

The Haltonian Magazine

101 Edition

Summer 1965

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EDITORIAL

Editors of many national newspapers and magazines have frequently concerned themselves during recent weeks with the subjects of prices and income, rising costs and efficiency. These are subjects not particularly dear to us, but they have thrust themselves to our notice, and we simply cannot afford to ignore them.

The Halton magazine must face problems arising from the 'inevitable' cost of higher production. If we are to maintain or improve the standard of the magazine, both in size and quality of presentation, we have to obtain more income. The sources of income are advertising revenue and sales. The latter, which is the only indication we have of our success, or lack of it, gives rise for real concern.

At Halton the apprentice population has declined, yet sales have been maintained. It is the postal sales, and particularly those to Old Haltonians, which show a marked decline over recent years. A programme at a recent Passing-Out Parade said that some 30,000 apprentices had been through Halton, and

that 5,500 of these had gained commissions. Less than 40 Old Haltonians—not counting those there at Halton—bought a copy of the previous issue of this magazine. Some Old Haltonians may be as ashamed of this figure as are the magazine staff. Some may be moved to act.

Meantime, we have no intention of raising the fears of our readers or the wrath of cabinet ministers by the announcement of price increases. Our intention is to sell more magazines, and we need to be told why Old Haltonians do not want to buy. It cannot be the price—the equivalent of a pint. Is it that our magazine is so dull, despite the inclusion of articles designed to interest Old Haltonians, that refusal to buy is the only means of protest? If so, write and tell us; or, better still, write an article for us. Or is it mere apathy? At any rate, pass on this copy to any other Old Haltonian you know, and bring this Editorial to his notice.

I hope that my successor as Editor will be bombarded with your protests, your articles and your orders.

I enclose cheque/postal order for £ : s. d made payable to
'The Business Manager, The Halton Magazine' and crossed for:

..... copy/ies of the Spring 196 issue

..... copy/ies of the Summer 196 issue

..... copy/ies of the Autumn 196issue
of the Halton Magazine.

.....Name and Rank

Adress

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The Reviewing Officer was Air Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Transport Command. The Reviewing Officer was accompanied by Air Marshal Sir Donald R. Evans, K.B.E., C.B., D.F.C., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Technical Training Command; Air Vice-Marshal J. K. Rotherham, C.B., C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding No. 24 Group; Air Commodore D. M. Strong, C.B., A.F.C., Commandant of No. 1 School of Technical Training; Group Captain R. C. Fordham, C.B.E., Senior Training Officer, No. 1 School of Technical Training; Group Captain H. H. Mayoh, Principal Education Officer, No. 1 School of Technical Training; Wing Commander D. A. Flint, Officer Commanding Technical Training Wing; Squadron Leader V. A. Gough, A.F.C., Officer Commanding No. 2 Apprentice Wing.

Parade Detail

The parade was under the command of Flight Sergeant Apprentice I. A. J. Brunton. Other N.C.O. Apprentices were Subordinate

Commanders. Entries on parade were the 101st and 102nd.

Parade Adjutant Cpl.App. P. F. Bergeman
Parade Warrant Officer

Cpl.App. J. H. Cook
Sgt.App. A. J. Hurst
Colour Bearer
Colour Warrant Officer

Cpl.App. R. F. P. Beaver
Cpl.App. Chua Yop Pong
Cpl.App. R. H. Johnson
Colour Escort
Air.App. C. J. Doughty

Colour Orderly
Escort Squadron Commander
Sgt.App. P. J. Rayment

No. 1 Flight Commander
Cpl.App. V. A. Corner

No. 2 Flight Commander
Cpl.App. J. F. Glover

No. 2 Squadron Commander
Sgt.App. K. T. Teo

No. 1 Flight Commander
Cpl.App. D. R. Mason

No. 2 Flight Commander
Cpl.App. J. M. Peke-Vout

The Brass and Pipe Bands of Aircraft Apprentices provided the music.

The Commandant's Report

I would like to begin by giving our Reviewing Officer a very special welcome. Air Marshal Cross is at present Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Transport Command, and was previously Commander-in-Chief Bomber Command for five years. It gives me, personally, very great pleasure to welcome Air Marshal Cross. We have known each other in the Service for almost 30 years. We first met at Halton when playing rugby together for the Royal Air Force team and, later on, when I commanded a Station in Bomber Command. He was my Group Commander. This is not his first visit to Halton as Reviewing Officer—he reviewed the Passing Out of the 86th Entry in April 1960—and we are delighted to welcome him to Halton again today.

I would also like to say a word of welcome to parents. I am sure many of you will have visited the School before, but today sees the climax of your son's Halton training. We all realise here that your help and encouragement have made an important contribution to the successful completion of his apprenticeship. Therefore, I welcome you all and thank you all.

Now I turn to my report on the 101st Entry. The Entry started training in May 1962 with a strength of 119 apprentices. Since then the strength has fallen by eight to 111. Of these eight, three have been lost on medical grounds, four have been discharged as they were unable to maintain the standard of training, and one was transferred to training in a skilled trade.

Technical Training

110 apprentices of the 101st Entry were presented for the Final Trade Test examination and, with three exceptions, all qualified as Junior Technicians; the other three qualified as Senior Aircraftmen. Although the average mark achieved was 70.0%, which maintains the high standard set by previous intakes, it should be noted that the special attainments of the best apprentices of the Entry far surpassed the records of earlier entries.

Education Training

On the education side the basic requirements for successful completion of an apprenticeship is to pass the Final Examina-

tion in education subjects. 111 aircraft apprentices of the 101st Entry sat this examination. The average mark of 64% and the number of Class 'A' passes (27% of the Entry) were greater than for the previous three Entries. Three apprentices failed this examination, thereby marring an otherwise excellent result.

Those apprentices who were considered to have the necessary ability were given an advanced course in educational subjects leading to the award of an Ordinary National Certificate. 29 members of the Entry qualified for these certificates which is a higher proportion than the average over the past five years. Maan achieved the magnificent result of 90% in each of the required subjects, which, until 1962, would have qualified him for a National Award called the Whitworth Prize. Because that prize has been discontinued I have awarded him a special prize.

On an entirely voluntary basis, 94 apprentices of the Entry entered for one or more subjects in the Cambridge General Certificate of Education. Five apprentices gained six certificates at the advanced level. Maan passed in Mathematics and Physics; he is the first apprentice to gain 'A' level Physics during training at Halton. Out of 260 subject entries at the Ordinary level there were 195 subject passes, giving a very good pass rate of 75%.

16 apprentices of the Entry took Part 1 of the City and Guilds Technician Certificate; 11 were successful.

All the extra study that was needed in preparation for these civilian examinations was done by candidates in their own time. Most members of the 101st Entry have therefore made very good use of the educational opportunities at Halton to add to their qualifications by voluntary effort; this has been a commendable feature of their training.

General Service Training

The third main part of the Halton apprenticeship is concerned with General Service Training. This is designed to produce young men who are fit to be members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, to become leaders, non-commissioned officers in the Royal Air Force. It is therefore concerned with developing character, physical fitness, qualities of leadership and comradeship. Games, drill and life in the Wing are the important features here.

At games and sport the Entry has a good all-round record considering its small size, and has produced several first-class individuals. Walker has represented the Command and the Royal Air Force at athletics; Corner has represented the Command at Boxing, Beaver at Shooting, and three apprentices—Solari, Andrews and Glover—have been members of the Command Swimming team. Chua represented the County at Basketball. Glover, Andrews and Fojut won the Amateur Swimming Association Personal Survival Gold Award. Davis and Hart have played for the Station Rugby XV which this season won the Royal Air Force Inter-Station Cup.

In the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Caister gained a Silver Award and eight other apprentices gained Bronze Awards. Three members of the Entry competed as part of the Halton team in the Ten Tors Expedition, and all completed the course. Bryan obtained his Private Pilot's Licence. A number of apprentices have spent leaves abroad; Benning was fortunate enough to go on an exchange visit to the French Air Force; Chua, Teo, Mustapha and Liew of the Royal Malaysian Air Force have seen much of Europe during their stay here.

The Entry has always given a lot of time and money to worthy causes; last Christmas they organised a Wing Parcels scheme for Old Age Pensioners in the Aylesbury area. They also gave generously to the T.S.S. Arethusa and Royal Engineer Depot Benevolent Funds for the loan of two items of ordnance. Socially, all have taken a full part in Wing activities, and for the past two years have organised and provided most of the performers for the Wing Christmas concert and draw. The Entry Beat Group has become well known throughout the local area.

Johnson was selected to represent Great Britain in an International Fitting Competition held in Dublin in 1963, and managed to uphold the high reputation of Halton Apprentices.

The standard of drill has been satisfactory. A number of the Entry were selected for ceremonial occasions which included two-Route-lining commitments and four State Visits.

The 101st Entry has made a good contribution to the voluntary bands. Three

members belong to the Brass Band, one of whom is the Sergeant Apprentice in Charge. Four members belonged to the Corps of Trumpeters, and four to the Pipe Band. Again, the Sergeant in Charge of the Pipe Band was from the 101st Entry—also the Corporal Drum Major. The Pipe Band members gained the following awards: Silver Pipes, Silver Side and Bass Drummer, Commandant's Trumpeter, Commandant's Drum Major.

This is a considerable achievement for a small Entry. Events in which the Bandsmen have taken part include the Royal Tournament, Lord Mayor's Show, Bath Tattoo and various Battle of Britain ceremonies.

Special Service Attainments

Five apprentices of the Entry have been selected for Cadetships—Phillips and Brunton to Cranwell as Cadets in the General Duties Branch, one as pilot and the other as a navigator; and Bates, Hurst and Maan to Henlow as cadets in the Technical Branch. Four other apprentices have been selected for training leading to Direct Entry Commissions: Davis in the General Duties Branch as Pilot; Chester in the General Duties Branch as Navigator, and Johnson and Peeke-Vout in the Technical Branch.

Two apprentices of the Royal Malaysian Air Force, Chua and Mustapha, have been recommended to their Government as suitable for commissioning. Ten are passing out as Substantive Corporals, and 32, i.e. nearly 27% of the Entry, have qualified for accelerated promotion to Corporal.

Conclusion

To conclude my report I would like to say that the Entry has settled down well to Service life and to training at Halton. They started off quietly and, at first, were regarded as having little spirit. As they progressed they became very much a unit and their 'esprit de corps' has been noticeable and and praiseworthy. The Entry has shown that they are capable of continuing the good reputation of Halton Apprentices throughout the Service.

Before I finish I would like to say a word of thanks to the School's staff, both Service and Civilian. I am sure the 101st Entry and their parents, too, are grateful to you today; so for them and for myself I thank you.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all

members of the 101st Entry on successfully completing their training. The name of Halton stands high throughout the Service because of the magnificent contribution your predecessors have made both in war and peace. You must aim always to live up to this fine tradition, but I must stress that your future progress depends entirely on your own efforts. Your training has been good, but only you as individuals can make the best use of it when you leave here. I wish success and happiness to you all.

I will now ask Air Marshal Cross to present the prizes.'

Reviewing Officer's Address

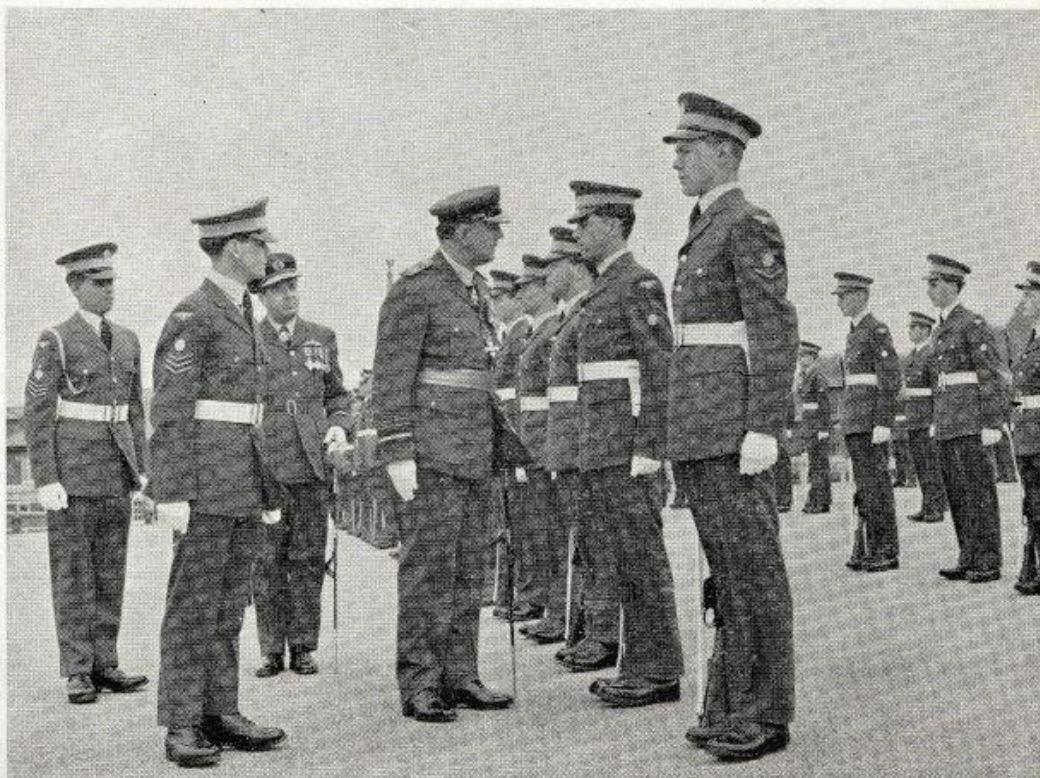
The Reviewing Officer gave a short address to the 101st Entry, explaining its brevity by the fact that the Commandant, looking after their welfare right to the last, had said his talk should be about five minutes in length. This, he thought, was quite right, since the day belonged to the 101st Entry. He therefore

confined himself to making two points.

Firstly, he said, they had acquired the basic skills, which nobody could take from them; but, as the Commandant had also emphasised, it was up to them to use and increase these skills, both for their own benefit and for that of the Service.

Secondly, they would be called upon to show initiative and to be more self-reliant. At Halton they always knew what they had to do, or were soon 'tackled' if they did not. In the Service they were entering much more would depend on themselves; they would have to decide what to do and how to do it. This would be a great change in their way of life and constitute their most important test.

The Reviewing Officer then congratulated the prize-winners and all who passed out from Halton with the 101st Entry. He concluded his address by saying, 'Very good luck to you all. I only hope that some of you will come to Transport Command.'



101st ENTRY - - PRIZEWINNERS

CADETSHIPS

F.Sgt.App. I. A. J. Brunton	...	...	...	General Duties Branch
Ldg.App. J. W. Phillips	...	...	...	General Duties Branch
Sgt.App. A. J. Hurst	...	...	...	Technical Branch
Ldg.App. J. Bates	...	...	...	Technical Branch
Ldg.App. M. H. Maan	...	...	...	Technical Branch

COMMISSIONS

Sg.App. G. Davis	...	...	...	General Duties Branch
Ldg.App. K. H. Chester	...	...	...	General Duties Branch
Cpl.App. R. H. Johnson	...	...	...	Technical Branch
Cpl.App. J. M. Peeke-Vout	...	...	...	Technical Branch

WINNERS OF ROYAL AIR FORCE PRIZES—101st ENTRY

Highest in Order of Merit, All Subjects

Cpl.App. J. M. Peeke-Vout

Highest in Order of Merit, Educational Subjects

First Prize: Ldg.App. M. H. Maan

Second Prize: Sgt.App. K. T. Teo

Best "Set Task" General Studies

Ldg.App. M. H. Maan

Highest in Order of Merit, General Service Efficiency

First Prize: Sgt.App. P. J. Rayment

Second Prize: F.Sgt.App. I. A. J. Brunton

Highest Average for Practical Fitting over Three-Year Course

Cpl.App. R. H. Johnson

Best Tradesmen in Trade Standards Trade Test

Airframe Fitter	...	...	...	Cpl.App. J. F. Glover
Electrical Fitter (Air)	...	...	...	F.Sgt.App. I. A. J. Brunton
Engine Fitter	...	...	...	Cpl.App. R. H. Johnson
Instrument Fitter (Gen.)	...	...	...	Sgt.App. P. J. Rayment
Instrument Fitter (Nav.)	...	...	...	Cpl.App. J. M. Peeke-Vout

Commandant's Special Prize for Distinction in O.N.C. Examination

Ldg.App. M. H. Maan

WINNERS OF SPECIAL PRIZES—101st ENTRY

Monsignor Beauchamp Memorial Prize

The late Monsignor Beauchamp was Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain for the Royal Air Force and for almost 20 years Roman Catholic Chaplain at Halton. On his death a fund was raised to provide among other presentations a book prize to the best all round Apprentice passing out with each Entry.

Winner—F.Sgt.App. I. A. J. Brunton

Pioneer Trophy

Presented by the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service Ex-Boys Association to the Apprentice who obtains the highest marks in all technical training subjects at the final examination of each Entry.

Winner—Cpl.App. R. H. Johnson

Crebbin-Robinson Cups

At the 1936 Model Engineering Exhibition held in London certain examples of basic exercises carried out by Apprentices at Halton were on display. These exhibits were admired by a Dr. Robinson and a Mr. Crebbin who kindly offered a Cup for the best Trade Standards Practical Fitting Test at the Final examinations of each Entry. In December, 1960, a second Cup

was provided from School funds. One Cup is now awarded for the best Trade Standards Practical Fitting Test in Mechanical Trades and the other for the best Trade Standards Practical Fitting Test in Electrical and Instrument Trades.

Winner—Mechanical Trades:

Cpl.App. R. H. Johnson

Winner—Electrical and Instrument Trades:

Ldg.App. P. Taberham

Elliott Memorial Prize

Mr. R. D. Elliott was Sir Alan Cobham's ground engineer during his many flights to India and South Africa in the early 1920's. In 1926 Mr. Elliott was killed during the first England to Australia flight. In 1927 a Memorial Prize was awarded by the Royal Aeronautical Society to be presented to the Apprentice who gained the highest marks in English and General Studies at the final examinations of each Entry.

Winner—Ldg.App. R. L. Beveridge

Quinton Memorial Trophy

On 13th August, 1951, Flight Lieutenant J. A. Quinton sacrificed his life in saving an A.T.C. Cadet when both were flying in an aircraft which was involved in a mid-air collision. For this supreme act of gallantry Flight Lieutenant Quinton was posthumously awarded the "George Cross". As a mark of esteem all A.T.C. Cadets at that time subscribed one penny per head so that the Quinton Memorial Trophy and replica could be presented to the best all round ex-A.T.C. Cadet passing out with each Entry at Halton.

Winner—Cpl.App. J. M. Peeke-Vout



Boxing					
C.A.A. Corner, V. A.	...	...	...	...	1963
Cross Country					
L.A.A. Knight, T. J.	...	...	...	...	1964
A.A. Tobin, K. D.	...	...	...	...	1964
A.A. Wells, R. K.	...	...	...	...	1964
Hockey					
C.A.A. Clemons, J. R.	...	...	...	...	1963/64/65
A.A. Collins, D. R.	...	...	...	...	1963/64
C.A.A. Cook, J. H.	...	...	...	...	1965
C.A.A. Corner, V. A.	...	...	...	...	1963/64
Rugby					
A.A. Caister, J.	...	...	...	...	1965
A.A. Campbell, D.	...	...	...	...	1965
S.A.A. Davis, G.	...	...	...	...	1965
L.A.A. Hart, V.	...	...	...	...	1965
A.A. Hart, E. M.	...	...	...	...	1965
L.A.A. Speight, W.	...	...	...	...	1965
L.A.A. Stockbridge, C. D.	...	...	...	...	1965
Shooting					
C.A.A. Beaver, R. F. P.	...	...	...	...	1963/64/65
L.A.A. Cole, R. D.	...	...	...	...	1965
Swimming					
C.A.A. Glover, J. F.	...	...	...	...	1964
A.A. Solari, L. R.	...	...	...	...	1963

101st ENTRY POSTING LIST (in order of merit)

Peeke-Vout, J. M.	Direct Entry Commission Technical Branch Substantive Corporal	Mustapha, B. H. Said Chester, K. H.	Recommended for Technical Commission Direct Entry Commission G.D. Navigator.
Brunton, I. A. J.	Cranwell Cadetship in G.D. Branch— Navigator Substantive Corporal	Rowe, B. W. Speight, W. Fordham, A. D. A. Dickinson, C. J. M.	4 F.T.S. Valley 1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse Colerne 1 Sqn. West Raynham
Maan, M. H.	Henlow Cadetship in Technical Branch	Taberham, P. Wells, R. K. Purser, D.	201 Sqn. St. Mawgan Ternhill Return to Halton (Medical)
Staton, E.	6 F.T.S. Acklington		Substantive Corporal
Johnson, R. H.	Direct Entry Commission Technical Branch	Unwin, D. R. Mason, D. R.	Scampton Akrotiri Substantive Corporal
Bates, J.	Henlow Cadetship in Technical Branch	Lee, R. E. Glover, J. F. Liew See Khan	Cranwell Lyneham Repatriated Malaysia
Rayment, P. J.	4 F.T.S. Valley Substantive Corporal	Calver, C. J. Davis, G.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall Direct Entry Commission G.D. Pilot
Teo, K. T.	Return to Halton Substantive Corporal	Lloyd, R. A. Allward, M. E. Bergeman, P. F.	4 F.T.S. Valley Ternhill Lyneham
Phillips, J. W.	Cranwell Cadetship in G.D. Branch—Pilot	Alcock, D. F. Beveridge, R. L.	Substantive Corporal 214 Sqn. Marham 32 M.U. St. Athan
Chua Yop Pong	Recommended for Technical Cadetship. Qualifies as Subt. Corporal		
Hurst, A. J.	Henlow Cadetship in Technical Branch Substantive Corporal		

Tobin, K. D.	Lyneham	Campbell, D.	204 Sqn. Ballykelly
Hillan, M. T.	32 M.U. St. Athan	McQuillan, L.	Scampton
Stockbridge, C. D.	210 Sqn. Ballykelly	Cole, R. D.	5 F.T.S. Oakington
Sealy, A. S.	Lyneham	Walker, B. J.	Cranwell
Knight, T. J.	1 A.N.S. Stradishall	Kemble, H. D.	Cottesmore
Clemons, J. R.	242 O.C.U. Thorney Island	Hewison, M.	Watton
	Substantive Corporal	Cook, J. M.	242 O.C.U. Thorney Island
Bryan, T. V.	5 F.T.S. Oakington	Bicknell, B. J.	85 Sqn. Binbrook
Lawson, M.	Wittering	Findlay, J. W.	214 Sqn. Marham
Andrews, C. E.	Lyneham	Seibert, M. L. K.	Cranwell
Barklie, J. R.	204 Sqn. Ballykelly	Horn, P.	West Raynham
Muddiman, J. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan	Collins, D. R.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Botterell, A. J.	5 F.T.S. Oakington	Willmott, M.	4 F.T.S. Valley
Corner, V. A. J.	Lyneham	Jones, R. J.	1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse
Bhikarry, C.	Lyneham	Welford, D. F.	3 F.T.S. Leeming
Kimkeran, J.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall	Jewell, C. J.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall
Butt, K. M.	Kinloss	McLean, I. R.	Kinloss
Hawkins, M. A.	229 O.C.U. Chivenor	Newbery, G. P.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall
Benning, P. J.	Lyneham	Solari, L. R.	Wittering
Hart, V. P.	4 F.T.S. Valley	Almond, B.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Beaver, R. F. P.	Lyneham	O'Gorman, C.	Kinloss
Colegate, T. R.	Wittering	Mee, R. A.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Pay, C.	242, O.C.U. Thorney Island	Girling, G. J.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall
	Scampton	Davy, C. L.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Matthews, G. L.	West Raynham	Rogers, B. E.	Lyneham
Sheffield, P. C. J.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall	Cumbe, C. M.	C.F.S. Little Rissington
Stott, J. G.	242 O.C.U. Thorney Island	Caister, J. R.	Lyneham
Tucker, D. P.	Wyton	Hart, E. M.	Cranwell
	Lyneham	Hortop, D.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Setchfield, R. A.	3 F.T.S. Leeming	Winstanley, B. J.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Cooke, G. G.	Kinloss	Pleydell, P. A. R.	85 Sqn. Binbrook
Budkiewicz, K. S.	Lyneham	Doughty, C. J.	85 Sqn. Binbrook
Fojut, J. C.	5 F.T.S. Oakington	Hudson, M. B.	Colerne
Bates, C. M. H.	West Raynham	Neal, M.	C.F.S. Little Rissington
Foreman, A. S.	56 Sqn. Wattisham	Diver, R. H.	32 M.U. St. Athan
Johnson, A. R.	4 F.T.S. Valley	McKenzie, J.	1 F.T.S. Linton-on-Ouse
Anderson, J. Mc.K.	1 A.N.S. Stradishall	PASSED OUT AS SENIOR AIRCRAFTMAN:—	
Thorndale, P. W. S.	5 F.T.S. Oakington	O'Connell, T. A. J.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall
Lewis, T. J.	4 F.T.S. Valley	George, G. J. T.	C.F.S. Little Rissington
Mohammed Farouk	Watton	Sellery, I.	226 O.C.U. Coltishall
Taylor, G. L.		IN HOSPITAL, NOT EXAMINED	
Coward, M. C.		Clarke, M.	

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we record the accidental death on 15th April, 1965, of Junior Technician K. H. Chester, a most successful and popular member of 101st Entry.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Chester wish to thank all those who kindly sent messages of condolence, many of which they were unable to acknowledge at the time.

TECHNICAL TRAINING WING NOTES

AIRFRAME AND PROPULSION TRAINING SQUADRON

This is the last term that Aircraft Apprentices will be numerically superior to Craft Apprentices and, with the increase in the numbers of the latter, the rate of their movement from phase to phase sharpens up considerably. The first entries of craft apprentices are making good progress and are expected to set a good standard for their successors to follow.

In July we bid goodbye to two retiring civilian instructors who have been concerned with aircraft apprentice training at Halton so long and so well that their names will be remembered by many thousands of ex-apprentices.

Mr. W. G. Sparks—joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1917 and was trained at Halton under Colonel Bonham-Carter. Later he finished his technical training as a carpenter-rigger at Cranwell and, in 1919, was posted to Eastchurch. In 1920 he was sent to Cranwell as an instructor to train the first entry of apprentices under the Trenchard scheme. From Cranwell he went to India to serve with No. 31 Squadron on the North West Frontier. In 1925 he was posted back to Henlow, then Home Aircraft Depot. He was demobbed and, in February 1926, appointed civilian instructor at Manston and trained Carpenters and Metal-Riggers until 1935, when he was transferred to Halton. In 1941, he again joined the R.A.F. as a Flight Sergeant supervisor in the New Workshops. After being demobbed in 1945 he resumed civilian service here at Halton as an instructor until the present date, giving 48 years of unbroken service to the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force.

Mr. J. N. Angless—learned his trade with Sopwith Aviation Co. in 1914. In 1917 he joined the Royal Naval Air Service and served at Cranwell, No. 207 Squadron in France, and in H.M.S. Renown. In 1920 he first came to Halton as a R.A.F. instructor. After discharge he worked once again with Sopwith/Hawkers and Imperial Airways. In 1928 he was appointed a civilian instructor and has served here at Halton since that date, giving a total of 40 years service to the Royal Naval Air

Service and Royal Air Force. During the last war, he rejoined the R.A.F. and was Flight Sergeant i/c Airfield Training until 1945.

Both Mr. Angless and Mr. Sparks have given devoted service in their many years of involvement in aircraft apprentice training. They have set a fine example and will be greatly missed. We wish them every happiness in their retirement.

ELECTRICAL AND INSTRUMENT TRAINING SQUADRON

INSTRUMENT FITTER FLIGHT

The Spring term ended with the departure of the 101st Entry and once again the Flight was successful in gaining a good proportion of the passing-out prizes.

Congratulations to C.A.A. Peeke-Vout on being selected for a commission in the Technical Branch, and to our other prize winners S.A.A. Rayment, L.A.A. Taberham and L.A.A. Beveridge.

After Easter we learned of the death of L.A.A. Chester in a motor cycle accident. This was a great tragedy as he had a bright future ahead of him and had been selected for a Commission.

It is now known that the training of Instrument apprentices at Halton will finish with the 106th Entry and that future training under the new rationalised trade structure will give a completely new look to the Instrument trade. Basically, the changes mean that the 'General' side of the trade will be divided up and allocated to the Aircraft Fitters (Electrical) and (Airframe) Trades, whilst the 'Navigation' side will join up with the signals trade group. Future training of the Electronic Fitters (Navigation Instruments), as they will be called, is to be carried out at Cosford starting in October, 1965. All this means that this year will see the start of the 'run-down' of Instrument training, with preparations being made for the move of staff and equipment.

We welcome W.O. Bond (Ex. 33rd Entry), who has joined us from Abingdon to take over duties from W.O. Slack, who retired in May. W.O. 'Percy' Slack joined the R.A.F. as an apprentice in 1926 with 13th Entry. During his long and varied career he served in many fields

and we, at Halton, should consider ourselves fortunate to have enjoyed his company for so long. We shall all miss his cheerful personality and undimmed enthusiasm. We are sure that all his many friends throughout the Service wish him well in his new post at the Aylesbury Technical College.

ELECTRICAL TRAINING FLIGHT

During this term there have been very few changes of our staff. Sgt. Sansom (to whom we extend our congratulations) was selected for commissioning. This is a loss to the Station Judo Club, and those who are left behind hope to meet him, in the not too distant future, on the "mat".

Congratulations are extended to the following members of our staff on promotion:

Sergeant Horsfield to Chief Technician:

Corporal Brunton to Sergeant:

Corporal Abraham to Sergeant.

A hearty welcome is extended to Mr. H. Vizard, ex-Henlow, who has taken up the reins of civilian supervisor.

Praise to M.P.B.W. for maintaining the temperature in our old workshops to an ideal working condition, although the winter was not all that severe.

The term ended with the 101st Entry giving their best on the termination of a 3-year training course and rewarding us with a 100% pass. Our congratulations are extended to them all, and we wish to thank them for the excellent manner in which they conducted themselves as hosts to the lucky few on the occasion of their graduation dinner.

AIRCRAFT TECHNICAL SQUADRON

The first of the Aircraft Technician apprentices, the 107th Entry, arrived in October of last year, and being the "first" and having no senior entry to turn to for advice, were a little bewildered by thoughts of what the future held for them. Happily, after six months of training, they have settled down well. With the arrival of the 108th Entry it is noticeable that confidence and morale of the 'seniors' have risen.

The wide open and empty spaces of Bays 4 and 5, which rumour had it were at different times earmarked as suitable for a skating rink, indoor sports arena, and parade ground, are fortunately gradually filling with training

equipment as the build-up of the squadron progresses, and work is now in hand for the second-year subjects.

Two of the original members of the squadron, who were responsible for writing the training notes and lesson guides, Ch.Techs. Thomas and McLean, have left us, and we wish them well in their new posts, and thank them for a job well done.

AIRFIELD TRAINING SQUADRON

With the passing of winter and the arrival of spring, the Airfield once more comes into its own. Outside activity increases with the apprentices of all trades learning to work together in close co-operation with those of other trades, as they will have to do when they leave the sheltered life of Halton to go out to the operational units.

No. 3 Hangar has taken on a new look, from the serviceing point of view, with the introduction of teams of apprentices carrying out minor serviceings on Hunters. The extension of this phase to a Canberra is under way and it is hoped that future entries will gain that extra experience. The introduction of this phase has not been without problems but these were overcome by dint of that extra effort that we have come to expect from Ch.Tech. Barraclough and his staff.

Changes in the scene have not been limited to the serviceing side. There have been changes in personnel, too. At the beginning of the year we said farewell to Mr. Green, who retired from the post of Civilian Supervisor after many years with the R.A.F. With his retirement we lose our link with the first entry of aircraft apprentices because he was an instructor when they were first trained at Cranwell. A presentation was made on behalf of the staff of the airfield by Sqn. Ldr. H. G. Aviss, O.C. Airfield Training Squadron. We were sorry to see Mr. Green go but we wish him a long and happy retirement. Coupled with our farewell to Mr. Green we extend a warm welcome to his successor, Mr. Paul, with the hope that his stay in the post is as long and successful as that of Mr. Green. He is no stranger to Halton having been at the airfield in the dim and distant past.

Other departures were F.S. Stamp of Maintenance Flight who has retired to manage

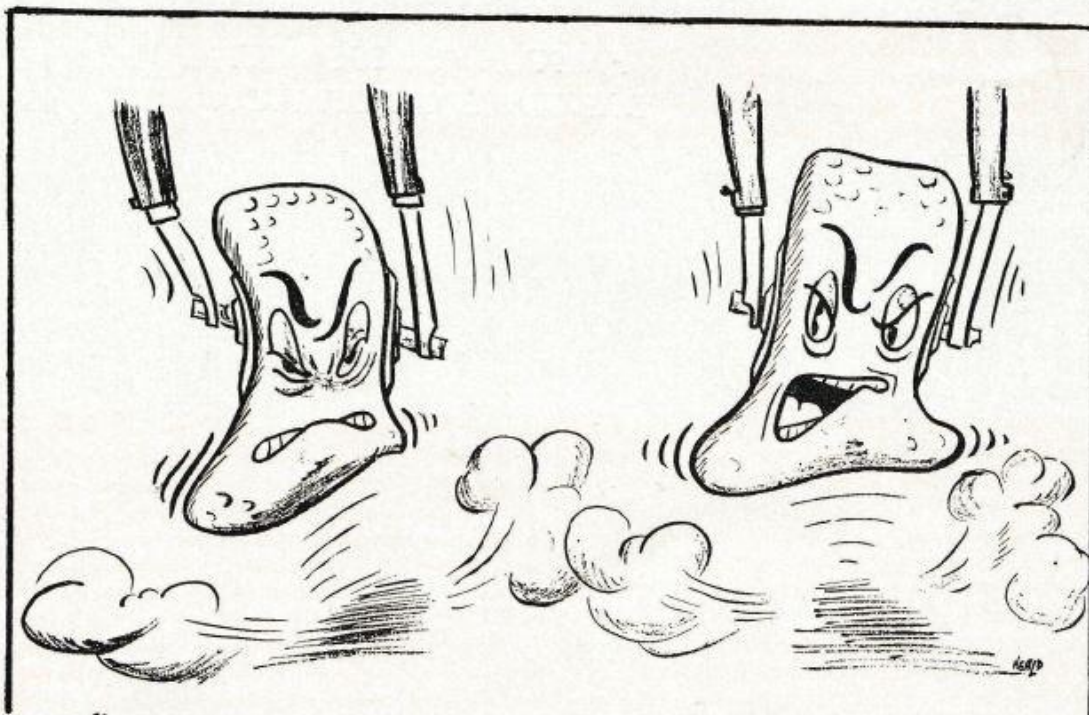
licenced premises in Fenny Stratford; a recent visit by members of the airfield staff revealed that he has settled in quite happily. The question of future liaison visits is under discussion. Ch.Tech. Kingston, that stalwart of the Engine Trade, has left us to return to his old hunting ground at Acklington.

By the time this magazine comes out we shall have said farewell to W.O. Lake, retiring after thirty years plus; he is not deserting school life altogether, as he is to be a Laboratory Technician at Aylesbury Grammar School. It is certain that the boys of his new school are going to benefit from his experience. We wish him well in his new venture.

To balance our departures we have been re-stocked in the persons of F.S. Keeper,

Ch.Tech. Davies, Sgt. Roshier, Sgt. Petrie, Cpl. Breaker and Cpl. Swann.

Along with the departure of some of the staff to new fields of endeavour the Airfield Squadron has ventured out into the realms of the Cinema! We were recently invaded by a crew from the J. Arthur Rank organisation operating from Pinewood Studios. They took photographs and casts of bits and pieces of our Vulcans to assist in the production of the new James Bond film, "Thunderball". Much to the chagrin of all there was no feminine element, at least not in our part. The major part of the film is to be shot in the Bahamas and volunteers to accompany them on location were not lacking, but all to no avail. It is understood that these positions have been already filled.



"ONCE MORE, THAT'S ALL, JUST ONCE *!#!* MORE!"

[By kind permission of Coastal Command's 'Thro the Looking Glass']

APPRENTICE WING NOTES

No. 1(A) WING NOTES

102nd Entry

The Entry has had its busiest term to date, with preparations for the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill coinciding with revision for Schools Finals, G.D.T. Finals, and G.S.K. Finals. The airfield phase has awakened the drowsy amongst us, and is proving an interesting and enlightening period. It is, however, still debatable whether taking a bus to work is adequate compensation for two nights' E.T.T. each week.

The School Finals result has been released, and the Entry average is the second highest since the opening of Halton, with F.S.A.A. Marcus, L.A.A. Jayakody, L.A.A. Malin gaining A1 passes. There were also 28.5% 'A' class passes, 58.4% B1 class passes. The percentage of passes in the O.N.C. was the highest achieved under present examination conditions, 34.3% of the Entry, with 6 as yet unconfirmed.

Our still incomplete staff, who continue to present their usual hard-working exterior, await the N.C.O. who is due in early June to take the place of Sgt. Meehan. His arrival will be gratefully received by both F.S. Morley and Sgt. Ingham, who are fast gaining wrinkles and losing weight.

The final promotion parade produced F.S.A/A Marcus, who is to be congratulated on his achievement.

Despite Examination pressures, the Entry has a good representative contingent in most of the school activities. L.A.A.s Clouder, Shepherd, Bardel, Eighteen, A.A.s Close and Thomas helped the Station 1st and 2nd soccer teams to win their respective leagues.

A.A. Gavin, who has been competing in the Royal Tournament Fencing Competition, has now reached the Silver Medal standard, and we wish him every success. L.A.A. Moore, L.A.A. Clark, L.A.A. Webster, A.A. Mitchum and A.A. Bradshaw have been successfully competing in a series of shooting matches, and are in readiness for a trip to Bisley. Out of 11,000 starters A.A. Banfield and A.A. Alsop completed a 50 mile walk in the positions 944th and 945th. L.A.A. Soanes and L.A.A.

Taylor have represented the station Rugby XV, which won the R.A.F. Inter Station Rugby cup against R.A.F. St. Athan. C.A.A. Dracup helped the R.A.F. (A) Squash team to win its match against Hereford County.

The Entry contingent in the Bands has been very active, and has played a decisive role in the winning of the Band Competition for No. 1 (A) Wing. The Entry has the Silver Trumpeter, C.A.A. Hibbert, Silver Side Drummer, C.A.A. Honey and Silver Drum Major, L.A.A. Deronal.

Congratulations to C.A.A. Hern, L.A.A. Kingston, A.A. Organ and A.A. Gillott, who all gained Gold Awards for personal survival at swimming; to A.A. King, who gained his Silver C (height) in Gliding and to A/A Halman, whose model aircraft won an event in the F.A.I. Championships.

The Entry recently sponsored an outing to take a party of children from the Bledlow Children's Home to see a pantomime, and supplied them with a little pocket-money each.

The Entry, preparing for Finals, is awash with enthusiasm, and hopes to make a clean sweep of the boards rising to heights comparable only with that of Nelson's Column.

104th Entry General

The 104th Entry spent the Spring Term consolidating its reputation of the previous year and preparing for the home run of the final three terms.

Twenty-two members of the Entry were selected to fill the total complement required for the Royal Air Force Escort party at the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill, and the Entry also provided a further three flights for route-lining duties. The apprentices involved were accommodated for a week at Chelsea and Woolwich Barracks, and carried out their respective duties throughout with the accuracy and smartness appropriate to the occasion and their reputation.

We are sorry to say goodbye to F.S. Hay, who has been posted to St. Athan, and to Sgt. Carstairs, who has gone to acquire what will be, no doubt, an excellent sun-tan at Steamer Point, Aden. Both have been posted

to Maintenance Units, where we hope that the calmness of nerve engendered at Halton will stand them in good stead. We wish them both the best of luck in their new postings.

Four L.A.A.s received their second stripe—L.A.A.s Fuller, Gibson, Hooper and Spink. They, too, may require calmness of nerve . . .

Sport

The Entry has continued to provide competent support to School and Station Sport, being represented in Swimming, Fencing, Cross-country, Squash, Rugby, Table tennis, Soccer, Hockey and Boxing. Three apprentices—A.As Edmunds, Longden and Price—were awarded the A.S.A. Personal Survival Gold Medal.

Conclusion

The Entry continues to play an active part in Halton life and, in the last term, has consolidated its position.

202nd Entry

The 202nd Craft Apprentice Entry arrived on the 4th January, 1965, and entered No. 2 Squadron. On induction there were 99 members, but unfortunately one Craft Apprentice was medically discharged soon after arrival. At the end of the A and B weeks' initial training B Flight won the inter-flight drill competition by a very narrow margin. In the sporting field a number of C.As have done well. C.As Playle, Fortune, Stirling and Parkin represented the Wing in the B-K. Competition.

C.As Hicks and Weindling have played for the Colts Rugby XV. 8 other C.As are training for the Ten Tors expedition which takes place during the Summer Term.

2(A) WING NOTES

201st Entry

The 201st Entry entered their second term, as the first Craft Apprentice Entry, with the highest praise from all sections of the training organisation. It was anticipated that they would have difficulty in coping with a syllabus compressed to meet a two year training period. They have proved that they are capable of coping with this very comprehensive programme and have settled down extremely well.

During the second term the Entry participated in most Apprentice activities and in some cases, especially Boxing, reached School representative standard. A team has been entered for the Ten Tors Competition and devoted much of its spare time to training during the term. The Entry is strongly represented in both Bands, providing six members of the Brass Band and fourteen members of the Pipe Band.

Four members of the Entry applied for, and were granted, Technician Apprenticeships, being subsequently transferred to the 108th Entry. The Entry is developing well and will be ready to make its contribution, in a Senior capacity, at the end of this year.

103rd Entry

The beginning of the Spring Term was also the beginning of the 103rd Entry's final year of training. Unfortunately, it began with the wrong sort of publicity, resulting in the departure of three members of the Entry. The 103rd then settled down to continue its steady progress and to participate in almost every sphere of apprentice activity.

In sport the Entry provided members of almost every school representative team. At



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soccer they showed particular talent and seven members of the Entry played regularly for the first eleven, whilst others gained representation in other teams. During the Easter leave, Fg.Off. Williams, an ex-deputy Squadron Commander, who is now a civilian resident of Guernsey, organized matches for the apprentices against the island's Minor and Junior teams. The apprentices' team won both matches in addition to having an enjoyable few days in Guernsey. Worthy of particular mention is A.A. Proctor, who has been nominated for the 1966 R.A.F. Gymnastics Team. S.A.A. Johnson has been selected as the School cricket captain for the 1965 season.

In the Wing sports teams the 103rd Entry provided all the members of the 2 Wing squash and fencing teams, over half the members of the rugby and soccer teams, and representatives in every other sport except boxing. However, it must be said that other entries supported the 103rd Entry well and assisted in the winning of the Barrington-Kennett Trophy.

One third of the R.A.F. contingent who marched in the funeral procession of Sir Winson Churchill came from the 103rd Entry and all who took part have been congratulated on their high standard.

The No. 2(A) Wing band which took part in the band competition consisted entirely of the 103rd Entry, a point which was made quite clear to the judges and spectators by the drum major. They expressed their disappointment at coming second, albeit a very close second, by their impressive playing of a lament as the judges and spectators departed

from the parade ground. In the individual competitions L.A.A. Rattray won the Silver Pipes for the second time and A.A. Rawden won the award for the Best Base Drummer.

Undeterred by their experiences on 'The Moor' last year, some members of the Entry have decided to have another crack at the Ten Tors expedition and an entry team is entered for the Senior expedition. Fg.Off. Fox, the Deputy Squadron Commander, has organized what can only be described as a fearful training programme for all the Halton teams. If the enthusiasm and determination shown during this training is any guide, the teams should certainly achieve success this year.

At the end of the term the Entry found themselves in the unique position of providing all the N.C.O. apprentices for the Wing. It is therefore to be hoped that the 103rd Entry will lead No. 2(A) Wing to success in all activities in the forthcoming term.

No. 3(A) WING NOTES

The Spring term, although rather quiet in most respects, did see a number of staff changes on the Wing. We extend a cordial welcome to F.S. Russell, who has taken over in 2 Squadron from F.S. Whisken, to F.S. Troke, who has joined the P.T. Section, and to Cpl. Hunter, who is now with No. 3 Squadron. We wish 'bon voyage' to F.S. Norris, who was posted to Germany during April, to F.S. Whisken, who has been posted to Innsworth, and to Sgt. Picken, who retired on the 15th January 1965. The 302nd Entry of Administrative Apprentices (Nursing), consist-

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ing of 25 apprentices, arrived on 3 Wing on the 4th January, 1965, and we wish them the best of luck in the future.

105th Entry

At the beginning of their fifth term at Halton, the 105th Entry said 'Hello' to F.S. Whisken, and at the end of the term said 'Goodbye' to him as he left for Innesworth. F.S. Russell, from Kinloss, has taken over, and is made welcome.

The Spring term was, of course, the dramatic occasion of Sir Winston's funeral, in which the 105th played its part in the funeral procession to its usual high standard. Drill and turnout were immaculate and congratulations are due to all those taking part.

The first leading apprentices in 3 Wing for some years made their appearance at the beginning of the term. Fourteen apprentices forsook the many coloured lanyards and proudly stitched on the coveted 'first tape'. L.A.As Bill, Theobald, Webb, Pettigrew, Duggan, Fisher, Joy, LeJeune, Sloss, Cosham, Cruse, Slaney, Thomas and Young discharge their responsibilities as Apprentice N.C.Os. whilst L.A.As Goodrum and Denwood, as Trumpet Major and Drum Major respectively, rule the band to the satisfaction of Sgt. Cooke—to whom the 105th add their congratulations on the award of the B.E.M. Contrary to report, this does not stand for Band Engineers Medal!

In the sports field, the 105th have continued to show their metal. A.A. Dobson was a regular member of the Station Rugby XV and was unfortunate not to be in 'at the kill' at Uxbridge, in the Station Cup Final. A.A. Brown earned recognition by his selection for the Junior R.A.F. Basketball team. The Entry soccer teams established their undoubted superiority by walking away with their respective competitions. A.As Wilkinson and Gannaway play regularly for the School and Station Hockey team.

In the pre-summer camp exercises, A.A. McCarthy distinguished himself by stepping into the breach left by his syndicate leader and getting his syndicate lost under a sign-post! Cruel fate, or had another syndicate turned the signs round the other way?

With the advent of summer, strange, outlandish costumes of uniform white have been making their appearance from cunningly

concealed hiding places in the barrack blocks. It now remains only for the 105th to continue their winning ways throughout the summer term. 'Twere strange should not success continue to attend our ventures.'

106th Entry

During the spring term there were many occasions for handclapping and backslapping when announcements were made on pay parades about the superior performances set up by individuals in the 106th Entry. These splendid achievements, which are recounted below, serve to punch home the fact that the 106th are really heading for the 'top dog' position in the status stakes at Halton, and are cutting through the fanfaronade put up by the 105th Entry.

With support from the 105th, forty nine members of the 106th Entry had the honour of taking part in the State Funeral for Sir Winston Churchill at the start of the term. At about the same time results of the Cambridge G.C.E. Winter examinations were published and the record total of 66 members of this entry passed in one or more subjects; this meant that we had the most passes in the whole of the School in this particular examination.

At the beginning of February the B.-K. Boxing competition was held and the Entry's honour was upheld by 'Hurricane' Hadwell, whose fight was stopped in the first round, 'Battler' Brown (264), and 'Cruncher' Corton who boxed in a special bout. Later in the term both Hadwell and Brown were rewarded with their School Colours for boxing and, by a strange twist of fate, A.A. Brown became unofficial I.S.B. champion! Apprentices from this Entry also took part in a boxing exhibition given before patients in the Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Further news on individual successes comes from the cross country, basketball, hockey, table tennis and fencing worlds where the 106th is well represented. In February, A.A. Bowden was entered in the Southern Counties' (Youth) Cross-Country over three miles, and was placed 32nd out of a field of approximately 400—an extremely fine effort.

On the 24th February he achieved a good team-placing in the R.A.F. Cross-County Championships, and in March he ran with

the R.A.F. team against the University of Wales. There is no doubt that, with correct training and guidance, Bowden can 'go places in double quick time' in the future.

School colours for basketball were presented to A.A. Joyner, for hockey to A.A. Saiffurahman, and for table tennis to A.A. Neo and 264 A.A. Brown; the Entry present their congratulations to these apprentices for these excellent results in their particular sports.

It is not often that fencing hits the headlines but at R.A.F. St. Athan on the 23rd March, 251 A.A. Davies, with only one season of fencing experience to his credit, won the individual epee competition section in phase II of the Royal Tournament and became Command representative in the epee for the next stage of the Royal Tournament competition. Our best wishes go with Davies for his future success and we hope to see him at Earls Court this year.

Even though the Spring term was highlighted by individual successes, the Ten Tors competition provided plenty of opportunity for the 106th to enter 'en masse' and, even with the inevitable wastage through blister and lack of stamina, an heartening total of 21 apprentices from this Entry are still slogging away each weekend—good luck to them at Whitsun. Another form of foot-slogging commenced during the Spring term with the preparation and rehearsals for the A.O.C.'s Annual Inspection and Parade, the 106th Entry having been accorded the honour of mounting the Parade for No. 1 S. of T.T. on the 13th May, 1965. However, the details of this auspicious occasion will be reported in the next issue of the Magazine.

As a parting shot it should be noted by all readers of the Halton Magazine that the excellent illustrations (cartoons) contained on pages 41 and 43 of the Spring issue, were drawn by 278 Brown of the 106th Entry, and **not**, as quoted, by A.A. Brown of the 100th Entry.

107th Entry

Having arrived mid-way through the autumn term, the 107th Entry did not complete a full term at Halton until February of this year, when they received their first privilege and slipped thankfully into civilian clothes for walking-out at weekends.

The Entry has done well to uphold the banner of the Technician Apprentice by

achieving high marks in Workshops' and Schools' progress tests. They had their first introduction to the Lee Enfield No. 4 Mk. I Drill Rifle and will no doubt soon be able to show the 'craft' wing how it should be done.

On the sports field the entry has made itself felt in spite of its small numbers. T.A. Straw played rugger for the school and for the R.A.F. Colts team and was selected as reserve for the R.A.F. Senior XV, which is not bad going for a seventeen-year-old in his first term at Halton. T.A. George was rewarded for his hours of hard training by a place in the R.A.F. Junior basketball team. T.A. Griffiths is looking forward to the athletics season and has been selected to run in the 220 yards and 100 yards sprint, so no doubt he will have to cut down on the boiled potatoes!

The Entry has started to make M.P.B.W. Building No. 106 their home, because a record player, some rather splendid paintings and a couple of coffee tables now brighten the rather austere appearance of the study room.

Wing Sports

The B.-K. winter sports were completed during the Spring Term with the following results for 3(A) Wing:

Basketball—second; Boxing—first; Squash—third; Table Tennis—first; Hockey—second; Rugby—second; Soccer—second.

Overall, the Wing came second in the competition, which is an excellent result for the first time of entering, and it looks as though we shall 'beat the pants off' the other Wings next time.

It is a pity that the Wing sports afternoon falls on a Thursday otherwise more boys would have represented the Station. However, T.A. Straw of the 107th Entry played for the Station rugby team which won the R.A.F. Senior Rugby Cup, and he was also selected for R.A.F. v Norwich as a reserve—he should gain a place next year. In basketball, 3(A) Wing won the Watford League.

Table Tennis. The season finished this term and on the whole it was a successful one. Once again a team from this Wing was entered in the Aylesbury and District League and proved themselves by their sportmanship and high standard of performance. Many comments were passed to the Secretary by other teams in their League on their standard of

sportsmanship, and the team are to be congratulated on the impression they have obviously made on other outside teams. The team consisted of A.As Coniam and Armstrong of No. 2 Squadron, A.As Neo and Brown of No. 1 Squadron; Reserve was A.A. Soothill of No. 2 Squadron. This team finished in 5th position in the league which, on the whole, is quite a good performance.

A team consisting of A.As Neo and Brown of No. 1 Squadron, and A.A. Bedford of No. 2 (A) Wing, played inter-Schools games at Locking and Cosford and were very successful. The game against Locking was for the Youth Cup and was won by us with comparative ease.

In the Junior Inter-Schools Cup at R.A.F. Cosford, teams from Hereford, Locking, Cosford and Halton took part. Halton never lost a match and won the cup in a thrilling deciding match against Hereford, 5 games to 4. This was much to the disgust of Hereford who have held this cup since 1960 and started the tournament as favourites to win. This was a first-class show by the Halton team and proved the value of having a team in a local league playing every week.

The table tennis season starts again in September and a number of practice games will be played with a view to picking the team for this season; these games will be published in advance and an invitation is extended to all apprentices interested. Remember, no player's place in the team is assured—if you are good enough you will be in the team.

A great deal of the credit for the good

performances at table tennis must go to Cpl. Ferrier of 3 Wing who has done much of the work involved in organising the teams and the Aylesbury and District League matches.

Wing Band Notes

This term saw the emergence of our first band leading apprentices: A.A. Denwood, Drum Major, and A.A. Goodrum, Trumpet Major, both members of the 105th Entry. It is hoped that in the very near future we shall see them joined in this capacity by members of the 106th Entry who are now trying hard to achieve this exalted rank.

At the beginning of the term the Wing Brass Band joined with the Pipe Band to march the apprentices to and from Schools and Workshops during certain days of the week. This had led to a certain wag saying that 'the Band is the biggest Squadron on the Wing'.

All members of the Pipe Band and Corps of Trumpeters were determined that, come the end of the term Bands' Contest, they would break the monopoly of 1 and 2 Wings, but they still trail behind as good losers, although this time the Corps of Trumpets won handsomely, led by A.A. Goodrum. The pipers were not so successful but nevertheless put up a very creditable show which augurs well for the future.

During the term we welcomed to the band members of the 107th Entry who are shaping up well—so much so, that two trumpeters have successfully qualified for duty, and two members of the brass band are also proving their worth.

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St. Georges Church Notes

We are rarely downhearted. If our moods change, it is only between varying degrees of buoyancy, and at present you find us at the peak.

One reason for this is that our Club premises have been re-decorated, and in fact almost renewed. We have a new roof, new linoleum on the floors, and the whole interior has been painted in gay and refreshing colours. Worn-out furniture has been replaced and we have some rather nice pictures painted by one of our talented members. This external freshness has inspired a freshness of spirit and a renewal of purpose and we are most grateful to those who have given much time and energy to this. Padre Phillips and Mrs. Warmington, in particular, have put a tremendous amount of effort into it.

The second fillip comes from an event in the future. On Battle of Britain Sunday, B.B.C. Television will broadcast 'Songs of Praise' from St. George's Church. We hope to be joined in this by the Choirs of Trinity and Halton Village Churches, as well as by the Children's Choir from the Primary School. The programme will be recorded on the previous Sunday evening, so that while our friends and relations from far-off places will be able to view us we, too, shall have the doubtful pleasure of discovering what we look like when we sing. So don't forget to switch on your set on Sunday, September 19th. We at Halton feel very honoured to be able to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain in this way.

Church of the Holy Family

We were privileged to welcome Rt. Rev. G. Tickle, Roman Catholic Bishop in Ordinary to H.M. Forces, to R.A.F. Halton on February 9th. His Lordship was entertained to lunch at Halton House, and afterwards was conducted on a tour of the station by the Acting Commandant, Gp. Capt. R. C. Fordham, C.B.E.

In the late afternoon the Bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation to candidates presented from Halton and several

neighbouring R.A.F. stations.

The Bishop was greatly impressed by all he saw at R.A.F. Halton, and was delighted to visit our fine new church. His enthusiasm was shared by the many visitors, service and civilian, who came to Halton for this occasion.

We express our grateful thanks to the Commandant, Air Commodore D. M. Strong C.B., A.F.C., at whose invitation the visit was arranged, and to all who made it a memorable occasion.

SCHOOL NOTES

Another term has come and gone within the old redbrick leaving us little by which to remember its days. The 'sausage machine' dealt adequately with the endless stream of apprentices, leaving all concerned with just a slight feeling of being mere cogs in the vast machine.

The Government has started to put out ideas and statements on its plans for comprehensive education. When one examines the administrative problems that the pale shadow of a comprehensive system that we operate here

(Advanced/Normal Streaming) brings, perhaps some of our staff would not relish the thought of serving in the 'real thing'. The system virtually needs a computer; perhaps this would be a good thing in that it is difficult to 'chat up' or influence a computer. Schools would do well to start teaching the elementary principles of computers, and indeed we at Halton could do worse than give a lead on this point.

Thoughts along those lines lead one naturally to consider whether or not the time

honoured civilian Institutions have influenced our syllabus to be more relevant to days of Whittle rather than to the space age.

Within the school here at Halton the electrical empire under Wg.Cdrs. Rothwell and Abraham have been feverishly rebuilding the electrical/electronic labs. If the noise generated is directly proportional to the quality of the improved facilities then we should soon be turning dozens of Watsons-Watts! (Seriously though—what use can a pneumatic drill have in a room full of electronic gadgetry?). The rest of the school has remained unchanged and, staff changes apart, little can be reported.

Spring term saw the departure of a number of long-serving members of our staff whilst our defences have been reinforced by the posting-in of some new chaps. Flt.Lt. Allen left to go to Henlow and thence to Cranwell, whilst Flt.Lt. Floate went to Locking, leaving Flt.Lt. Stables, our redoubtable 'Adj.', to go to

Feltwell. We hope he enjoys the camping! In their place we welcome Flt.Lts. Leckey, Hunt, Lambe and Cowland, together with Fg.Offs. McMoreland and Surgison. We hope they will find their work here worthwhile.

Two keen young Fg.Offs., Bevan and Peakman, were with us for a while but they were forced to leave to go to the E.O.O.C. course at Upwood, poor fellows. Mr. Richards has been with us for a 'short' spell, giving the hard-pushed electrical empire a hand; he will, of course, be returning to Locking in the summer.

Finally we must give mention to our civilian staff. As stated in the previous edition of the magazine, Mr. Payne retired at the end of the Spring Term. Our congratulations go to Mr. Griffin, one of our lab assistants, who was awarded the Imperial Service Medal, the presentation being made by the Air Officer Commanding No. 24 Group in the Schools Building.

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