

The Haltonian Magazine

82 Edition

Spring 1959

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EDITORIAL

THE attendance at the inaugural meeting of the reformed Debating Society (reported on page 48) was so small as to draw attention on page —) was so small as to draw attention Halton. Apathy is a well-worn topic, both at Halton and in the world at large. Almost any community one cares to consider today has its problem of members showing unwillingness to take part in any of the traditional activity, a general unwillingness to make any kind of effort. The fact that the topic is well-worn does not mean that this apathy has become any the less disturbing or that the need to discuss it has vanished. We do not seem to be any nearer curing it and the reason for this may be that we are not yet any nearer seeing how it arises. The situation needs examining.

Although we have said that apathy is not peculiar to Halton, it may be enlightening to consider it first in the context of the Halton Society.

The Halton Society arose from the Halton Debating Society in 1933 as a natural growth. The Debating Society had long been developing in such a way as to make its name in-sprung up within the Debating Society; so had philately, art and several other activities. As the years passed the number of sections of the Halton Society increased. The number of boys **actively** interested in **doing** anything was divided among these sections. The Halton Society, with all its sections, lost in the process of developing the sense of unity it possessed in the days when it was the Debating Society with its several activities. This process has been taken further in more recent times.

From being (as the Debating Society) an organisation of Apprentices, existing for their communal entertainment and self-expression because of a **demand** for its existence, it has become a kind of remote welfare organisation, highly organised **from above**, actively seeking to **persuade** Apprentices to take up a pastime and showing signs of disappointment and displeasure if support is not forthcoming. We tend to say now, "Everything is laid on for them: why don't they take advantage of the

facilities?" It was not in this spirit that the old Debating Society was conducted. The important thing that seems to emerge here is that there was a demand then, a demand for entertainment and for a chance to entertain. Where there is a group of people living together for a lengthy period and living in some degree of isolation this demand naturally develops, self-entertainment flourishes. Officers who have passed through O.C.T.U. have experienced this; so, probably, have all ranks who have served on an isolated station. The ability of a group to entertain itself arises spontaneously or it does not arise at all: no one can say that it **ought** to happen—and in other contexts they do not do so as a rule.

At Halton:—

- (a) The community is larger than it was when the Debating Society flourished; therefore community spirit is less (this usually seems to follow, although it is not so of necessity).
- (b) Times have changed. There is much more entertainment laid on. Television may exist in the N.A.A.F.I.s only for Corporal A/A's and above, but there is radio for all and there are the cinemas—and A/A's have plenty of money, which was not true in the old days.

Here we have two things which can be given as reasons for the comparatively neglected state of the Halton Society and the inactivity of A/A's. There may be other possible reasons. We have heard it suggested that the A/A's day is too long, that he is worked too hard, that many A/A's are intellectually ravaged by depression arising from fear of failure and hence have little energy left for other activities. Whether these reasons are true is open to debate (and we would welcome views on this question). We come, in any case, to the conclusion that A/A's seem to prefer—with notable exceptions—passivity to activity.

If we just accept this, we must reconcile ourselves to a shrinking Halton Society. If however, we feel that they **ought not** to prefer passivity, then at once the problem becomes

much more general. We find we are no longer wondering why few **Apprentices** prefer activity to passivity, but why so few **people** do so. And since the question is no longer domestic, it may be also that the answer will not be found in the way things are at Halton. If you can find out why so many people don't particularly care what government they have, or what the government does, for example, you will also have some idea why Apprentices do not care about debating.

To see that the problem is not merely domestic is not to decide that it is hopeless. On the contrary, we believe that to be unenthusiastic and intellectually inert is to be less than human, and we believe that we ought to go on saying so. There may be the possibility of shocking someone into activity.

We must not overlook the few active elements at Halton. The Racing Car Club is possibly the most virile part of the Halton Society at the moment; significantly this is the society whose activities must be closest to the daily work of Apprentices. We also understand that there is plenty of do-it-yourself musical activity in the wings, much of it of quite a high standard. This may constitute a justifiable "plea in mitigation" against earlier anti-Apprentice verdicts although we know that many "dead-beats" would not share this opinion. But why should we complain? They are being creative, which is an excellent thing, and they are enjoying themselves: what more could we want? We must avoid at all costs vindictively trying to cram Apprentices into pre-cut patterns of our own.

The existence of apathy at Halton was not mentioned in the broadcast which B.B.C. Television made in Children's Hour on Monday,

17th February. The programme was, in fact, a rather superficial one, obviously designed to give the idea of Halton as a **NICE** place for the benefit of a child audience. In one or two places a completely false impression was given; many children will now be readers will remember, is an ex-Apprentice tices spend a good deal of their time flying! The camera work in the live parts of the programme was sometimes amateurish and once appallingly bad, but it must be admitted that the work of the team was made very much more difficult by the thick fog. In the film which was used, the commentary was spoken very ably by Mr. Cliff Michelmore who, readers will remember, is an ex-Apprentice and wrote an article for the Summer issue, 1958. Some of the interviewing in the programme was done by television producer Mr. Jock Millett, who was an Apprentice at Halton in 1937.

Whatever the shortcomings of the programme, it was a privilege for the School to be visited by B.B.C. Television and probably those who actually "starred" feel that they have, if only briefly, experienced another and exciting world.

Continued on Page 26



B.B.C. Television Team at Main Point.

Photo. Fg.Off. A. M. S. Smith



GRADUATION OF 82ND ENTRY

THE Graduation Parade of the 82nd Entry of Aircraft Apprentices at Halton took place on the Henderson and Groves Parade Ground on 17th December, 1958. The Reviewing Officer was Air Marshal Sir Raymond G. Hart, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., Controller of Engineering and Equipment. He was accompanied by Air Vice-Marshal G. B. Beardsworth, C.B., representing the 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 E. Stephenson, Officer Commanding No. 2 Apprentice Wing.

The Parade was under the command of Warrant Officer Apprentice D. K. Pirie, of the 82nd Entry. The following N.C.O. Apprentices were subordinate commanders:

Parade Adjutant S/A/A J. D. Golton
Parade Warrant Officer S/A/A B. E. Garbett
Colour bearer S/A/A J. Pixton

Colour Warrant Officer S/A/A A. Mack
Colour Escort S/A/A D. D. Ward
S/A/A K. N. Varney
Colour Orderly C/A/A F. G. Harvey
Escort Squadron Commander F.S/A/A G. E. Siddon
No. 1 Flight Commander S/A/A D. Brookes
No. 2 Flight Commander S/A/A J. R. Donovan
No. 2 Squadron Commander F.S/A/A A. D. Walker
No. 1 Flight Commander S/A/A J. R. Goodrum
No. 2 Flight Commander S/A/A R. S. Dyson
Standard Bearers C/A/A G. N. Wade
C/A/A D. G. Read
Apprentice i/c Supporting Entry S/A/A K. A. R. Butcher
Drum Major Pipe Band C/A/A C. C. Dewar
Drum Major Brass Band A/A N. B. Jeffery
The Entries on parade were the 82nd and 83rd.

THE COMMANDANT'S REPORT

After the Parade the Prize-Giving took place in the Burnett Gymnasium, where the

Commandant delivered his report on the 82nd Entry's career at Halton. First he welcomed the Reviewing Officer, Air Marshal Sir Raymond Hart, and recalled that in the early thirties, as Flight Lieutenant Hart, the Air Marshal had been his flight commander in No. 5 Squadron at Quetta, India, and since those days Air Marshal Hart had been closely associated with the development of radar in the R.A.F. The training of the first radar operators in the R.A.F. had been his responsibility. The Air Marshal later became Chief Signals Officer at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, where he was concerned with plans to destroy the enemy's radar system. He had been Director General of Engineering in the Air Ministry (where the Commandant again served directly under him) and A.O.C., No. 41 Group prior to taking his present appointment. Sir Raymond Hart was retiring from the R.A.F. in January, 1959.

The graduation ceremony was also the last which Air Vice-Marshal Spreckley, who had shown such great interest in the Apprentices, would attend as A.O.C. No. 24 Group. He was to become Controller of Engineering and Equipment in Sir Raymond's place.

The 82nd Entry began with a strength of 269, but during their three years at Halton a considerable proportion had been lost by transfer to junior entries or to lower trade levels elsewhere, and by discharge. Others had been relegated to the 82nd from senior entries. The total graduating was 188, including one Apprentice from the Royal Ceylon Air Force and one from the Burma Air Force. The high wastage rate was the price paid for quality.

This Entry possessed some talent which had manifested itself in the Halton House area, red

and black being the predominant colours. Most struggling artists expect some reward: the 82nd Entry had the pleasure of paying for this exercise of their ability to the tune of £15.

In trade training the Entry had in its last six months recovered from a slow start, and their results were above the average of recent years. The Commandant felt that the Entry owed a debt of gratitude to the technical staff, who had put in a great deal of extra time on their behalf.

He then considered the educational field, where the Entry's results were the best since the war. Their average mark in the final examination had not been equalled in the post-war period. Ordinary National Certificates in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering had been awarded to 18 per cent. of the Entry, while in the General Certificate of Education 35 Apprentices obtained 39 passes at Ordinary Level. Two of these Apprentices also passed in Mathematics at Advanced Level. For both Apprentices and staff this was a fine record.

Twelve members of the 82nd Entry were graduating as substantive corporals and thirteen had qualified for accelerated promotion to corporal technician after one year. The Commandant had nominated Warrant Officer



The Prize Winners.

Air Ministry Photograph. (Crown Copyright Reserved)

Apprentice Pirie as Prize Cadet for the R.A.F. Technical College. One Apprentice had been granted a General Duties Cadetship at Cranwell, and three had been offered direct commissions.

Air Commodore Coslett concluded by congratulating the graduating Apprentices on the successful conclusion of their efforts, and reminding them of their duty to add lustre to the high tradition of Halton in the Royal Air Force.

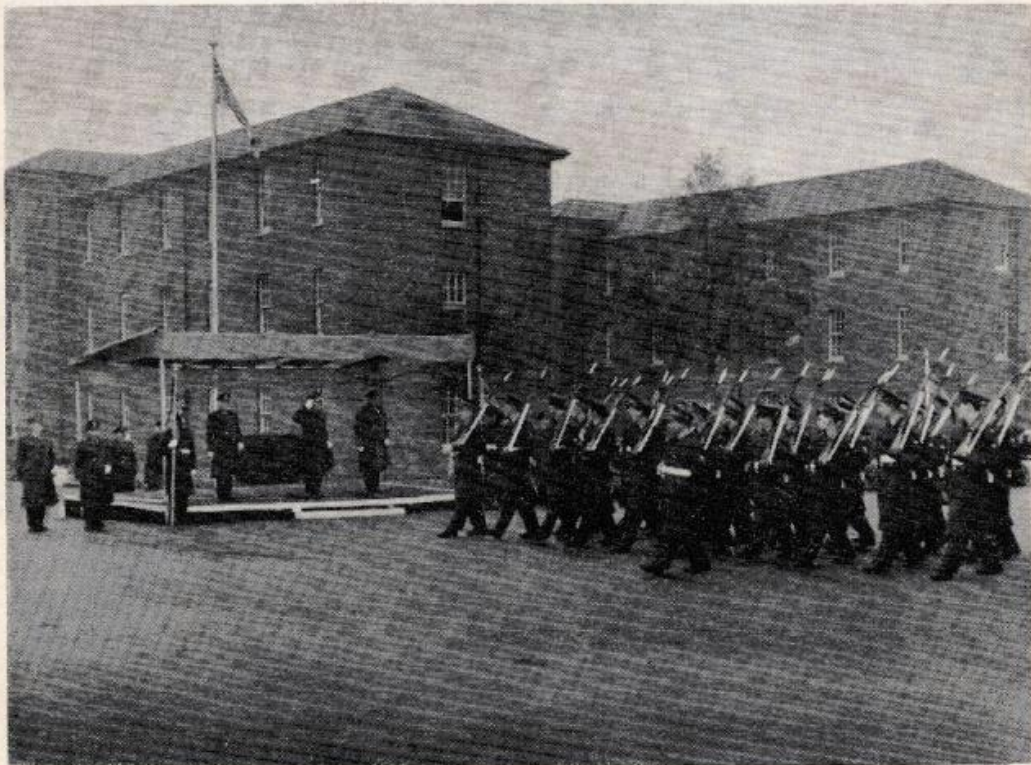
ADDRESS BY THE REVIEWING OFFICER

The Reviewing Officer congratulated the Apprentices, and W.O. Apprentice Pirie in particular, on this most impressive parade, the best parade by Apprentices he had ever seen.

Air Marshal Hart had been an instructor at Halton in 1918, before the formation of

No. 1 School of Technical Training, and he reminded the Apprentices of the history and tremendous achievements of the place. Since the first Entry reported in 1920, over 24,000 technicians had been trained, and 5,000 of them were later commissioned. Twenty had reached air rank, including the A.O.C. No. 24 Group, Air Vice-Marshal Spreckley (3rd Entry). The honours and awards gained by ex-Apprentices formed a remarkable record: one V.C., two G.C.s, 34 D.S.O.s, two M.C.s, 246 D.F.C.s, 227 A.F.C.s, three George Medals, and over 300 D.F.M.s and A.F.M.s. The Air Marshal expressed his confidence that the Apprentices of today would maintain this high standard.

He advised them all to strive for commissions, and stressed the need for commissioned officers to be able to express themselves clearly in speech and on paper. It was pleasing that 35 of the 82nd Entry had passed the



The March Past in Review Order.

Air Ministry Photograph (Crown Copyright Reserved)

82nd ENTRY POSTING LIST (In Order of Merit)

Pirie, D. K.	Awarded Prize Cadetship in Technical Branch	Boy, F. C.	Honington
Mott, B. G.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Abingdon	Fleming, R. W.	Waddington
Griffiths, D. A.	Awarded Direct Commission Promoted Substantive Corporal Lyneham	Robinson, K. P.	Cottesmore
Hodson, A. J.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Little Rissington	Hollingsworth, J. C.	Marham
Brookes, D.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Shawbury	Toombs, B. R.	A.S.W.D.U. Ballykelly
Archer, P. J.	Promoted Substantive Corporal 32 M.U. St. Athan	Bassett-Burr, J. A.	231 O.C.U. Bassingbourn
Pixton, J.	Middleton St. George	Reavey, T. D.	1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse
Walker, A. D.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Middleton St. George	Barrand, C. W.	7 F.T.S. Valley
Siddon, G. E.	Awarded Direct Commission Promoted Substantive Corporal 1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse	Pearson, A. J.	Abingdon
Foster, D. J.	Promoted Substantive Corporal 1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse	Richardson, G. M.	Upwood
Donovan, J. R.	Swinderby	Turnbull, J.	Coningsby
Fry, J. H.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Thorney Island	Evans, W. G.	St. Mawgan
Boast, R. C.	Promoted Substantive Corporal Abingdon	Blackwell, D.	Dishforth
Wade, G. N.	Awarded Cadetship in General Duties Branch	Robson, P. G.	Wittering
Jeffery, C. P. A.	Promoted Substantive Corporal 32 M.U. St. Athan	Avis, B. V.	8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Pond, M. R.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell	Newton, I. S.	7 F.T.S. Valley
Taplin, C. M.	Abingdon	Gordon, K. C.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Simpson, K.	Awarded Direct Commission R.A.F. College, Cranwell	Spratley, R. B.	231 O.C.U. Bassingbourn
Fenton, D. M.	Ballykelly	Dyson, R. S.	Waddington
Mitchell, T. A.	Finningley	Davies, B. H.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell
Crow, C. A.	Honington	Bendon, D. C.	Honington
Clark, H. L.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Viggers, P. M.	Ballykelly
Parker, A. C.	Abingdon	Bonnick, M. J.	Waddington
Ward, D. D.	Finningley	Taylor, J. A.	Marham
Smith, P. G.	Marham	Hall, P. H.	Cottesmore
Goldsmith, N. T.	Honington	Hester, J. W.	Cottesmore
Golton, J. D.	1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse	Garbett, B. E.	Dishforth
Hodge, J. E.	232 O.C.U. Gaydon	Maxwell, I. D.	Abingdon
Ellis, K. G.	Cottesmore	Trimmer, A. D. C.	Finningley
Slee, D. P.	Cottesmore	Dale, C. N.	Cottesmore
Pratt, R. W.	Promoted Substantive Corporal 232 O.C.U. Gaydon	Gillingham, B. A.	Lyneham
Rudge, B. J.	Honington	Simmons, M. B.	A.S.W.D.U. Ballykelly
Kay, J.	Cottesmore	Berry, M. J.	5 F.T.S. Oakington
Pearson, G. D.	Honington	Button, J.	Kinloss
Melvin, G. E.	8 F.T.S. Swinderby	Law, I. W.	Lyneham
Price, A. R.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell	Firth, J.	Waddington
Stark, P. A.	Marham	Tribe, M. S.	R.A.F. College, Cranwell
Ashenden, D. S.	Lyneham	Pochin, M. J.	Waddington
Hughes, R.	Abingdon	McDonnell, A.	Ballykelly
Jones, G. D.	Wyton	Searle, D.	Waddington
Sowerby, B.	1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse	McLaurin, M. J.	Aldergrove
Scott, P. G.	5 F.T.S. Oakington	Dalgleish, D. W.	Dishforth
Hymas, J. C.	Honington	Wright, M. J.	Duxford
Hine, T.	Wittering	Cox, D. B.	Honington
Shaw, M. A.	5 F.T.S. Oakington	Grantham, R.	Flying College, Manby
Genny, R. W.	Aldergrove	Stanton, M.	Dishforth
Mack, A.	Finningley	Coneybear, M. J. M.	Scampton
Ellis, J.	Flying College, Manby	Holmes, H. E.	A.A.E.E. Boscombe Down
McLean, F.	Dishforth	Dowlman, D.	Waddington
Watson, B. W.	Cottesmore	Doyle, R. A.	Colene
Humphries, J.	Binbrook	Mitchell, G. W.	Ballykelly
Goodrum, J. R.	1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse	Hull, J. A.	Scampton
Foster, J. E.	St. Mawgan	Read, D. G.	8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Legg, B. D.	Honington	Hughes, R. G.	Cottesmore
Worner, J. S.	Lyneham	Thomson, A. S. M.	Marham
Varney, K. N.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Crook, J. A.	Kinloss
Huxley, K. S.	Abingdon	Wilkinson, R. P.	Dishforth
Ridgeway, R. J.	232 O.C.U. Gaydon	Huddy, D. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Stracey, M. E.	Cottesmore	Francis, J. L.	Aldergrove
Young, W. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Triggs, D. W.	232 O.C.U. Gaydon
Doughty, A. L.	Cottesmore	Doidge, J. C.	Cottesmore
Stead, A. M.	Waddington	Seaman, P. J.	Honington
Worthington, J. W. H.	Cottesmore	Dewar, C.	Wyton
Thompson, A. R.	A.A.E.E. Boscombe Down	Rew, S. J.	Lyneham
Smithson, R. M.	Cottesmore	Sage, P. J. A.	Cottesmore
		Fisher, B. J.	Cottesmore
		Harvey, M. J.	Leuchars
		Gilliland, D. C.	Cottesmore
		King, E. C.	Marham
		Quantrill, T. K.	Lyneham
		Brown, J. W.	Marham
		Boyd, R. I.	Ballykelly
		Craig, A. D.	Wyton
		Ough, D. A. J.	Finningley
		Spencer, B.	Cottesmore
		Wingett, K. E.	Aldergrove
		Bates, R. M.	Ballykelly
		Fill, P. K.	Upwood
		Bacon, N. A.	Finningley
		Croft, C. J. S.	Marham
		Hopkinson, W. J.	Cottesmore
		Chapman, F. C.	A.A.E.E. Boscombe Down
			Dishforth

Richards, C.
McNeil, J. G.
Johnstone, R. N.
Earley, T. H.
Brown, B. S.

Ballykelly
Dishforth
Wittering
Abingdon
St. Mawgan

Bowler, R.
Matthews, B. E.
Turner, B. H.
Dulling, D. C.

Finningley
32 M.U. St. Athan
*
*

* Satisfactorily completed the Course although not attaining Junior Technician Standard

The following ex-81st Apprentice Qualified as Junior Technician in the trade of Armament Fitter Bombs

Cooper, M. J.

Finningley

The following ex-81st Apprentices qualified to Junior Technician Standard

Gibbins, R. J. B.
Keay, B. P. J.
Lane, H.
Storar, I. D. T.
Throsby, R.
Winters, M. R.
Cross, D.
Goldstone, M. F.
Harris, B. D.
Spencer, B. D.
Shipp, J. W.
Cairns, I. H.
England, A. L.
Fisher, A. B.
Jones, K. J.

Abingdon
8 F.T.S. Swinderby
Lynham
Kinloss
Lynham
Abingdon
Wyton
Waddington
Finningley
Waddington
232 O.C.U. Gaydon
Dishforth
Cottesmore
Finningley
Waddington

Lill, I. A.
Sanderson, J.
Waghorn, A.
Anderson, F. A.
Blake, D. M. P.
Crocombe, L. J.
Whittle, R. H.
Avery, R. E.
Cottrell, I. F.
Cowan, T. W.
Duke, R. A.
Hawley, J. C.
Hill, V. W.
Jones, N. W.
Murphy, T. F.

Dishforth
32 M.U. St. Athan
32 M.U. St. Athan
St. Mawgan
Marham
Waddington
Wyton
Marham
Marham
Marham
Waddington
Waddington
Marham
Cottesmore
Marham

82nd ENTRY SPORTS AWARDS

SCHOOL COLOUR AWARDS

ATHLETICS

A/A Dowlman, D. 1958
S/A/A Fleming, R. W. 1958
C/A/A Parker, A.C. 1957/58
W.O.A/A Pirie, D. K. 1957/58
S/A/A Pixton, J. 1957/58
S/A/A Slee, D. P. 1958
A/A Smith, P. G. 1957/58
F.S/A/A Walker, A. D. 1958

BADMINTON

A/A Turner, B. H. 1958

BOXING

A/A Firth, J. 1957/58

CROSS COUNTRY

A/A Dowlman, D. 1957/58
F.S/A/A Walker, A. D. 1957/58

HOCKEY

A/A Cottrell, I. F. 1957/58
A/A Dulling, D. C. 1957/58

RUGBY

L/A/A Robinson, K. P. 1957/58

SHOOTING

A/A Barrand, C. W. 1957/58

SOCCER

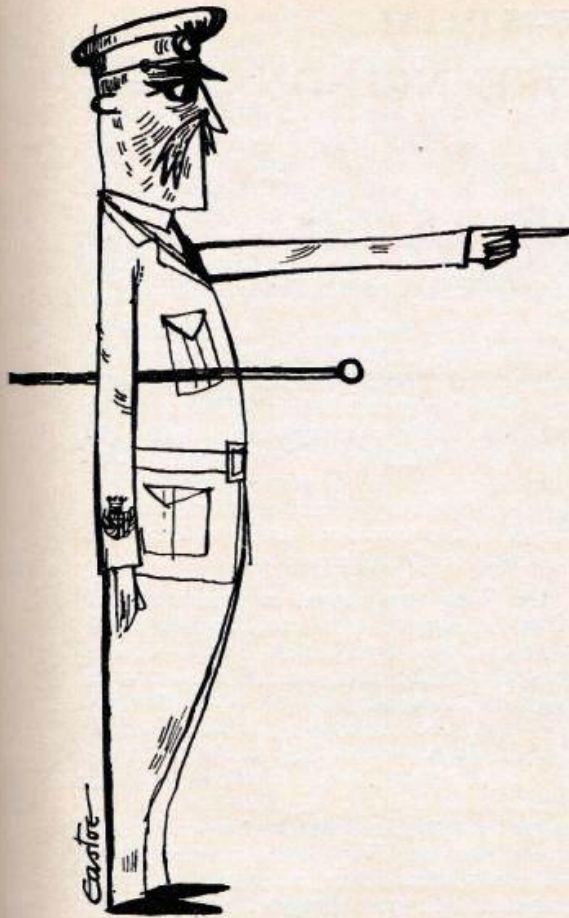
C/A/A Avis, B. V. 1958
A/A Duke, R. A. 1957/58
C/A/A Hymas, J. C. 1958
S/A/A Pixton, J. 1957/58

SWIMMING

A/A Humphries, J. 1957/58
A/A Sanderson, J. 1957/58

TENNIS

C/A/A Hymas, J. C. 1957/58
A/A Turner, B. H. 1957/58



No. 1 (A) WING

AT the time of writing, Christmas is just behind us. Immediately before Christmas leave an excellent meal was provided in the Wing Mess, for which the messing staff are to be congratulated. It is reported that on this occasion several excellent speeches were made by some senior N.C.O. Apprentices which would have been very much enjoyed if they could only have been heard through the general hubbub and enthusiasm of the diners.

Although the Apprentices of the Wing were having a good time themselves, they found time to think of the less fortunate and contributed a total of £88 10s. for charities and old-age relief. This was a very commendable effort.

CURRENT EVENTS

The end of last term saw several changes of staff personnel who were stalwarts of the Wing. We said farewell to Squadron Leader W. E. McChesney and Warrant Officer Rich, to both of whom we wish all success in their retirement from the Royal Air Force. To Flight Lieutenant C. H. Crowley, our departing Wing Adjutant, we wish a happy tour with H.Q., M.E.A.F.

In place of them we welcome Sqn.Ldr. J. J. Miller, from H.Q. Fighter Command, who takes command of No. 1 Squadron, Fg.Off. T. R. Morgan, who comes to us as Wing Adjutant from Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nelwarka (some change!), and as Wing Warrant Officer, Warrant Officer J. Davies from R.A.F. Wahn. This is the first change that W.O. Davies has had from being a station warrant officer for the last 18 years, and it is hoped he will enjoy his new duties. We also welcome to No. 1 Squadron Flt.Sgt. C. C. Dunkley from R.A.F. Sek Kong (Hong Kong) and Flt.Sgt. D. Collins from R.A.F. Stradishall, and to the Physical Fitness Section Sgt. Little, from R.A.F. Compton Bassett.

The Christmas Term ended with the graduation of the 82nd Entry. The Wing had the honour to produce the Warrant Officer Apprentice for the Graduation, namely W.O/A/A D. K. Pirie. We would like to congratulate him on his attainments and particularly on his being awarded a technical cadetship to the R.A.F. Technical College, Henlow. Of the prizes, Pirie took the lion's share, as the list of prizewinners shows. This was a very fine effort; the Entry was the best for many years and hence competition was more than usually keen.

No. 2 (A) WING

SNOW is driving furiously across the Henderson-Groves Parade Ground as these notes go down on paper. One fancies that a couple of months of hard weather will have to be got through before the Spring Term lives up to its name and the Chiltern slopes, at present scowling darkly, take on their new coat of green.

Your contributor, being new, notes that the chief feature of rival contributions is trumpet-blowing. At the stroke of a ball-point, modest results become success, success becomes triumph and triumph itself takes on an epic sweep. By this token, the No. 2 Wing Band and Trumpeters blinded the opposition in the Autumn Term Competition, winning five out of the six events on the programme, viz., full band, Silver Trumpet (L/A/A Creighton), Silver Pipes (L/A/A Walker), Silver Drum (L/A/A Swinbourne), and Drum Major (A/A Lorrinan). Only the Corps of Trumpeters lost—and that by a cracked lip! Congratulations to Flight Sergeant Lenz and the boys of the band.

The B.-K. report for the term was not quite so good. We had to surrender our summer hold on the Trophy to No. 3 Wing. We hung grimly on to second place. It is curious that in the last year each wing has won the trophy in turn and promptly lost it in the following "co-ordinating" term.

The 82nd Entry graduated just before Christmas. It is generally agreed that they ran the last lap in magnificent style and finished quite unwinded. Co-ordinated by No. 2 Wing, their Parade, Prize Giving, Dedication Service and Dance were outstanding and will be happily remembered by all who took part. The No. 2 Wing element of the Entry entertained the permanent staff to a right royal dinner at the *Rose and Crown* in Tring. Good luck, 82nd, wherever you go.

For the third term in succession No. 2 Wing produced a general duties cadetship winner. This was C/A/A Wade, to whom we offer our congratulations, both for doing so well and for completing a distinguished hat-trick for the Wing. C/A/A Griffiths, C/A/A Hodson, S/A/A Pixton, S/A/A Slee and F.S/A/A Siddon graduated as substantive

corporals. Among the prizewinners were F.S/A/A Siddons, who won the Crebbin-Robinson Cup, and C/A/A Hodson, who was awarded the Quinton Memorial Trophy. The latter presentation was witnessed by the wife and son of the late Flight Lieutenant J. A. Quinton, whose memory the Trophy perpetuates. Siddon and Griffiths also won Air Ministry prizes for Education, Trade Standards and General Service Efficiency.

Public duty loomed large in the Autumn Term and No. 2 Wing mounted three major events. No. 1 Squadron found the Continuation Drill Squad for R.A.F. Halton's Battle of Britain *At Home* Display and supplied the flight for Aylesbury's Remembrance Day ceremony. No. 3 Squadron provided the flight for Aylesbury's Battle of Britain Sunday parade. Commendatory letters praised the steadiness of all ranks on duty.

The Wing was pleased to receive several visitors during the term, including the headmasters of the three British Forces' Educational Service boarding schools in Germany. Captain F. Lonnberg, of the Royal Swedish Air Force, who commands a cadet school in Sweden, stayed several days to study character development and physical training methods. Lt.Col. A. A. Khan, who commands the Pakistan Army Apprentice School, looked over the Wing domestic organisation. All our visitors were charming and very interested. We were delighted to see them.

There have been a number of permanent staff postings during the term. Squadron Leader K. Kingshott, D.F.C., long a No. 2 Wing stalwart, has now gone to Staff College. Squadron Leader R. G. M. Walker, D.F.C., left for R.A.F. Hereford at short notice to help set up the new Boy Entrant Wing there. Flying Officer R. Penniall was appointed to an accounts course in December. Our thanks are due to all three for their sterling work and our best wishes go with them. Squadron Leader D. H. Clarke, D.F.C., and Squadron Leader S. Turner, D.F.C., have arrived to take over numbers 3 and 2 Squadrons respectively, and Flying Officer Buckland has taken over "A" Flight in No. 2 Squadron. To all three, and to two earlier arrivals, Sergeants Maxwell and Boden, we bid a hearty welcome.

Within the Wing the dying year brought real nostalgia for Christmas and home. Some beautiful and miraculously ingenious work was done in the Barrack Room Decorating Competition. Mrs. Stephenson and her Committee found the judging no easy task. Amid scenes of tremendous boyish carousing (alas, no beer!) the officers and N.C.O.'s of the staff served the Apprentices with their Christmas turkey dinner. Then all repaired to the Institute for a grand Christmas Draw and smoking concert. This was the real Air Force spirit of chaps making their own fun—the kind of experience which will serve them well in lonely places. Festivities ended with some of the finest carol singing your contributor has ever heard. Hundreds of voices raised in splendid unison did ample justice to the tradi-

tional music of Christmas time. Even the hardest-bitten of the old-timers were mellowed by the poignant sincerity of the old familiar tunes, the singing of which was so ably led by Padre Gordon Bennett and his Church Choir.

The New Year's Honours List brought the happy news of the award of a very well-deserved B.E.M. to Flight Sergeant A. G. Lenz. Talk about a dog with two tails! Sergeant T. B. White arrived a day or two later, on posting, to learn that he, too, had been awarded a B.E.M. He had been in transit from overseas and did not know of his honour. Congratulations to two very fine blokes. The boys are planning you both a smashing presentation parade.

No. 3 (A) WING

BY the time this appears in print, our Christmas puddings will be but a memory, but the "annual spread" was a very successful evening. The lads deserved their "pudd," for in sport especially it had been a very good term. We won the Barrington-Kennett Trophy again, coming first in senior and junior basketball, senior cross-country and in the shooting.

At the end of term, Flight Lieutenant Simpson (3 Sqn., "B" Flt.) left to take up a new post at Cardington on promotion. We wish him success in dealing with new airmen instead of Apprentices. Before this issue appears we shall also have lost Sqn.Ldr. A. T. Powell, O.C. No. 1 Squadron, who is going to Staff College; these Kiwis take a little time to learn enough to pass examinations, but

Halton must have helped. We wish him good luck. He will be sorely missed by the Wing and Squadron, for he was a fine organiser of athletics and rigger. Sqn.Ldr. Hamilton-Martin will replace him.

The O.C. No. 3 Wing wisely undertook an Instrument Flying Course at the beginning of term and now gets round untroubled by winter fogs.

The graduating 82nd Entry surprised us all with their good results, fine parade in trying weather and general good behaviour.

The introduction of "canned" music in the form of a jukebox in the N.A.A.F.I. will shock many Old Haltonians, but we must keep up with the times. We are now awaiting the installation of automatic vending machines in the blocks.

TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING SQUADRON

AIRFRAME FITTER FLIGHT

The past term has seen only one change in staff: Cpl.Tech. Fielder left us in November for duties at the Airfield. We were very sorry to see him go for he always had the right approach to training, and we wish him well in his new surroundings.

We understand that the Chipmunk aircraft for the elementary airframe phase will be arriving within the next few weeks. This change from the 'Prentices will be most welcome, for the latter have been well and truly handled.

Our internal lecture rooms still stand idle and await their covering. We hope that they can be completed soon, for they will serve us well until the more permanent external ones are erected, a project which we hope is not too far distant.

We congratulate A/A Hammond on being the recipient of the Instructors' Trophy for the 84th Entry. For the benefit of junior Entries we would say that this trophy is awarded to the Apprentice who makes the best progress during the second year of training. The top boy is therefore unlikely to receive it, but it is expected that he will obtain his just reward from other directions.

Our expanding numbers are beginning to cause us some concern and our tentacles are quite likely to extend this term into the Old Workshops. Meanwhile other means of securing more economical space are being explored.

A close survey has recently been made of the basic syllabus and new exercises have been designed to bring the practical work more in line with the type of work expected from airframe fitters. A number of changes in other phases of the syllabus is also contemplated.

We were very pleased with the final results of the 82nd Entry, who achieved a 100% pass in the airframe trade. This, no doubt, resulted from the strong finish put in by both the staff and the lads themselves during the

last few weeks. We wish the Entry success and every happiness throughout their careers.

ENGINE FITTER FLIGHT

The 82nd having duly departed to their new stations, we hope they have by now settled down and wish them all the best in their new sphere. We must apologise for the ONE failure, which we feel sure is due to a counting error.

Whilst changes in staff have not been very many in number they are more than notable.

The flight in full strength sent Flt.Lt. Dauphin on his way rejoicing after a very convivial evening. We wish him a happy retirement.

Other departures from the flight are Ch.Tech. Tuck, Ch.Tech. Hepburn, and Snr.Tech. Lawrence. The former is still in the locality at Training Control; Ch.Tech. Hepburn has gone on his pre-commissioning course, on which we wish him every success; and Snr.Tech. Lawrence has been moved to the wide open spaces of the Airfield.

In exchange for the above departures, we now have much pleasure in welcoming Flt.Lt. Kenworthy, posted from Cyprus, and Snr. Tech. Mouatt, from the Airfield to the Academy.

By the time this edition reaches our readers we shall have lost, through retirement, Mr. W. Caston, D.S.M., a World War I veteran who has rendered years of faithful service as a civilian instructor. A long and happy retirement, Bill!

Changes in the flight workshops are progressing, though slowly, due to problems of availability of material and the major consideration of not interrupting training.

When this appears in print the "Sapphire and Electrics" phases should be under way, thus providing more work and necessity of study for A/A's but increasing the existing high quality of their training.

The sectioned "Centaurus" engine mentioned in the last edition is now fully "S," having been fitted with the propeller acquired from de Havilland's. This now completes this masterpiece of Snr.Tech. Hyde, who, rumour hath it, now has space travel aspirations.

Regular customers of the S.P.T. bay are reminded of the new scale of charges, due to re-equipping with more modern appliances.

This about sums up the changes already effected, but we shortly hope to modify the shoes of Flt.Lt. Kenworthy (shades of Flt.Lt. Dauphin).

We beg to offer our sincerest congratulations to two of our members, Sgt. Hunter and

Cpl. Howes, on signing on for the term of their natural life. May they prosper and multiply.

The Christmas festivities now being over we are fully occupied with another maximum effort, and (T.S.T.S. counting permitting) a 100% graduation is aimed at. Time alone can tell.

Many conjectures are being put forward with regard to the identity of the strange monster which is caged at the bottom end of the turbine phase. It sounds as if it is in "paine." No prizes are offered for the correct solution: another masterpiece is in process of construction.

ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT SQUADRON

ELECTRICAL FITTER FLIGHT

At the close of the Autumn Term we bade farewell to the 82nd Entry, who started a New Year and a new life with our best wishes and heartiest congratulations ringing in their ears. Special congratulations are due to W/O Apprentice Pirie, whose great achievements will we hope give encouragement to the endeavours of all Electrical Fitter Apprentices and spur them to take full advantage of the training and opportunities provided for them here at Halton.

For the staff the past term has been a period of consolidation. The syllabus has been reviewed and slight adjustments made to balance it and improve efficiency. The old problem of getting a pint into a half-pint bottle is ever present and is, we fear, the cause of many a grey hair.

Printed notes are becoming more conspicuous and we feel that if the trend continues we shall soon have to ask our ancillary friends in Bay 5, who have been so kind to us in the past, for a little storage space to accommodate the bundles of technical literature which are threatening to overwhelm us at any moment.

This term we bade farewell to F.S. Watson and we wish him every success at Swinderby.

During his stay here he contributed a great deal to the continuity and smooth running of the Flight. Other departures include:—

Cpl. Graves—St. Athan
 Snr.Tech. Higgins—Stoke Heath
 Cpl.Tech. Wiley—U.S.A.
 Snr.Tech. Davidson—Aden.
 Sgt. Cowper—Hemswell
 Snr.Tech. Davey—T.S.T.S.
 and Snr.Tech. Clarke, who has left us to undertake a civilian way of life.

The latest communication to be received by bush telegraph suggests that Sqn.Ldr. G. R. Candy is packing K.D. shorts and sunglasses in preparation for much warmer weather than we can expect this year. The E. and I. section has changed a great deal under the ministrations of Sqn.Ldr. Candy for he has transfused, injected and surgically operated upon it in order to cope with present-day requirements. Bay 8 stands to remind us of his association with us and may one day be known as "Candy's Corridor," a permanent feature of the school.

We extend a welcome to three new arrivals, Cpl. Walton, an ex-Apprentice, who joins us from Colerne, Cpl. Crow from Northolt, and F.S. Johns who at Oakington distinguished himself as winner of the Groves Memorial Prize.

In conclusion we greet the 91st Entry and we wish them well as they settle down to the hard work necessary for ultimate success.

INSTRUMENT FITTER FLIGHT

Since our last report we have said goodbye to Flight Sergeant Hazel, Cpl.Tech. Lane, Sgt. Simmons and Cpl. Windsor. Their sterling work for the flight will long be remembered and they have our good wishes for the future.

In their place we welcome Flight Sergeant Walpole, Sergeants Reynolds and Woods, and Corporals Hilton, Seath and Hepburn. This may seem an unfair exchange, but, at the moment, the flight is up to establishment, a position unknown for many years.

The 82nd Entry have just left us after achieving a 100 per cent pass on their final Trade Standards Test. We wish them all good luck and especially congratulate S/A/A. Pixton and C/A/A. Fry, who graduated as Corporals.

It is now up to the 83rd Entry to follow the good example set by the 82nd. An interesting revision programme has already been arranged for their benefit.

The news of the moment is, of course, the imminent posting of Squadron Leader G. R.

Candy, our Squadron Commander, to H.Q. M.E.A.F., Cyprus, and we wish him every success. He will long be remembered at Halton for the developments which took place in the Squadron under his guidance, from which many future Entries will reap benefit.

It is nice to see Mr. Cameron, restored to normal health, fully in circulation again. And Mr. Connelly is to be congratulated on his success following the investment of sixpence.

Is it true that Sergeant Williams has been using his slide rule to work out the number of points towards a married quarter, which would be his if he took the plunge? Keeping our ears close to the ground also suggests that in the near future we may not have a bachelor civilian instructor.

Mr. Watkins is a busy man. He has just purchased a house and yet he finds time to attend Watford Technical College, where he is doing so well on his H.N.C. studies that he has just been awarded a prize. A grand effort, Mr. Watkins, and good luck for the future.

This issue was to have included a literary effort by Mr. Edgecombe and Mr. Bowers, but it is not quite ready so we must look forward to its appearance in the next issue.

ARMAMENT TRAINING SQUADRON

ARMAMENT FITTER FLIGHT

The Armourers, working in the night,
With busy biros filling Ballards up,
Give hopeful sign of graduation.

(With apologies to Wm. Shakespeare)

The 82nd Entry of Armament Fitters, who recently embarked on their career proper, deserve our heartiest congratulations for confounding the critics. They worked hard, taking full advantage of the final term revision arrangements, and produced excellent results. Our special congratulations to F.S/A/A A. J. Walker and A/A J. Kay, the former for winning a commission in the G.D. branch and the latter for topping the bill in the Armament Fitter Order of Merit. Well done the 82nd! We wish you a happy and interesting career.

After a fairly long stay at Halton on both sides of the "fence," Flt.Lt. Bill Collier left us at Christmas for the Air Ministry (D.D.Arm. Eng.). His kindly manner will be missed at Halton, but will be appreciated by his fellow commuters at the Kingsway Paper Factory. In his stead we welcome Pilot Officer A. A. Bailes, hot from the proving grounds of Edinburgh Field and Woomera. The fact that we received by the same post a complete drill Firestreak air-to-air guided weapon was just coincidence.

All the long suffering ex-Apprentices and staff of the Armament Squadron who at one time or another have laboured to remove flood debris from Bay 10 will be glad to know that the Works and Bricks staff, with picks, shovels and drainpipes, have at last diverted the flood waters from the hills.

The postings "narks" have been working overtime on the Armament Squadron staff since we last wrote. Ch.Tech. J. E. Dyson, Snr.Tech. S. Wilson and Cpl. M. Thomas

have been posted to Melksham, and Cpl.Tech. M. Carr to S. Athan. Mr. R. Jack and Mr. C. W. P. Allen (civilian instructors) have left Air Ministry employ. Cpl. Howarth has been posted in for instructional duties.

The staff of the Armament Squadron hope to carry out more liaison visits to operational stations during the coming year. We shall make a point of looking up the ex-Apprentices to see how they are faring.

AIRFIELD TRAINING SQUADRON

The passing of the 82nd Entry from the Airfield did not take place without a certain number of training diversions. Their last afternoon was marked amongst other things by the ceremonial planting of a bagpipe tree—a ritual which has only once before taken place south of the Tweed. The first occasion marked the successful transfer of the two metal type Baronial Halls to the Duke of Buckingham by Bonnie Prince Charlie. These halls saw nearly two centuries of active service before passing into semi-honourable retirement as flight sheds on the Works Staff Map. It is now rumoured that they will shortly re-emerge as full scale greenhouses, which will be a nice change from their present colour of bitumastic black.

The tree planted by the 82nd Entry is of a very special variety. Not only will it produce bagpipes in season, but during the winter months a fine haggis crop is provided as a fungoid growth. As the roots were lowered into the ground a fanfare was sounded by a full corps of shotguns, and when planted, the tree was bedecked with long rolls of special double strength paper and a Maypole type sword dance was executed.

To round off the fun the Airfield gate was borrowed to transport back to the Wing area those weaker members of the Entry who had fallen by the wayside. At this juncture intervention from high office occurred, and all subsequent activity was mercifully screened from sight. So passed the 82nd Entry.

Flying Flight are now firmly ensconced in their new quarters in the Control Tower, and to make things even cosier the Bessonneaux Hanger has elected to join them. On the old

site a sarcophagus of Ancient Egypt has been found, believed to be a trophy brought back by those members of No. 1 Entry who took part in the Crusades. Also hidden under the hanger was a well preserved skeleton. It was at first thought to be the remains of a Cromwellian Roundhead (size 7 $\frac{1}{2}$), but it is now confirmed that it is—or was—a well-known member of the E & I Squadron who was last seen beating his own version of the retreat on Battle of Britain Night.

The Armament Staff can now be readily identified by their rosy cheeks thanks to the installation of the long awaited heating system. Their stock pile of anti-frost ointment has been transferred to Flying Flight for use in their far-flung Empire.

RECENT MOVEMENTS

Movements out

1 Meteor Fuel tank complete with civilian acetylene torch operator believed to be still in orbit with Sputnik II.
Snr.Tech. Chorlton (Aden).
Snr.Tech. Mouat (Top Shops).
Sgt. Payne (Northern Ireland).
Cpl. Parkinson (2nd T.A.F.).
Cpl. Lemon (Weeton).
Cpl. Carter (Aden)
L/A/C Bottomley—Home Sweet Home
L/A/C/W Mann—to better places.

Movements in

Snr.Tech. Lawrence.
Cpl. Wardell.
Cpl. Warton.
Cpl. Fielder.
L/A/C Lincoln.
A/C Harridge.
A/C/W Bremner.

Apprentice Schools

THE General Certificate of Education Examination held in November/December 1958, was sat by 375 Apprentices who took 513 papers at "O" Level. There were 302 subject passes obtained by 240 successful Apprentices, who are to be congratulated on this worthwhile effort in the field of voluntary education.

Members of the 82nd Entry who graduated in December, 1958, gained twenty Ordinary National Certificates in Mechanical Engineering and nine in Electrical Engineering. Of the six Apprentices who sat the Final Examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute two were successful as were three of those who took the Intermediate Examinations. The Reviewing Officer complimented the entry on their overall educational record.

The 83rd Entry have completed the educational phase of their training, the average mark in all subjects—59 per cent—being equalled only by the 82nd Entry since the War. Some 25 per cent of those who took the Final Examinations have been recommended for the award of Ordinary National Certificates. There were eleven successful candidates in the City and Guilds Intermediate Examination and one in the Final Examination.

The education officers who have left on posting or return to civil life include Sqn.Ldr. Moulds who has been posted to R.A.F. Jurby, Flt.Lt. Garrod who has taken up a teaching appointment in Swindon, Fg.Off. Bennett who has gone into Industry and Fg.Off. Morgan who is now teaching in Staffordshire; to them all we extend our very best wishes. We remember "Mickey" Moulds, in particular, for his stalwart leadership of the English and General Studies staff and also for his good work in connection with the Trenchard Library and the Tennis Club. Sqn.Ldr. Moulds has been replaced by Sqn.Ldr. Settingington and we hope he has a pleasant and successful tour in what is for him a new field of educational activity.

We also extend a welcome to Fg.Off.'s Williams and Lee, and to Pilot Officers Neve, Margetts, Oliver, Wilks and Truman. Plt.Off. Truman has already played for the R.A.F. in the Inter-Services Squash match as well as taking part in the R.A.F. Championships. He has joined Sqn.Ldr. John Quick in the Command Squash team. Fg.Off. Emlyn Jones has again played for the R.A.F. at rugby.

Obituary

MR. A. J. CASTLE

Many Haltonians, past and present, will be sad to hear of the death of Mr. A. J. Castle, librarian in the Trenchard Library for the past ten years. Mr. Castle had been ill for several weeks and died just before Christmas; the sadness of his death was heightened by the fact that he was due to retire early in the new year.

Mr. Castle was in many ways the ideal librarian for he combined tact, patience and a real willingness to help everybody with the meticulous care of a keeper of records and the vigilance of one in charge of a valuable collection of books. He will be most remembered for his kindness to all library users and his loyalty to Halton and the Trenchard Library for which he had done so much.

We offer our sympathy to Mrs. Castle and her family in their great loss.
