

The Haltonian Magazine

81 Edition

Autumn 1958

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EDITORIAL

A glance at the editorial of the first number of the Halton Magazine, dated Easter 1924, leaves one with an impression of vigour and optimism. There were a great many keen people at Halton in those early days; the editor states there that he received one hundred and thirty contributions for that first number. He goes on to say that "most of the contributors must, of necessity, be disappointed; but, remember, there is no disgrace in being an 'also ran'—in being a 'non-starter' there may be". Sifting through 130 manuscripts ("a few excellent, many good and some—rubbish") must have been one of the editor's most arduous tasks; today much of the editor's energy is devoted to persuading people to write articles and even to suggesting subjects. What has happened during those thirty-four years? Was this early flood of contributions only the result of the first flush of enthusiasm for the magazine or has something happened to people to make them more apathetic about things in general? There may be some truth in the former but we find it impossible to believe that this is the whole story. It is our considered belief that in 1958 fewer people than ever before are prepared to make any form of creative or critical effort. More people than ever before are shiftless, complacent, unenterprising and mentally flaccid. We have our share at Halton; that most Apprentices are like this is not surprising since few of their mentors can claim with justice to be creatively energetic and intellectually alive.

It is not to our purpose to make a judgement here as to why so many people today are so utterly uninteresting and uninterested. (Other people elsewhere are continually doing so; among other things, television and the welfare state have both been blamed.) But we are convinced that it is so and we must continue to point it out, if only for the sake of this Magazine. To have to do this gives us no pleasure; Apprentices at least must be as tired of facing these accusations as we are of making them.

Further evidence in the Case of Apprentice Apathy will be provided when the Debating Society starts again, after a lapse of several years, under the auspices of the Halton Society. As a rule those who have something to say for themselves in a debate are people who are also literate and not shy of appearing in print. It will be possible to draw wider conclusions from the success or failure of this revived society. We shall not attempt to prognosticate, whatever our private thoughts, and we wish the Society every success.

* * * * *

In view of our remarks about general apathy in the School we are more than normally grateful to those five Apprentices who have contributed to the current number; to C/A/A Begg for his story, to L/A/A Armiger for his accounts of two holidays abroad, to L/A/A Chong Tai and A/A Knowlton, our new photographic staff, and to A/A Ford for a number of cartoons.

* * * * *

The 81st. Entry, whose graduation is reported in this number, had the best results in Schools of any entry for a number of years and we should like to offer them our congratulations on that account. We feel sure that many of them have very successful and eventful careers ahead of them; this certainty is based not merely upon the results of examinations but also upon observations made through personal contact. We wish them all well.

* * * * *

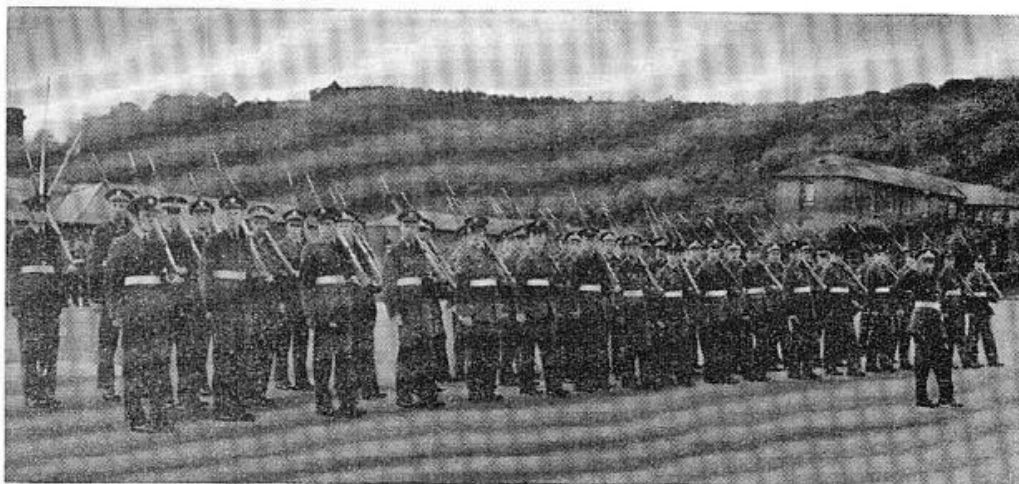
The compliments of the Christmas season to all our readers.

ARCHIVES

A recent inspection of the Halton Magazine archives has shown that there are several gaps in the collection of back numbers. It would be a good thing if the collection could be made complete—one feels that **somewhere** there should be a complete collection, and where better than in the Editor's office—and any reader who supplies what is wanting will earn our gratitude for a service to the Magazine.

The missing numbers are Volume IV Book II (Summer 1927), Volume IX Book I (Summer 1937), Volume XI Book I (Summer 1939) and Volume XV Book I (Christmas 1951). During the war years, the Magazine was printed at least part of the time by the Halton Society Printing Section, and appeared monthly. Most of these seem to have disappeared (unless it only came out four times, which seems unlikely) so that we should welcome the gift of any number published between 1940 and 1944.

GRADUATION OF THE 81ST ENTRY



The March Past in Review Order.

Air Ministry Photograph, Crown Copyright Reserved

THE Graduation Parade of the 81st Entry of Aircraft Apprentices at Halton took place on the Henderson-Groves Parade Ground on 30th July, 1958. The Reviewing Officer was Air Chief Marshal Sir Walter Dawson, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Air Member for Supply and Organisation. He was accompanied by Air Marshal Sir Arthur McDonald, 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 T. N. Coslett, O.B.E., Commandant of No. 1 School of Technical Training, Group Captain A. K. Hunter, O.B.E., Senior Training Officer, Group Captain E. A. Stockwell, Principal Education Officer, and Wing Commander A. A. Pedder, Officer Commanding No. 1 Apprentice Wing.

The Parade was under the command of Warrant Officer Apprentice B. H. Martin, of the 81st Entry. The following Apprentices were subordinate commanders:

Parade Adjutant	S/A/A E. T. White
Parade Warrant Officer	C/A/A J. Plumbley
Colour Bearer	F.S/A/A H. W. P. Verdin
Colour Warrant Officer	
	S/A/A J. H. T. Hathaway
Colour Escort	S/A/A P. J. Perry
	S/A/A A. R. Jackson
Colour Orderly	A/A A. R. Thompson
Escort Squadron Commander	
	F.S/A/A H. W. F. Hutchinson
No. 1 Flight Commander	
	S/A/A M. A. A. Mason
No. 2 Flight Commander	
	S/A/A M. S. Johnson
No. 2 Squadron Commander	
	S/A/A E. F. Stone
No. 1 Flight Commander	S/A/A D. Cooper
No. 2 Flight Commander	
	L/A/A R. A. Lucas
Standard Bearers	C/A/A V. Avis
	C/A/A D. Brooks
Apprentice i/c Supporting Entry	
	F.S/A/A D. K. Pirie
Drum Major Pipe Band	A/A J. Squires

The Entries on parade were the 81st and 82nd.

THE COMMANDANT'S REPORT

The Parade was followed by the Prize-Giving in the Burnett Gymnasium, where for the first time as Commandant, Air Commodore T. N. Coslett, O.B.E., delivered his report on the graduating entry. First he welcomed the Reviewing Officer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Walter Dawson, Air Member for Supply and Organisation. The Air Chief Marshal was, until January, 1958, Inspector General of the R.A.F., and before that served at S.H.A.P.E. as Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations. He had had a long experience of planning, in both war and peace. In order to keep conversant with modern flying techniques he completed, during 1957, a pilot conversion course on modern jet bombers, showing that even Air Marshals needed refresher training from time to time. As Air Member for Supply and Organisation, he was responsible for the technical and supply services with which the graduating Apprentices would be intimately concerned during their future careers.

Air Commodore Coslett also welcomed the parents, relatives and friends of the 81st Entry. He assured parents of the importance which was attached to liaison with them, and the value of their constructive suggestions and interest in their sons' careers. What they saw at Halton would, he hoped, convince them that their boys had chosen one of the finest careers available.

A considerable proportion of the 81st Entry had been lost by relegation, discharge or transfer to a lower trade level elsewhere, whilst there had been some additions from senior entries. Against an original strength of 331 there were 220 graduating in-

cluding two Apprentices of the Burma Air Force. This high wastage rate was the price which had to be paid for the maintenance of quality; it could be reduced only by raising the academic standard on entry, a direction in which steps had recently been taken.

The Commandant recalled that his predecessor had noted in the 80th Entry a much better spirit than in preceding entries; he was assured by his staff that the 81st had bettered even the 80th in this respect. In view of their good spirit and their sound attainment in training, he believed that the 81st Entry was leading the way to a general improvement in the quality of the Halton Apprentice.

In educational training the Entry's achievements were particularly gratifying. Their average mark in the final examination had been equalled only once in the post-war period, and that was six years previously. Some 20 per cent. of the Entry had been recommended for the award of the Ordinary National Certificate in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, while in the



The Reviewing Officer takes the Salute
Air Ministry Photograph, Crown Copyright Reserved

General Certificate of Education 80 Apprentices obtained a total of 102 passes. Two Apprentices had broken new ground by taking Mathematics at G.C.E. Advanced Level. These excellent results were a just reward for the Entry's keenness and diligence.

The graduating Entry had shown an above average interest in the cultural activities and hobbies run by the Halton Society and particularly in the Handicrafts Club and the Halton Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society. The churches also would miss their co-operation and enthusiasm.

The Commandant rated the 81st as comparable with preceding entries in all other respects—trade and general service training, discipline and band activities. In the field of sport, thirteen Halton Apprentice records

were recently broken, with the assistance of the 81st Entry.

Thirteen members of the Entry were graduating as substantive corporals, and fifteen would qualify for accelerated promotion to corporal technician after one year. Four Apprentices had been granted cadetships, one to Cranwell and three to Henlow, and a further two had been selected for training as Air Electronics Officers. This total of six Apprentices selected for immediate officer training was the highest for the past twelve entries.

Air Commodore Coslett concluded his report by congratulating the graduating Apprentices on their success at Halton, and on behalf of all the staff wished them good luck in their future Service careers

ADDRESS BY THE REVIEWING OFFICER

The Reviewing Officer congratulated the Commandant, staff and Apprentices on an excellent turn-out and a very good parade; to him it had been "a breath of fresh air."

Air Chief Marshal Dawson reminded the 81st Entry that they were leaving a school which was deservedly proud of its high reputation throughout the Air Force, and he hoped that they would keep up to the high standard of work and conduct which had been set by former Apprentices. He gave them one piece of advice: "Don't boast about having been trained at Halton. Let yourselves be judged rather by your work than your word."

They were entering fully into a Service of which they could be proud, a Service which

right from its inception had succeeded in doing the job for which it was established. It was also a service which, from the very beginning had made it possible for a young man to get on. "You will always have opportunities if you are willing to take them," he said, and cited his own career as an example of this. Even greater opportunities would be provided by a new training scheme for technicians which would soon be starting.

Sir Walter Dawson paid tribute to the civic authorities of Aylesbury for the way they co-operated with the station at all times. Those parents who were present could take it as a good indication of the way their sons behaved that the town had honoured R.A.F. Halton by giving it the Freedom of Entry to the Borough.

81st ENTRY CADETSHIPS

Prize Cadetships in the Technical Branch have been awarded to:

F.S/A/A H. W. P. Verdin
S/A/A P. J. Perry

A Cadetship in the Technical Branch has been awarded to:

F.S/A/A H. W. F. Hutchinson

A Cadetship in the General Duties Branch has been awarded to:

S/A/A M. S. Johnson

PRIZE WINNERS

Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize (for the best all-round Apprentice):

F.S/A/A H. W. P. Verdin

Pioneer Trophy (for the highest marks in all Technical Training Subjects):

S/A/A P. J. Perry

Crebbin-Robinson Cup (for the best Trade Standards Practical Fitting Test):

A/A R. G. Etsell

Elliott Memorial Prize (presented by the Royal Aeronautical Society for the highest marks in English and General Studies):

S/A/A P. J. Perry

Quinton Memorial Trophy (for the best ex-A.T.C. Cadet):

F.S/A/A H. W. P. Verdin

AIR MINISTRY PRIZES

Highest in Order of Merit, all subjects:

S/A/A P. J. Perry

Highest in Order of Merit, educational subjects:

First Prize: S/A/A P. J. Perry

Second Prize: F.S/A/A H. W. P. Verdin

Third Prize: S/A/A M. S. Johnson

Best "Set Task" General Studies:

A/A R. L. Roberts

Highest in Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency:

First Prize: F.S/A/A H. W. P. Verdin

Second Prize: S/A/A M. A. A. Mason

Third Prize: F.S/A/A H. W. F. Hutchinson

Highest Average for Practical Fitting over the three years course:

S/A/A M. S. Johnson

BEST TRADESMEN IN TRADE STANDARDS TRADE TEST

Airframe Fitter 1st	S/A/A P. J. Perry
Airframe Fitter 2nd	A/A W. Thompson
Armament Fitter 1st	L/A/A R. G. Bingham
Armament Fitter 2nd	A/A T. C. D. Martin
Electrical Fitter (Air)	L/A/A J. G. Russell
Electrical Fitter (Ground)	C/A/A W. G. Thomas
Engine Fitter	F.S/A/A H. W. P. Verdin
Instrument Fitter (Nav.)	C/A/A D. C. H. Williams
Instrument Fitter (Gen.)	A/A R. G. Etsell

Commandant's Prize for Parade Commander

W.O/A/A B. H. Martin

**81st ENTRY POSTING LIST
(in order of merit)**

Perry, P. J.	Marham Awarded Prize Cadetship in Technical Branch. Promoted Substantive Corporal Abingdon	Lucas, R. A.	Gaydon Promoted Substantive Corporal Horsham St. Faith
Verdin, H. W. P.	Awarded Prize Cadetship in Technical Branch Promoted Substantive Corporal R.A.F. Flying College, Manby	Hutchinson, H. W. F.	Awarded Technical Cadetship Promoted Substantive Corporal Benson
Armiger, N. S.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Coningsby	Murphy, M. P.	Promoted Substantive Corporal F.E.A.F. (Singapore)
Johnson, M. S.	Awarded General Duties Cadetship	Brown, B. C.	Waterbeach
Hutchinson, K. B.	Promoted Substantive Corporal 2nd T.A.F.	Cooper, D.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Waddington
		Hague, A. W.	Promoted Substantive Corporal C.F.E., West Raynham
		Edwards, J. C.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Odiham
		Thomas, W. G.	

- Morris, J. M.
Gray, A. R.
Gates, A. C.
- Francis, K. G.
Hathaway, J. H. T.
- Bingham, R. G.
Waters, B. R.
Hall, A. L. J.
Morley, W. B.
Wells, W. A.
Birchenough, A. E.
Williams, D. C. H.
Martin, T. C. D.
Cuthbert, I. G.
Hunt, D. A.
Grimwood, G. G.
Spurway, B.
- Russell, M. G.
Gardner, B.
Gornall, J. H.
Harvey, A. P.
Wood, P. H.
Slaughter, A. J.
Watson, A. E.
Keays, W. J. P.
Parsons, S. R.
Hinchliffe, M.
Williams, K. W.
Thompson, W.
Gutteridge, A. V.
Martin, B. H.
White, T. F.
Etsell, R. G.
Russell, J. G.
Wells, D.
Fowler, S. D.
Lee, J. H.
May, J. H. C.
Lynch, J. J.
White, E. T.
Jackson, A. R.
Burton, D. M.
Puzey, B. J.
Clark, J.
Timberlake, G. C.
Chapman, R. K. F.
Mullally, H. M.
Reed, J. D.
Osborn, A. T.
Stone, E. F.
Gregory, D. R.
Pallister, T. G.
Hillis, N.
Bambrick, M. F. M.
Davis, J. S.
Chammings, F. W. H.
Dilloway, M.
Taylor, H. J.
Campbell, B. G.
Wilcox, J. H.
Humphrey, A.
Camper, R.
Duke, E. J.
Dymond, M. J.
Stebbing, C. J.
Tutton, H. P.
Thomas, D. E.
Parker, B. J.
Bone, J. C.
Fairless, T. W.
White, E.
Fleet, H. T.
Munro, T. S. M.
Walton, C. A.
Minton, L. A.
Hadden, B. S.
McLeod, R. M.
Murray, A. C.
Parker, D. J.
Enfield, G. J.
Prke, B. G. C.
Binks, A. M.
Plumbley, J.
Remnant, C. N.
Mitchell, A.
- Abingdon
Horsham St. Faith
Wittering
Promoted Substantive Corporal
2nd T.A.F.
C.F.S. Little Rissington
Promoted Substantive Corporal
Wittering
2nd T.A.F.
R.A.F. College, Cranwell
2nd T.A.F.
Ballykelly
2nd T.A.F.
Abingdon
Ballykelly
Lynham
Marham
Lynham
Chivenor
Promoted Substantive Corporal
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Abingdon
Lynham
Abingdon
Lynham
Duxford
2nd T.A.F.
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Marham
Cottesmore
7 F.T.S. Valley
St. Mawgan
Wittering
Wyton
2nd T.A.F.
Gibraltar
Abingdon
Waddington
M.E.A.F. (North Africa)
R.A.F. College, Cranwell
Cottesmore
Aldergrove
St. Eval
Lynham
Coningsby
2nd T.A.F.
Waddington
B.F.A.P. Aden
8 F.T.S. Swinderby
F.E.A.F. (Singapore)
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Abingdon
229 O.C.U. Chivenor
Little Rissington
Wittering
Lynham
Marham
32 M.U. St. Athan
Cottesmore
Upwood
Cottesmore
Lynham
Abingdon
Horsham St. Faith
Waterbeach
2nd T.A.F.
Wyton
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
2nd T.A.F.
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
F.E.A.F. (Singapore)
Gibraltar
B.C.B.S. Lindholme
Ballykelly
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Lynham
Waterbeach
2nd T.A.F.
8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Marham
Leuchars
C.F.S. Little Rissington
Waterbeach
2nd T.A.F.
R.A.F. College, Cranwell
2nd T.A.F.
Duxford
Aldergrove
- Nagle, P. M.
Lovelace, J. R.
Henry, G. J.
Kelly, W. E.
Ripley, G.
Roberts, G. W.
Furner, R. G.
Bugden, J. H.
Walters, R. G. A.
Ward, G.
Brown, K.
Guy, M. B.
Jenner, G. E.
Storow, P. L.
McLanahan, G.
Johnson, E. V.
Knight, J. L.
Mason, M. A. A.
Rawlinson, W. T.
Richardson, R. E.
Johnson, M.
Senior, M.
Cruickshank, C.
Littlecott, D. F.
Gum, T.
Smith, B. J.
Hibbens, A. C.
Bremner, J. R.
Rowe, H. F.
Wood, J. D.
Walker, A.
Hindley, R.
Liddell, D.
Robins, M. V.
Brook, R. W. H.
Hodges, J.
Strachan, J.
Barty, E. W.
McLellan, D. C.
Pascoe, A. N.
Hayward, J. E.
Brownbill, A.
Cox, R. J.
Goodacre, D. R.
Hughes, D. E.
Roberts, R. L.
Head, K. E. J.
Martin, N. R.
Coxon, G. J.
Squires, J.
Thompson, M. A.
Dunn, P. J.
Lowe, G.
Kynock, E. R.
Fry, T. G.
Taylor, A. T. R.
Walker, J. A.
Wagstaff, E. C.
McConnell, M. J.
East, D. O.
Payne, J. E.
Peto, E. R.
Kennell, G. D.
Oliver, J. A.
Walden-Hughes, P. P. F.
Barden, J.
Knights, D. W.
Woolley, W. J.
Beston, E. D.
Longhurst, R.
Stanley, M. D.
Howells, M. I.
Penney, C. C.
Ottoway, A.
Richmond, R. B.
Quick, M. H.
Pinn, J.
Sidgwick, D. D.
Blackman, K. A.
Waldock, R. J.
Tomsett, G. C.
Cooke, J. P.
Butcher, R. M.
Conway, P. J.
Luesley, R. E.
Butters, C. W.
Chilton, G. C.
Humphreys, J. M.
- 2 A.N.S. Thorney Island
2nd T.A.F.
Ballykelly
Aldergrove
Middleton St. George
Lynham
Abingdon
2nd T.A.F.
2nd T.A.F.
Cottesmore
Scampton
2nd T.A.F.
Wattisham
C.F.E. West Raynham
228 O.C.U. Leeming
Abingdon
St. Mawgan
2nd T.A.F.
Church Fenton
C.F.E. West Raynham
Kinloss
Church Fenton
F.E.A.F. (Singapore)
Ballykelly
B.C.B.S. Lindholme
Honington
Cottesmore
Honington
Lynham
2nd T.A.F.
8 F.T.S. Swinderby
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Marham
Duxford
Cottesmore
Lynham
Wittering
2nd T.A.F.
2nd T.A.F.
A.M.U. (Gen.) Ruislip
Duxford
C.F.E. West Raynham
Waddington
Cottesmore
Cottesmore
2nd T.A.F.
Marham
C.F.E. West Raynham
232 O.C.U. Gaydon
2nd T.A.F.
Middleton St. George
Wittering
232 O.C.U. Gaydon
Cottesmore
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Waterbeach
Leuchars
Wattisham
C.F.E. West Raynham
M.E.A.F. (North Africa)
Duxford
F.E.A.F. (Singapore)
Wattisham
Abingdon
2nd T.A.F.
R.A.F. Flying College, Manby
Cottesmore
2nd T.A.F.
R.A.F. College, Cranwell
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
2nd T.A.F.
229 O.C.U. Chivenor
2nd T.A.F.
8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Cottesmore
2nd T.A.F.
Cottesmore
7 F.T.S. Valley
B.C.B.S. Lindholme
2nd T.A.F.
7 F.T.S. Valley
Middleton St. George
2nd T.A.F.
St. Mawgan
Cottesmore
C.F.S. Little Rissington
Kinloss
2nd T.A.F.

Robertson, J. F.
Moore, J.
Jarman, P. L.
Copley, N. A.
Williams, A. F.
Goodwin, B. J.
Breton, A. H.
Faulkner, R.
Renton-Cooper, D. E.

2nd T.A.F.
8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Binbrook
Aldergrove
Wyton
R.A.F. College, Cranwell
2nd T.A.F.
32 M.U. St. Athan
2nd T.A.F.

Lowther, J. A.
Carss, J. W.
Thorpe, D. A.
Galbraith, R. A.
Hughes, D. W.
Jones, F. W.
Hla Myint
Lahpai

Binbrook
Abingdon
Cottesmore
Kinloss
7 F.T.S. Valley
Horsham St. Faith
*
*

*** Satisfactorily completed the Course although not reaching Junior Technician Standard**

The following ex 80th Apprentices qualified as Junior Technicians in the trade of Armament Fitter (Guns)

Mill, P. C.
Burton, A. L. F.

M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Waddington

The following Apprentices ex 80th also qualified to Junior Technician Standard

Bennett, D. J.
O'Reilly, J.
Haywood, G.
Tanner, M. N.
Dunn, E. R.
Goodwin, W. V.
Marshall, W. H.

C.F.E. West Raynham
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
R.A.F. College, Cranwell
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Kinloss
Lyneham
Marham

Townsend, D. L.
Watts, M. E.
Sharp, I. W.
Witherspoon, B. D.
Barnes, C. A.
Miles, A. C.
Cane, R. F.

Aldergrove
231 O.C.U. Bassingbourn
Middleton St. George
2nd T.A.F.
M.E.A.F. (Cyprus)
Waddington
Honington

81st ENTRY SPORTS AWARDS SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS

ATHLETICS

L/A/A Cruickshank, C. 1958
A/A Fairless, T. W. 1958
A/A Goodwin, W. V. 1957, 1958
F.S./A/A Hutchinson, H. W. F. 1957, 1958
C/A/A Parker, B. J. 1958
A/A/ Richmond, R. B. 1957, 1958
A/A Smith, B. J. 1957, 1958

BOXING

A/A Fry, T. 1957, 1958
A/A Keays, W. J. P. 1957

CRICKET

C/A/A Dymond, M. J. 1956, 1957, 1958

CROSS COUNTRY

A/A Breton, A. H. 1957
A/A Hall, A. L. J. 1957, 1958

FENCING

A/A Barty, E. W. 1956, 1957
A/A Blackman, K. A. 1956, 1957, 1958
L/A/A Campbell, B. G. 1956, 1957, 1958
A/A Renton-Cooper, D. E. 1956, 1957
A/A Watson, A. E. 1956, 1957
L/A/A White, T. F. 1956, 1957, 1958

HOCKEY

A/A Copley, N. A. 1957, 1958
A/A Fairless, T. W. 1957, 1958
A/A Lynch, J. J. 1957, 1958
C/A/A Plumbley, J. 1957, 1958
A/A Quick, M. H. 1957, 1958

RUGBY

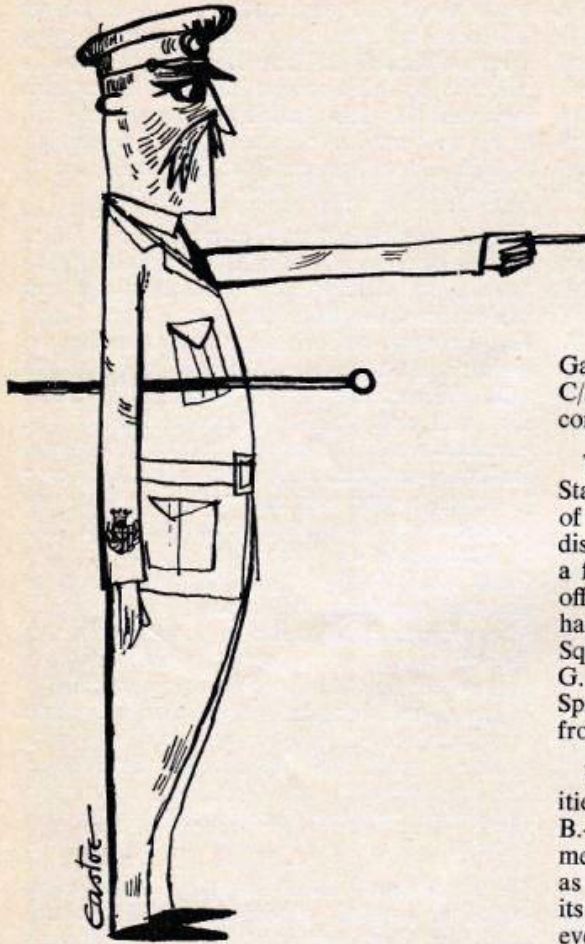
C/A/A Dymond, M. J. 1957, 1958
W.O./A/A Martin, B. H. 1957, 1958
C/A/A Tutton, H. P. 1957, 1958

SHOOTING

A/A Murray, A. C. 1957
A/A Ripley, G. 1957
L/A/A Timberlake, G. C. 1957

SOCCER

A/A Fry, T. G. 1957, 1958
L/A/A Gornall, J. 1957, 1958
A/A Hibbens, A. C. 1957, 1958
A/A Kelly, W. E. 1957, 1958
A/A Lowther, J. A. 1957, 1958
C/A/A O'Reilly, J. 1957, 1958
C/A/A Wells, D. 1957, 1958
A/A Woods, J. D. 1956, 1957, 1958



No. 1(A) WING

THE Autumn Term is now upon us and it is pleasant to look back on a very successful Summer Term which ended with the departure of the 81st Entry with an outstanding graduation ceremony.

The 81st achieved an above average number of laurels for the Wing. Those to be congratulated are F.S/A/A Hutchinson, who was awarded a technical cadetship and who also received 3rd prize in the Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency; S/A/A Hague and L/A/A Grimwood, who have been selected for training as Air Electronic Officers, and F.S/A/A Hutchinson, S/A/A Hague, S/A/A

CURRENT EVENTS

Gates, S/A/A Spurway, C/A/A Murphy and C/A/A Lucas, who graduated as substantive corporals.

There have been very few changes in the Staff during the Summer Term. At the end of June Squadron Leader (Pop) Parsons was discharged from P.M. Hospital, having made a full recovery. He was given a rousing send off by No. 2 Squadron and we all wish him happiness and success in his retirement. No. 2 Squadron was taken over by Squadron Leader G. W. Spiers in April; Squadron Leader Spiers has recently returned to this country from Malaya.

We did well in the summer sporting activities but unfortunately lost our hold on the B.-K. Trophy. This, of course, we regard as merely a temporary set-back. Disappointing as the result of the competition was for us, its finish was undoubtedly exciting. The last event was the swimming and at this stage we had a few points lead over No. 2 Wing. Things were even up to the last event, the junior relay, and thus the result of the entire competition depended upon this one, besides the junior swimming championship. The tension was broken at last when, to the cheers of jubilant 1 Wing spectators, our Wing juniors reached the end of the final lap five yards ahead of their rivals of 2 Wing. The Junior Trophy and the B.-K. Trophy were both ours! Alas, our jubilation was short lived: we were disqualified for an early take-off. Bad luck for a keen and competent team.

Sgt. Gallagher of the Wing P.T.I. Staff is to be congratulated on winning for the R.A.F. the 3,000 metres steeplechase in the Inter-Service Championship.

C/A/A Thompson and A/A Francis are to be congratulated on being the first Apprentices in the Wing to receive the silver medal of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. We hope that the other Apprentices who have enrolled will follow their example and work hard to gain their certificates.

C/A/A Parker represented the Command in athletics and won the Buckinghamshire County 100 yard Championship. Well done!

In the B.-K. Athletics, the senior teams and individuals of the Wing broke several records. These were the discus, the 2 miles, 4 x 220, 4 x 440 and 4 x 100 relays, the hop, step and

jump, the 1 mile, the 880 yards and both the senior and junior 1 mile. Of the 13 records broken, this Wing took nine.

The Inter-Wing Aeromodellers Competition was held at the end of the Summer Term. This was the first time since 1939 that the contest had been held. The cup was clearly won by the Wing, despite the wrecking of many fine models.

The Wing was again to the fore in collecting prizes at the end-of-term Band Competition, details of which can be found in the Band Notes.

No. 2(A) WING

The result of the Band Competition on 31st March was not included in the last notes. We produced the best Corps of Trumpets and A/A Squires was the winning Drum Major.

There were several staff changes during the term. We said good-bye to F.S. Thomas who left on being commissioned. F.S. Pettengell replaced F.S. Williamson, Sgt. Maclean left the service and Sgt. Cavadino went to Admin.Wing. Arrivals included F.S. Craddick, Sgt. Bullen and Sgt. Greening to fill vacancies.

An all-round effort brought the Barrington-Kennett Trophy home. The excitement was sustained to the end as the final result depended on the swimming and that was only decided in the last race. We won the tennis and shooting and the junior cricket was lost by only one run.

At Fisgard the Wing was well represented and in the Technical Training Schools Inter-Wing badminton competition at the end of the Spring Term we were runners-up to Locking. In the Royal Air Force Inter-Schools championship at Bisley, No. 1 Squadron were winners.

C/A/A Pixton represented the Station and Group at Athletics.

In the July Band Competition L/A/A Walker was the champion piper and A/A Lethbridge won the Commandant's Silver Trumpet.

F.S/A/A Verdin won a Cadetship to Henlow and at the Prize giving on Graduation Day was presented with the Monsigneur Beauchamp Memorial Prize for the best all round Apprentice and the Quinton Memorial Trophy for the highest A.T.C. Cadet in Order of Merit. In addition he was highest in Order of Merit for General Service Efficiency, second in Order of Merit for Educational Subjects and Best Tradesman in Trade Standards Test (Engine Fitter).

S/A/A Johnson won a cadetship to Cranwell. He also had the highest average for Practical Fitting over a 3 year course and was third in Order of Merit for Educational Subjects.

To these and the others of the 81st Entry we wish successful futures.

No. 3(A) WING

At the time of writing, Summer Term, 1958, has already gone; so has summer leave, with both days of summer, and here we are, approaching winter again.

The start of Summer Term saw the departure from 3 Wing of one of its stalwarts, Squadron Leader R. V. Stirling, Officer Commanding No. 3 Squadron. 'Bob' was an ex-

Apprentice himself and served the Wing very loyally during his tour at Halton. His rugger prowess helped a great deal to build up all the Apprentice teams; he was heart and soul in the production of good teams and a good sporting type of play. Naturally, his own squadron was always 'tops' at rugger!

No. 3 Squadron is now commanded by Squadron Leader J. G. Jenkins, D.F.C.; Sqn.Ldr. Jenkins is a Welshman and will no doubt do his best to continue the sporting traditions of Wales at Halton.

No other major staff posting has affected the Wing. The team spirit fostered by Wing Commander Newman is still very obvious and is reflected in all the achievements of the Summer Term. One of these achievements was the high standard reached in competition for the Higgins Trophy.

Under the leadership and tuition of Flt.Lt. Wanstall the 3 Wing rifle team came second in the 24 Group meeting at Bisley and in the Apprentices' and Boy Entrants' meeting conceded victory to No. 2 Wing by only one point. This was good shooting indeed!

One of the two main events of the Summer Term was the camp at Woodvale, which was this year commanded by Sqn.Ldr. Williams of 2 Sqn., 3 Wing. Apprentices report that the organisation of the camp was very good in every way except meteorologically (and Sqn. Ldr. Williams can hardly be held responsible for the weather, which they say, could have been a great deal kinder).

The second important event, and the climax of the term, was the graduation of the 81st Entry on 30th July. This Entry acquitted itself extremely well in the final examinations and all its members go out to their Stations with our commendations and our best wishes for the future. The 81st achieved the distinction of having the first Warrant Officer Apprentice to be appointed since World War II; this was W.O/A/A Martin—of 3 Wing, of course! The rumour that he was rewarded with this promotion for successfully organising the distribution of 81st Entry sticky labels has no foundation!

We hope that the Autumn Term in 3 Wing will be as happy as was the Summer Term.

TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

HEADQUARTERS

TECHNICAL WING welcomes Sqn.Ldr. W. C. Hawken as the new O.C. Armament Training Squadron, replacing Sqn.Ldr. A. M. Markey who has been posted to Farnborough. We hope that the former enjoys a happy as well as an enlightening tour of duty with us and that the latter has settled into a not-too-explosive term of office in his new appointment.

We regret the loss of Flt.Lt. B. H. P. Dauphin, the O.C. Engine Fitter Flight, who is retiring from the Service after 34 years continuous service. We welcome his successor, Flt.Lt. E. Kenworthy.

Our Orderly Room staff has undergone drastic reduction since the last issue and we are most reluctant to lose the last of our National Service clerks, S/A/C John Boughton. He has not only been a tower of strength within the Orderly Room but has also been outstanding in the field of athletics, at Halton



S/A/C Boughton with the R.A.F. Championships 220 yards Challenge Trophy.

and elsewhere, during his tour of duty here. As ex-engineering apprentice at a Research Engineering plant, he joined the R.A.F. in

1956, and was posted to Halton early in 1957. His impressive list of athletic successes includes:—

1957	No. 24 Group Championships	...	...	100 yds.	1st
"	Technical Training Command Championships	...	...	100 yds.	1st
"	R.A.F. ... ..	...	...	220 yds.	2nd
"	Inter-Services ... ..	...	...	220 yds.	2nd
"	Combined Services v. A.A.A.	...	...	220 yds.	3rd
"	England v. Poland ... ..	...	...	200 Metres	3rd
1958	No. 24 Group Championships	...	...	100 yds.	1st
"	No. 24 Group Championships	...	...	220 yds.	1st
"	Technical Training Command Championships	...	...	100 yds.	1st
"	Technical Training Command	...	...	220 yds.	1st
"	R.A.F. ... ..	...	...	220 yds.	1st
"	R.A.F. ... ..	...	...	100 yds.	3rd
"	Inter-Services ... ..	...	...	220 yds.	1st
"	Inter-Services ... ..	...	...	100 yds.	2nd

Boughton leaves us with our best wishes for his future career and we look forward to

hearing of his continued success in athletics as a civilian.

AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING SQUADRON

AIRFRAME FITTER FLIGHT

The past term has seen no major changes in this Section and we have settled down again after the disturbance caused by the major spring-clean.

We have welcomed into our midst Sgt. Jones from afar and Cpls. Hesketh and Marshall on internal posting from Airfield Training. Cpls. Chubb and Barnard left us for civilian life at the commencement of term and we understand that they have both found themselves congenial employment.

We congratulate L/A/A Morris of the 83rd Entry on being the recipient of the Instructors' Progress Trophy for this term. This time it was not a walk-away and Morris only just managed to secure the lead by a short head.

Our self-help basic classrooms are now in the course of erection and should present a pleasing picture when completed. Mr. Maynell must take full credit for the ingenious design and manufacture. His sliding doors almost merit patenting; we hope that they will not remain too long in skeleton form, but that some kind authority will allow us the hard board for their completion. The rumour is not confirmed that one of the rooms is to be padded for the use of over-harrassed staff.

Next term should see the last of our Prentice aircraft changed for Chipmunks in the elementary airframe phase. This change will be to our advantage, since the smaller size of the Chipmunks will give valuable space for the anticipated increase in the number of airframe fitters under training.

We wish the members of the 81st Entry God-speed on their departure. We always found them to be a very pleasant Entry and we were very pleased to find that they gave a creditable showing during their final examinations. We heartily congratulate S/A/A Perry on his cadetship; the staff are united in their opinion that he will have an exceptionally outstanding service career.

ENGINE FITTER FLIGHT

The close of the Summer Term was marked by the final examination of the 81st Entry. Unfortunately, nine candidates failed to qualify, but some others did very well as the following will show.

Highest in Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency.—F.S/A/A Verdin (1st)

F.S/A/A Hutchinson (3rd).

Highest in Order of Merit, Educational Subjects.—F.S/A/A Verdin (2nd)

S/A/A Johnson (3rd).

Highest Average for Practical Fitting.—

S/A/A Johnson.

Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize—

F.S/A/A Verdin.

Best Tradesman in Trades Standards Test—

F.S./A/A Verdin.

Cadetships: Technical Branch

F.S/A/A Verdin, F.S/A/A Hutchinson

General Duties Branch S/A/A Johnson

Direct Commission S/A/A Hague

Promoted to Substantive Corporals

F.S/A/A Verdin, F.S/A/A Hutchinson,

S/A/A Cooper, S/A/A Hague, C/A/A Edwards.

This list is a reflection of the hard work put in by those named and they deserve our congratulations. Junior Entries would do well to realise how much these awards can mean at the start of a Service career.

Only two postings have to be recorded this time; Sgt. Hales (Stormy) passed his Chief Technician board at Weeton and was posted to Habbaniyah. However, while he was on his way, the balloon went up in Iraq and he was diverted to Cyprus. We believe he is now in Jordan. Sgt. Dubois is on Beverleys at Abingdon and we were glad to learn before his departure that his child is now recovering from a long bout of polio. We shall miss both

of these N.C.O.'s and wish them good fortune in the future. We have just heard that Mr. Tom Petty died recently. He was liked by all who knew him and was always cheerful. He suffered a lot in his last few months but still remained very bright.

We in the Engine Flight feel really sorry for the poor chaps in the Electrical and Instrument Squadron. Their carpets and lino have been water-borne several times and people are beginning to talk about the Aquarium. Also, we hear rumours of an attack on the water speed record in No. 8 Bay. We wonder who is making the attempt? Now lots of sandbags are appearing in a Canute-like effort to repel the water. Traffic on the road outside is held up on lino drying days and indeed they are so busy on reclamation that the annexation policy has faded out

The changes in syllabus mentioned in the last issue are slowly coming in according to plan. They are not world-shaking changes, but they do mean that Apprentices have a little more to tackle, and there is no room for the slightest relaxation of effort. Finally, those still under training should now take another look at the list of prize winners and awards earlier in these notes. Similar, or even greater, successes are within the reach of other Entries.

ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT SQUADRON

ELECTRICAL FITTER FLIGHT

We send congratulations to the 81st Entry and wish them every success as they pass on to the next step in their career. Unfortunately the Crebbin-Robinson Cup was not retained this term and we look to the 82nd Entry to remedy this situation.

The arrival of the 90th Entry is welcomed and we hope that they will soon settle down and make steady progress now that the major development and re-organisation has been completed.

Owing to the inclement weather we are able to report that our "Fish Tank" laboratories in Bay 8 are fully serviceable and their ability to hold water is no longer in doubt. Mr. Clarke was particularly delighted with the recent flooding, for his A.C. Laboratory now possesses linoleum with a perfect sinusoidal wave form.

Congratulations are due to Senior Technician Higgins, Sergeant Weaver and Mr. Wilshin, all of whom have accepted the very heavy responsibility of matrimony. Congratulations also to the following staff members and their wives on achieving additions to their families: Snr.Tech. Court, Cpl.Tech. Pryar, Mr. Pennington and Snr.Tech. Davidson.

Promotions this term include Sgt. Davey and Sgt. Cooper to Chief Technician, and Cpl. Higgins and Cpl. Atkinson to Senior Technician.

The arrival of Sergeant Weaver, Corporal Walker and Sergeant Taylor helps to balance the loss of two stalwarts, Sergeant Kinsella—posted to Abingdon and beyond—and Senior Technician Sheppard who is off to Germany.

By the time this goes to press Corporal Wiley will be away on a guided missiles course; any connection between this and his recent attempts on the cricket field is said to be only coincidental. The Instrument Section suffered a heavy defeat in the last cricket match of the season and we strongly advise them to devote some of their spare time to practice before we meet again next year.

INSTRUMENT FITTER FLIGHT

In recent numbers frequent reference has been made to the building of new classrooms and to their refurbishing, etc. This job is now almost complete and it is a credit to all our instructors. Now we must prove their worth by producing better results. The Officer Commanding Technical Wing says that the only satisfactory result can be the achievement of a hundred per cent pass rate.

After the number of potential instructors who have been interviewed in recent weeks it is to be hoped that there will soon be some "posting in". F.S. Hazel is anxiously looking for F.S. Walpole, who seemed delighted with Halton; we have been expecting his arrival but as yet there has been no further word about him.

We welcome to Halton Sgt. Batchelor and also thank Cpls. Warnock and Hale for their excellent assistance during their detachment from Melksham.

Sergeant Thomas, we are glad to say, is making an excellent recovery from his opera-

tion but his football activities will be very much curtailed for some time to come.

At the time of writing 'Jock' Cameron is in hospital also recovering from an operation. The basic shop notices his absence and we hope he will soon be quite well again.

Mr. Watkins, Sgt. Williams, Mr. Clapham, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Banks are to be congratulated on their recent successes in various phases of O.N.C. and H.N.C. They have all enrolled for the ensuing session and we wish them continued success.

Although he is not one of us we would like this opportunity of wishing good luck to Sqn.Ldr. S. H. Bates, until recently our T/AD/O., on his posting to the Advanced Weapons Course at the Royal Air Force Technical College. He was a frequent visitor to the flight and F.S. Hazel says that the place will not be the same without him.

Cpl. Windsor is leaving us very shortly to start on the first stage of his guided weapons courses. We wish this very enthusiastic corporal every success.

During the Summer leave period Mr. Clapham joined the ranks of married men. We wish them both good luck. It now only remains for us to persuade Mr. Buchanan to take the plunge—but he is a "canny Scot"!

In conclusion we wish good luck to the 82nd Entry, who have now left us for the Airfield Training Squadron, having already taken their final schools examination.

ARMAMENT TRAINING SQUADRON

The last few months have seen a considerable number of changes in the Armament Training Squadron, particularly among the instructional staff. Firstly there was a change of Squadron Commander with the departure of Squadron Leader Markey who has left us to take up a new appointment with the R.A.F. at Farnborough. We anticipate that the post will be of great interest and we wish him every success. After many years of valuable service we say farewell to our civilian supervisor Mr. Lamberton who leaves the R.A.F. on retirement. Among the N.C.O.'s who have left us we include Chief Technicians Foot, posted to Catterick, Bentley, to Morton

Hass, and Lee who remains at Halton in the Station Workshops. Lastly but by no means least Flight Sergeant Little, who has gone to the United States of America.

We extend a very warm welcome to Squadron Leader Hawken, from the selection board at Uxbridge, who has now assumed command of the Squadron. Welcome too to Senior Technician Andrews from Morton Hall, Sergeant Pountain from Leeming and Chief Technician Eamer from the Station Workshops. Lastly a warm welcome to Mr. Grant, our civilian supervisor, posted in from Kirkham.

Material advancement has not passed us by entirely during the term and we congratulate Corporals Barnes, Macbeth and Wilson on their success in front of the Senior Technician board and on their subsequent promotion.

The general amenities for training are improving gradually, particularly in Bay 11, where the facilities for bombing equipment servicing are expanding under the guidance of Chief Technician Hand. Members of the instructional staff will be interested to hear that a preparation is now being issued which, when applied to linoleum, causes it to curl

up into neat rolls and pile itself on shelves at the approach of a heavy rainstorm.

Our congratulations to those members of the 81st Entry who graduated successfully. The results generally were well up to standard and in particular L/A/A Bingham is to be congratulated on obtaining the highest marks for armament engineering.

Finally we wish the graduating Entry God-speed as its members disperse to their appointments in the R.A.F. at home and overseas; may good fortune attend you in your new career.

AIRFIELD TRAINING SQUADRON

In the quiet period which followed the passing of the 81st Entry certain alterations were carried out which have made it necessary to re-draw the Airfield Map. Three members of the Ground Equipment Section have now qualified as demolishers, Grade 1, and W.O. Anderson has been made an honorary member of the magicians' union for his ability to make buildings—both scheduled and otherwise—disappear. It is rumoured that the Clerk of Works has now placed a shadow man on the trail of the Airfield W.O. to ensure that the next tin shack destined for the sledge hammer is moved to a safe place before it can fall. By so doing, he hopes that some elements of the pre-1921 Airfield will be preserved for posterity.

During June and July both service and civilian instructors made the most of the opportunity to visit operational units to discover how recent Entries were shaping in the outside Air Force. Reports generally were good and the information gained has helped to reform the airfield training schedule along the latest servicing lines. The arrival of the first Javelin and the promise of a second in the very near future hastens the time when the practical aircraft servicing phase will change over to progressive servicing. In the meantime the 82nd Entry will have relief from old planned "minor stars" on Meteors by doing lots of "primaries" and between-flight servicings, and to add a touch of realism the Meteors will be taxied away by pilots from the Wings and brought back with live faults.

A link with the past has been broken by the arrival of civilian contractors to disinter the Mosquitos, Buckmaster, Ansons and other very dead aircraft from the Airfield graveyard. A spirited fight was put up by Mr. Henderson when the contractors tried to include the cockpit classroom in their ghoulish activities. He eventually drove them off with a two tynne haymaking fork, nobly assisted by the Airfield ram.

The ram is a recent arrival. His purchase became necessary during the Summer Term when the Airfield Bull was away on an A.I. course. The females of the farm became skittish and much evidence of their night-time activities was left underfoot on the surrounds of Nos. 2 and 3 hangars. The ram has now organised domestic nights and the Airfield cleaners have returned to their former placid existence.

One notable personality of the Airfield is no longer with us. Flying Officer Williamson has left to teach German Air Force pupils to fly Harvards. We shall all miss him, both on the ground and in the air, and our very best wishes go with him to the vineyards of Southern Germany. Other changes in the staff are:

Instructors: Cpl. Prendergast (Elect.) posted to R.A.F. Cottesmore, Cpl. Deeley (Arm.) posted to Station Armoury, Cpl. Clarke-Hunt (Elect.) from top shops to Airfield, Cpl. Streetin (Elect.) from top shops to Airfield.

Apprentice Schools

SHORTLY after the beginning of the Summer Term the School was inspected by the A.O.C. He spent some time looking at all aspects of educational training and showed great interest in the progress of Apprentices.

In the field of sport, this term was full of interest and activity, many members of the Schools staff taking part in representative games and sports. Fg.Off. A. J. Wood distinguished himself in station, group and command athletics and was selected to run in the Empire Games at Cardiff. Fg.Off. Bryett played cricket for Adastrians and for Technical Training Command and was a leading light in the Station XI. Fg.Off. Hind captained the Halton House XI, which usually included about nine education officers, and led them to victory in the inter-section league. The Schools side came very close to winning the Station Athletics Trophy. Sqn.Ldr. Quick and Flt.Lt. Palin have played regularly in the Station tennis team; in the inter-station tennis tournament Halton were runners-up to Compton Bassett. The Schools golfing fraternity gained four out of the seven "monthly medals" during the season and provided several members of the Station golf team.

During the term the School was visited by a party of air attachés from some twenty different countries, ranging from Norway to Yugoslavia, from France to Siam. The visit was colourful and enjoyable and all the attachés showed great interest in the work and training of R.A.F. Apprentices.

At the end of term, the 81st Entry left Halton with a really satisfactory educational record. In their final examinations they obtained the highest average mark for many years; forty-nine of their number were recommended for the award of the Ordinary National Certificate, four gained cadetships and three others were awarded direct commissions and sent for training as air electronic officers. This is a gratifying accomplishment by an Entry that was both able and hard working.

At the G.C.E. examination held in July six Apprentices were entered for Advanced Mathematics; all of them passed, one with distinction. This a fine achievement on the

part of the boys, and they and the members of the staff who prepared them for the examination are to be congratulated. 169 Apprentices passed the G.C.E. examination at Ordinary Level in one or more subjects with a total of 242 subject passes (61 per cent. of the entries).

At this time of the year many of the teaching staff are leaving us on posting or release from the Service. A veritable pillar of our small society, Sqn.Ldr. H. S. Smith, is going to Singapore. Sqn.Ldr. Smith has been at Halton for five years in charge of Electrical and Instrument Science. He has worked cheerfully at this important aspect of training and has guided it through the difficult period while science teaching in the School was being integrated with workshop instruction. In other fields, too, Sqn.Ldr. Smith will be remembered, particularly in the Officers' Lawn Tennis Club and the Dramatic Society; he deserves our warmest thanks for doing so much for the pleasure and entertainment of officers, men and their families while at Halton. In these two latter activities he was helped untiringly by his wife. We wish them both a happy tour in the Far East.

Flt.Lt. P. Kilburn, who has been on the teaching staff of Schools for five and a half years, has been posted to the R.A.F. School of Education at Spitalgate. During his long tour of duty at Halton Flt.Lt. Kilburn has become almost a father-figure to the other junior education officers, particularly because of his work as Schools Administrative Officer. He has also been active as a rugby player and was organist at the P.M.U.B. Church. We wish him well for the future and hope that he and Mrs. Kilburn will be happy in their new surroundings.

Most of the other officers leaving us are returning to civilian life after two or three years in the Service. We wish them good fortune and offer our thanks to them for all they have done at Halton.

Finally we welcome to the senior staff Mr. L. T. Agger, who comes to take charge of Electrical Science, and Sqn.Ldr. S. Overall, who is posted here from Henlow as head of the Mathematics department.

REMINISCENCES OF HALTON from 1919 to 1921

by COLIN KILDARE

I WAS a boy of sixteen, one of the first boy entrants at No. 1 S. of T.T., when I arrived at Wendover station very early one Thursday morning in April 1919. The weather was very wet and windy; there was no reception committee or transport to meet us in those days and we had to use Shank's pony from Wendover to North Camp. I remember palling up with some fellows I met on the road in the rain just passing some thatched cottages out of Wendover. One of them possessed a tennis ball; although hampered with our luggage we managed to kick that ball all the way to North Camp.

There were three camps in those days—North, East and West—and pretty rough they were too, with half the windows missing in the huts we were to live in. North Camp was the transit camp for new recruits and fellows for demobilisation from the War.

We eventually arrived at the guard room and reported ourselves, wet through and hungry and feeling rather dismal; the time was somewhere around 6.45 a.m. We were gathered together by a fatherly sergeant who took our particulars and papers and told us we were to report to the Orderly Room at 8.30 a.m. He then passed us on to the care of a rather plump fair-haired little corporal by the name of Taffy Thomas, who told us to "get fell in." We didn't know what he meant but he somehow sorted us out into two ranks. He then gave the command "Tenshoin" (we presumed he meant "attention"). We "Tenshoined" for him and he gave right turn; some turned right and some turned left but again he sorted us out and finally marched us to the cook house to a breakfast of kippers, margarine and bread, and strong tea poured from a bucket.

We were rather dismayed when we entered the dining room, which was just a wooden hut with trestle tables and forms, with all the leavings of some previous breakfasters on the tables. We had expected tablecloths, teapots and all the paraphernalia we had been used to

at home. However, we tucked in, for we were hungry growing lads and the cooks did us well with the rations.

When our repast was finished, and our waistbands felt a little tighter we were told to "get fell in" again outside by our plump little corporal who immediately "Tenshoined" us and marched us to our rendezvous at the Orderly Room. Here we were introduced to various gentlemen at different tables, some with stripes on their sleeves and some without. When we had finally given away our lives and antecedents to them our little corporal took charge of us again and marched us around North Camp until we arrived at another wooden structure. Here we were introduced for the first time to R.A.F. stores procedure; each one of us was issued with a knife, fork and spoon and a basin to drink from (Naval pattern) and told to guard them with his life. Next came a towel, three blankets (looking rather grubby) and a mattress cover which we were told to fill from a bale of straw under a shed outside.

Our corporal took charge of us again and with our arms full we were marched to what was to be our sleeping quarters. The camp was by now just a sea of mud. What a mess we were in! However we arrived at our destination, a wooden hut at the bottom of the slope of North Camp. Our corporal opened the door and we all trooped in. It was empty until our arrival; in one corner was a pile of flat boards, each about 6' x 1', and a heap of low wooden trestles. Our little corporal salvaged three of the boards and two of the trestles and laid the boards horizontally on the trestles, placed one of our palliasses filled with straw on them, and showed us how to make our beds with the blankets. This was life in the raw! We chose our sleeping positions around the hut and made our beds: our service careers had commenced. I won't go into details about the interminable parades of our initial training; the conditions and weather were vile but we survived it all.

Our clothing was the greatest conglomeration of uniforms I have ever seen. The R.A.F. had been born one year before but I don't think anyone had realised it up to then. The majority of the officers were transfers from the Army and a few from the Navy. They wore their own uniforms with their particular regimental badges. We had a few R.F.C. and R.N.A.S. officers and they were all referred to in their own ranks of Lieutenant, Captain or Major, since they had not adopted their new R.A.F. ranks of P.O., F.O., Flt.Lt., Sqn.Ldr. etc. We boys had been issued with a working uniform of khaki slacks and tunic, and our ceremonial dress was khaki with brown leather buttons and a patent leather peaked cap with a crepe band around the centre. Sewn on this band was a badge, a black velvet centre piece with the R.A.F. eagle and Royal Crown surmounting it in red. The new R.A.F. blue was issued later in 1919 and the beginning of 1920. We also wore pantaloons and puttees (horse bandages).

One bright morning we received the "gen" that we were moving. We packed our kits, paraded and marched down the hill to East Camp. This camp was split into two sections, "C" and "D", with Halton General Hospital separating them. The hospital was, like the rest of the buildings, composed of wooden structures with a short connecting corridor in the centre of each ward. All along the front was a verandah like a cat walk which ran right around the hospital. (The new hospital was built later and completed just before I left two years after).

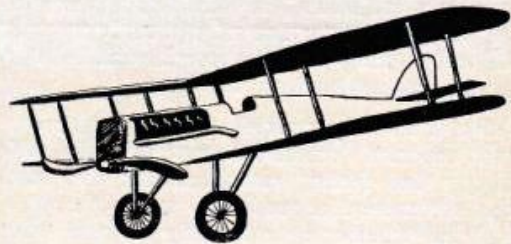
After parading and numerous roll calls we were finally sorted out into our different sections with, I should say, about five hundred boys in each. I was posted to "C" Section, which was the nearest to the present barracks. (I have never seen these; the plans were out when I left, but they had not started building.)

When we were settled in we got down to some real training. The discipline was very strict: we marched here, we marched there, we never walked anywhere, or if we did we were chased by M.P.'s. Everywhere was out of bounds outside the camp, although we used to go over the wall and break bounds; woe betide us if we were caught! I sampled my first glass of beer at the "Bell" in Aston Clin-

ton (Benskins, I believe). We had a nickname for Aston Clinton—I wonder if it is still used. We were given our trade designations; I was Fitter Aero-Engine under training. The majority of the boys went to the workshops in West Camp for their training but twenty of us were picked to do our training at the Aerodrome through Halton Village. What a march four times a day! Needless to say it was good exercise.

The Aerodrome was under the Command of a Major Rees, V.C.; he was a great chap to us boys. His face was badly disfigured by a very bad crash and burn-up he had survived. I often wonder what plastic surgery would have done for him today.

The Aerodrome buildings consisted of H.Q. office through the gate from the main road towards Aston Clinton and a row of wooden huts alongside the road for instructional purposes and lectures.



The hangers were of the Canvas Bessoneau type; they held every type of aircraft you could mention of the period, even to a couple of French Spads. Our favourite, of course, was the Bristol Fighter.

We had been there about a fortnight when the officer decided to give us a taste of flying. My first trip was over Aylesbury and Oxford in a B.F. with a Sgt. Pilot by the name of Crane. He was a great pilot. He turned both the kite and me inside out; we did **everything**, but I enjoyed it. I have loved flying ever since but I never forget my first trip at Halton (you see I am a Stratocruiser skipper, retired now).

To return to camp discipline, all our officers were war types and real good fellows. They had to lick us into shape—we were the new Air Force—and they did it. I have never forgotten Halton; it was very good training, although hard at times.

The C.O. of 'C' was Major Routley R.F.C. His opposite number in 'D' was a Captain Gash of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, a veritable terror to the boys; we were glad we had Major Routley. Then there was the messing officer, a dear old boy by the name of Major Goucher. He was very popular and very corpulent (what messing officer isn't?) and he must have been nearer to sixty than fifty even in those days; he had spent all his life in the Army.

There were also Captain Fitzgerald from the Royal Munster Fusiliers and Lieutenant Slattery from the Inneskilling Fusiliers. I saw the best fight I have ever seen between these two officers. The officers' mess was about two hundred yards from the camp, situated on a slight hill. (This was before Halton House was handed over by the Rothschild family for the officers' mess). I was on fatigue duty at the mess this particular night. It was after dinner; the mess sergeant had given me a task to complete outside the rear of the mess. The officers came out, stripped off their tunics and then spotted me. Lieutenant Slattery came over to me and gave me his watch to hold; he then told me if ever I told anyone what I was about to see he would half kill me. I was a bit queazy around the stomach, although I liked a good scrap myself in those days. There was no one else around; I was the only witness as they peeled into one another. It was give-and-take between two great Irishmen (they were both nice looking fellows with the typical small neat moustache of that period); they fought for approximately twenty minutes. I thought it was never going to end, then suddenly Fitzgerald went down; he was out. Slattery obtained a jug of water and threw it in Fitz's face. It worked; he got up and they shook hands before putting on their coats. They were both bruised round their faces. Slattery came over to me. When I gave him his watch, he gave me half-a-crown and tapped me on the shoulder. Every time I met that officer and saluted him after that he gave me a knowing wink.

The A.O.C. was Air Commodore Scarlett and the Commandant Lt.Col. Bear. What a time we had! There was a Commandant's parade once per week in Halton Park. We had formed a trumpet and drum band and 'D' Section had also formed one. We had a small

black Shetland Pony by the name of "Brutus" who was led in front of the band in all his regalia. 'D' Section, not to be outdone, acquired a goat as a mascot. There was great rivalry between the two sections.

And so things went on. The Barrington-Kennett trophy appeared; we fought for it and won it. I often wonder if it is still in existence and competed for. It was a silver aircraft mounted on ebony, if I remember rightly. There was the night of the fire at Howes Canteen down the road towards Wendover. There were the visits to the old blood tub theatre down the road. One of the performers there was a Corporal Corke, later Wing Commander Eric Corke, who died in rather tragic circumstances during the last war. I often think of how many boys have passed through Halton since those days. Some day I hope to pay it a visit and see how it has altered.

