed long enough to see the eclipse of piston engined aircraft in the training hangars. Our sincere good wishes go with him on his new appointment.

We extend a very warm welcome to Sqn. Ldr. Newman who comes to us from Air Ministry but who is certainly no stranger to this district. We hope his tour will be happy and rewarding.

Cruel words have been spoken about the longevity of the Mosquito aircraft, not without provocation at times, but no one will deny that their replacement by Hunter, Javelin and Canberra aircraft is more conducive to realistic training. The accent now is on fault finding and bay servicing of components, and with the latest equipment at our disposal we are sure that the Apprentices could have no better springboard to their careers. The armament department's latest developments

include the building of a bomb dump with gantry and a "Valiant" bomb bay mock up.

We have experienced a somewhat prodigious turnover in staff and have said farewell to Ch.Tech. Dale (to Singapore), Ch.Tech. White (Henlow), Sgt. Brewster (Spitalgate), Sgt. Long (Church Fenton), Snr.Tech. Robertson and Cpl. Carter (St. Athan), and Cpl. Milington who goes to Melksham on promotion. F.S. Hillyer and Sgt. Lloyd left us for civilian life, and with them go our best wishes for their future.

A warm welcome is extended to the following additions to the instructional staff: Ch. Tech. Thomson, Ch.Tech. Walley, Cpl. Hesketh, Cpl. McKenzie and Cpl.Tech. Bateman, Mr. Avis, Mr. Page, Mr. Gould, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Ellaway, Mr. White and Mr. Wren.

The Maintenance and Flying Flights have been substantially augmented and we are most pleased to welcome F.S. Hart, Ch.Tech. Wall, Sgt. Newman, Snr.Tech. Chorlton, Cpls. Bath, Davies, Hart, Irvine and Lyon, and L.A.Cs. Nicholson, Saunders, Bryan and Jordan.

Glider Flight

THE 79th Entry gliding programme certainly made a "Flying Start"; altogether 271 launches were made, mostly in the early period. On one bright Sunday 36 launches were carried out, which is not bad at all and gives a clear indication of the keenness of the boys.

Initially the weather conditions were good and on most occasions it was dusk before the glider was reluctantly returned to its hangar. Several suggestions were made by the boys concerning the laying of a flare path and the fitting of candles to the wing tips to continue flying in the dusk. This was unfortunately impracticable as we had no candles.

Four Apprentices attained their "A" and "B" Certificates by November 3rd and another four were almost ready when we suffered a period of impossible flying weather which of course is not surprising during the October—November—December time of year. This

continued until late in November, then, to add to our misfortune, our one and only glider became unserviceable.

This was a difficulty even the terrific keenness of the 79th Entry could not surmount; if you are going to glide you need a glider, and ours was lying very forlorn with its elevator removed.

This was, however, remedied by the end of the month, but by this time the end of the course arrangements were on one hand and the Christmas arrangements on the other, so both pupils and instructors reluctantly came to the point where they had to say "Well, that's it for this term!"

One thing is certain, the 79th Entry through their keenness and ability maintained the general upsurge of spirit which has been prominent during the last year in the glider flight and given better conditions would have achieved more solo launches than they did.

Apprentice Schools

EARLY last term a new group of fifteen Venezuelans arrived at Halton to commence pre-Apprentice training. This is the third year running in which drafts of Venezuelans have been sent here; members of the first intake two and a half years ago are now well advanced in their training and are making good progress, especially when one considers that they arrived with very little knowledge of English.

The 79th Entry has now left us after quite a creditable performance in their final examination. This entry also deserves special mention for their set tasks which were of the highest standard seen at Halton by present members of the staff, thereby making selection of the prize-winning project extremely difficult. After much deliberation and careful scrutiny of the best five by an independent judge, D. B. Anderson was awarded the prize, for his beautifully presented and scholarly work on the subject of Canada.

Several officers have joined us since the last issue of the Magazine and to all of those we accord our welcome and hope that their stay at Halton will be happy.

The officers who have left us recently will

all be missed and we wish them well in civilian life.

Flying Officer Still will be recalled for his bright personality, both in Schools and Halton House. He may also be recalled for his frequent absences for, as an international swimmer who had taken part in the Olympic Games, he was naturally away quite often for Service and national events. His conscientiousness led him to do all he could to make up for the periods when he was away, and his willingness and cheery nature will be sadly missed. We wish him good fortune in his adventurous business career.

Flying Officer Gratzner has joined the Medical Research Council where his specialised talents should find ample scope. We wish him well and hope that civilian life comes up to his expectations. Our good wishes also go to Flying Officer Evans, one of the many education officers who succumbed to the lures of matrimony while at Halton; and to Flying Officer Dubbey, who remained a bachelor.

Finally, our congratulations are offered to Flying Officer E. J. Jones on being recently selected to represent the Royal Air Force at Rugby Football.

Band Notes

The Autumn Term is traditionally a busy one for the bands, and this one proved no exception. However, Halton bandsmen are never daunted by a heavy engagement programme, and this term's members can look back with a sense of satisfaction in a job well done.

Unfortunately space does not permit mention of all the engagements, but the following will give some idea of the achievements. The term started with a Battle of Britain parade in Aylesbury at which both bands were in evidence. The following week-end—Battle of Britain week-end—both bands played at the Station "At Home" on the Saturday, followed by a visit to Group on Sunday by the Pipe Band and Trumpeters, whilst the Brass Band dealt with the Station parade.

In November the engagements reached their peak. The Pipe Band went to Luton to play at a floodlit Charity Football match in aid of the Luton and District Spastics Group—a good performance in foul weather and mud!

Both bands paid their annual visit to London for the Lord Mayor's Procession. The following day the Trumpeters once again sounded the "Last Post" at the Cenotaph Remembrance Service with great credit, whilst the Pipe Band was away again at Group.

On 15th November the A.O.C.-in-C., Air Marshal Sir George Beamish, K.C.B., C.B.E., paid his official farewell visit to Halton and the Trumpeters provided a "fanfare." On his departure the Pipers lined the route from Station Headquarters and played him away with "Auld Lang Syne." We of the bands