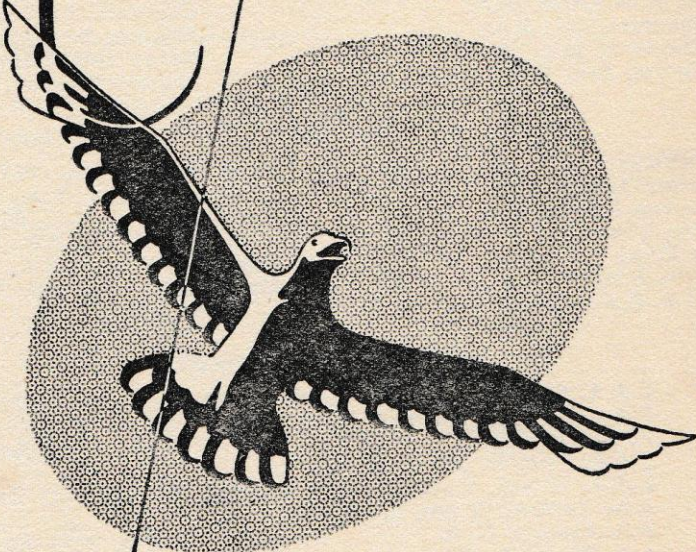


The Haltonian Magazine

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OWELLS

VOL. IX, No. 2

CHRISTMAS, 1937



THE exigencies of postings, for the third time in three consecutive years, have again occasioned a change in the editorship of *The Halton Magazine*. The new editor takes up his pen to wish all his readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The sudden and unexpected departure of Mr. J. R. Morgan for the wide open spaces of Upper Heyford left *The Halton Magazine* temporarily without an editor, so for want of a better successor, the mantle has fallen upon your humble servant.

Except for this (not, perhaps, important) alteration, *The Halton Magazine* remains, for this issue at least, much the same; but in view of the continued enlargement of Halton, perhaps the time has now arrived when some attempt to make it a more truly Halton production should be contemplated.

In an establishment numbering over five thousand, there must surely be more than sufficient local talent and local news to fill these pages from cover to cover; and while we shall never cease to take interest in the ever-increasing numbers of ex-apprentices and outside contributors, and shall always appreciate their interest in us, the prime object of *The Halton Magazine* must be to act as a mirror of Halton opinion, a gallery of Halton talent, and a gazette of Halton news.

We begin then, with an appeal to all at Halton to help us, by contributions of stories, news, drawings and so on, to make our Magazine even more worthy of Halton than it has hitherto been.

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THERE are now well over four thousand Aircraft Apprentices under training at Halton, and it is expected that with the January 1938 Entry even this astronomical figure will be increased. Rumour has it, however, that accommodation at "the new Halton" that is in course of erection at Cosford in Shropshire, is getting well ahead. By next August, we believe, No. 5 Wing will make the acquaintance of that salubrious spot and our numbers may then be expected to fall again below the four thousand mark.

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WE are privileged to be able to give as the frontispiece a photograph of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Edward L. Ellington, G.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E. Sir Edward recently completed four years' tenure of the

appointment of Chief of the Air Staff, during which time, thanks largely to his drive and energy, the expansion of the Service made enormous strides. Throughout these years he has found time, as Chairman of the R.A.F. Sports Board, to take an active interest in all forms of Service sport, and has given without stint help and encouragement to these various activities.

We hope, now that he has taken over the appointment of Inspector General of the Royal Air Force, that Halton may have the distinction of receiving a visit from him.

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THE new Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Cyril L. N. Newall, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., A.M., favoured us with a visit on September 23rd, making an inspection of barracks and administrative buildings, workshops and schools. Sir Cyril is, however, no stranger to Halton, for he served here as a Group Captain from 1922 to 1924. Other distinguished visitors during the term have included Air Vice-Marshal C. F. A. Portal, D.S.O., M.C., Director of Organisation, and Air Commodore R. Leckie, D.S.O., D.S.C., D.F.C., Director of Training. It is encouraging to feel that these important officials from the Air Ministry are taking a keen interest in the work and well-being of this Station.

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NO doubt many of our readers read the very laudatory article on Halton which appeared in *John Bull* on August 28th, under the title of "The University of the Air." This journal, we believe, prides itself on speaking "without fear or favour," so we may perhaps legitimately find satisfaction in the publicity thus given to Halton's admitted excellence.

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ONCE again we are pleased to record a number of successes gained by Old Haltonians. The award of a Military Cross to Flying Officer R. G. Yaxley for gallantry during the 1936 disturbances in Palestine has already been the subject of comment in *The Halton Magazine*. We publish elsewhere a photograph showing Flying Officer Yaxley being decorated by Major General A. P. Wavell, C.B., C.M.G., M.C., at a parade in Jerusalem. Yaxley entered Halton with the 20th Entry in August 1929, was awarded a Cadetship on passing out three years later, and was a Lord Wakefield Scholar and winner of the Air Ministry prize for Aeronautical Engineering at the R.A.F. College, Cranwell. He was promoted to Flying Officer in January 1936 and posted to Palestine, where his award was won.

Another Old Haltonian has reached the rank of Squadron Leader in the person of Squadron Leader W. L. Freebody, who was a member of the 9th (January 1921) Entry. He was awarded a Cadetship to the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, in 1924, and has seen varied service at home and abroad in recent years, including duty with the Fleet Air Arm on H.M.S. *Hermes*. Congratulations to him on his promotion and on a magnificent sixteen years' record.

Congratulations also to L.A.C. D. E. Gibbs of the January 1926 (Halton) Entry and Sergeant J. F. Viveash, of the January 1921 (Cranwell) Entry, both of whom were mentioned in dispatches during operations in Palestine, July 1937.

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FOUR ex-Haltonians—P. A. N. Cox, R. T. Frogley, P. G. Wykeham-Barnes and J. A. Pitcairn-Hill—passed out from the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, in July last, being granted commissions in the rank of Pilot Officer.

At Cranwell, Frogley was a Cadet Under-Officer of his Squadron, and was awarded the Aeronautical Engineering Prize. Cox, who was a Cadet Sergeant, won the Groves Memorial Prize as the best all-round pilot of his term. These are very creditable results, and we offer our warmest congratulations to all four officers on their performance at Cranwell, and our best hopes that they will have a career of continued success in the Service.

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WE were pleased to welcome a delegation of Egyptian journalists on September 21st, the visitors being the editors and proprietors of the foremost Egyptian daily and weekly newspapers. They made a comprehensive tour of the Station, and we have it on the authority of the Aeronautical Correspondent of *The Times*, who accompanied them, that they were much impressed by "the thoroughness at this end of the air defence preparations, and the determination to have aircraftmen who are capable of taking an intelligent interest in their work." In view of the new interest of Egypt in her own defence plans, we trust that our visitors may have gleaned from their tour some valuable information which may assist them in the organisation of the Egyptian Air Force.

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A **N**OTHER event of outstanding note during the term was the visit of the German Air Force Mission, on October 21st. The visitors included General Erhard Milch, Secretary of State for Air, Lieutenant-General Stumpff, Chief of the Air Staff, and Major-General Udet, Chief of the Technical Staff, and they were accompanied by Major-General R. F. A. Wenninger, the German Air Attaché in London. Air Marshal Sir Charles S. Burnett, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, received the visitors on their arrival at Station Headquarters, where, it may be recorded, there was a Guard of Honour consisting of Aircraft Apprentices of No. 1 Wing. General Milch took the salute as the various Wings marched past on their return to the Barracks from Workshops and School. A comprehensive inspection of the training arrangements was made, and a visit to the Barracks, Institutes, Dining Rooms, etc., of No. 3 Wing.

We noted with interest that at an interview with Press representatives a few days later, General Milch had some distinctly complimentary things to say about what they had seen at Halton as well as at other places.

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L **A**RGE numbers of Aircraft Apprentices will have observed the handsome portrait (in oils) of the late Flying Officer J. Clarke, which has recently been hung in the main corridor of the School building. This portrait has been presented for safe keeping to Halton through the good offices of Marshal of the R.A.F. Viscount Trenchard. The plaque which has been placed beneath the portrait, reads as follows:—

JOHN CLARKE 1905—1929

Entered Halton as an Aircraft Apprentice in 1923, and passed out head of his Entry with a Cadetship. At Cranwell he was promoted Flight-Cadet Under-Officer, and on passing out was awarded the Sword of Honour as the best all-round Flight-Cadet, the R. M. Groves Memorial Prize as the best all-round pilot of his year, the Abdy Gerrard Memorial Prize for the best marks in Mathematics and Science, and the Air Ministry Prize for Aeronautical Engineering.

PRESENTED BY DIANA SANGER.

We are sure that this portrait will be an inspiration to high endeavour to thousands of apprentices, not only of present Entries but also of Entries yet to come.

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THE extract printed below from an article by Sir Arnold Wilson, M.P., which appeared in the November issue of *The Nineteenth Century* will doubtless interest our readers. Who dares to retort, "It Pays to Advertise"?

Travelling to Yorkshire this month I entered into conversation with a young airman who had just entered the Air Force School at Halton, near Wendover, for training as a mechanic. He was just fifteen and had only been a few weeks in his uniform. He told me with enthusiasm of his first two test pieces; of the drill, the instructors, and the life. He would spend three years there before going to a unit, first at home, then perhaps abroad. They kept 5s. a week for him, so that he could not spend it all; they "did him grand" in food and uniform; his parents were delighted. It was "as good as a secondary school"—and better—because he was learning to use hand and head and not the latter only. There were lots of clubs to join, and no charge. I have had the good fortune to visit Halton, but I learned more from the boy than from a personal visit. It may well be that the ultimate solution of our recruiting problems in the Navy and Army is being worked out here.

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THE opening of the new Concert Hall is an event well worthy of recording in these pages. Since the old "Gym" in the upper end of the Workshops was devoured two years or so ago in the process of finding more workshop accommodation for Halton's new thousands of apprentices, we have been hard put to it to find accommodation for concerts, lectures, plays, and social functions of all sorts and kinds. Now, thanks to untiring effort willingly put forward by a considerable number of the Workshops Instructional Staff, a magnificent hall, which vies in splendour with the most up-to-date cinemas, has suddenly appeared. That it has already added to the amenities of the Station we can confidently state, and its benefits will be increasingly felt as time goes on.

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MENTION was made above of the retirement last summer of Mr. J. R. Morgan, B.Sc., A.M.I.Mech.E., from the editorship of *The Halton Magazine*. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to exaggerate the value of the work Mr. Morgan did for the Magazine during the three years he served at Halton. At first his scope was limited to the financial and business side. Here he did noble service: printing costs were reduced, revenue from advertisements rose, circulation increased. Then in 1936 he assumed in addition the rôle of editor. There seemed no limit to his energy. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Mr. Morgan for his work in this way for Halton. We shall continue for many a long day to gather the fruits of his labours. This brief note seems an all too inadequate expression of the thanks that are his due.

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FINALLY, we say good-bye to the January 1935 Entry, who leave us this term. They have been an outstanding Entry in all games and sports, and leave behind them a fine record in this respect. At the time of going to press we have not heard the result of the various Examinations: we trust they are up to the usual Halton standard. Our very best wishes go with them, one and all, in their future careers.

