

The Haltonian Magazine

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Christmas 1938

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CHRISTMAS, 1938



ONCE again an English winter enfolds us in a glacial embrace ; once again thoughts turn towards the turkey and the plum pudding and other less worthy delights of a festive season ; once again an Entry shakes the dust of Halton from its feet ; and once again your Editor takes pen and paper to perform gladly his first task at this time of the year, the welcome duty of wishing all his readers a Merry Christmas.

Parting Summer's lingering bloom so long remained with us, and the passage of autumn has been such a slow, stately movement, that until a few days ago it seemed hardly possible that Christmas 1938 and another issue of the *Halton Magazine* were so close upon us. But such minor items of interest as C.T.T.B. tests, Final and Intermediate Examinations, Passing-Out Dances, hectic rehearsals for the Christmas dramatic production, all bear witness to the approaching end of a term—a term which opened with the International Crisis and which, we may be permitted to hope, will mark the beginning of a new era of peace and goodwill.

The Crisis, although naturally entailing a certain amount of disorganization in the normally noiseless tenor of our way, actually affected us at Halton very little, and daily routine continued without much interruption. "Roll up that map of Halton : it will not be wanted these ten years," was on the tip of everybody's tongue. But the map is still displayed—or is it not ? Where have all these maps and pictures gone ?

International affairs apart, however, the last few months have been memorable ones in the history of the Station ; and without more ado we may proceed to chronicle those events which, in Eastern parlance, the tarantula of destiny has woven into the web of history.

* * * * *

WE extend a respectful and cordial welcome to Air Commodore G. B. Dacre, D.S.O., and wish him a happy tour of duty at Halton. Air Commodore Dacre's flying certificate goes back to 1911, and the records of the War in the Air testify that he holds an honourable place in the history of the Flying Service. As recorded in the last issue of the *Halton Magazine*, he comes to us from the command of No. 25 (Armament) Group, and we trust he finds the rather different character of his new Command not un-

attractive. May we be permitted also to record here that Mrs. Dacre has already established a flourishing Women's Club on the Station?

* * * * *

WE learn that Group Captain H. I. Hanmer, D.F.C., who has served at Halton for three years and has been second-in-command of the Station for nearly the whole of this time, is shortly leaving to take command of the new No. 2 Electrical and Wireless School, Yatesbury. We offer him our best wishes for success on his new Station.

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A NOTEWORTHY event of the term was the visit of H.R.H. the Princess Royal to Halton on October 29th, for the purpose of opening new accommodation for the Nursing Sisters of Princess Mary's R.A.F. Hospital. Her Royal Highness has always displayed keen interest in the Medical and Nursing Services, especially in the Royal Air Force, and the Guard of Honour provided by No. 2 Wing on this occasion was some recognition, albeit small, on the part of this Station of the value of Her Royal Highness' interest to the Service.

* * * * *

NO. 2 School of Technical Training, Cosford (Staffs.), was duly opened in August last, and some 480 aircraft apprentices from Halton were transferred there to mark the occasion. Still more apprentices, we hear, are due to follow at the end of the Christmas leave—namely, the whole of those under training as Fitter Armourer. We believe that eventually Cosford will be identical in size with Halton, and no doubt we shall before long experience the quality of our fellow training establishment, in games and sport and in other ways.

* * * * *

THE increased complexity of modern aeroplanes and of recent developments in design has led to modifications in trades required for the repair and maintenance work of the Service. After a few years' experience of combining fitter and rigger training in the aircraft apprentices' course at Halton, we have now reverted to a simpler order of things, under which an apprentice's training is limited to either the airframe or the aero-engine. There will, however, be no change in the arrangement whereby conversion courses to qualify as Fitter I will be given to Fitters II (Airframe) and Fitters II (Engine) within a few years after completion of apprenticeship training. We know that very great care has been taken to render as smooth as possible the transition from the old course to the new, and we believe that everyone has settled down remarkably quickly to the amended programme.

* * * * *

IT was a notable day in the history of Halton when early in September was added a contingent of the Royal Navy to our numbers. It is, of course, generally known that the Government decided some time ago that the Navy should possess their own Air Service, and that the responsibilities in respect of the Fleet Air Arm which the R.A.F. has hitherto borne should be handed over as soon as possible.

Until, however, the Navy has its own School of Technical Training ready, we at Halton are to assist by training the Naval Air Apprentices. Fifty of these accordingly began their training here in September, and this

number is likely to be multiplied several times early in 1939. We are glad to have these representatives of the Senior Service, and hope they will find their existence at Halton a pleasurable one.

* * * * *

BY courtesy of Messrs. Vickers-Armstrong, Ltd., we are able to give as our frontispiece to this issue of the *Halton Magazine* a remarkable photograph of the three Vickers "Wellesley" Aircraft which, specially adapted for the purpose by the R.A.F. Long Range Development Unit, were used on the recent Ismailia-Port Darwin non-stop flight which broke the world's long distance record. As is probably well known to our readers, two of the machines accomplished the full flight successfully, and covered the 7,162 miles without a stop. We should like to congratulate all concerned in this meritorious performance—makers, maintenance staff and the crews of the machines—which reflects so much credit upon the Service.

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THE January 1936 Entry passes out this term. During their three years' sojourn at Halton they have supplied large numbers to the various Station teams, and have been very keen in their support of Halton Society activities. We wish them good luck on their new Stations, and trust that the good work they began here will be continued elsewhere.

338

To all our readers, at home and overseas,

we send

Christmas Greetings

and the

Very Best Wishes

for 1939



To face page 48.

WING NOTES

No. 1 Wing

THE outstanding achievements of the Wing during the past year have been the winning of the B.K. Trophy once again, this time after an uncomfortably close contest with No. 3 Wing, and tying with No. 2 Wing, our old rivals, for the "Flag." To all those who competed, as well as to those who organized and coached, we extend our congratulations.

The August 1935 Entry have now left us for larger and more scattered spheres of activity: their loss will for a time be keenly felt. The August 1938 Entry, however, are with us, and we trust that they will continue that high spirit of endeavour which has always been the predominant feature of the Wing.

We are pleased to welcome back Wing Commander R. S. Sugden, A.F.C., after a short period of absence on temporary duty at the Air Ministry. An old friend has departed in Squadron Leader C. Boumphrey, D.F.C., and we wish him every success on his new Station. To the many N.C.O.'s of the Wing who have recently been accorded promotion we offer our congratulations, and extend a hearty welcome to those who have joined us.

BASEBALL :—Keen interest was shown throughout the Wing and the Juniors carried off the B.K. Trophy, winning each match of the series.

The Seniors, although losing each of their matches, put up a good performance in each case.

A.A. Sabounir will be missed from the team next season, as he goes to Cosford in January; it was largely owing to his excellent pitching that the Juniors were so successful.

"B" Squadron were the best of the Wing in the Babington Cup Competition, and finished high up in the table. The Wing Flight League saw some keenly contested games, B.4 (A.A. Pearce, capt.) coming out on top. We were well represented in the Station Team, with A.A.'s Morris, Pearce and Sabourin playing regularly, and A.A.'s Garner, Hill and Montgomerie were also called upon.

The B.K. Teams were:

Senior: Morris (capt.), Hill, 375 Jones, 362 Turner, Garner, Bennett, Johnson, Glanville and Knight.

Juniors: Sabourin (capt.), Arnall, Stott, Cox, Pearce, Montgomerie, Holman, Johnstone, Greenwood, Bradley, Yates and Locke.

CRICKET :—On the whole the 1938 season was a notable one for No. 1 Wing. Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Wings were met in the Senior and Junior B.K. matches and all games were won by No. 1 Wing. A friendly game was also played with No. 5 Wing, resulting in a win for No. 1 Wing.

At the beginning of the season, although most of the Senior team of 1937 had passed out with the January 1935 Entry, we had capable reserves to call upon. The Junior team, however, were of unknown quality, but after a series of trial games a team was discovered which played with admirable spirit throughout the season and promises well for the coming year. Friendly matches were played with outside teams, the complete record being: Played 18. Won 15. Lost 3.

C.A.A. Davis and A.A. Powell were selected to play for the Station team.

Finally we thank our Commanding Officer, Wing Commander R. S. Sugden, A.F.C., for his interest in our teams.

CROSS-COUNTRY :—We are glad to see the introduction of an Inter-Squadron Novices' League, which not only caters for an increased interest in Cross-Country running, but will have the effect of still further stimulating a branch of sport always well represented on this Station and in No. 1 Wing.

In spite of the loss of many fine athletes in the August 1935 Entry, the Wing team is doing very well. We have had two fixtures, and have won them both ; the first against R.A.F. Ruislip by a large margin of points, the second against No. 5 Wing by 24 points to 50. A.A. Bastin was the winner of the first race, and C.A.A. Jones, A.A.'s Bastin and Beck, and L.A.A. Davey filled the first four places in the second race.

We have been well represented in Station teams this season, with C.A.A. Jones, L.A.A. Davey, A.A.'s Beck, Bastin, Jones and Lowe, who are maintaining the high standard of running set by former No. 1 Wing Apprentices like Bowles, France, Toogood and Keevil.

Permission has been granted and funds provided for the construction of a pole jump pit and take-off, and a long jump pit in front of No. 11 Block, and it is hoped that the fullest use will be made of these facilities during next athletic season.

HOCKEY : This season has so far been very successful, as the Wing team has won all its matches, scoring 30 goals and having only 10 scored against it.

The Wing has been regularly represented in the Station team by C.A.A. Sinnott and L.A.A. Stewart, and A.A. Soggee has also played on occasions.

The management of the team has rested with Sgt. Winslade, and it is almost entirely due to his energetic efforts and enthusiasm that the team has so many fixtures and that the members of the team are so keen.

We have great hopes for success in the B.K. matches, which will soon be taking place.

SOCCER :—We are sorry to learn that Cpl. Frost will be leaving us in the near future. Our thanks are due to him and Sgt. Robinson for obtaining a large number of fixtures for both teams, and also for the help and encouragement they have given us.

The high standard of football maintained is evident from the fact that Barker has played regularly for the Station Reserves, whilst Brown, Padmore, Hammond and Green have also been chosen.

As yet, owing to the temporary alteration in the B.K. age limit, only three trophy matches have been played. The Seniors beat No. 3 Wing after a hard game, whilst the Juniors easily beat No. 4 Wing, but lost a hard game to No. 3 Wing.

We hope to continue the long run of successes we have had in B.K. Football for several seasons. Neither team has yet lost an outside game.

SWIMMING : A high standard of swimming was once more maintained this year. We were fortunate in having both excellent Junior and Senior teams. The Juniors were most unlucky to lose the B.K. by the narrow margin of half a point, the final placing being No. 2 Wing 30 points, No. 1 Wing 29½ points.

We are proud of having six representatives in the Station team and two in the R.A.F. team. The departure of the August 1935 Entry has taken most of them, however, but we still have some excellent Juniors.

To S.A.A. West, C.A.A. Batt, and L.A.A.'s Keeley, Rennie and Preston we wish the best of luck in their new careers and in R.A.F. Swimming.

Finally our thanks are due to Flying Officer F. Evans, D.F.M., and Flight Sgt. Payne for their untiring efforts and excellent organisation.

WALKING :—No. 1 Wing continues to lead the Station in this newly-adopted sport. A.A.'s Webster and Worthington, with A.A. Wakefield (August 1935 Entry) were the sole Station representatives in the R.A.F. Championships, in which A.A. Wakefield gained second place and A.A. Webster third place in the 'Two Miles' Walk.

This season A.A. Webster was first in a field of 154 starters in the Highgate Harriers Open Seven Miles' Road Walk, and A.A. Worthington and C.A.A. Petts were also members of the Station team which finished second in the team event.

No. 2 Wing

THE Passing Out of the August 1935 Entry also saw the departure of our Commanding Officer, Group Captain S. P. Simpson, M.C. He commanded this Wing for two and a half years with great success, and his keenness was an example to everybody.

We congratulate him on his promotion and wish him every success at Thornaby and in his future career.

We are fortunate in having in his stead Wing Commander W. A. K. Dalzell, who lately commanded at Kai Tak, and we give him a very hearty welcome to No. 2 Wing.

On Saturday, October 29th, the Wing was privileged to provide a Guard of Honour for H.R.H. the Princess Royal on the occasion of her visit to Princess Mary's R.A.F. Hospital, Halton. The Guard was under the command of Flight Lieutenant S. H. Woolf.

We are justly proud of the success of our Drums in the Summer Competition, which we won by a wide margin. This was largely due to the unsparing efforts of Flight Sgt. Watkins, well supported by the whole of the Drums, as evidenced by the 100 per cent. gained for turn out. The Pipe Band and Trumpeters were selected for the Guard of Honour mentioned above.

CROSS-COUNTRY :—There is at present in the Wing the nucleus of a very good Seniors' team, recruited mainly from last year's Juniors, and we have great hopes of winning the Senior B.K. this season. The Juniors are at present an unknown quantity, with the exception of L.A.A. Twite, who is a member of the Station Team. Among others who have represented the Station are S.A.A. Holmes, A.A. Campbell and A.A. Robinson.

A trial run against No. 4 Wing on October 26th resulted in a win for us, while a similar run against No. 1 Wing on November 2nd showed that our team was capable of excellent packing. On November 11th the Wing team filled the first six places in a race against the Apprentice Clerks from Ruislip, and won the match comfortably, the individual winner being A.A. Dennis ("A" Squadron).

A triangular match against R.A.F. Depot, Uxbridge, and the Guards, at Uxbridge, on November 16th, saw the Wing team beaten into second place by two points.

The introduction of the Station Inter-Squadron Cross-Country League for novices, is providing some excellent competition and assisting the discovery of much hidden talent.

FENCING :—The season has begun well and about forty apprentices are now under training. Fair progress is being made, and the Wing has been fortunate enough to provide five members of the Station team in matches

against R.A.F. Bicester and R.A.F. Cardington. They were L.A.A. Allan (Sabre), A.A. Lait (Foil), and A.A.'s Devonshire, Dixon and Mauldon (Epée).

HOCKEY :—Although the season is yet young, the Wing has so far given a good account of itself in representative games. One fixture against Berkhamsted, taken over from the Station XI, resulted in a win for us by 7 goals to 1.

The following Apprentices have been playing regularly for the Station team : L.A.A. Bock, A.A.'s Hughes, Everitt, Tapply, Smith (505) and Smith (825). Their absence has naturally weakened the Wing team, but we have every reason to be satisfied with our performances.

One B.K. match has so far been played, resulting in a draw 3—3, against No. 4 Wing Juniors. Since eight of the Wing team came from the latest (August 1938) Entry this is regarded as very promising.

SOCCER :—So far the Wing Senior team has not met with much success in the B.K. Competition, owing to the fact that we have at present no members of the Senior Entry in the Wing. The game against No. 4 Wing Seniors was, however, a very creditable performance on the part of the Wing team, who only lost the match by 3 goals to 2.

The Juniors have done very well indeed, having so far lost only one game. This was to No. 3 Wing Juniors, who scored the only goal of the match. The game against No. 4 Wing Juniors was won by 9 goals to 1, and that against No. 1 Wing Juniors drawn 1—1.

As No. 2 Wing will still have the same entries next year, next football season should be very successful.

The outstanding Apprentice of the Wing this year is L.A.A. Rickaby (C Squadron), who, with more experience, should later on do well in Service football.

RUGBY :—Wing Rugby is in better shape than our sombre B.K. record indicates. Against outside teams many successes brighten the picture.

Tackling and general team work have greatly improved during this season, but forwards are still too inclined to "take" when they should get down and "heel."

A much larger proportion of the ninety or more players in the Wing should turn out regularly for practice. After Christmas the side will be built anew to replace those playing for the Station Apprentices' XV. Squadron representatives please note!

We thank Sergt. Saddler for his invaluable service to Rugby in the Wing and wish him good fortune on posting.

No. 3 Wing

WE extend a most hearty welcome to our new Commanding Officer, Wing Commander T. Humble, who has come to us from the Command of No. 16 (A.C.) Squadron, Old Sarum, a Squadron with a great tradition and reputation. We also heartily extend our congratulations on his recent promotion.

We are very sorry to lose Flight Lieutenant A. M. Butt, who has been posted to No. 1 Balloon Training Unit, Cardington. His keen interest in the Wing will be missed, and we wish him the best of luck in his new work.

We congratulate Warrant Officer C. Wilson and Warrant Officer W. Robinson on their promotion, and we are sorry to lose them on posting to Martlesham Heath and No. 5 Training Wing respectively. Warrant Officer

Wilson has been with us since the inception of the Wing, and has done sterling service. We further extend our congratulations to Flight Sergrts. Pearson, Moore, McDonnell, and to Sergrts. Burnett, Hird, Slater, Willis, on their recent promotion.

ATHLETICS :—We shall be without the services of C.A.A. Sewell and L.A.A. Samuel, and numerous others of our 1938 Athletics Team for the next B.K. Athletics. They pass out this Christmas, and we wish them " Good Luck " for the future, and hope that we shall see them all at Uxbridge next year for the Athletics Championships representing their new Units. The nucleus of our Athletic team is leaving us, so we have to build a new team around what is left of the old.

BASEBALL :—We have had a most successful season, of which we may feel justly proud. The Senior team won the B.K., and the Juniors finished second ; also, " A " Squadron went unbeaten throughout the season to win the Babington Cup.

The teams were given every assistance by Warrant Officer Streeter and later by Flying Officer B. J. Abraham. We were honoured in having L.A.A. Cartwright, A.A.'s Christie, Fleming, Nunn and Seal in the team which represented the Station against the American Olympic team. A.A.'s Warren, Toogood and Watt played for the Station second team.

Our matches against High Wycombe, at home and away, resulted in convincing wins for us.

Most of our team leave us at Christmas, but they have helped to establish a tradition in the Wing which we feel sure will be carried on by new Entries. We thank Flying Officer B. J. Abraham, Flying Officer H. E. Newing and Warrant Officer Streeter for their splendid support and encouragement.

BOXING :—It is not yet possible to give any details of our Boxing activities, beyond the fact that training for the coming season is in progress.

The Apprentices team from Ruislip are visiting us during the second week of December, but the match will take place too late for inclusion in these notes.

Sergt. Wilby's return from his tours abroad with the R.A.F. Boxing team is very welcome, as his advice and experience will be a great asset.

At present our training is rather disorganised owing to the Wing Gymnasium having to be used as our Sports store. However, when the new Station Gymnasium is completed we are assured of better facilities for getting on with training in a sport which has always proved to be of great interest in the Wing.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING :—The 1938/39 season is young yet, but if interest and keenness count, this should be as successful as the 1936/37 season. It is very pleasing to note that through the initiation of the Wing Cross-Country Section, a Station Inter-Squadron Novices' Cross-Country League has been launched, and it would be very fitting if the Wing provided the champion for the first season of the League. It is with regret that we say " Good-bye " to L.A.A. Reddy, our Running Captain, and several members of last year's B.K. Team. We hope that their interest in athletics will not cease after they leave Halton, and that we shall hear of further successes in their new Stations.

FENCING :—The Wing has been rather handicapped owing to the fact that no suitable place is available for Fencing Instruction, but there is no lack of interest, and the Aircraft Apprentices show great promise in making a strong team for this Wing.

HOCKEY :—This season we record with regret the loss of Warrant Officer C. Wilson to Martlesham Heath. Flight Sergt. Neate has taken over control of Wing Hockey and under his guidance the creditable standard of last season has been maintained. Hopes of good results in the B.K. events have been guaranteed by the ample victory of the Juniors over No. 1 Wing.

The Wing is regularly represented in the Station Team by L.A.A. Woolven and A.A. Nisbett, while A.A. Groves was unfortunate in being put out of the game by a broken wrist.

Greatly increased interest has been aroused by the formation of an Inter-Wing Squadron League with No. 4 Wing, and its success has fostered hopes of an Inter-Block League on the same lines in the near future.

MODEL AIRCRAFT SECTION :—The Wing has had a most successful season. In the Bowden Trophy for Petrol Model Aircraft, open to all nations, Sergt. T. Longley's machine "Miss America" was very consistent in flying. It was placed seventh. In the Shelley Cup for a limited motor run it achieved eighth position. All members of the Section are extremely sorry at Sergt. Longley's departure from the Wing on posting to Debden. Space forbids reference to his great enthusiasm and help to the Section. We wish him luck in his new Station.

The Landon Cup was won by the Section for the first time, the Wing Team consisting of C.A.A. Clinch, L.A.A. Titterton and A.A. Cotton.

In the Open Competition L.A.A. Jenkins gained first place and L.A.A. Titterton second.

In the Wing Cup for the best duration flight of the term, C.A.A. Clinch is leading and L.A.A. Jenkins close behind. A.A. Woods has been flying his "Gull" by night, with electric lamps on the wings. Pole Flying is now in vogue. Warrant Officer Streeter has succeeded in recording 130 seconds with a free lance model. Flying takes place every Saturday and Sunday during the winter on the ground near the Model Aircraft Section Hut. The Committee thank Squadron Leader F. H. Shales and Warrant Officer C. Streeter for their support and help.

RUGBY :—Wing Rugby has been confined to the B.K. Trophy games this season, as all the Wing team has been regularly called upon for the Station 1st and 2nd Apprentices' XV's. So far we have done well enough to be confident of winning the B.K. Senior Rugby for the first time since the inception of the Wing. Our results to date are :

v. No. 1 Wing, won 33 to 3.

v. No. 2 Wing, won 30 to 5.

We look forward to our match with No. 4 Wing in the near future.

The Juniors have not been so fortunate in their games, losing to No. 4 Wing 6—3, and to No. 1 Wing 10—0. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of talent among our young entries. As usual, the passing out of our Senior Entry will result in the loss of our best players. At Christmas, we lose A.A. Marr, L.A.A.'s Samuel, Balls, and S.A.A. Reid. C.A.A.'s Davey and Russell also leave us for Cosford. Special mention should be made of the following who have been regular members of the Station 1st XV : S.A.A. Moore, C.A.A. Davey, L.A.A.'s Balls, Fox, Samuel, Williams, A.A.'s Jones, Rich and Russell.

SOCCER :—The season commenced with an Inter-Flight Knock-out Competition, which was won by No. 10 Flight. Some junior talent was discovered during this competition and two victories in the B.K. have resulted. We are glad to report, on going to press, that we have now won the Junior B.K. This is a very fine performance and the team is to be heartily congratulated. An Inter-Block League is running, and a number of good matches

have been played. It is hoped to finish this competition by Christmas. A mixed team visited Aylesbury and played the Territorials to a draw. The Wing is well represented in Station Apprentices' teams and also in the Station League team.

SWIMMING :—The standard of swimming in the Wing for 1938 was exceptionally high, all competitors showing a marked enthusiasm. In the B.K. events, although having a strong team, we were unfortunate in being beaten by a very narrow margin for the premier position in both Senior and Junior Divisions. Several of our swimmers represented the Station during the season; C.A.A. Bownes, A.A.'s Mudge, Nicholas and Rossiter also representing the R.A.F. in the Inter-Services Championships. We are hoping for a strong Senior and Junior team during the coming season, despite the fact that the majority of the present Senior team will be passing out this term. We regret the illness of A.A. Mudge, and hope for a speedy recovery. We feel confident that No. 3 Wing will be prominent during the coming year and hope for every success.

WING DRUMS :—The general advancement of the Wing Drums has been maintained during the half-year. The purchase of additional ceremonial equipment has brought the standard of display on Ceremonial occasions on a par with that of the Senior Wings of the Station.

Outstanding achievements at the last Wing Drums Competition were as follows :

Pipe Band	1st Place.
Individual Pipers	1st Place, 461 A.A. Gauntlett.
" "	2nd Place, 441 A.A. Jeffrey.

Special comment must be made of the achievements of A.A. Gauntlett in continuing to hold the Station Piper's Sash for the fourth consecutive competition.

Although the Wing Drums will be losing 39 Instrumentalists in December, it is hoped that, with the volunteers from the Junior Entries, the Wing will be able to answer any calls that the Station may make on it.

No. 4 Wing

BASEBALL :—The game has greatly increased in popularity during the past season. Since the report last issued the Senior and Junior teams accompanied the Station team to Romford to a match between the American Olympic Team and London Baseball Club, on August 20th. Many points were learned in this game, which will be useful in the future.

From No. 4 Wing, five players were included in the Station "A" team, and four in the Station Junior team.

Owing to various circumstances the matches for the B.K. Trophy could not be completed

DRUMS :—The half-yearly competition was held on the Station Rugby ground on July 5th, and the following places were secured by No. 4 Wing: Trumpet Band, 2nd; Flute Band, 2nd. Individuals were: A.A. Lee, 1st Trumpeter; A.A. Robinson, 1st Drummer; and A.A. Newman, 1st Flautist.

HOCKEY :—The season opened with Squadron Trials on August 27th. On September 10th, Inter Squadron League Matches were started between Nos. 3 and 4 Wings, No. 4 Wing being the winners. Up to the time of this report, "B" Squadron are at the head of the list with 7 points. In the B.K. match with No. 2 Wing, the result was a draw, 3—3.

Two away fixtures resulted as follows :

- v. Berkhamsted, a win, 7—0.
- v. Cardington, a draw, 1—1.

During the two months of the present season, the following players have been included in the Station team : Warrant Officer Robbins, L.A.A. Philips, A.A.'s Cotton and Hemmingway.

RUGBY :—The season opened with a General Meeting held in the Reference Library, with Warrant Officer Caswell in the chair. Wing trials were held on August 31st and September 7th. The B.K. Competitions were started in October and we found our Senior Team to be very strong.

Difficulty was experienced in finding a Junior XV, as we had very few players to select from. However, with the assistance of the Naval Apprentices No. 4 Wing Juniors played No. 3 Wing on October 12th and won by 3 points to nil. Thus encouraged, they played No. 1 Wing on October 29th, but were defeated by 10 points to nil, but this result was considered very satisfactory.

The Senior XV played their first match against No. 2 Wing on October 30th, and won by 9 points to 8.

Up to date seven games have been played against civilian teams, with the following results : 4 won, 1 drawn and 2 lost.

L.A.A. Hammil played for No. 24 Training Group at Halton on November 2nd, and the following have played for the Station team on various occasions : L.A.A. Hammil, S.A.A. Wallis, A.A. Moyle, L.A.A. Holmes, L.A.A. Drysdale, A.A. Bingham, A.A. Groves, L.A.A. Beattie, L.A.A. Taylor.

The season has so far been very successful, and it is considered that Rugby Football in No. 4 Wing is in a very healthy condition.

SOCCER :—The Season opened with a trial match on August 31st, to select players for the Junior Wing team. Since the opening games the standard of play has improved considerably ; in fact, it looks as if we may experience a peak season. We have had more outside fixtures this season, and these have proved of great value to the wing teams.

The Wing Senior XI are mostly Station team players, and for this reason they have not turned out for the Wing except in the first B.K. match against No. 2 Wing on October 30th, the result of which was a win for No. 4 Wing by 3 goals to 2.

Owing to the demands of outside fixtures a second Senior XI was formed, and up to the present they have done remarkably well, having won five and lost one of the six games played, with a score of 31 goals against 10.

The Juniors were handicapped owing to the limited number of eligible players under 17½ years of age. Their first B.K. match was played on October 12th, against No. 1 Wing, and resulted in a win for No. 1 Wing by 7 goals to nil.

In the outside match against Chatham Minors the Junior Wing team lost by 12 goals to 4. After this it was considered essential to include players under 18 years of age, and the effect was seen in the match against Ruislip, which resulted in a win for No. 4 Wing by 5 goals to nil.

In the match against Wendover Juniors we reverted to the original B.K. team, and the result was a win by 3 goals to 1.

Of the three matches played the Juniors have won two and lost one, having scored 12 goals against 13.

In Inter-Block matches, Block 6 are leading with 13 points to their credit, while the Wing Staff have got together a strong team this season and in the Station League have only lost one game so far.

SWIMMING :—The standard of swimming has not been so high this year, owing perhaps to lack of practice, due to the reconstruction of the

Swimming Bath, which necessitated it being out of commission until after the Summer leave. However, there is much keenness and enthusiasm shown, and in the Inter-Squadron Challenge Cup competitions, "C" Squadron ran out winners after some hard and exciting races. The result was: "C" Squadron, 136 points; "A" Squadron, 122; and "B" Squadron, 64 points.

In the Water Polo, which is being run on a league basis, "A" Squadron are leading in the Senior Competition, and "C" Squadron in the Junior. The next remaining match will decide the winner in each competition, which shows how close have been the contests.

A.A.'s Mackereth and Bryant have represented the Station and were also competitors in the R.A.F. Championships.



"Make this the last game, you blokes—the Camp's on fire."