

The Haltonian Magazine

58 & 59 Edition

Summer 1951

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EDITORIAL

OUR first duty—a most pleasant one—is to extend a welcome to Air Commodore J. G. Elton, our Commanding Officer. The welcome is somewhat belated because Air Commodore Elton arrived here in January but we confidently hope that he and Mrs Elton will enjoy their stay at Halton.

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Once again the Air Ministry has paid No. 1 School of Technical Training the compliment of posting as its Commanding Officer one with a most distinguished record. Before coming here, Air Commodore Elton was chairman of the Air Advisory Committee to the Western Union Military Staff Committee and prior to that was first at the Imperial Defence College and then held an appointment as Deputy Director of Operational Requirements at the Air Ministry. Much of his war time experience was in the Middle East and Mediterranean theatres where he held important operations and administrative staff appointments at various headquarters.

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Our former Commanding Officer, Air Commodore North Carter, has gone to No. 205 Group, MEAF, as Senior Air Staff Officer, and carries with him our very best wishes for the future. Few officers in the past have left behind them a deeper and more permanent impression on Halton than has Air Commodore North Carter and we feel that the decision to name the Cricket Ground 'Carter's Field' after him is a peculiarly fitting tribute to a great officer and sportsman. We trust that he will be happy at Fayid. His service had already taken him overseas to India twice and to Iraq and North Africa, but not for any extended period, as far as we are aware, to the Suez Canal Zone.

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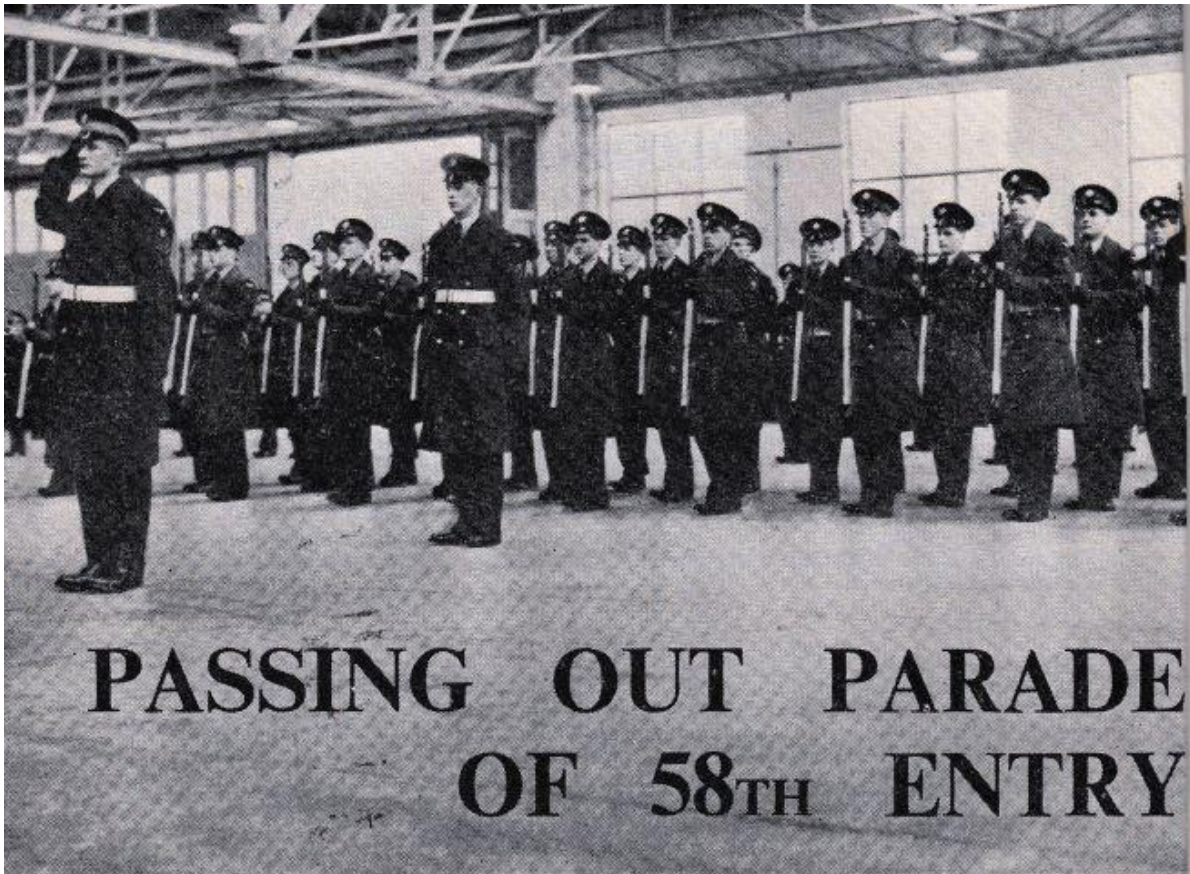
Elsewhere in this issue readers will find a short outline of a scheme suggested by Group Captain Finlay, Chairman of the Magazine Committee. Future issues of the magazine will contain a new feature made up of items of news sent in by Old Haltonians from their present stations. Representatives on these stations will act as reporters and send in to the Editor items of interest particularly about ex-apprentices, so that the Halton Magazine will help to link together past and present generations. Many apprentices who have recently 'gone down' have assured Group Captain Finlay of their support for the scheme and we trust that those interested in the idea will volunteer to assist. All readers who have news of Old Haltonians are invited to hand in such items to their station representative or to address them direct to the Editor.

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In recent months a notable addition to the amenities of life at Halton has resulted from the move of the R.A.F. Equitation Association formerly at High Wycombe. The club has taken over the stables at the rear of No. 2 Mess. Despite its name—and surely the subject deserves a more euphonious title than R.A.F. Equitation Association—and despite the increasing mechanisation of the R.A.F. and of life generally in this modern age, we all retain a warm affection for perhaps the most elegant of all pastimes.

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One last word: throughout the Spring, Rugby enthusiasts at Halton were jubilant at the progress of our grand Station Fifteen in the R.A.F. Rugby Cup competition. Halton had never previously won this competition but during last season we were fortunate enough to build up a keen well-balanced side that won the final tie at Henlow by a convincing margin. A large crowd of supporters attended the match and took part in a memorable celebration afterwards. We ourselves take a special pride in Halton's victory because, while we recognise that it was grand team work that won the championship, the winning team was skippered by our Assistant Editor, Flying Officer John Hart.



PASSING OUT PARADE OF 58TH ENTRY

On 19th December, 1950, the 58th Entry of Aircraft Apprentices passed out of Halton, and at the Parade, had the honour of being reviewed by The Right Honourable Arthur Henderson, K.C., M.P., Secretary of State for Air, accompanied by Air Marshal Sir J. Whitworth Jones, K.C.B., C.B.E., A.O.C.-in-C Technical Training Command, Air Vice Marshal R. O. Jones, C.B., A.F.C., A.O.C. 24 Group, Air Cdre. N. Carter, C.B., D.F.C., Commandant of No. 1 S. of T.T. and Gp. Capt. D. O. Finlay, D.F.C., A.F.C., Senior Training Officer.

It was unfortunate that the weather prevented a full-scale outdoor parade, but as Mr. Henderson remarked, although he had constitutional responsibility for forecasting the weather, he had not yet been given constitutional responsibility for controlling it. So the 58th were reviewed in New Workshops and were congratulated on "their fine bearing and the confidence and precision with which they handled their rifles and carried out their drill movements under the control of their own Apprentice N.C.O.s."

Later, before the visiting officers, and the friends and parents of the 58th Entry assembled in the Burnett Gymnasium, the Commandant gave his report. He said that in a sense the 58th were history makers because they were the first entry to graduate under the new trade structure, which was intended to mean broadly that the R.A.F. need no longer be a part-time career, but now offered a full life and career for men to the age of 55, whatever rank was attained. Commenting on the various activities in which the 58th Entry had been prominent, the Commandant mentioned all three Apprentice Bands. He said that it was worthy of mention that for eighteen years the trumpeters at the

Cenotaph on Remembrance Day had been R.A.F. Apprentices from Halton bands, and that this year apprentices of the 58th Entry had again represented the R.A.F. at this impressive national ceremony of thanksgiving. After announcing that F/Sgt/App Duncan Allison and Sgt/App J. D. Langley had been awarded General Duties Cadetships at Cranwell, the Commandant announced a new series of prizes which will be awarded to all apprentices who win cadetships from the various Apprentices' Schools. These prizes to be known as "Trustee Prizes" have been provided out of an Apprentice Endowment Fund, formed with part of the money allocated to the Royal Air Force as its share of the prize money earned by the fighting services in World War II. In conclusion the Commandant congratulated the 58th Entry on graduating successfully and said "You will be remembered as the first Halton Entry to pass out into the R.A.F. as Junior Technicians under the New Trade Structure, and you will in this respect automatically set a standard for your successors. I know you will make it a high one and I wish you the very best of luck."

After The Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson had presented the prizes he addressed the Entry. He, too, mentioned the New Trade Structure and said it provided much improved prospects of advancement in the Service and the fullest opportunity for rising to the top of the ladder. The Service could and did offer a good career, but it was up to the individual to make the most of it. The efficiency of any service depended on the efficiency of the individuals who composed it. It was a question of the team, and whether you were a pilot or aircrew, ground crew or technician, no matter what part of the organisation, it was the combined team work, the overall efficiency of the organisation itself which made the R.A.F. what it was, a service which had earned the respect and admiration of the entire world. Going on to talk of the prevailing state of international tension, he said "The knowledge that the United Nations can call upon overwhelming air power will, in my opinion, do more than anything else to exercise a restricting influence on aggressors. It is therefore of vital importance that all of you here should see to make your contribution to the efficiency of the Royal Air Force, so that the R.A.F. can make its contribution to the air forces of the United Nations by reason of its strength and its efficiency."



Mr. Arthur Henderson inspecting No. 58 Entry

The 59th Entry

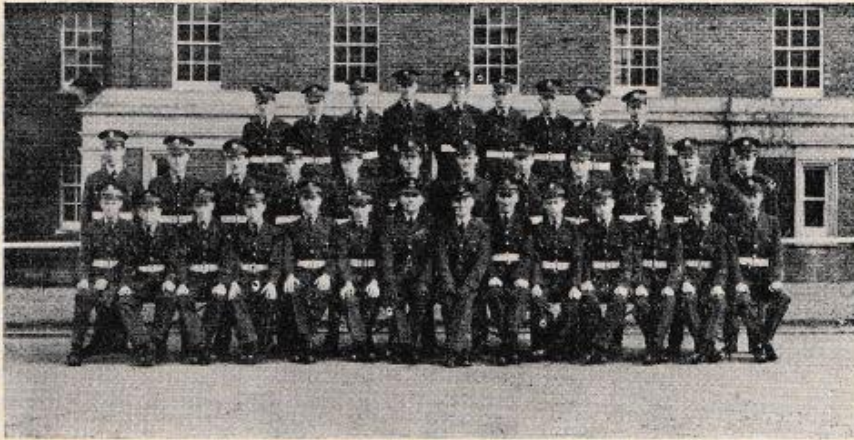
On May 25th, 1948, 125 keen and apprehensive youths arrived at R.A.F. Halton bursting with enthusiasm to make a success of their careers in the Royal Air Force. By the end of the afternoon all had, under the eagle eyes of Records staff, signed on the 'dotted' line and by this simple procedure had become fledgling members of one of the most efficient fighting forces in the world

After three weeks of initiation in drill and service customs, their apprenticeship training started in earnest. From then on, their aim has been to master their various trades and pass out successfully from Halton. Some have found their studies easy, some have had to struggle hard and others have fallen by the wayside—possibly through having taken life too easily. The majority have no doubt enjoyed the sport, spare time activities and the comradeship that are traditions of the school. Of the original entry, 84 have sat the final examination this term, leaving 25 to do so at a later date; 14 having been discharged and two transferred to skilled trades.

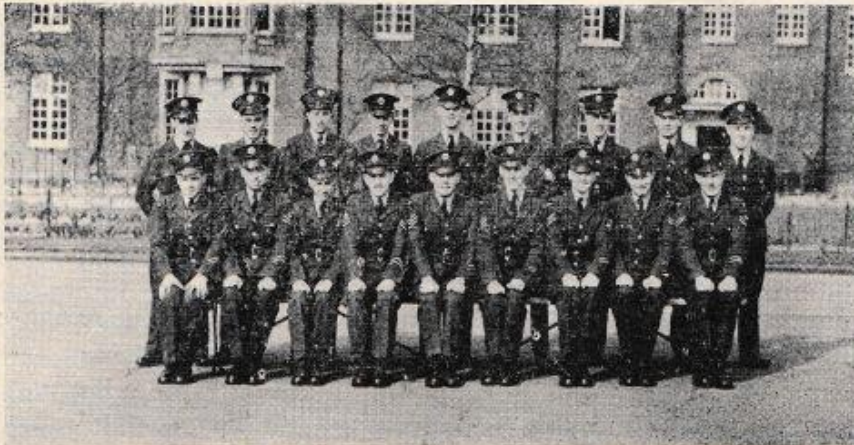
The introduction of the New Trade Structure necessitated revision of the training syllabus and the form and standard of the final examinations, this placed the accent on practical demonstration of technical skill, and the apprentices will graduate confident of their ability to undertake the servicing responsibilities of Junior Technicians. The higher qualifications and changed bias in knowledge so required have been thrust upon the entry in the last two terms. However, they have reacted well to their task and will certainly reap the benefit on posting to their first Units.

The schools record has been slightly above average, relegations to Junior entries having helped the entry to obtain a higher level of achievement than the 58th; it was most encouraging that only 6% of the entry failed the 'pass' standard. Another bright feature is that 42% of the candidates have had their papers submitted for assessment for the award of the Ordinary National Certificate. Congratulations go to the following apprentices for their magnificent efforts: Tuckey (Engine Fitter (S)) for having the best result in all subjects and being winner of the first prize in aeronautical science, Proctor (Airframe Fitter) for having the best result in all trade subjects and for being the winner of the second prize in aeronautical science, Cotton (Armament Fitter) for having the best result in all trade subjects, Saunders (Instrument Fitter) for having the best results in all trade subjects, Gulland (Elect. Fitter) for having the best results in all trade subjects and to Cox (Airframe Fitter) for winning the Elliot Memorial Prize. In addition to the efforts on the technical side the entry have been well represented in all Station and Wing sporting activities.

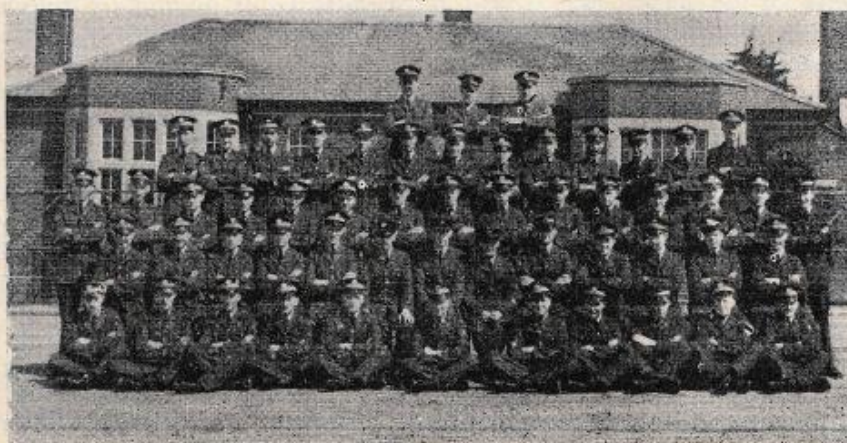
We wish the 59th Entry the best of luck. May they carry to their new Units the highest traditions of the school, "Leave each job a little better than when you found it and remember discipline is playing the game with Seniors, Equals and Juniors alike."



59th Entry No. 1(A) Wing



59th Entry No. 2(A) Wing



59th Entry No. 3(A) Wing

WING NOTES

NO. 1(A) WING

In the winter season of 1950-51, No. 1 Apprentice Wing in both Senior and Junior teams have shown their all round sports ability in winning the B.K. Competitions in Basketball—Senior and Junior—Cross Country Senior, and Junior Rugby, Soccer and Hockey.

With the coming of the annual Sigrist Trophy Boxing Competition, the Wing withstood all comers to bring the much coveted trophy to Halton for the first time since 1932. Congratulations go to the team, and to No. 2(A) Wing for their part.

The last six months have seen alterations in the N.A.A.F.I. which has been refurnished and is now a vision of chromium plate, and tubular chairs.

For a short while, owing to the fuel shortage, and the need for economy, No. 1 Wing has dined with No. 2 Wing. The latter have stood the inconvenience well, and now that we hope to return to our own Dining Hall we thank them for their hospitality.

As we go to press, it is "good-bye" to the 59th Entry, the entry where it is a distinction to be an ordinary Aircraft Apprentice, and we wish every one of them every success in their careers. Congratulations go to Sergeant Apprentice Dawe in obtaining a G.D. Cadetship at Cranwell. To compensate, the 68th have just arrived looking very proud of themselves in their new uniforms and among them a number of New Zealanders. We wish them a happy and successful stay at Halton.

Finally we were sorry to lose Squadron Leader (now Wing Commander) Evans. Flight Lieutenant (now Squadron Leader) Tyszko and Flight Lieutenant Watkinson, but congratulate them on their fortunate postings.

NO. 2(A) WING

Once again we must give pride of place to the staff changes that have occurred since the last issue, and record that Wg.Cdr. B. Robinson has left us, and his place taken by Wg.Cdr. L. Rose. Apart from his work in No. 2(A) Wing, Wg.Cdr. Robinson will always be remembered at Halton as the founder of the Sailing Club, and his drive and enthusiasm for this activity has resulted in the operation of yet another branch of the Halton Society. We wish Wg.Cdr. and Mrs. Robinson every success in the future.

A very hearty welcome is extended to Wg.Cdr. Rose who comes to us with a wealth of experience in Technical Training Command. It is our wish that his command of No. 2(A) Wing will give him great personal satisfaction.

Our very popular Wing Technical Training Officer, Sqn.Ldr. F. J. O'Connell, has been posted to Ministry of Supply, and we miss his cheerful versatility. His position in the Workshops has been filled by Sqn.Ldr. Worthy. Sqn.Ldr. Woolley has arrived to take command of "A" Squadron and W.O. Devereux is now Workshops W.O. in place of W.O. Ponting. It will be seen that practically a new issue of workshops officers has been made, and although we realise that staff changes are inevitable we do wish that they would occur with far less frequency.

However, the machine continues to function; sometimes a little more is put in, sometimes a wheel is changed, sometimes it is oiled and speeded up, but it never stops. The 58th Entry have departed as Junior Technicians (You lucky people!); the 59th at the moment are in the

throes of final examinations, and before this issue is made the 60th Entry will have passed out. Many important changes have been made in the training system, most of which have been necessitated by the new trade structure, and the demand for higher standards than ever before.

The schools continue to call for greater and even greater effort from the apprentice, and the introduction of the junior technician calls for educational qualifications in advance of anything yet reached. We suggest to all our junior entries that they get down to some really serious work, and if help is needed, to go to the Wing Education Officer, who will do all he can for them.

In all activities the Wing continues to play its part, and in some it leads the way. Our Adjutant, Flt.Lt. Searles, continues to give example and enthusiasm to the choir, and he in turn must appreciate the support given by Sgt. Blackman and many 2 Wing Apprentices.

In conclusion we should like to remind all apprentices that our present Commanding Officer, Wg.Cdr. L. Rose, is an ex-2 Wing apprentice. We say this with justifiable pride in the hope that many of them will, in years to come, follow the example he has set.

NO. 3(A) WING

During the past few months there have been notable changes in No. 3 Wing. The Wing has now settled down to the organisation of Flights by Entries, which has been a very popular move amongst the Apprentices. The Apprentices have been much more at home in a flight of their contemporaries than in a flight composed of elements of three Entries. As a flight works as a unit, administrative difficulties have been greatly reduced compared with formerly when, to get an Entry together, apprentices had to be assembled from all three Squadrons.

Though it has been a great improvement for the School, it is with regret that the Wing has lost the Armourers to No. 2(A) Wing. Amongst their numbers they boasted some prominent Wing personalities and sportsmen, and all contributed loyally and enthusiastically to Wing activities. We wish them well and can say emphatically that our loss is No. 2 Wing's gain.

The 58th and 59th Entries have now passed out. The 58th had some severe weather to contend with during final preparation, but maintained a spirit that no weather could defeat. Their passout was held indoors, but was of a very high standard. The 59th had not these difficulties to contend with. However, their determination to be the "best ever" ensured beforehand that their passout would be a success.

We wish to offer our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future to Flight Sergeant Apprentice Allison (58th), Flight Sergeant Apprentice Harris, and Corporal Apprentice Cox (59th) on their gaining cadetships to R.A.F. College, Cranwell.

The Wing has done well in the major winter sports, particular

mention must be made of the Football team which won the Boy Entrants' and Apprentices' Championship Cup by defeating Cosford in the Final by five goals to one, and also the B.K. Trophy matches; the junior boxing team which won the Scott Payne Trophy and the B.K. Competitions, and the Senior Rugby team which won both its B.K. Trophy matches by a convincing margin without conceding a point. However, more important than such results is the interest shown throughout the Wing. The numbers taking part in games have been very satisfactory, and weekend voluntary games and inter-Squadron Competition fixtures have gone well.

The success of entries and individuals on passing out, and of Wing Sports teams, has been maintained in the standard shown in discipline, turnout, ceremonial and rooms. This improvement is in no small degree due to the enthusiasm of N.C.O. Apprentices, who have shown their capabilities by taking complete charge of a ceremonial parade. Keep it up!!

As usual we have to record the departure of members of our permanent staff. We wish them success in their new posts, and wish their successors a pleasant stay in No. 3 Wing.

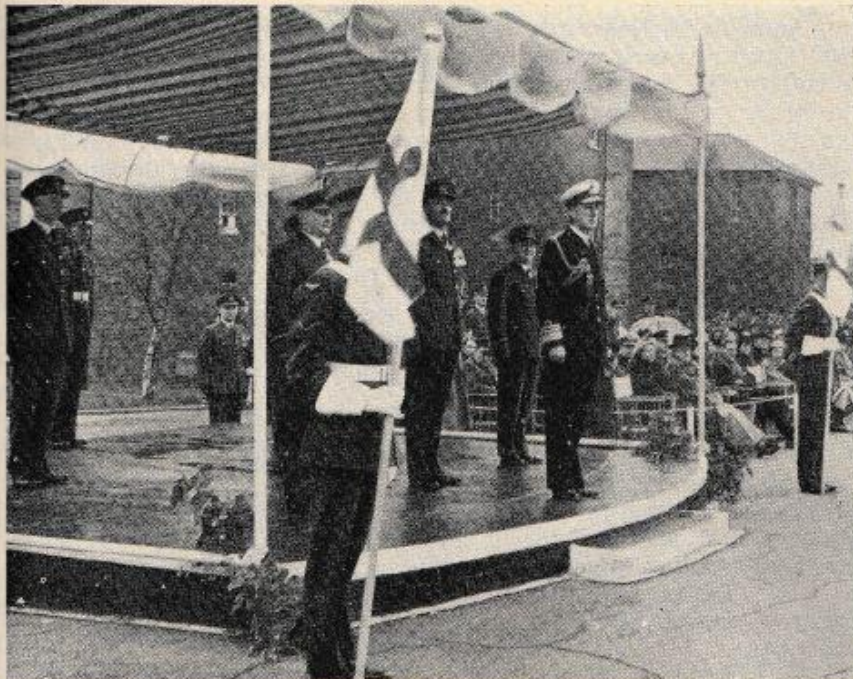
Sqn.Ldr. Fisher has gone to the Far East and has been relieved by Sqn.Ldr. Tickle. Sqn.Ldr. Akhurst and Flt.Lt. Llewellyn have not gone so far afield, having followed their Armourers to No. 2(A) Wing along with a number of the Technical N.C.O.'s. Warrant Officer Parkes has gone to Cosford (much to the regret of the boxers) and has been relieved by Warrant Officer Page.

In January and May we welcomed the 67th and 68th Entries respectively. We hope that after reading these remarks on the prowess of their predecessors they will be inspired to maintain the honour and name of their Wing, and do all they can to make their apprenticeship enjoyable and profitable to themselves.

"TO BASIC"

An age it seems, beside this vice I've stood,
And in these hands held hacksaw or a file
To maltreat steel and wishing all the while
It were as soft as e'en the hardest wood.
Once came dread thought, "I never will make good."
But I was saved by my instructor's smile
As he remarked "I rather like your style,"
And up I soared above the dismal mood.
Yet further aid to patience I'll require,
Ere comes the later jobs in using tools.
As for these tests, I've heard I must acquire,
The art of using "mics" instead of rules.
And then, at last, if with good marks I'm blest,
I'll pass to Rigging, Splicing and the rest.

F.W.S



Earl Mountbatten at the Saluting Base

PASSING OUT PARADE OF THE 59TH ENTRY

On Tuesday, May 8th, Halton was honoured by a visit from the Fourth Sea Lord, Vice Admiral The Earl Mountbatten of Burma, K.G., P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.I.O., K.C.B., D.S.O., L.I.D., D.C.L., D.Sc., when he reviewed the passing out parade of the 59th Entry of Aircraft Apprentices. He was accompanied by Air Marshal Sir J. Whitworth Jones, K.C.B., C.B.E., A.O.C. in C. Technical Training Command, Air Vice Marshal R. D. Jones, C.B., A.F.C., A.O.C. 24 Group, Air Commodore J. G. Elton, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., Commandant of No. 1 S. of T.T., Group Captain D. O. Finlay, D.F.C., A.F.C., Senior Training Officer and Wing Commander L. D. Dadswell, Officer Commanding No. 1(A) Wing.

On his arrival at Station Headquarters Earl Mountbatten inspected a Guard of Honour formed of Apprentices of the 61st Entry and then proceeded to Henderson Parade Ground where the Passing Out Parade was held. Despite the unpleasantly cold wind and intermittent rain, the parade was, if anything, above the average in smartness. The rifle drill was held. Despite the unpleasantly cold wind and intermittent rain, the Parade was if anything above the average in smartness. The rifle drill was particularly good considering conditions and the Apprentice N.C.O.s who conducted the parade, especially Flt/Sgt/App Harris, are to be congratulated. Indeed Earl Mountbatten said that although he had seen parades in all parts of the world by all Services of all nations, this was second to none.

Later, in the warmer atmosphere of the Burnett Gymnasium, the 59th Entry and their guests, the visiting officers and the permanent staff assembled for the prize giving. Air Commodore Elton in his report on the Entry said that the 59th could only effectively be compared with the 58th since previous entries had graduated under different conditions before the New Trade Structure came into force, but that in both technical and educational standards there was an improvement on the whole. The percentage of National Certificates in Engineering obtained was the highest in recent years.

Although a small Entry, the 59th had been very well represented in the various sports teams, the recreational clubs and the three Apprentice Bands. All had flying experience and a number had gained their Royal Aero Club Gliding Certificates.

Three Cadetships had been awarded to Flt/Sgt/App B. Harris, Sgt/App P. St. J. E. Dawe and Cpl/App T. L. Cox. A trusteeship prize of £25 would be awarded to each. A new prize was the Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize "in memory of that great man who did so much for Halton during the twenty years he served here." After wishing good luck to the entry Air Commodore Elton asked Earl Mountbatten to present the prizes.

Earl Mountbatten then spoke to the 59th. Immediately striking a pleasant note in announcing his intention of speaking without the microphone he proceeded to explain why he, a naval officer, should feel no embarrassment in coming to Halton. Not only did he hold a commission in the R.A.F. granted (unnecessarily he claimed) when he became Chief of Combined Operations, but he had also flown before any pre-



Earl Mountbatten inspecting No. 59 Entry

sent serving member of the R.A.F.—at the age of 5½ he was used as extra ballast in an airship! After several entertaining anecdotes of his days in Burma, he went on to show how the Burma campaign had depended entirely on air supply, and how, since aircraft were used at almost double their normal rating the whole campaign depended ultimately on the efficiency of ground maintenance. He had warm praise for the predecessors of present Halton Apprentices who had done so much to win that battle and he also mentioned the predecessors of the present Pakistan Apprentices.

BASKET BALL

The team did not have such a successful year as before, being handicapped to an extent by lack of funds with which to seek out stronger opposition, necessary to acquire knowledge of this game and for competition training. The departure of Sgt. South too had an adverse effect on the team as the experience of the Sergeant as R.A.F. Coach was most invaluable to Halton. The team met with a decisive defeat at the hands of Cranwell Apprentices.

ON OBSERVING A SPIDER TO CROSS THE CEILING

(Or—An Old Fable Revived)

I've lain here hauf-an-'oor or mair:
Observed this cratur leave his lair
Tae crawl wi' canny skill and care
Across the ceiling.

His trail is fraught wi' trouble and strife,
He slips, and hings on for dear life,
Then climbs the threed and, quick as "knife"
Regains his fittin'.

Nae pause for breath, nae time for rest,
He creeps and slips and does his best
Tae keep his course South-West by West,
(His compass bearing).

It seems tae me he has a reason
For sic' a journey oot o' season,
Perhaps he's promised a grund liason
Across the ceiling.

At last his patience reaps reward,
His journey's done, "Noo thank the Lord,"
He's got there o' his ain accord.
Noo I'll be rising.

Nae doot the moral's plain tae see,
That this should lesson be tae me
Tae persevere until I dee
Wi' honest striving.

When things look black as they can be
And a' the waurld's oppressing me
I'll tak' heart frae whit I've seen the day
And keep on trying.

J.L.E.

BALL AND CHAIN LETTER

Unlike other chain letters this one involves no money at all.

Simply add your name to the list and then send a copy of this letter to five married male friends. Then bundle up your wife and send her to the person at the top of the list. When your name comes to the top of the list you will receive 5,478 women—have strength.

Don't break the chain—one man did and had his wife returned to him—don't let this happen to you.

The 60th Entry

When this Entry came to Halton on 29th September, 1948, it came under the general supervision of F.S. O'Keefe, who was the main instrument of initiation in Service customs and ideals. It took all the usual tricks and banter from the senior entries and was treated in much the same way as junior entries are treated today. As time wore on, however, the 60th began to earn the respect of these entries for its feats in the school, in the workshops and on the playing fields.

At the end of their intermediate examination, which carried for them the best results since the 43rd Entry, boys of the 60th held five school and two Station colours. Their workshops examination results had been assessed as very good.

At the beginning of the second year, the feeling of being a long way from passing out came over the entry and to pass the time many boys turned to sport. In this year the total of school colours went up to 14 and Station colours to six. In addition Quinn and McCaffery (1(A) Wing) gained their R.A.F. Boxing colours. Work in Workshops and schools progressed well, although the standard levelled off sharply towards the completion of 18 months service.

During this second year 30 members of the entry were invited to visit the Houses of Parliament by Mr. Spencer Summers, M.P., and these saw the functioning of both Houses in a typical debate on the country's welfare.

In the Wings the entry began to play its part. The Halton Society attracted more and more of its boys, and by September, 1950, the 60th Entry held four of the six junior seats on the committee of the Halton Branch R.Ae.S., and three of the six in the Dramatics Section Committee. The Apprentice Bands also attracted many boys and 16 of them played in one or other of the wing bands. App/Air Gallop attained the position of Drum Major in the Flute Band, having four members of the 60th under him. Sgt/App/Air Claxton gained for himself in this year the honour of becoming a King's Scout—an achievement indeed. He has always been a keen scout and we all wish to congratulate him heartily.

In the summer of 1950, several members of the 60th formed part of the Gymnastic Team which gave several demonstrations at County Shows during the season. While these lads worked at their display another boy was making a name for himself in the swimming team. App/Air Thomason won his way to the Station team, went on to swim for the R.A.F. and finally for the Combined Services—great work for an Apprentice.

At the outset of their third year at Halton several more boys won distinction in Station teams. Ldg/App/Air Miles and App/Air Carr became 1st XI and Junior School Football Captains respectively, and App/Air White became Vice-Captain of the School Rugby XV. Carr also won for himself the title of Junior R.A.F. Fencing Champion. At this sport Sgt/App/Air Davies also excelled, being runner-up in the McEwan Trophy, 1951, and placed 5th in the Command Epee Championships.

At work Sgt/App/Air Doggrell proved exceptional with an average of 99% for maths in both the intermediate and progress test. He won first place in both examinations, and at the beginning of his third year he won the Workshops Instructors' Shield for the best progress in the second year.



60th Entry No. 1(A) Wing



60th Entry No. 2(A) Wing



60th Entry No. 3(A) Wing

