THE

THUNDERBOLT

The journal of the RAOC Apprentices' College

SUMMER
1971

ISSUE
No 2

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The journal of the RAOC Apprentices' College.

The Commanding Officer
RAOC Apprentices College

Lieutenant Colonel R Mathews RAOC

with his Chief Clerk

WO 2 M Pindar RAOC

FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

I am delighted to say that The Thunderbolt, which was first published last year, met with resounding success.

It was extremely popular both with the parents of our Junior Leaders and the members of the College.

I feel that it is a worthwhile job editing and publishing this magazine as it gives a very detailed and precise account of the most important of our College activities.

I would like to thank and congratulate the publishing section of COD Donnington and all the people concerned with the setting up of this publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief	Major H W Richmond, MA, RAEC
Editor	Lt Col S Schofield, MA (Oxon) Royal Signals (Retd)
Photographic Editor	Major G J Forrest, RAEC (Retd)

This is our second issue and we can therefore no longer use the excuse of inexperience to cover our mistakes. In general our first issue was well received and we trust that it served its purpose, which was to provide a permanent record of the College activities for the benefit of both boys, staff and parents. We believe that this issue will be as good, if not better, than the previous one.

Most of our mistakes last time were due to the 'amateurism' of the editorial staff and were relatively minor. But one was not! It must therefore be acknowledged and put right. Of all the facilities provided for the boys in the College, none is more important, or more welcome, than that given by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service - the WRVS. In our last issue, no mention whatever was made of this great Service and the Editor would like to make a public apology both to the WRVS as a whole, and to Mrs Margaret Highton, their then representative, in particular, for this glaring omission. He hopes that this issue may go some way towards making amends.

At the time of going to press, the College is at Summer Camp. 'A' Company is in the Peak District and 'B' Company is in Wales. Normally Summer Camp is a fruitful source of magazine material and we shall include as much as we can get processed. But time is against us and a full report is scarcely possible. The weather so far has been excellent, and that, at least, should mean good photographs.

We would conclude, as last time, by expressing our thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation of this magazine - contributors (voluntary and otherwise), typists, photographers, proof readers and all. In particular, once again we would like to acknowledge our very great debt to the printers at Donnington whose co-operation in this project has been faultless.

RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

STAFF LIST

SUMMER TERM 1971

COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant-Colonel R Mathews, RAOC

SECOND-IN-COMMAND

Major E C Goodson, RAOC

COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS

Adjutant	Captain D M M Stobie RAOC
RSM	WO1 (RSM) N Dorning RAOC
Chief Clerk	WO2 M Pindar RAOC
Orderly Room Staff	Cpl A P Coates RAOC
	Cpl B Turner RAOC
Provost Staff	Sgt R Douglas RAOC
	Sgt K Mitchell RAOC
	Cpl B M Frost RAOC
WRVS	Mrs Dorothy Rose

A COMPANY

OC	Major J Reed RAOC
Second-In-Command	Capt T Cowan RAOC
CSM	WO2 (CSM) G S Blowfield RAOC
Williams Platoon	2Lt H C Denton RAOC
	Sgt B Smithurst RAOC
	Cpl H A Thompson RAOC
Steevens Platoon	Lt R W Bicknell RAOC
	Sgt R T McGregor RAOC
Baker Platoon	Lt B G Mobley RAOC
	Sgt D R Fripp RAOC
Gordon Platoon	Captain D M Braithwaite RAOC
	Sgt C J Taylor REME
Mulcahy Platoon	Captain B J Bowell REME
	Sgt A W Parkhouse RAOC

B COMPANY

OC	Major D J Porter RAOC
Second-in-Command	Captain T Douglas-Hill RAOC
CSM	WO2 (CSM) K Maule RAOC
Body Platoon	Lt E B C Aitken RAOC
	Sgt C D Lindsay REME
	Cpl A D McIntyre RAOC

Hill Platoon	2Lt A C D Welch RAOC Sgt P J Ball REME
Richards Platoon	Lt R T Wyhom RAOC Cpl K G Flynn RAOC
Parsons Platoon	Lt K A Fisher RAOC Sgt J Evans RAOC
Rowetoft Platoon	Lt P A Gee RAOC Sgt R A Hannigan RAOC

TRAINING COMPANY

OC	Captain K E Curtis RAOC
Training Officer	Captain H A Dickson REME
CSM	WO 2 (CSM) J A D Little RAOC
Instructors	Sgt B A Hosband RAOC Sgt R W Partridge RAOC Sgt G Johnson RAOC Sgt W G North RAOC Sgt E A Fumeaux-Harris RAOC Sgt W Gardner RAOC Cpl M H Tyreman RAOC Cpl R Sweeting RAOC Cpl J M Daniel RAOC
PTI Instructors	SSI G Young APTC Sgt R F Mave RAOC Cpl D P Smith RAOC Cpl R Crooks RAOC LCpl J Butler RAOC LCpl P Ella RAOC LCpl D O'Toole RAOC

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Education Officer	Major H W Richmond RAEC
Military Lecturers	Captain G H W Neal RAEC Captain A W Hilton RAEC Captain D W Fisher RAEC Lt J Coleman RAEC Lt D G McKeon RAEC Lt N W Barton RAEC Lt A G Thomas RAEC
Civilian Lecturers	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield Major (Retd) G J Forrest Mr W E Smith Mr M F Johnson Mr J Watson Mr W Waddington

VIP VISITS

During the year the College was visited by the following senior officers:

October 1970	Major General R B Penfold, CB, MVO. General Officer Commanding, South East District
January 1971	General Sir Anthony Read, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC Quartermaster General
January 1971	Major General A Young, CB Retiring Director of Ordnance Services

The visit of Major General A Young was marked by a parade involving all units of the RAOC Training Centre. The parade was commanded by Lt Col R Mathews RAOC.

Major General Penfold was the Inspecting Officer at the College Fit for Role annual inspection. A most satisfactory report on all aspects of College administration was given by him.

The highlight of the visit of General Sir Anthony Read, the QMG, was an Internal Security demonstration given by 'A' Company under the direction of Captain B Bowell REME. The immaculate and confident drill of the riot squad was matched only by the enthusiasm of the "native rioters".

Other Visits

The round of visits from schools and other organisations has continued apace. Visits worthy of particular note include a party of German boys and girls from Koblenz. Junior ratings of the Royal Navy from HMS Raleigh and a party of junior Executives from the Evening Standard. All parties were most impressed with the variety of activities and the standards achieved in the College. A particular mention of the quality of the food was made by the Evening Standard party: the obvious way to a Pressman's heart is through the usual channel!

Our commitments towards the ACF (1 Queens) continue to grow although our resources, particularly so far as accommodation is concerned, get less. However, they have enjoyed some very interesting training sessions in the Deepcut area.

We have also been given the task of sponsoring No 39 Army Youth team who enjoyed the use of our 30 metre range and other College facilities throughout the term.

PASSING OUT PARADES

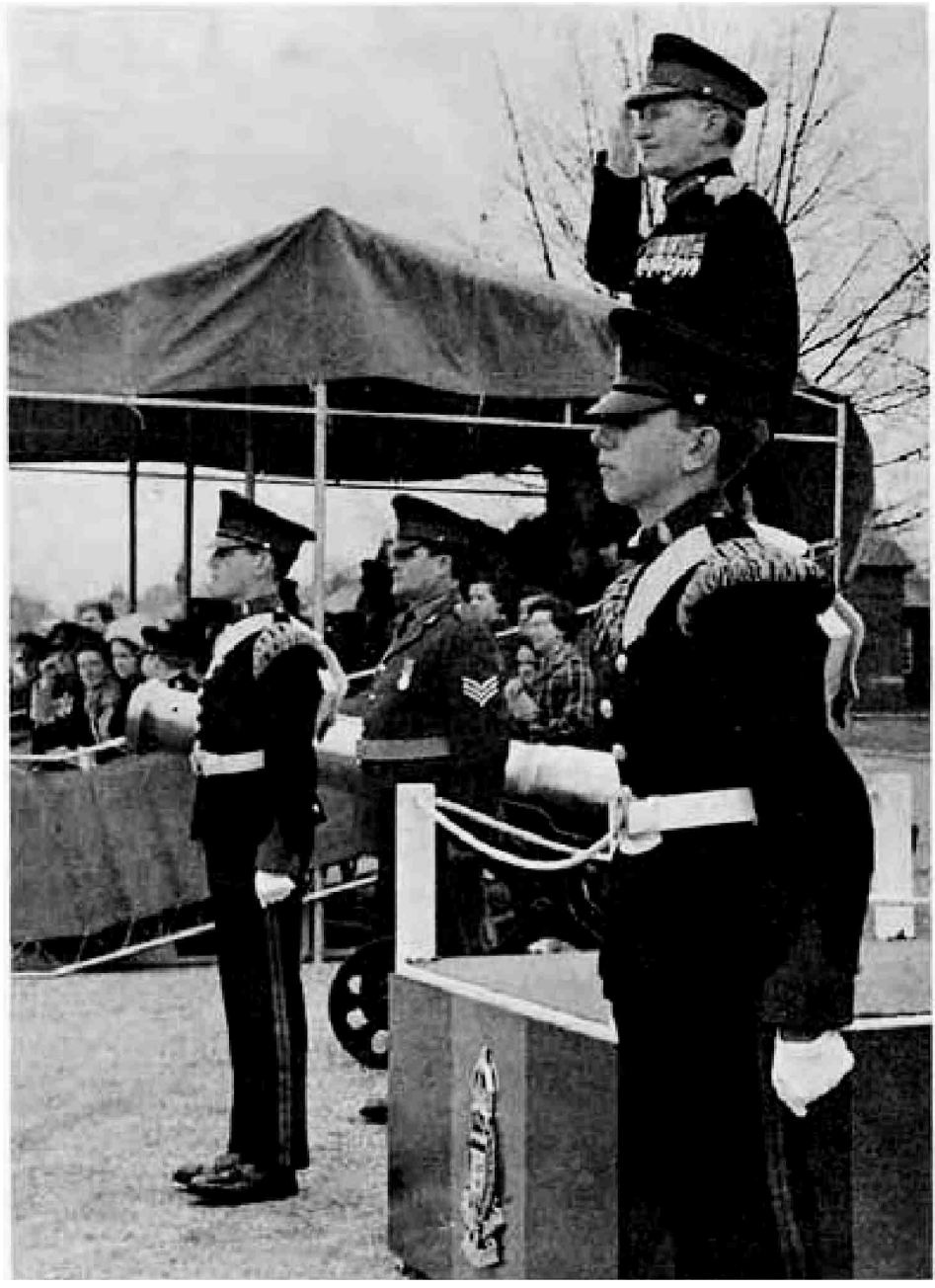
The high standards of drill and turnout at Passing Out Parades continue to be maintained. Wind and weather have done nothing to affect the sense of occasion or the steadiness of the Parade.

Inspecting Officers during the past year were:

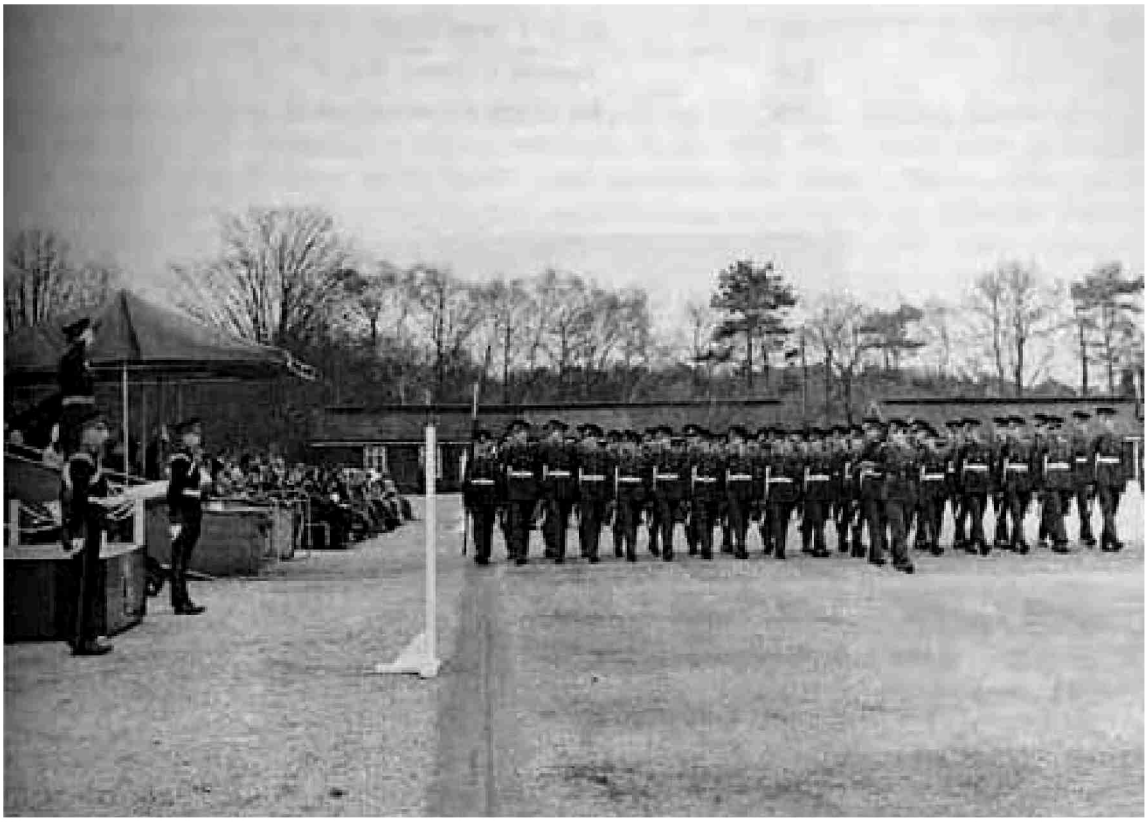
August 1970	Major General R B Penfold, CB, MVO General Officer Commanding, South East District
December 1970	Major General P G Palmer, MBE Commander HQ Technical Group REME
April 1971	Major General The Hon M Fitzalan-Howard, CB, CBE, MVO, MC General Officer Commanding, London District

Major General P G Palmer MBE, arriving for the Passing Out Parade, December 1970

The Inspecting Officer, Major General Palmer, presents Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to WO 2 R F Lillington RAOC, Sgt G W North and Cpl R Sweeting



Major General The Hon M Fitzalan-Howard CB CBE MVO MC, General Officer Commanding, London District, taking the salute at the Passing Out Parade, April 1971



Gordon Platoon marching past the Inspecting Officer, Major General The Hon M Fitzalan-Howard CB. CBE. MVO. MC. April 1971

'A' COMPANY

OC	Major J Reed RAOC
2IC	Captain T Cowan RAOC
CSM	WO II G S Blowfield RAOC

In keeping with Company policy, platoons have covered their own fields which leaves me with the task of recording Company level items

Our year started with the sad loss of David Jebson who was killed on 30 May. The military funeral was a touching ceremony, one that none of us will forget. Our thoughts continually turn to his mother and sister Joan.

The high pressure of summer activities pulled us together. Baker Platoon, well supported by the other platoons, again proved 'A' Company's superiority on the athletics field.

We all relaxed at Summer Camp in Tregantle and Plet Cellars. High spot as far as the permanent staff was concerned was the ability of Sgt Hosband's in-laws to keep us supplied with "real beaut" crabs.

We enjoyed the neatness of the sea but the programme was mainly "fill-in" with few high-lights to record.

Despite the transfer of our hockey ace, Capt Stobie, to College HQ as Adjutant, SSgt Smithurst coached the team to victory.

College Christmas Day was a big success. The Inter-Company soccer was followed by an excellent lunch and then the majority of Junior Leaders went off to London. Individual activities were not scrutinized in detail but all boys reported back to their respective coaches in good order and in time.

Junior RSM Dunn presided over the Passing Out Parades at the end of the Christmas and Easter terms. All went very well for him but the weather was rather cold.

The spring term seemed to pass very quickly, on the whole the Company had a successful time both in the Regimental and sporting fields. The RPC II and III results reflected the hard work and co-operation at all levels put in by the Permanent Staff and Junior Leaders.

The progressive training and examining methods adopted by the College Training Officer and his staff have had a great influence on the success rates in this field. The "will-to-win" displayed by all members of the Company during Inter-Platoon activities was clearly reflected at the end of term ceremony when we were presented with the Swimming, Orienteering and Shooting awards. The Inspecting Officer, Major-General The Honourable Fitzalan-Howard, GOC London District, was heard to comment "Well done, 'A' Company".

The analysis of Basketball results also showed that 'A' Company came out top. It was a clean sweep at Company level. These results prove the necessity for the will to win at all levels no matter how strong or weak the opposition may be.

Captain Keating left the College for the Ordnance Officer's course, his many fine qualities will be sadly missed by all of us.

We were fortunate in having the expertise of Lt Mobley to replace the Baker Platoon loss. Unfortunately at the end of the first week of Summer Camp he was taken for an emergency tour of duty in Northern Ireland. His abounding confidence and devotion will serve him in good stead wherever he is employed. Luckily Captain Cowan, the original RPC II platoon Commander, is still available within the Company to step into Baker Platoon at this important stage of their military training.

Our experiences during the past 12 months have confirmed we are operating on sound lines. Selection for promotion to Junior Lance Corporal is restricted to those who have their RPC III.

Platoons are basically, Recruits, Term II, RPC III and RPC II. An unfortunate side effect of this is that platoons are broken up at the end of their fourth term, but the advantages to the individual boys outweigh the platoons' disadvantage. We would like to see the policy adopted during the Spring Term towards all competitions. Keeping competitions at Platoon level ensures maximum numbers taking part. Using the platoon results to arrive at a Company result ensures that Companies support all platoon competitions and do not produce one gladiator platoon.

In conclusion I would like to record the appreciation of the Company to our civilian staff - the office staff, Mrs Vipond and Miss Cast and the cleaners, Mrs Turner and Mrs Taylor. Their teamwork has assisted in and ensured the quiet efficiency of the Company.

WILLIAMS PLATOON

Platoon Commander	**Lt B G Mobley RAOC**
Platoon Sergeant	**Sgt B Smithurst**

May 1970 brought the beginning of the Summer Term and the Inter Platoon Cricket Competition. Williams Platoon Cricket team, ably led by JCpl Russell, 'slaughtered' the remainder of the College by winning all 10 matches in the competition thereby gaining us the cricket shield.

A majority of the Platoon took part in the Riot Squad and Corps of Drums display at the Carisbrooke Castle Tattoo in August. All members were complimented by Lord Mountbatten of Burma, the Governor of the Isle of Wight. Any would be rioters had second thoughts after seeing the Riot Squad in steel helmets, rifles with fixed bayonets and gas masks. It proved a very enjoyable week indeed and many '36' hour passes are still in demand to return to families and girls met whilst on the Isle of Wight.

Army colours have been awarded to Eustace for Swimming and Taylor for Cycling. Congratulations to them both, they have shown tremendous spirit in their respective sports and have been justly awarded for their efforts.

Bolton, Firth, Payne and Corkerton showed we also have ability at Shooting by winning the Inter Platoon .22 Shooting competition. This provided the Platoon with yet another shield to add to its growing collection. JCpl Bolton also won the .22 Shooting prize.

JSgt Savage and his team of "ping pong" experts managed to win the Inter Platoon Table Tennis competition securing for the Platoon their second shield during the winter term.

College Christmas Day or "Williams Waterworks Display" began with a hot cup of coffee and a bucket of water. After the Platoon had dried out they had a well presented Christmas Dinner and went out to enjoy the delights of London.

Most members of the Platoon are now regular goers to the Richmond Ice Rink. Is it also possible that we have a 'Champion on Ice'? It continually proves an enjoyable visit though some are content to sit on their behinds - in spite of the cold.

Spring Term 1971 proved to be a particularly busy one with inter platoon competitions in football, basketball, full bore shooting, swimming and orienteering.

We welcomed 17 Junior Leaders from Steevens Platoon and settled down to study for RPCII.

Visits during the term included a visit to the School of Petroleum at Westmoors. Many in the platoon will remember for sometime the sound of the "knocking" machine. On 19 March the platoon went on a New Forest Adventure Training Exercise to the Brockenhurst Area. The various initiative exercises, games and projects showed a tremendous spirit in the platoon.

In the inter platoon competitions during the term we proved to be good opposition. We came a close second in the Football League even after losing to Body and Mulcahy. The platoon possibly achieved the highest goal average ever with 117 goals for and 19 against. Mention must go to JSgt Savage and JPte Hussey for constantly competing for 'hat-tricks' and JPte Horn on some excellent goalkeeping. In the Swimming Gala we came fourth with JPtes Eustace and Payne showing extraordinary ability in the water in both the races and water polo. Corkerton won the Rifleman's Cup in the College full bore shooting competition and the platoon finished third after some fierce competition.

The platoon worked hard throughout the term towards passing their RPC II and achieved a 60% pass.

We said goodbye to JSgt Savage, JCpl Russell and JLCpls Smith and Rice who have ably supported the platoon. They will be a great loss to our sports teams.

Fifth term Williams Platoon broke up at the end of the Spring Term with a majority of the platoon going to Baker Platoon and the remainder as JNCOs and Term Leavers to Mulcahy, Steevens and Gordon Platoons.

On Tuesday 11 May Williams Platoon's new Commander 2Lt Denton and Sgt Smithurst received in a new intake which will no doubt carry on the excellent record of Williams Platoon into 1972. We wish well to Lt Mobley who has now left us for duty in Northern Ireland.

1 PARA LOGISTIC REGT EXERCISE MAILTRAIN

by

24145384 JPte BROWN OF WILLIAMS PLATOON

I was asked by my Platoon Commander if I would like to go on a 2 week exercise with the 1st Para Logistic Regt and I naturally 'jumped' at the idea. The 1st Para Logistic Regt were going to Barrybudden in Scotland on Exercise Mailtrain, an exercise which aimed to test the 'paras' in their war role and to test them in their range work and weapon training. I, with five other Junior Leaders, left Deepcut at 0900 hrs Wednesday 11 September 1970 and moved down to Aldershot where we spent the night. We were given 58 pattern equipment, a para smock, shell dressing, three 24 hour ration packs, a waterproof sleeping bag, puttees and a red beret.

On Thursday we left for Barrybudden by 4 tonner, arriving in Carlisle at about 1930 hours that evening. We stayed the night at an RAF Station but slept and cooked our meals in the trucks.

At 0630 hrs on Friday 13 September we left Carlisle for Barrybudden and arrived there at 1300 hrs. We had lunch and then drove out to the Dropping Zone where we watched the Para companies do a 'para drop', a very impressive sight which we thoroughly enjoyed.

On Saturday I was on fatigues and I had Sunday off to have a look around.

We were on the SLR Ranges on Monday doing classification but I was not on until the afternoon so I guarded the road to the village. My job was to stop anyone straying on to the range whilst firing was in progress.

On Tuesday we were going to join the 'paras' on their PT tests consisting of a ten mile forced march and firing on the range but we only did a shorter version of it. We also helped out in the butts of the range upon our return.

On Wednesday we were given instruction on the 3.5 Rocket Launcher which ended with us firing a practice round from it. In the afternoon half of us went into the gas chamber to test the effect of CS gas whilst the remainder had instruction on the General Purpose Machine Gun.

We were also given instruction on how to make an explosive charge from fuse, cornex, gun cotton and PE explosive. It was great fun and we heard many loud bangs when we blew up our prepared charges.

We went up to the gas chamber again on Thursday morning and then went on the ranges where we were given instruction and fired the light machine gun.

On Friday we all went down to the Dropping Zone where we were to watch a helicopter parachute drop or "Chopper Lob" as it is more commonly known. We were indeed very surprised when the Officer Commanding of one of the companies invited us up in the helicopter. We were supplied with some parachutes which we put on with some difficulty and were soon soaring into the sky.

Saturday was a free day and we made our move back to our Unit on Sunday. Initially we were to fly down by Hercules C42 but they did not have any room for us. Instead we left the Dropping Zone at Barrybudden in a Wessex Whirlwind helicopter and stopped four hours later at an RAF Station in Yorkshire for refuelling. We set off again at 1630 and arrived at RAF Odiham at 1820 hrs. A 4 ton truck took us back to Aldershot. We stayed the night in Aldershot and were dekitted on the Monday morning before returning to Deepcut.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself for the 10 days with the famous 'paras' and I was very interested in knowing all about the different weapons and explosives. I would not hesitate if asked to go again.

24 OFP EXERCISE CRYSTAL PALACE
BY
24145503 JPte MUCKLIN OF WILLIAMS PLATOON

On Thursday 26 September 1970 JPte Holmes and I left for 24 O F P which was stationed at Plymouth. We had been attached to them to give us an idea of how the RAOC operated in the field and to show us the job we would be doing upon joining our units.

We arrived in Plymouth at 1700 hrs Thursday evening and were taken to Plumer Barracks by Army transport. At the barracks we were shown to our accommodation and then taken to tea. After tea we were given our bedding and CSM Rose, a CSM just posted to 24 OFP from the RAOC Apprentices College, gave us a father to son talk and allowed us out for the evening if we said we would be good.

At 0830 hrs on Saturday 28 September we set off after a good breakfast. We were sent to Caypool Camp, which was the OFP static HQ, and all that morning we were shown how to fill in ammunition accounts. After this we were told which cells we were going to be in for the exercise. I was put in 24 Brigade Cell and JPte Holmes was put in the 19 Brigade Cell.

On Tuesday Holmes and I separated. I had to report to Corporal Mimy who was also in 24 Brigade Cell. He helped me put my kit in the truck and at 1000 hrs we set off for Salisbury Plain, where the exercise was to be held. On the way we dropped off 19 Brigade Cell at Perham Down. I finally arrived at our camp on Salisbury Plain at 1800 hrs. The Infantry and Royal Artillery were also camping with us.

We were soon settled in and I was put into a one-man bivouac. As luck would have it, it rained all night. On Wednesday after our compo breakfast, we were again briefed and put into working shifts. I was on B shift and we were to work 8 hrs on and 8 hrs off. The first ammunition convoy came in when A shift was on, so when I came on at 0800 hrs I had quite a few forms to fill in. There were so many 10 tonners around it sounded like a tank park with all the noise.

On Thursday it was quite an experience to watch the ammunition coming in by helicopter. There were 6 drops and in all they dropped 60 pallets which were soon on their way to our receiving area. The pallets were received and sorted out into sections, depending on the type of ammunition. From there it was checked and sent back to the Rear Maintenance Area at Keevil Airport.

After surviving my sixth meal of compo on the Friday I was asked by SSgt Robinson if I would like to be an escort. Of course I said 'yes', so within an hour I found myself sitting in a 4 tonner next to a gunner driver on the way to Keevil. I soon got to know the route and ended up doing this as a regular job.

On Monday it did not stop raining. The exercise finished at dinner time and everyone was in a hurry to clear up the camp site. We finally moved out at 1400 hrs back to Perham Down Camp where I had a bath and where I once again met Holmes.

On Tuesday 6 October CSM Rose brought us back to Deepcut in a Landrover.

STEEVENS PLATOON

Platoon Commander — **Lt R W Bicknell RAOC**

Platoon Sergeant — **Sgt R T K McGregor**

Steevens Platoon was formed on 12 January 1971 as the new recruit platoon. The Junior NCOs were JSgt Woulds, JCpl Peters, JLCpl Cock, J Drum Major Pennells and J Bugle Major Dunn.

The recruits numbered 28 and during the course of the Spring Term, JPte Hobday was unfortunately discharged for medical reasons.

All worked hard and a good standard was obtained on the Acceptance Parade.

In the field of sport the platoon was very active but failed to make much headway until half term when they did quite well in the College swimming. This was shortly followed by not coming last in the College Orienteering Competition.

Valuable assistance was given by Cpl Thompson in helping to run the platoon during their recruit term. For the Passing Out Parade at Easter the platoon's standard drill was good although it lacked some of the finer points.

The Summer Term began with the rush of getting ready for Summer Camp at Leek. Notes about the camp will be appearing elsewhere in the magazine.

EXERCISE "WINTER FROLIC"
BY
JCpl PETERS OF STEEVENS PLATOON

On the 28 December 1970 ten young Junior Leaders returned to the RAOC Apprentices College to embark the next day to Germany. We were going on a Junior Cross Country Skiing Course, the first one held at the Special Training Centre at Silberhutte.

We stayed one night here in camp at Deepcut and departed the next day at 0800 hrs for Aldershot where we were to pick up the Junior Parachute Company Ski Team. From Aldershot we travelled by Army coach to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire.

After waiting at the Airport for nearly 2 hours our baggage was finally labelled, weighed and taken out to be loaded into our aeroplane. We were then ushered out onto the plane, a Comet 4C, by some airport staff.

On boarding the plane we were told to fasten our seatbelts and a few minutes later we were taxiing down one of the runways to the main take-off runway. As soon as we hit this the engines were thrown into boost and we took off about 15 seconds later. We climbed up to a height of 25,000 ft, levelled off, and accelerated to a cruising speed of 500 mph.

During the flight a meal was provided together with beverages. An hour after take-off we landed at RAF Gutersloh. After going through an RMP Identity Check we changed our Sterling currency to Deutch Marks. We were then put aboard one of a fleet of coaches, which were organised by 24 Movement and Transport Control Regiment, RCT and taken to STC Silberhutte. The 24 Movement and Transport Control Regiment controls all British troops movement to and from North Central Germany.

We arrived at Silberhutte at 2200 hrs, whereupon we received a good hot meal and immediately afterwards drew our bedding for our stay there. We were issued with all our skiing equipment for the next fortnight. This consists of skis, ski sticks, a pair of tinted brown snow goggles, to prevent snow blindness, and a pair of white outer mittens. As an added protection against wet ankles and feet we were issued with a pair of waterproof, elastic snow over-gaiters.

After we had completed the signing for kit we were broken up into various groups with the RAOC as Group 1 and the Junior Parachute Company as Group 2. We were then given a German ski instructor named Hans who showed us how to wax our skis.

During our first week there we did 'Langlauf' skiing, or cross country skiing as it is known in England. Langlauf skis not only have to be waxed but have to have creosote painted on to prevent the skis from splitting and warping. After the creosote has been painted on thickly we burn it in using a blow lamp and rub it in with a clean cloth. Once this has been done the skis are ready for waxing and use.

Many pleasant though sometimes painful afternoons were spent skiing on some of the more gradual ski slopes in the Harz Mountains, east of Hannover.

After completing a very successful and enjoyable first week on langlauf skis we transferred to downhill skis. This meant that we changed our langlauf skis to much heavier and stronger downhill skis with fixed bindings. With these the feet were clamped flat down on the ski which in turn gave us greater control of our movements on the snow. Also the ski boots were stiff and not like the soft flexible langlauf ski boot.

During our second week we trained on the downhill slopes at St Andreasberg, Oldberg and Braunlage. It was terrific fun skiing down the slopes in the sunshine and being towed back up again by ski lift and we soon became proficient. Needless to say there were many amusing incidents, normally caused when one of us lost control and fell.

Well, as always, all good things have to come to an end and on Monday 11 January 1971 we said 'goodbye' to the Special Training Centre and made our way home. I think I can safely say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed their basic ski course. We definitely had the best German ski instructors and all was arranged for us, the students.

The first part of our journey home was by steam locomotive to Hannover Hauptbahnhof. At the station we were met by Movement Control staff and were transported to Hannover Civil Airport. After waiting for a few hours we boarded a Brittania Airways jet and a few minutes later we were taking off for Luton Airport. Once we arrived we had to go through the customs and onto a coach waiting to take us to Euston coach terminal. When we arrived at Euston we found Lt Mobley with an Army coach and minibus to take us back to 'sunny Deepcut', or as some Junior Leaders term it 'HOME SWEET HOME'.

GORDON PLATOON

Platoon Commander — **Capt D M Braithwaite RAOC**

Platoon Sergeant — **Sgt C J Taylor REME**

Since my arrival as a 'New Boy' to the College and Platoon I have noticed a considerable change in their attitude and spirit. They are beginning to be aware of the facilities and opportunities open to them here at the centre of the RAOC training establishment and, equally important, what is expected of them in return. On this depends their future.

What can only be described as an excellent team spirit has materialised within the platoon. This came to the fore during the term's numerous sporting events. The football team finished half way in the league, a tremendous effort. It is thought that they have the potential of eventually winning it outright. They are full to the brim with confidence. The basketball team also produced some surprises and are a force to be reckoned with in the future. Time and time again it was noticed that the spectators were still cheering the team after the final whistle, for producing some exciting play and very close results. It must be mentioned that the scribe (Pl Comd) coached the basketball team and was only penalised once, a technical foul, for his efforts on the line.

During March the Platoon made a visit to Penhale Camp in Cornwall. The camp is situated on the south west coast and very close to that well known holiday resort Newquay. Here we practiced military skills such as compass marches, runs (early morning), patrols and sand dune leaping. The latter the boys took to like ducks to water.

The platoon was divided into 3 teams and were involved in a full 4 day competitive camp. The competition consisted of Assault course, Soccer, Orienteering, Night Patrols and cleanliness of Barrack Rooms. The 4 days at Penhale were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The winning team was ably led by JSgt Biernacki.

The platoon comedians have exposed themselves. Gordon Platoon have 3, for our sins. 'Steptoe Hayden', 'Court Jester Clark' and Neddy Barrass. I must admit they help with the platoon spirit tremendously. Finally the "Mighty Midget" himself. Where he gets his energy is beyond me, but Sgt Taylor can appear from nowhere. He is also very apt at disappearing. He has shaped the JNCOs into his way of thinking. In fact I consider them to be on our side.

Individual sport achievement was limited to JSgt Biernacki who won the College Orienteering Championship.

On the whole a very good term.

MULCAHY PLATOON

Platoon Commander	**Capt B J Bowell REME**
Platoon Sergeant	**Sgt A W Parkhouse**

This contribution covers the period from Mid Summer Term 1970 to second week of Summer Term 1971.

Summer Term 1970 will be remembered as 'Have case will Travel'. The Platoon's first venture into the unknown was Pony Trekking in Scotland (reported in the last issue). Having recovered from saddle sore bottoms, we went on Summer Camp at Fort Tregantle. As most of the lads had been there the previous year, there was not a great deal of new ground to cover (apart from Dartmoor). Nevertheless we had our good times.

The return to Deepcut on Saturday 27 June was one of unpack, dhobi and repack ready to move to the Isle of Wight on Monday 29 to take part in the Carisbrooke Castle Tattoo. The College provided two presentations, one being the Corps of Drums, and the other an Internal Security Riot Control Demonstration. Members of the Platoon took part in both, although the majority were Rioters (specially selected) for the IS Demonstration. JCSM Spenser was a most convincing ringleader. It is a wonder he wasn't approached to sign on for a professional body of Demonstrators. Our 6 days on the island were most enjoyable, Steve Brown and Francis McCourt certainly didn't want to leave.

On 7 August Mulcahy Platoon of 4 terms standing dispersed and its members transferred to Williams, Baker and Steevens Platoons, in preparation for the Winter Term recruit intake. At this time we also said farewell to our Platoon Sergeant, SSgt J Addison REME on posting to Arborfield and welcomed Sgt A W Parkhouse from the CTO Staff.

The 15 September saw the Platoon Commander and Sergeant eagerly awaiting the arrival of their recruits. Sgt Parkhouse was often heard to utter "Never mind lad, the barber will be pleased to see you". At first sight the recruits looked a good bunch of lads and they soon proved they were. In early November the College Cross Country race was organised and we won the team event, and the individual winner was JPte Smith M R (340), who soon found himself running for the College. Sporting activities throughout the Winter Term of 1970 and Spring Term of 1971 were well supported by the lads and their encouragement to those playing, helped to put Mulcahy on the sporting map. Our achievements included being joint second in the College Swimming Gala, second in Basketball league and third position (pipped on goal average) in the inter-platoon Football league.

Visits and camps during the Winter and Spring terms were enjoyed by most. The visit to 93 Vehicle Depot RAOC was a popular one, the lads having the opportunity to swan up the river Severn in a DUKW and to drive medium bulldozers in the Depot-

In February we had a long weekend camp at Browndown, it went down quite well and the weather was marvellous until we started our Map Reading and Compass Exercise on Portsdown Hill. At least we now know what not to do when cooking on hexamine stoves in the rain. Colonel and Mrs Mathews and their 2 children visited us in our field location and the lads were delighted when our

visitors accepted the offer to lunch with us. Pte Scorgie ACC was looking most apprehensive until Colonel and Mrs Mathews commended him on his cooking. The menu was chicken and two fresh vegetable dishes cooked on the famed No 1 cooker. (Note: the meal was not specially selected).

At the end of the Spring Term our Junior NCOs namely, JCSM Daniel, JCpl Crockford, JCpl Hladkij ('H' for short), JLCpls Ball and Nicholls passed out for adult service. We all appreciated their support. By the same token we welcome our new NCOs from Steevens, Williams and Baker Platoons and look forward to a successful Summer Term.

BAKER PLATOON

Platoon Commander — **Capt J T Keating**

Platoon Sergeant — **SSgt D R Fripp**

"Och aye the noo", "lang may yer lum reek" and "we're awa tae the Hielans" were just some of the cries to be heard around Baker Platoon in September 1970.

Deserted by Captain Keating and SSgt Fripp, involved in the training of the March and Shoot teams, the boys decided to get as far away from it all as they could. They were assisted in this by the SEO, Major Richmond.. Determined to educate at least a small percent of the College in the geography (or was it location?) of his homeland he took the Platoon to Loch Trool in SW Scotland for a week of rugged adventure training.

Rumour has it that JPte Terry Winter was persuaded to give up fishing to chase the dreaded haggis through the surrounding mountains while 'Tich' Savory developed a liking of Glentrool rock. The theory that milk can be processed from scouring powder was tested with the porridge and disproved by all except JPte Bob Haynes who was still asleep when he ate his.

Before leaving for Scotland the Platoon put up a reasonable performance in the College cross country trials. JCpl Carl Sanders emerged as our only star, gaining a regular place in the College team and more recently representing Surrey in the County Youth team.

The gaining of second place in the November Inter Platoon Smallbore competition surprised many of our rivals, including the established champions Williams Platoon, who were hard pressed to hold us off by the narrow margin of three points.

Six members of the Platoon became stalwarts of the College Boxing team. (Who said the Platoon Commander was Boxing Officer?). Their exploits can be followed in the College boxing notes. Special mention must go to 'Tich' Savory who at 7½ stone was becoming a hard man to tangle with. Early morning runs, evening training sessions AND judo as a hobby were making him a real knock-out.

Spring term 1971 presented a whole series of fresh challenges. We were to be the first platoon to attempt RPC III in the third term of training. A 100% pass success was confirmation enough that this was possible and that the system of phased testing was a definite asset.

Our success at smallbore shooting was repeated in the fullbore competition when we were narrowly beaten into second place by Body Platoon. 'Scats' Catterall was runner up to the Champion at Arms. Catterall, Masham and McGowan were all selected for training with the Training Centre Shooting team.

Try as we might we could not manage to gain a first place in the Inter Platoon series of competitions. However, our placings included 2 more second places for swimming and basketball and third place in the orienteering competition. No mean feat for a platoon in its third term.

The highlight of the term was exercise "Bakers Loaf", an environmental and social studies exercise over a period of 4 days. No transport was provided for this exercise. Those taking part made their own way to and from the Chailey Heritage, a hospital for handicapped children in East Sussex. The Platoon lived and worked with the children during their stay and many lessons were learned and new friends made. For all members of the platoon to volunteer to help out at the Sunday morning church services gave proof to an awakened sense of awareness.

"LENDING A HAND"

The end of term brought well earned promotions for many stalwarts of the platoon. John Watton, Carl Sanders and Chris Thain all became JCpls, while the new JLCpls were Dave Hilborn, Tony Masham, 'Scats' Catterall, Barry Kennard, Robert Sacre and William Brimblecombe. Most of them moved on to become JNCOs with other 'A' Company platoons. Their gain is definitely Baker Platoon's loss.

'B' COMPANY

OC	Major D J Porter RAOC
2IC	Captain T DOuglas-Hill RAOC
CSM	CSM G K Maule RAOC

OC 'B' COMPANY

Professionalism has become a byword in the Seventies. It is quoted in connection with sport, management techniques, politics and now from hoardings, commercial television, comics and newspapers young men are encouraged to become professional soldiers.

How can Junior Leaders attain professionalism? You might well ask this question in view of their obvious inexperience, age and in most cases complete lack of previous knowledge of service life. Well, in fact they do, in many ways, achieve a special style of professionalism and with a review of the Company's training and achievements during the last year we should be able to show how they do it.

So many people nowadays are critical of the behaviour of the youth of this country. A recent review of the conduct sheets of the Company show that a remarkably low percentage of Junior Leader's behaviour is below standard. This results from the acceptance of authority and the gradual development of self-discipline which is so important in a good soldier. One hastens to add that this results from training, encouragement and patience rather than the outdated harsh discipline that used to exist in the service.

With up to 200 Junior Leaders undergoing training in the Company at any one time there are bound to be some failures, a few misfits and a number who are medically or temperamentally unsuited to Army life, but the selection procedures at Recruiting Offices and at the new centres at Harrogate

and Corsham help to keep these to the minimum. This points to the importance placed on professional selection before the recruit actually reaches the Company.

No Junior Leader left the Company during the last year for adult service without being qualified for promotion to at least the rank of Lance Corporal. Fifty per cent left qualified for Corporal and some achieved academic results which would assist them in achieving promotion to Warrant Officer Class I. Professionals have to be well qualified. Those Junior Leaders who were determined to achieve success gained the most and made the very best use of the advantages available in the College. That is what professionalism is all about.

In sports and competitions the Company achieved a great deal. It won both the Inter-Company and League Football competitions; Cricket, Rugby, Rifle and Tile Match events. Platoons of the Company won the Swimming, Orienteering, Rifle and Basketball Cups.

Individually the Company produced the College Champion at Arms, for the second year running, 16 shots in the College top Rifle XX and 8 riflemen for the South East District and Corps matches. The Sub-Machine Gun Champion also came from the Company. No less than 75 Junior Leaders were awarded College Colours for sport during the year. For 3 terms running the best all-rounder and on two occasions the JRSM has been selected from the Company. Numerous awards have been gained for special academic ability and achievement in the College. Quite a professional record.

In military training we have achieved some notable successes although overall there is room for improvement and a more professional approach. This is a challenge we are setting for ourselves during the fortcoming training year.

Of course it would be wrong to rest on our laurels and not accept that we have had our share of problems during the year. However, we have all learned from our mistakes and the lessons have been of value to us.

This introduction to 'B' Company notes does not include any names. There are 2 reasons for this Firstly, we are a corporate body in the company; a team of Permanent Staff and Junior Leaders with the same aims and united in our determination to succeed. No one individual could succeed without others in the Company assisting. The second reason is that the notes that follow provide a more appropriate opportunity to deal with Platoon personalities. So please read on!

RICHARDS PLATOON (RECRUITS)

Platoon Commander	**Lt R T Wyborn RAOC**
Platoon Sergeant	**Sgt K S Flynn RAOC**

Richards Platoon is now over a year old; a distant cry from the last "Thunderbolt" publication, when the platoon had just completed its recruit term. The platoon has changed slightly having "acquired" a new platoon sergeant - Sgt Flynn, and 14 members of Watts Platoon, the latter having disbanded. Sgt Furneaux-Harris has moved to Training Company.

The highlight of 1970 was, of course, Exercise King Richard I, an 8 day platoon camp at North Ballachulish from 10/18 October. This must surely go down in history as the only non-tactical exercise which included an unscheduled night attack. The attack commander was Sgt Furneaux-Harris, in one of his more exuberant moments. His victim will remain nameless for 30 years!

After a tiring 2 day journey, via Barnard Castle, it was pleasant to relax in the very peaceful town of Tobermory, on the Island of Mull.

This sleepy little island was reached by mail ship from Oban, after a 90 minute journey across the sound, which, thank goodness, was in a good mood.

One of the most memorable days was Tuesday 13 October. With temperatures well into the 70°s, the platoon, accompanied by Major Porter, set out on a 15 mile hill walk through a very picturesque valley south of Ben Nevis. The remainder of the week included an indoor five-a-side football competition, a successful assault on Ben Nevis and finally a platoon barbecue. The latter was certainly the highlight of the week for some people!

In the sun near the summit of Ben Nevis

Pte Feary on Ben Nevis

Throughout the year, the platoon has taken a very active part in Company and College activities and has chalked up some commendable results. We appear to enjoy the position of "fourth".

We came fourth in the Inter-Platoon Orienteering Competition (which included a very good performance by JCfn Beale), fourth in the Basketball Competition and fourth in the Shooting Competition. The latter event included an incredible shoot by JSgt Mornington-West, who, whilst with Richards Platoon, became the Champion-at-Arms for the Spring Term.

We have said goodbye to JLCpls Grice and Murray and JPtes Forbes, Kennedy and Rudisill, who will have all joined Adult Service by the time this report is published.

PARSONS PLATOON

Platoon Commander — **Lt K A Fisher RAOC**

Platoon Sergeant — **Sgt J Evans RAOC**

Parsons platoon was reborn in September 1970 with over 40 JNCOs and JPtes. Having sorted out their Army, learned the difference between "SD" and "BD", an officer and a sergeant and the one hundred and one other things peculiar to the Army, and Deepcut in particular, they packed their bags and headed for Wales for a week's camp. Activities ranged from a day's march over the Brecon Beacons to a 'slalom' type race on the local river in rowing boats. We won the competition against Rowcroft Platoon; the prizes being presented by a soaking wet OC, who somehow managed to capsize. Back to Deepcut and a lot of drill, for the Passing out Parade. College Christmas Day started with "gunfire" as Lt Fisher and Sgt Evans served tea in bed to every member of the Platoon. After lunch we caught the train for London to see the film "Waterloo".

At the Prize Giving Ceremony JPte Beynon-Stocken won the Education Cup and the Recruits Skill at Arms Cup. Passing Out Parade was cold and soon after we were waving farewell for the Christmas recess.

Spring Term was a more successful term, the Shooting Team came fifth and the Soccer Team also finished fifth. The main highlight of the term must surely be the massive bonfire we had at our weekend camp at Tregantle Fort, near Plymouth. Flames were estimated at some twenty feet. It was even reported that someone thought another Spanish Armada was invading. We had started the weekend by rock climbing at the Dewestone Rock on Dartmoor, a 3 mile scramble course, some initiative tests and a "nurdling" competition. In the evening, around the bonfire, we enjoyed roast potatoes and were entertained with songs, monologues and sketches by members of the Platoon. The following day was spent on a 'short' walk from Looe to Tregantle in the morning, and absailing in the fort in the afternoon.

Monday saw the platoon trying to 'beat the clock' on the Assault Course at Pier Cellars or constructing a raft from a few poles and jerry-cans - with limited success!

We say farewell to JSgt Giles and congratulations on passing his driving and trade tests. Congratulations also to JLCpls Beynon-Stocken and Rankin on their promotion and JLCpl Beynon-Stocken and JPte Franks on passing their Cadre Course. We welcome JSgt McClernon, JLCpls Ferguson and Murtha on joining from Watts Platoon. We look forward to a successful year's training ahead.

BODY PLATOON

Platoon Commander — **Lt E B C Aitken, RAOC**

Platoon Sergeant — **Sgt C D Lindsay REME**

By the Winter Term, Body Platoon had become the Senior platoon, and were more or less expected to hold their own in the College sports, having achieved such encouraging results in previous terms. This expectation was achieved by their triumph in the Soccer and Basketball Leagues.

Success did not come so easily however in the military training. the RPC results not being as successful as they could have been. However by the start of the Spring Term, the platoon had seen a change for the better, and the first few weeks saw the boys settling down and moulding together very well. The aim during the Spring Term was to improve on the results of the previous term, but also to try and improve the general standards set by the platoon in daily tests. In both aims some success was achieved - resulting in our being called the Champion Platoon at the College Prize Giving.

Success is generally judged by results and Body Platoon gained an impressive list of results including the awarding of College Colours to 12 members of the platoon, as well as the platoon winning the Soccer and Basketball leagues, and the Orienteering, Shooting and Falling Plates competitions. In addition to this LCpl Mykolajenko was awarded the College Prize for initiative, and LCpl Reddy was awarded the College Prize for the Best All Rounder.

However the tables are reverted - those boys that remained for the Summer Term were transferred to another platoon and the platoon took in the recruits. Now our aim is not only to equal our predecessors results, but, if possible, to improve on them, and once again to put the name of Body Platoon in the forefront of College activities.

WATTS PLATOON

Platoon Commander	**Lt C A Den-McKay REME**
Platoon Sergeant	**Sgt R W Partridge RAOC**

"EPILOGUE OR EPITAPH?"

In writing these notes on 'the happy platoon' as Watts would have itself known, it is difficult to know where to begin. The characters of the platoon are already well known, certainly to 'B' Company but the character of Watts Platoon as a whole, as Sgt Partridge will agree, was an entirely different matter. It is on this point, therefore, that these notes will commence.

In its own way Watts Platoon had the knack of doing well when least expected and of producing a refreshing surprise when sorely needed. But what could be more exasperating to the Permanant Staff? Such a small platoon, ultimately only 19 strong, inevitably lacked the constancy of the rest of the College, with both occasional woeful depths and unsung heights. It was typical, however, to hear the unanimous call for a reunion dinner at the end of the Summer Term, and we all look forward to it. But enough of the background, what about the platoon's final 2 terms?

Not long after the arrival of its new commander, Watts Platoon set off in October on "Exercise Run Ashore" at HMS Raleigh, Plymouth. Unfortunately, the March and Shoot experts could not attend, being too busy excelling themselves in other directions to realise what fun they were missing. There was the date of the Crafthole Cross; Sgt Partridge's extra half million paces; poor Scottie and his skinheads; the loss of No 4 Section's maggot in the treasure hunt (eaten by mistake in a lunch of blackberries); HMS Glamorgan; early morning drill; motor boat dogems; Jamaica Inn and driving on Polzeath beach; the fun which both CSM and Sgt P had in Cornwall is nobody's business.

JSgt Boughen, the only term leaver at Christmas, went off to the Parachute Brigade with the Sergeants' Cup, our congratulations and every good wish for the future. We have since heard that Bob "walked" P Company and is continuing to do well.

After the Christmas break, what with the various College competitions, RPC III training and tests, trade selection, a weekend camp and education examinations, it suddenly occurred to the platoon and its staff that the dreaded hour was near. Another term had slipped by, this time with successes mainly confined to the educational subjects. JCpl 'Mack' McDonald was, appropriately, to be awarded the McDonald Shield, and JSgt 'Paddie' McClernon, upon the final split-up of Watts Platoon was to go as JSgt to Parsons Platoon. Sgt Partridge was moving to Training Company and Lt Den-McKay to the School of Ordnance. The whole platoon - Pip, Fergie, Ken, Bill, Charlie, Errol, Desperate, Scott, Rudi, Pete(B), Johnny, Pete(K), Daisy, Murth and Music Man - together with those previously mentioned, felt the need to celebrate, and did so in splendid style at the Hawley Hotel just before the end of term. At the dinner Sgt Partridge at one point was actually stuck for words, but got his own back when the piper ran out of breath of the journey back to camp.

ROWCROFT PLATOON

Platoon Commander — **Lt P A Gee RAOC**

Platoon Sergeant — **Sgt R A Hannigan RAOC**

14 September 1970 saw the birth of the new Rowcroft Platoon, some 35 strong. They arrived in different stages of disarray, wondering quite what to expect. The first few weeks were hectic for all concerned, drawing new kit and laboriously getting it up to scratch.

By the first week in October the platoon was off to Dering Lines in Brecon for its first camp. There was a variety of activities ranging from a hike over the Beacons to a visit to the British Petroleum Refinery at Llandarcy. It was indeed a very successful week and the platoon had already begun to take shape.

Meanwhile as military training progressed the Football Team was acquitting itself well and only lost to the senior Body Platoon. The overall position being second in the Autumn Term League

In December the platoon went to see the film "Waterloo", the general complaint being that there was not enough blood!

The first term went very quickly and Christmas soon came and went. The second term started with a night exercise and the platoon were soon to find out what it was to go stumbling in the dark!

At the end of January the platoon went to the weekend training camp at Browndown near Portsmouth and spent most of their time on the range familiarising themselves with the self loading rifle.

In February the platoon visited the Imperial War Museum and was soon engulfed within the many rooms of the Museum. After the number of purchases in the Stationery Department one almost felt that the Museum had moved to Block 8 RAOC Apprentices College, Deepcut. The remainder of February was spent with military and academic studies.

As part of its normal training the platoon went to the Central Ammunition Depot, Bramley and were given a comprehensive tour of the Depot. Bramley was not enhanced by snow and strong cold winds, but the platoon enjoyed its day and much speculation followed.

The College Rifle Meeting was held on Tuesday 9 March and the platoon finished seventh overall. This was a good term for 2 boys; the Falling Plate Team were runners up to the senior boys of Body and JCpl Lloyd-West became the SMG Champion. JSgt Dion acquitted himself well in the College XX as did JPtes Evans and Lyons. JPte Evans subsequently was chosen as a member of the College Rifle Team.

On 13 March the platoon visited HMS Victory in glorious weather. The Navy were indeed good hosts and the majority of the platoon came back with books and pamphlets on Nelson and Lady Hamilton. By this time Block 8 was almost sailing down the A30!

We were successful in getting JCpls Durbin and Lloyd-West on attachments to outside units, this provided them with a good idea of man's service which they were to join at the end of term.

Congratulations to JRSM Arnold, who spent his fifth term rising from JSgt to JCSM and finally to JRSM. To JSgt Dion on his promotion and to JCpl Stoddart and Thompson to Cpl and last but not least to JLCpls Holroyd, Grealis and Marshall.

Our congratulations go to JRSM Arnold, JSgt Dion, JCpls Lloyd-West, Durbin and Stoddart on achieving a successful result in their Regimental Proficiency Class II.

Even the Permanent Staff have their moments!

Lt Gee, SSI Young and Sgts Flynn and Harrington on the river at Brecon

HILL PLATOON

Platoon Commander	**2Lt A C D Welch**
Platoon Sergeant	**Sgt P J Ball**

It has been a very busy year for Hill Platoon, the rigours of RPC III and RPC II have been surmounted by most and many miles have been covered in Company and Platoon exercises. 70 of these miles were along Hadrian's Wall which the platoon walked in 4 days, camping at night under canvas near the village of Twice Brewed. On the way home from the Wall, and, incidently, CAD Longtown who acted as hosts to the platoon prior to the walk, an overnight stop was made near Mansfield at Proteus Training Camp.

On another occasion the platoon had a most successful 3 day exercise in conjunction with Richards and Watts platoons on a Pirbright training area. Sgt Skinner and Cpl Molden led very successful night patrols and Cpl Graham did well in defending the camp area.

At the time of writing (May) Hill Platoon had just entered what would be for most members their last term. However as the platoon has kept its numbers from the beginning in September 1969, 19 members will be continuing until the end of Winter Term, probably under the same platoon name. The composition of the platoon has changed little from that of the first 2 terms although we now have ex-members of Parsons and Watts joining the longer established occupants of Block 6.

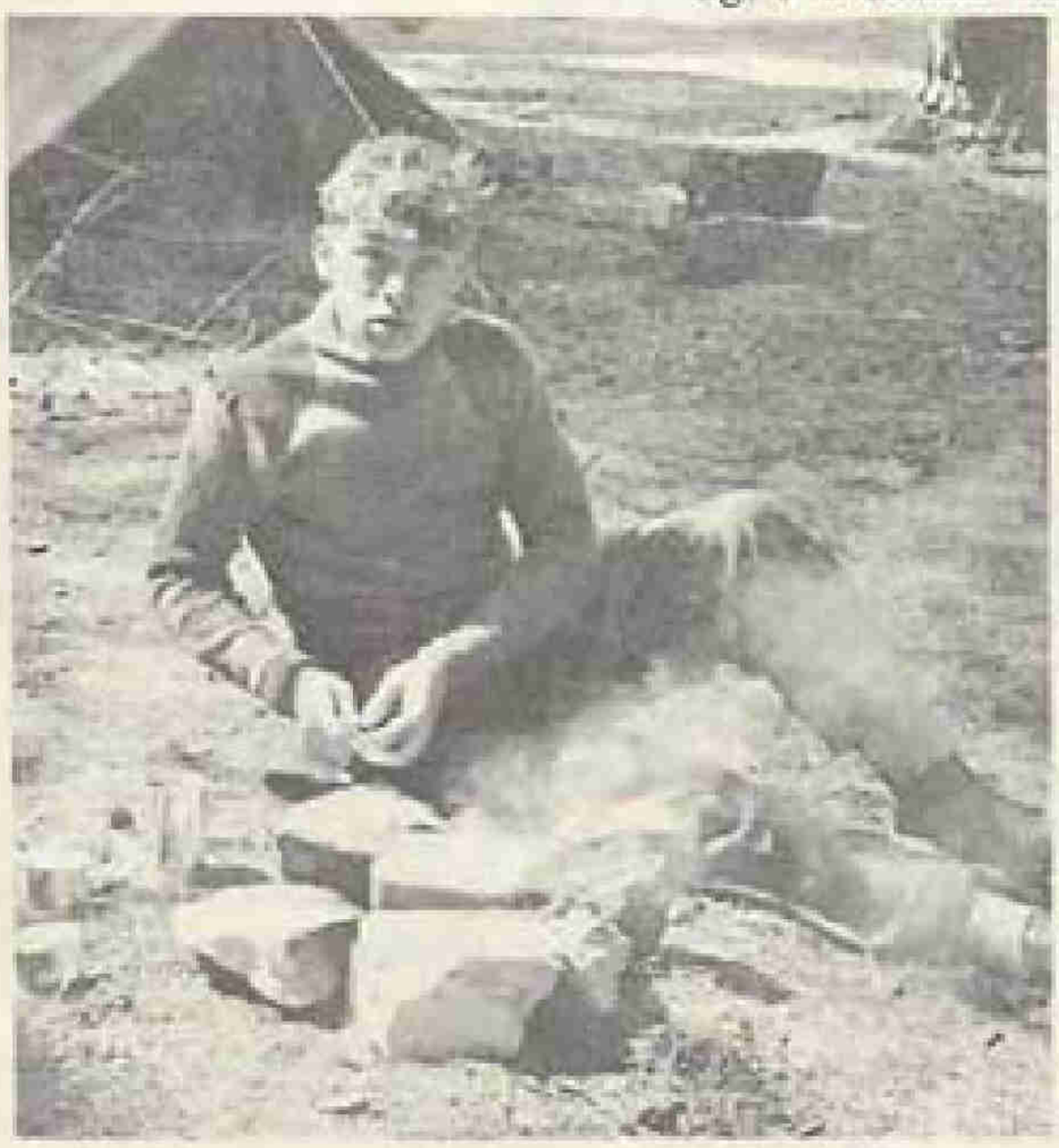
This general stability, however, cannot be seen in the permanent staff of the platoon for during the 20 months of its existence it has had, at one time or another, the following Platoon Sergeants:

Sgt McGregor, Sgt Ball, SSgt Williamson, Sgt Ball again, Sgt Gardener and again Sgt Ball. Unfortunately the Summer Term 1971 will definitely be Sgt Ball's last stay with the Platoon as he is posted overseas in August. He is followed only a few weeks later by 2Lt Welch after 2 continuous years with the Platoon.

On the field of sport Hill Platoon has never professed to being outstanding but against all odds they successfully and convincingly beat all comers to win the Inter-Platoon Swimming Championships during the Spring Term.

There can be no doubt that those who have spent time with the platoon will look back on it with pleasure in years to come even if they do have trouble remembering their Platoon Sergeant's name.

Sgt P J BALL REME

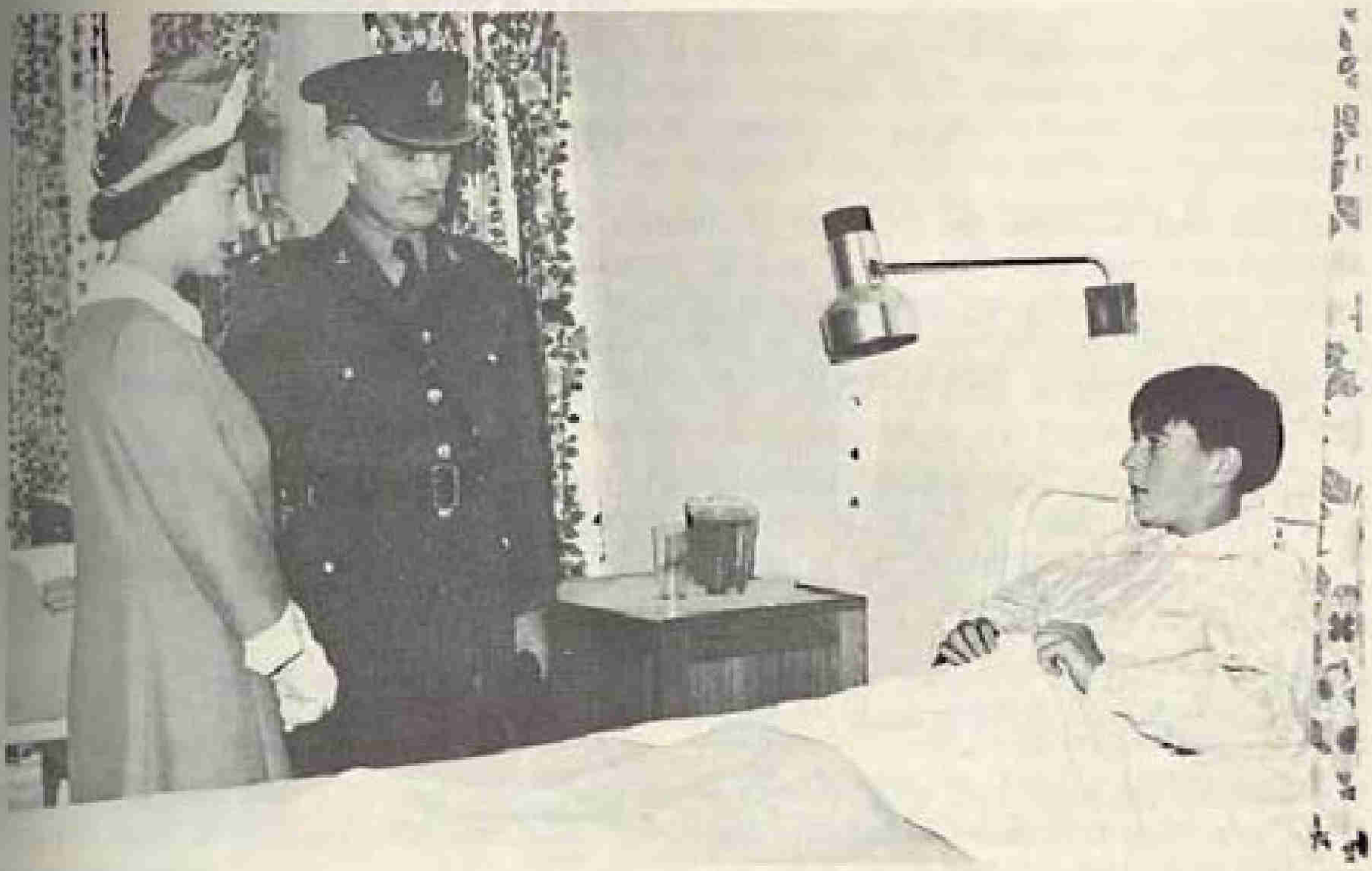


Happiness is

a kettle
a fire
a tent!

JLCpl Brown on weekend exercise

A ROYAL OCCASION



HM The Queen at Pirbright

JPte D J Thomas of Hill Platoon had the privilege of meeting Her Majesty the Queen during her visit to the Medical Reception Station at Pirbright. The photograph shows 'Taffy' suffering from tonsillitis trying to lie to attention with the CO of the MRS looking on. The photograph is by Army Public Relations.

TRAINING COMPANY

OC	**Capt K E Curtis RAOC**
2IC	**Capt H J Dickson REME**
CSM	**WO II J A D Little RAOC**

The past year has seen the formation of Training Company which embraces all training and administration staff less those on 'A' and 'B' Companys' strengths. The increased emphasis on outdoor tactical training and increased work on military qualifications has had rewarding effects. Our current statistics continue to show an upward surge and with the retiming of military qualifications examinations to Term III and IV we now have adequate time for external training in adult units.

During the past year over 90 boys have been on attachments to Field Force Units including 16 Para Heavy Drop Company RAOC, 1 Para Logistic Regiment and 19 Ordnance Field Park, with boys as far afield as Scotland, the Scilly Isles and Malta. During the next 3 months boys are going to Germany and Belgium.

On the sport front our permanent staff continue to dominate garrison teams, with the permanent staff representing the Corps in Rugby, Tennis, Hockey, Sailing and Cricket.

The Company organised and, with the help of the Companies, manned a very successful stand at the Army Show 1970 known as Exercise New Envoy which was held in Aldershot. Many tributes were paid to the high standard of our stand and the way "Audience Participation" was encouraged. The weather for the show was excellent and all returned with a deep sun-tan.

Promotions have been fast and fruious over the past year and although some are now posted we list them herewith.

SSgt McLean ACC to WO II
SSgt Elsmoor to WO II (CSM)
SSgt Radford to WO II (CSM)
Sgt Johnson to SSgt
Cpl Tyerman to Sgt
Cpl Maye to Sgt
Cpl Sweeting to Sgt

OUR VISIT TO THE RAOC SCHOOL OF PETROLEUM

by

JPte EVANS, ROWCROFT PLATOON

The visit to the RAOC School of Petroleum started at 6.30 am on 29 September 1970. It started with the general activities of getting our equipment up to the required standard for the 8 am kit inspection. The strain was terrific as we stood to attention waiting for the Sergeants and Corporals to blow their tops off at us, for leaving a micro sized speck of dust on our boots. Finally it was over and what was left of our once whole body, clambered aboard the bus awaiting the beginning of a fantastic and interesting trip.

We chugged along in the bus at a steady 20 miles per hour, until 2 hours later we pulled up outside the Petroleum School, wondering what kind of day it was going to turn out to be. We were greeted a little further on by a Corporal who directed us to the canteen for a cup of tea, which I must add we were glad to receive. After which the officer in charge split us up into 2 groups of 9. The first group of 9 visited one part of a small research establishment, where a small man, who was wearing spectacles on the tip of his nose and had pure white hair, jabbered on about the principles of a knockometer and the way a wrong type of petrol could ruin the car's engine and probably shred the pistons into the bargain. After a 10 minute lecture we (the 2 groups of 9) changed around. This time we ended up in another part of this small establishment, where another man explained to us the way they sorted the petrols out and experimented on the different temperature of ignition in the different types of fuel. Afterwards we all clambered back on the bus, which drove us to a different part of the unit where a Corporal showed us the machines they used for filling jerricans. He then showed us a pumping station where the fuels are brought from the trains by pipes and sorted through other different kind of pipes to the large storage tanks further on.

We then again clambered aboard the bus which this time drove us to the canteen for our dinner.

After dinner there awaited another demonstration, this time fire fighting equipment. The Chief first of all gave us a lecture on the numerous types of fire extinguishers used in petrol fires, electrical and normal material fires. After explaining what they consisted of he gave us an example of how quickly the chemical reacted in the containers. He then lit a small demonstration oil fire. He then challenged a few of us to put out the fire with the equipment he had shown us. We saw the way in which extinguishers containing water were of no use and the way in which only foam worked.

We also had 2 interesting films on an oil fire and oil today. This again explained some very interesting things about oil and fuel generally. The day ended with a walk around the model room where there were a few NCOs at our disposal if we wanted to ask any questions about anything we had seen throughout the day.

I think I can safely say that everyone enjoyed the outing very much and would not mind going there or a similar place again.

ATTACHMENT TO CAD BRAMLEY - JCpl LLOYD WEST

I arrived at Bramley to be greeted by the CSM at the Regimental Wing on Monday afternoon. He arranged for me to draw some bedding and I was billeted in the block with trainee Ammunition Technicians, two of whom, Martin Conelly and Alan Proctor, I knew from having been at the College. I spent most of my free time with these people and acquired from them some information on my pending AT's Course.

On the Tuesday I was attached to the Depot Office and learned something of the way in which issues, receipts and movement of ammunition is co-ordinated to ensure the continual smooth running of the Depot. In the afternoon I attended, with a group of officers from various NATO countries, a practical lecture on Plastic Explosives, Demolitions and other aspects of Pyrotechnics.

The next 2 days I spent working in the sheds where the ammunition is stored and acquainting myself with some people that I am likely to meet should I return.

This attachment was very useful to me in many ways, not only in the things that I learned about a CAD, but also in what I learned about living with men much older than myself. This, I believe, will stand me in good stead for my first entry into the Regular Army.

EDUCATION WING

Senior Education Officer: Major H W Richmond, MA, RAEC

It has been another busy year in the Education Centre. 140 Junior Leaders successfully completed the Army Certificate of Education Junior Test and 115 complete Intermediate Certificates have been obtained. At Senior Test level 429 subject passes have been achieved and have led to 42 CSE certificates being awarded. 7 complete Senior Test certificates have been gained and 9 GCE 'O' level passes have been recorded.

During the year 121 Junior Leaders completed their work in College and moved on to Adult Service. Of these only 5% failed to reach the minimum qualifying educational standard. Of the 95% who gained full Intermediate Certificate, 80% also achieved one or more subject passes at Senior Test and 6% gained a full Senior Certificate.

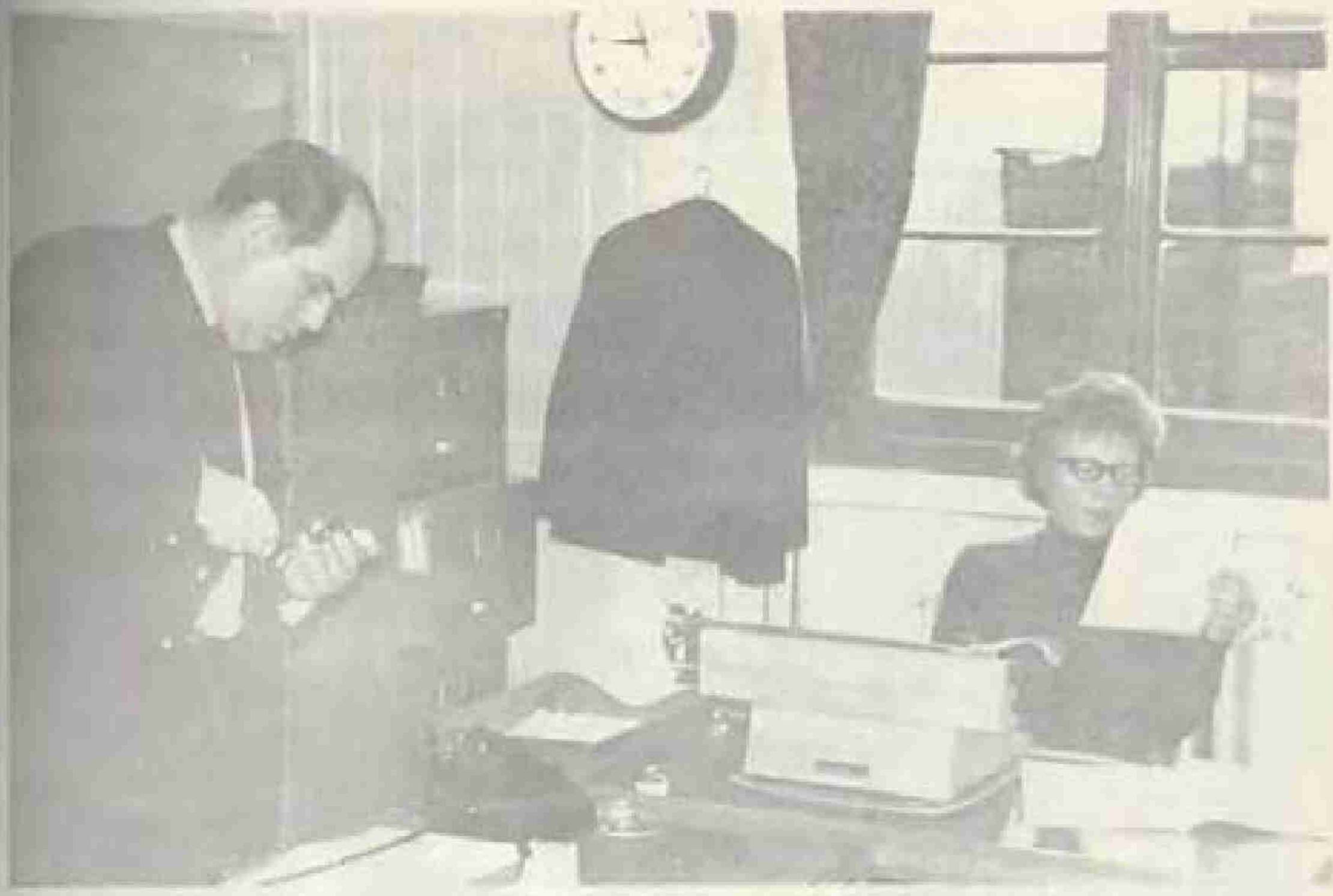
The range of subjects studied has included English Language, English Literature, Arithmetic, Mathematics, Military Calculations, Map Reading, Current Affairs, General Science, Geography, Woodwork, Religious Knowledge, Art, Liberal Studies, German and Russian.

The Educational Scheme for the Army is undergoing a change at present. In future, more attention is to be given to education in support of military training and trade training and also to the preparation of the individual for his future service - especially abroad. Individual education will continue and candidates will be prepared and entered for civilian examinations such as CSE and GCE 'O' Level in future as they are at present.

It may come as a surprise to some to hear that Army units for Junior Soldiers are subject to periodic inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. Our turn came during the summer of 1970 when a team of 7 HMIs stayed in College for a week and subjected the whole work of the unit to a close, critical look. When their report was published by HMSO in October, it was clear that we had come out of the ordeal with our reputation enhanced. As an inspection officer subsequently commented "I have not seen a better report on a Junior Unit in recent years".

The Education Wing Library continues to flourish - in fact, more books have been borrowed from the library during the past year than in any previous year. The library contains over 7,000 books and over 5,500 issues were made during the period. This, however, reflects only one part of the work of the library as it is also used by a large number of students researching into the projects which all students must attempt. The library is, in effect, an educational workshop and during study hours it is a busy, purposeful place.

The Education Wing continues to control all hobby activities throughout the College. 25 hobbies have been functioning during the year, on the whole with great success. The hobbies offered range from Art to Typing and from Drama to Marquetry. Accounts of many of the hobby activities are detailed elsewhere.



In the official reports on educational work in the College, scant attention is paid to the essential work done by the civil servants who back up the work of the Educational staff.

The smooth running of the wing is due, in no small measure, to Mrs Ruth Taylor and Mr MacLean - 'Mac' to all of us - who help ensure that the administrative and 'Q' side of the department functions efficiently. Mr Johnson, who was full time librarian, retired at Easter after many years service. He has been succeeded by Mrs Wilson who has seen the light and joined us from College HQ.

The Educational staff continue to play a full role in College life. In the field of sport, Major Richmond, Captain Neal and Captain Hilton play for the College, Training Centre and RAEC at Hockey. Lt Coleman plays Soccer for the Training Centre, RAEC and Army Crusaders. Captain Tony Hilton, who has, to date, won 10 Army Tennis titles has enough steam left to win a few more in the future. Capt George Neal captains the College Training Centre Cricket XI while Col Schofield will play Golf for anyone at anytime!

The relevant point is that many of these officers find time to coach the Junior Leaders in the various sports mentioned and have helped to build up not only the educational standard of the Junior Leaders, but also the fine sporting reputation enjoyed by the College.

SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICERS PRIZE WINNERS

Summer Term 1970 — JPte Burrows who achieved 5 Senior Test subjects and full Intermediate and Junior Certificates.

Winter Term 1970 — JSgt Knight who achieved 4 Senior Test subjects and full Intermediate and Junior Certificates

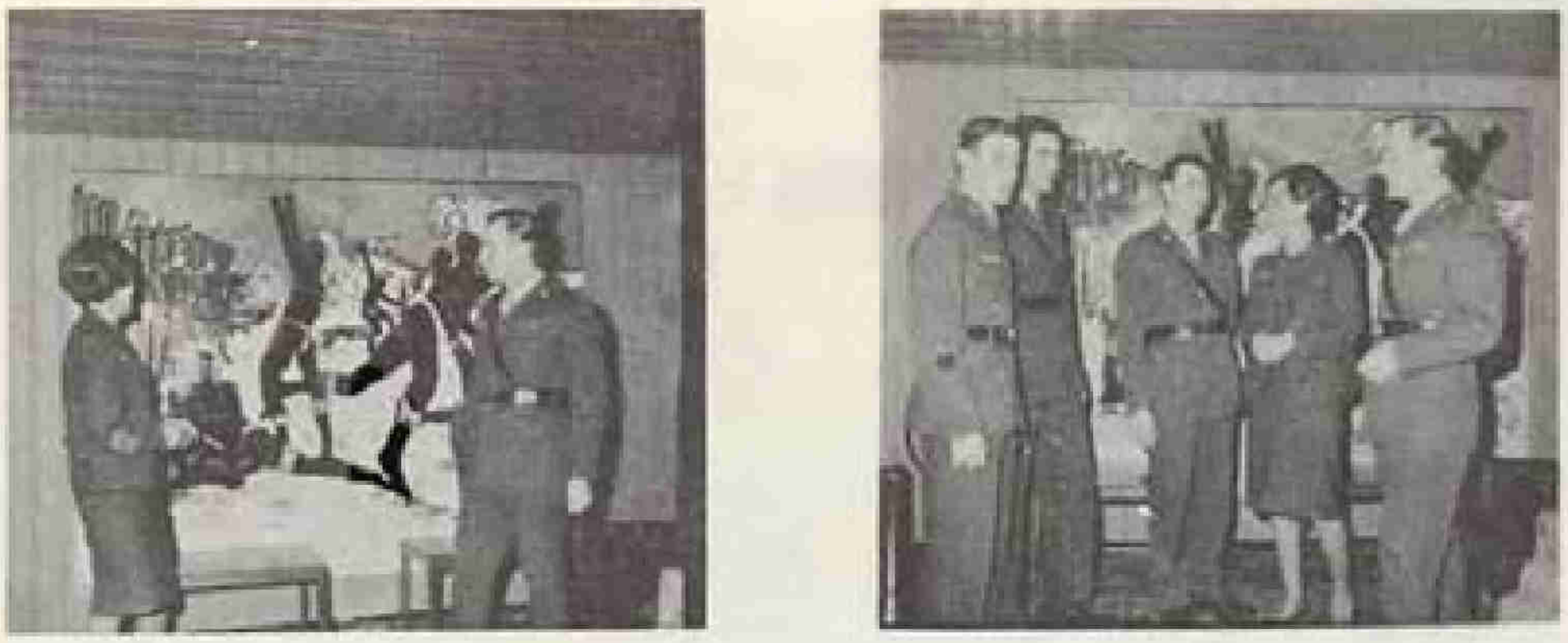
Spring Term 1971 — JCpl Lloyd-West who gained 1 GCE 'O' Level pass, 4 Senior Test subjects and full Intermediate and Junior Certificates.

THE KON TIKI CLUB

Mrs Margaret Highton handing over to Mrs Dorothy Rose

The normal role of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service in a unit such as ours is to organise, usually on NAAFI canteen premises, out-of-hours leisure activities such as billiards, snooker, darts, all forms of card games, record-playing, dances, reading material to suit all tastes and so on and so forth. In addition, of course, the WRVS representative becomes the 'Mother' figure for each boy in the unit and is very easily and quickly involved in every form of social welfare in the unit from hospital visiting to marriage-counselling. She is expected to lend a ready shoulder, figuratively speaking, for every homesick boy to cry on and to give comfort and encouragement to those who find the rigours of military life to hard to bear.

In this unit, however, over the past 4 years even more has been demanded - and given. In 1967 the rebuilding of Blackdown Barracks meant that we were forced to share the amenities of our NAAFI with the Depot Battalion and it became extremely difficult for the then representative of the WRVS Mrs Rosemary Chown to find space in which to carry out her task satisfactorily. In the end, after much prodding, cajoling and pleading, she was given permission to adapt 2 very old pre-war temporary huts to meet her needs. It required several weeks of intensive 'self-help' by Mrs Chown, the boys and all ranks of the permanent staff before the refurbishing and decorating were complete. In January the Commanding Officer, Lt Col E Ridgeway, opened the centre and named it, at Mrs Chown's request, 'The Kon Tiki Club', after the theme of some of the murals painted by members of the Art Club. In addition to all the usual facilities offered by the WRVS, the Kon Tiki provided 2 extremely comfortable lounges, a colour TV room and, above all, a canteen service which quickly became much more popular than its NAAFI counterpart.



The Commanding Officer and Mrs Chown at the opening of the Kon Tiki, June 1967

Shortly after the opening of the Club, Mrs Chown left us for Germany and from then until March of this year it was in the care of Mrs Margaret Halewood-Highton. Under her, the club went from strength to strength and became one of the focal points of the unit to which all visitors, including inspecting officers and parents, were inevitably and proudly taken. One example will serve to show esprit de corps enjoyed by the club. In February of this year the Kon Tiki, without any official sponsorship, entered a team in the South of England Youth Clubs' Cross Country Championships - and won! Margaret left us at the end of last term, much to our regret. Our sincerest thanks and best wishes go with her in her 'retirement'.

Mrs Margaret Highton with the boys' farewell present - a silver Georgian preserves dish - given to her by JRSM Dunn on behalf of all the Junior Leaders, 6 April 1971

The story has now nearly gone full cycle. We welcomed this term Mrs Dorothy Rose to take over from Margaret. But the rebuilding of Blackdown which gave rise to the birth of the Kon Tiki Club has gone apace. The Depot Battalion has moved into its new accommodation and we have our NAAFI once more to ourselves. It will not be long before Dorothy re-establishes herself in the more appropriate NAAFI Building and the Kon Tiki will be a thing of the past. Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose!

LITERARY CRAFTSMANSHIP by W E SMITH ESQ

The times are changing, but not necessarily we of the older generation with them. In an advanced technological society we often find ourselves completely at sea and often quite out of our depth. However we still cling desperately to one or two things we hold most dear. Ah! Yes, we say. We can, at least, spell and write decently.

It may be true that the "Spelling" and "Writing" lessons have completely disappeared from our school time-table. Modern techniques demand free composition, speed of thought, and the ball-point pen. But are we destroying something of beauty in this mad scamper for utilitarian knowledge. Surely our language is one which cries aloud for the talents of a Shakespeare, Swift or Dickens. Don't let us destroy it by confusion and sloveniiness. Spelling and grammatical errors have been made in all ages and by all sorts of people. The difference is probably that in former years the mistakes were recognised, corrected, and lessons learnt from them. Today it often becomes a matter of considerable doubt whether or not they are recognised at all. Certainly they never seem to be corrected for there they stand large and bold for all the world to witness.

In most activities where errors arise, there is often a degree of humour involved which provides some slight relief. The cartoonist is called upon to manufacture humour out of a serious situation Only occasionally is it "made" for him by some inadvertent slip. What a field-day he could have with some of the would-be writiers of our language in this so-called permissive society.

There was once a young man who glibly penned in his serious historical exposition - "Wellington's funeral was a magnificent one. It took six men to carry the BEER". Now what a thirsty job that must have been! Then there was that bright young man who in a similar exercise brought Louis XVI to a real sticky end by having him "gelatined". Of course it could be argued that at least both were on the right lines. It was only the difference between sounds - saying the word would have been correct, writing it proved the undoing.

The mistake which most of the "old Brigade" find possibly much more amusing and to the point is that usually committed by that profound philosopher of modern sociology who usually sits in the front row of any class. What a wealth of knowledge there is in

"Children in Victorian times seldom reached the age of ADULTERY"

That must have solved all the marriage problems of those days. As if to convince his readers of his own propriety, yet another profound thought flows from his pen:

"King William had a New Forest MAID and killed anyone who chased his DEAR"

summary justice indeed! And what about the military precision of his "He decided to go it alone so he called for volunteers" - you, you and you? Perhaps his choicest gem of graphic description remains:

"Three shots were fired. Two gangsters fell dead and the other went through his hat" - a conjuror no doubt!

It would seem that we live in a world where "old-fashioned" employers bewail the shortcomings of their new style secretaries, editors and mechanical deficiencies of modern compositors and "old" schoolmasters the wayward approach of the "new" Sirs, Misses and pupils. What has gone wrong? Are we bedevilled by new-fangled aids, a woeful lack of concentrated effort, or just plain stupidity? It could be that a great many of our present-day ills stem from this simple lack of understanding -

"Large streams from little fountains flow, Tall oaks from little acorns grow."

We would all do well to remember that bad habits are created by the lack of attention to noble ones. If our country is to be "Great" then surely our language must be accurate and precise or how else are we to be understood? Disraeli was making no idle pronunciation with his maxim

"With words we govern men."

But surely he meant the RIGHT words, used at the RIGHT time and in the RIGHT place.

"To change the name, and not the letter,
Is a change for the worse, and not for the better."

ART CLUB

Officer in Charge: Captain D W Fisher

The scope of the work produced by our various members has widened considerably since we last submitted copy.

We have at last begun to escape from the conventional pencil and paper sketch of the perennial boats, planes and cars.

It is refreshing to find that some are prepared to experiment in the new media whether it be string printing or mask making, marquetry or tile making. Only by exploring and experimenting is it possible either to broaden an artistic knowledge or improve a technique. There will always be a place for the conventional still life of a few bottles or an arrangement of fruit for there is a necessary discipline in Art.

We often find that when a member says "I'll do an abstract" he is hard pressed to justify what his "abstraction" was from.

Entries to Senior test have again been successful and our current 90 odd per cent pass rate in Art ought to be the envy of the more mundane subjects. However, Disraeli's "Lies, damned lies and statistics" could well be arranged against us so perhaps we ought not to pursue the matter too far.

The change in the examination structure will now allow us to follow a definite course towards CSE. Since the writer had a hand in the suggested syllabus it will mean that our members can now experiment to their hearts' content for not only must the course last a year but must include three dimensional work - an exciting prospect.

It may, however, mean that it will not be quite such a free for all and we shall have to follow a more directed course, but the end result will certainly be worthwhile and the means to the end enjoyable.

"ROMMEL"
Drawn by JPte FOSTER

Photographed and printed by JPte AVERY

ANGLING

Officer in Charge: Cpl R Sweeting RAOC

The 1970/71 season has not so far been a good one. This is, however, more due to lack of opportunity than lack of enthusiasm.

During the summer months, transport is at a premium and as angling is not recognised by the transport authorities, we have been obliged to take to our knees, begging lifts to our few available fishing grounds as the guests of the Canoeing and Sailing Clubs.

An expedition to the Thames with the former was our sum total of river fishing, where among other notable successes, was the fine feat of JPte Laker, who managed to cast baited hook, float and the top section of his rod into mid-stream. Fortunately, he also executed recovery of same with no other cost than wet feet, up to his knees.

An expedition to Hawley Lake revealed a new species of maggot eating rhododendron which I don't think the Record Fish Committee will include in their annals.

The 'Tight Lines Trophy' was won by JPte Higginson who with two minute Perch, proved that even he could catch them if they would be mugs enough to bite.

The future for the 1971/72 season looks a little unsettled at present, but we live in hope that our members will be admitted to the ranks of the Farnborough Angling Society who have excellent facilities locally as well as waters some distance away.

DRAMA

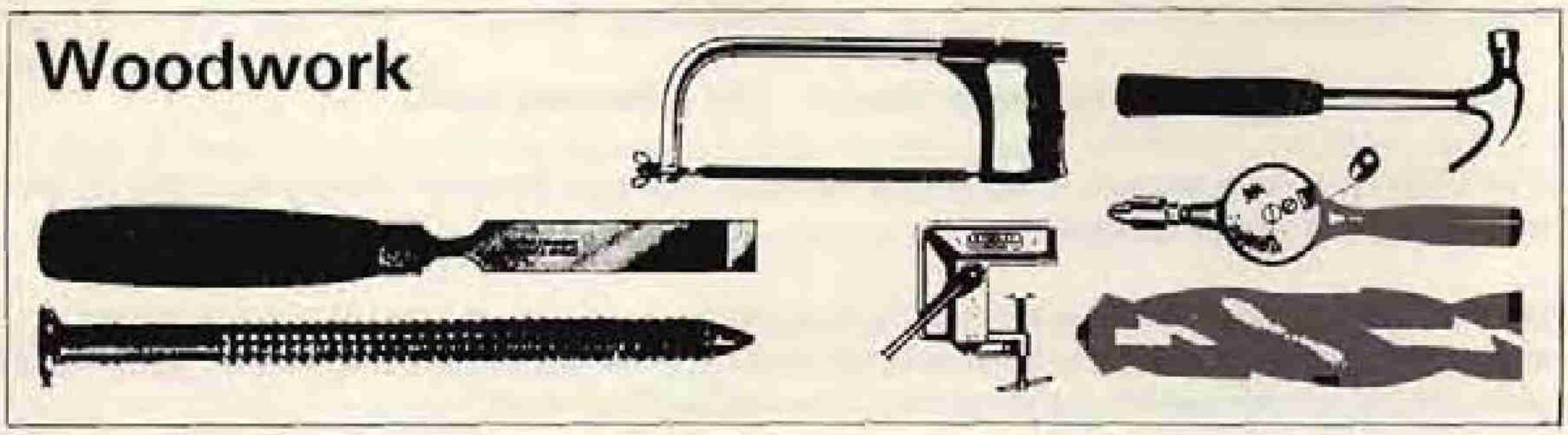
Officer in Charge: W E Smith Esq

The Drama Society has proceeded on its way with a new spirit of adventure. The work has revolved mainly on 2 productions, "Everyman" and "Thread O' Scarlet", the last named being our entry for the Army Junior Drama Competition. It was most unfortunate that the organisers of the Army Festival had to call it all off at the eleventh hour, due to lack of support. There can be little doubt that we were "in" with a great chance of pulling off the major award. A tremendous amount of work had been accomplished and the production had assumed real professional proportions. JPte Evans, a playwright of no mean repute, was about to enjoy his "finest" hour as a producer, and any member of the cast was capable of acquiring the "Actor of the Year" award.

On the social side we all thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The production of "Everyman" which we were privileged to see and discuss with the management, helped enormously. We all look forward to many more visits of this type.

The Club is the poorer for the loss of Captain Bill Tate, who has returned to drama production in a school in Oldham. We all wish to place on record our deep appreciation of all his stalwart efforts during his service in the College. Our thanks too are due to Rosemary and Christine, truly both decorative and talented members of our Club.

The coming season will see the opening of the newly built Tela Theatre. We have already been invited to play a full part in its activities and the future of the club certainly looks bright and promising.



WOODWORK

Officer in Charge: Lt D G McKeon RAEC

Although membership of this club is restricted by the number of benches, the output of articles produced has been maintained both in quantity and of course in quality.

There has been a marked increase, in the past few months, in the use by members of the various power tools which are at their disposal - a particular attractive product from the lathe being JPte Kemp's salad bowl - turned in Utile.

One or two items are inevitably somewhat ambitious and due to their complexity of design or size, tend to become known to posterity after the aspiring and sometimes perspiring creator. One calls to mind items such as the Watkins table, for example, but which one hopes will give as much service to the ultimate user, as it did joy and frustration to the maker.

The first photograph shows a number of selected items produced last term, whilst the second shows the standard of woodcarving that may be achieved with the application of a little effort and perseverance.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Officer in Charge: Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)

"Did you focus this properly in the enlarger?" "Yes sir". "Well you must have moved the camera as you took the shot - the whole picture is blurred. What are the others like?"

"I think I can remember how it happened now, sir. It should be OK in the future".

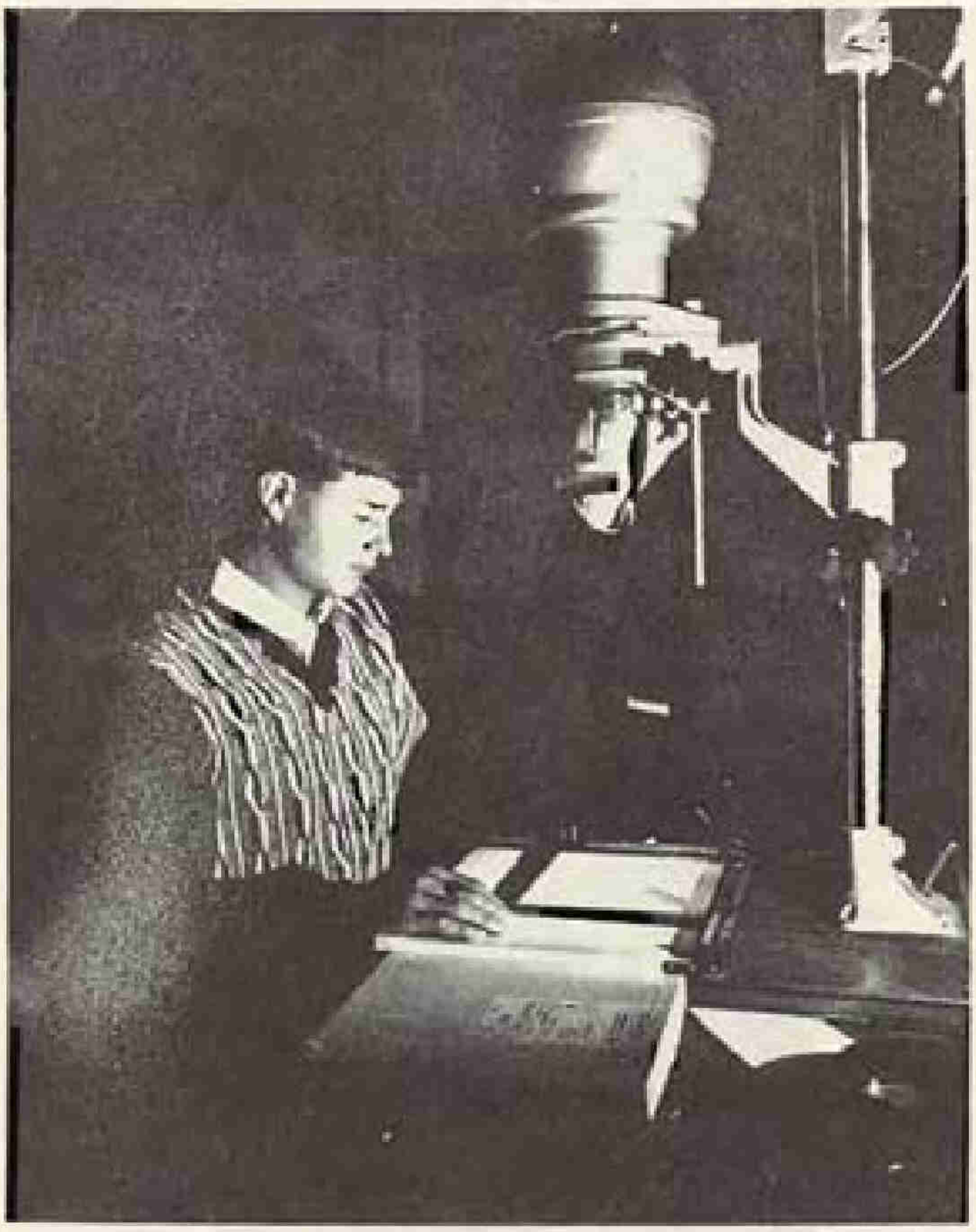
"Find out who is at the door". "Yes sir. It is Mr Welch".

"Tell him we'll open up in a minute, when that print is in the fixer. He'll be wanting those shots of the swimming team".

"I think this developer is getting tired, sir. Shall I mix some more?" "Yes Frew. What on earth are you trying to do there, Titherington? Can't you focus it?"

"I can't get it in the frame, sir". "Let's have a look. Well, of course, you've got the wrong lens and condenser - they are for 35 mil. I'll change them over".

And so on. Typical conversation in the dark room on a hobbies evening. Everyone wants to do everything at the same time. The session flashes by and all too soon it's time to clean up and shut the door on the 'black hole' until the next evening.



CORPS OF DRUMS

Officer in Charge: Capt D M M Stobie RAOC

Assistants: WO I (RSM) N Doming RAOC
Sgt R Douglas RAOC
Sgt K Mitchell RAOC

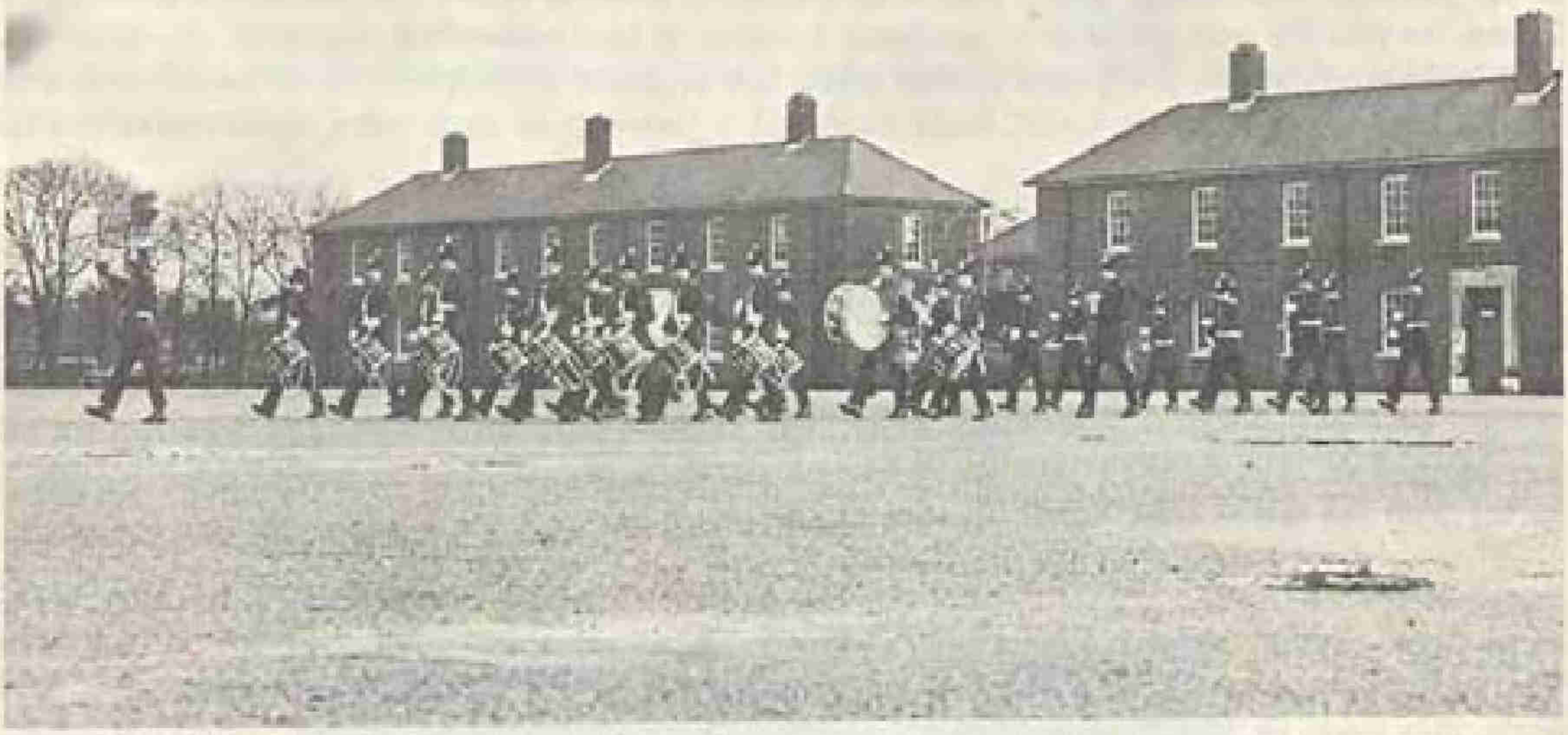
Immediately after our last appearance in this magazine, we faced our biggest problem in the loss of our full-time drum major. Money has always posed a problem to the continuance of the Corps of Drums, so that we were not able to go into the market to hire instructors to provide the tuition the boys needed. However, the Corps rallied round and provided £250 from central funds so now we have 2 instructors from the RAOC Staff Band and a little bit of cash left over to purchase some new equipment.

Drum Major Anscombe and Bugle Majors Nicoll and Dunn have been and gone. The present incumbent is Junior Drum Major Pennells who hails from Bicester. (I wonder why he joined the RAOC) Drum Major Pennells may not be the largest member of the Corps of Drums, but he has amply made up his physical deficiency with a loud voice and excellent appearance. Ex Bugle Major Nicoll, who was our first ever Bugle Major, has decided that the musical life was just for him and instead of disappearing into the world of storemen and clerks, is continuing his musical career with the RAOC Staff Band.

Engagements during the winter months are few and far between. COD Bicester, however, found themselves without a band for their Remembrance Sunday parade and requested our services. The performance given by the Corps of Drums was so impressive that we have been asked back again this year. In January the retiring Director of Ordnance Services, Major General A Young, made his farewell visit to the Training Centre and after the parade the Corps of Drums put on their display of marching. The summer months ahead will keep us busy with functions on most weekends.

There has been a tremendous turnover of personnel. We accepted 36 recruits in September last year, thus making our total strength over 60 at one time. The rather unique situation of being able to reject boys with little musical aptitude existed for a short period.

The importance of the continuance of the College Corps of Drums is often not fully realised. They do however represent the Corps at many official and private functions and we are always under pressure to provide the Corps of Drums or small parties of boys from the Corps of Drums for various functions. The boys who form the Corps of Drums have therefore a tremendous recruiting value to the Corps for which they receive no personal remuneration for the amount of work they do. Having emphasised our financial problems earlier, any hope of paying the boys for their appearances is just not possible. Instead it is hoped that the system of issuing boys with College Colours for their efforts in the Corps of Drums will partially reward them. The first batch of Colours were presented by the Commanding Officer at a Ceremony in the College Gymnasium in April and will continue to be awarded each term.



Corps of Drums performing at the farewell parade for Major General Young, Director of Ordnance Services, January 1971

CONSTRUCTION HOBBIES

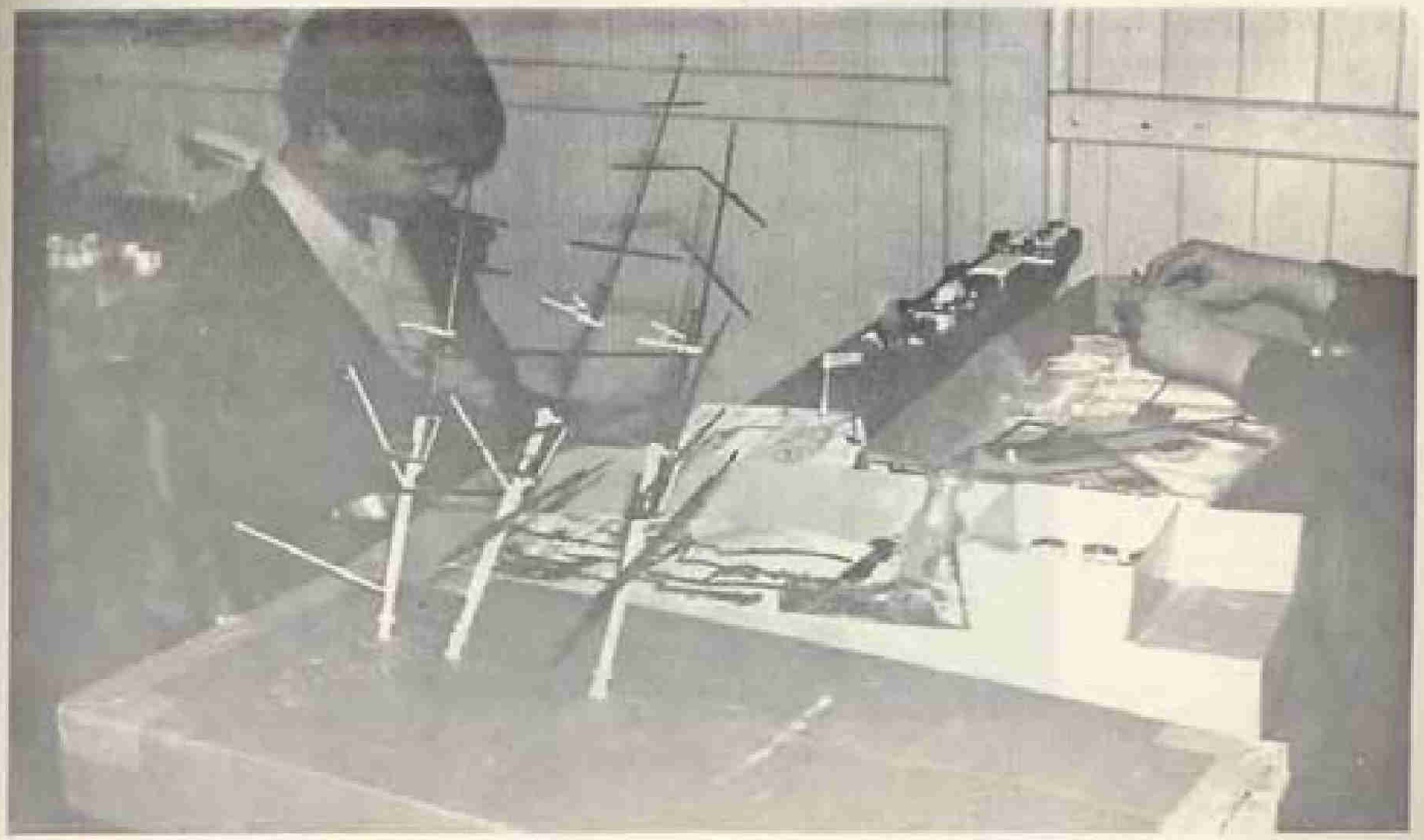
Officer in Charge: **Lt R W Bicknell**

Assistant: **Cpl Thompson**

Though Aero modelling is the mainstay of this hobby, it is better named Construction Hobbies as many more objects are made besides aero models.

At the time of going to press no models have yet flown. The most impressive model has been a World War One German Tripacer built by JPte Burns of Hill Platoon . JPte Western of the late Williams Platoon has built a very impressive plastic model of the Cutty Sark while JPte Tock of Baker Platoon is in the process of building a flying model of the SRN 1 Hovercraft from plans only. Does this mean that next term the Hovercraft hobbies come under the wing of aero modelling.

It is hoped during the summer term to have a display of radio controlled models flying at Deepcut by a group of enthusiasts from Aldershot.



CANOEING

Officer in Charge: **Lt K Fisher**

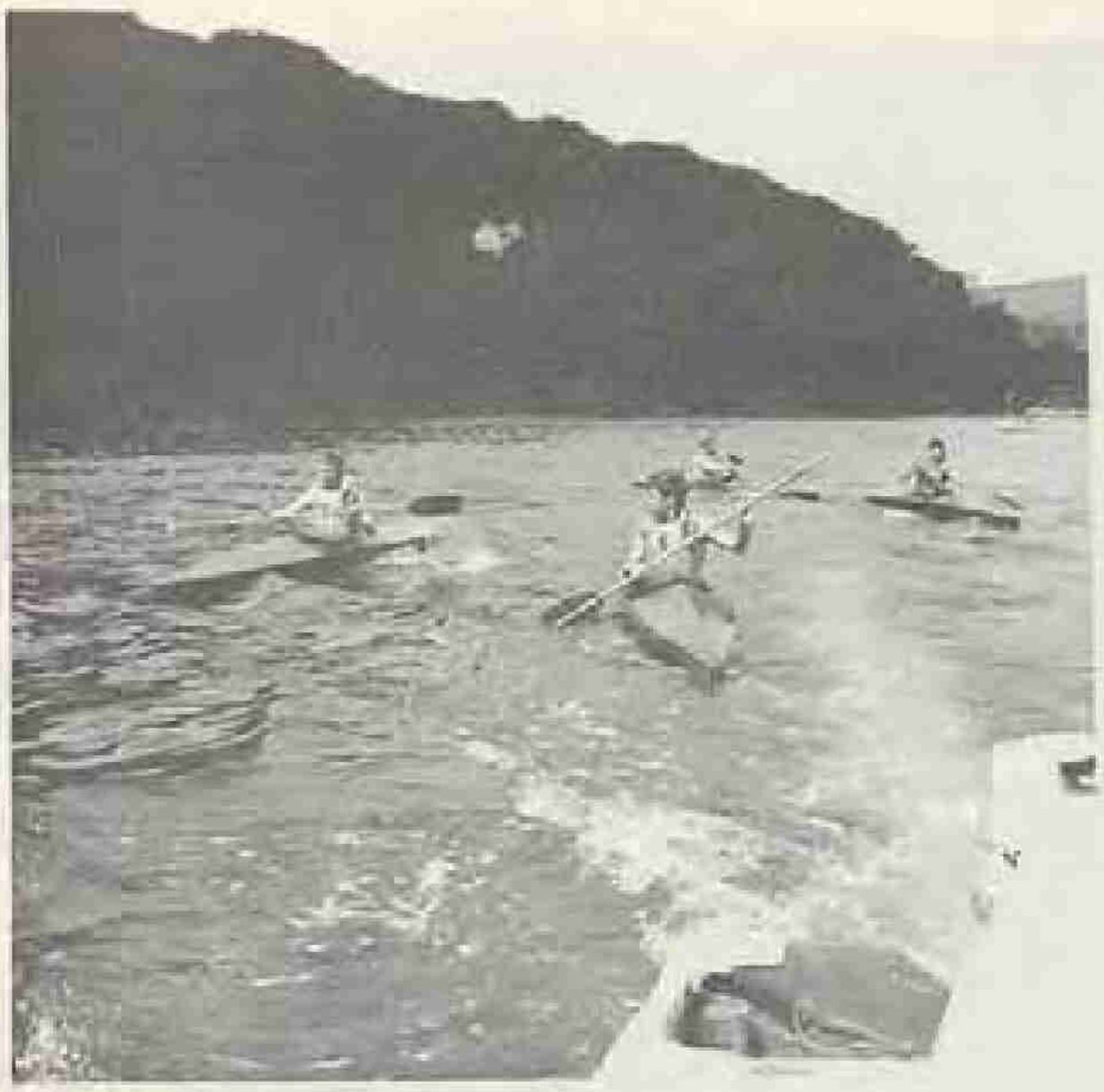
Assistant: **Sgt Ball**

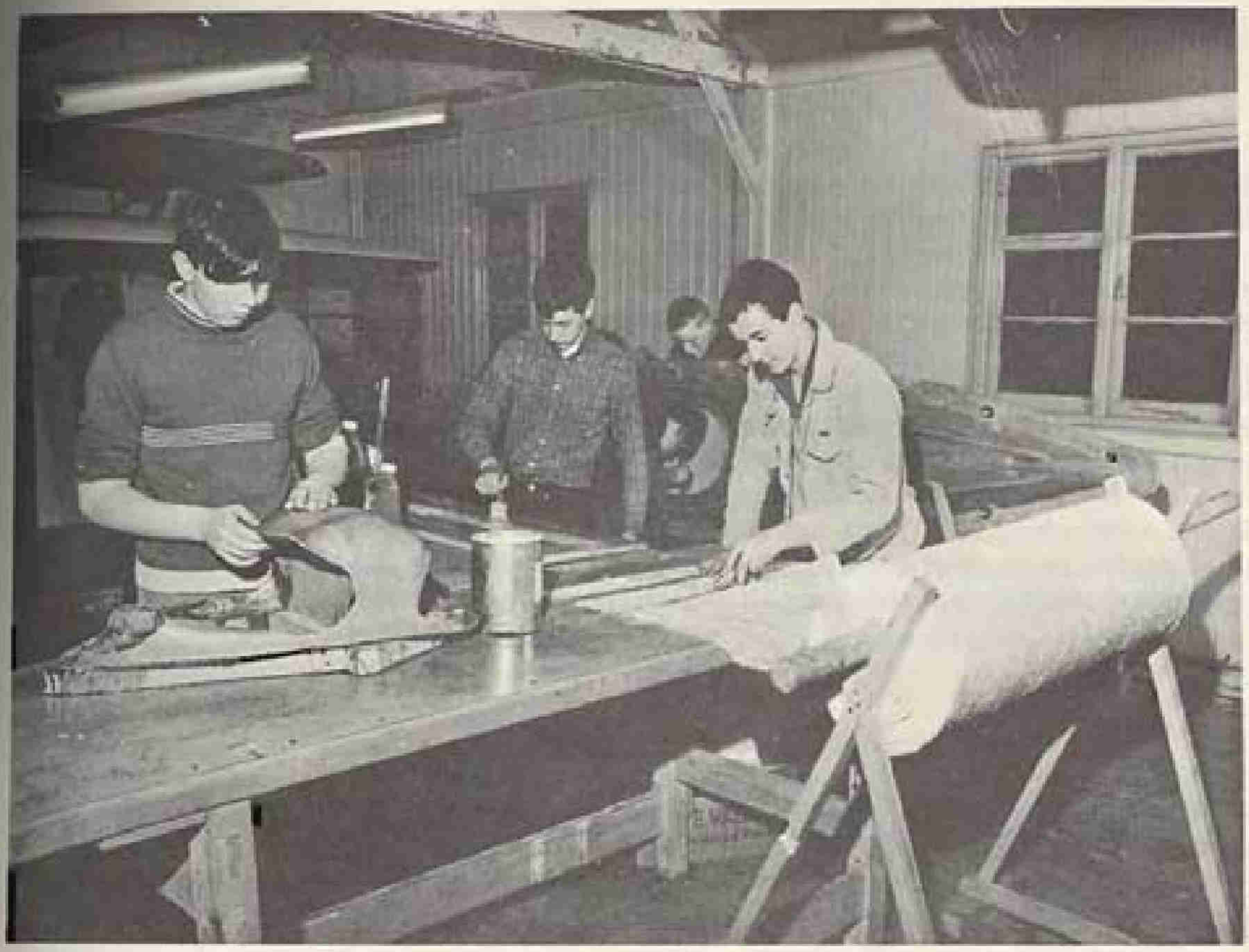
During the Winter Term the Canoe Club hung up their paddles and armed with paint brushes. trimming knives and rollers set about making their own glass fibre canoes. The Club House became a hive of activity as apprentices liberally covered the mould, and themselves, with resin and glass fibre. They have become experts on the use of release agent, pigment and catalyst and speak with authority on 'curing times' and 'laying-up' procedure.

Production continued throughout the term with working parties in attendance most nights of the week under the supervision of Lieutenants Fisher, Den-McKay and Coleman. Ideas and suggestions for improving the methods and standards were forthcoming from everyone and some have been included with good results.

Production was only stopped when we were able to obtain the use of a swimming pool. On such evenings the Apprentices were taught the basics of canoeing, spending more time under the water than on it, practising capsize drills and learning different strokes.

For the Spring Term we were given the use of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, swimming pool on Thursday afternoons, so while half the Club were making canoes the other half were using them. In the last week of term the more experienced members were entered in a slalom race at Newbury. The idea of a slalom race is to manoeuvre your canoe through a number of poles which are suspended just above the water - easy! The only problem is that the course is near a weir or lock gate and the water is very rough and fast moving. This was the first time that many had paddled in moving water, and most finished up in the icy cold water, practising capsize drills again! Everyone agreed it to be exciting and worthwhile. Of the 2 Junior Leaders that completed the course JCfn Rhodes came 65th and JPte Hanes 67th.





Fibre Glass Canoe construction in progress

JUDO

Officer in Charge: Capt (Retd) W Tate

With the departure of our stalwarts from the successful team of last year, we set about the reconstruction of our team for the 1971 Army Junior Championships.

Unfortunately time was against us and before we had the opportunity to 'cash-in' on the large numbers in the Judo Club after Christmas 1970, the Championships were upon us.

We entered a team and several individual competitors in the Zone eliminations. JLCpl Nicholls was runner up in the lightweight category. JLCpl Thain reached the semi-finals of the welter-weight and JPte Brown (034) the semi-finals of the Light heavyweight, all qualifying for the Army Championships Finals at Chepstow. The team was unfortunately beaten in the early rounds. On the credit side JLCpl Thain and JCfn Vickers have both been selected for the Army Junior team squad, and of course nearly all of this year's members will still be in the unit for next year's championships, a year older and a year more experienced.

DRIVER TRAINING

Officer in Charge: Capt D J Bowell REME

Driver Training was introduced as a hobby at the beginning of the Spring Term. Needless to say we did not have to press gang Junior Leaders into joining. Because of its popularity and the limited number of vacancies, the system of selection had to be quite rigid.

We started the course with 13 but due to lack of aptitude one had to be withdrawn. The course ran at weekends for a period of 10 weeks and resulted in 8 candidates passing and being awarded a full licence.

It is hoped that financial approval will continue to be given so that this hobby can be pursued in the future.

BOXING

Officer in Charge: **Capt J T Keating**

Assistants: **SSgt D R Fripp**
Sgt Partridge

The start of the 1970/71 boxing season saw frantic activity on the College boxing scene. For although only a small hobby, with less than a dozen regular members, we had entered for the Army Junior Boxing Team Championships.

Our requirement was a team of 15 boxers per tournament all within different weight and age classes. Unfortunately, because of weight, age and medical problems we were never able to achieve this 100% but came very close to it. A lot of credit must go to the recruiting ability of regular club members.

At one stage there were over 30 voluntary members on our books who would come along to the evening training sessions as their hobby allowed. Pre-tournament training required 4 early morning and 4 evening training sessions plus a lot of grit and determination on the part of the Junior Leaders attending. This was never lacking.

The first round of the competition was a home match against the Junior Parachute Company held at Deepcut on 28 October 1970. The fact that the gymnasium was required for the General's Inspection just 48 hours before the competition gave some problems to SSgt G Young and his staff. Happily they were able to overcome them. There were many fine bouts that day resulting in an eventual win to Junior Para Company of 22 points to 19. A very close thing.

Performances to remember came from Hart (Mulcahy), Jackson (Richards), Watton (Baker) and Ferguson (Watts). The only KO was provided by Sanders (Baker) while the most gruelling fight was that of 'Cauli' Flower of Mulcahy Platoon.

Our next match was the final of the Plate Competition in which we met the Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Shorncliffe on 19 November. They proved rather too strong and experienced for us and we were beaten; but only after some very spirited bouts. The only KO of the competition came from Hart (Mulcahy) in the third round. Tremendous efforts were made by Watton (Baker), fighting a Junior Army Individual Champion, Howlett (Parsons), Haynes and Corkerton (Baker) and JSgt Jory (Williams).

Bad luck ran in threes on this trip. Our other 2 misfortunes being a case of acute appendicitis developed by Bates ('A' Coy) on the journey to Folkestone and a coach crash on the return journey. It was a welcome sight to see the Commanding Officer dishing out late suppers (or was it early breakfast?) on our return at 1 am.

Our 4 entrants in the Junior Army Individual Boxing Championships, held at Oswestry in February 1971, were Watton (Baker), Ferguson (Watts), Jackson (Richards) and Gibson, a new recruit at the time, from Steevens Platoon. From the excellent performances put up by these contestants Gibson emerged victorious as the Junior Army Champion 1971, in his age and weight classes.

To round off a tremendous season, the boxing hobby trained under SSgt M Kaisia APTC, the boxing instructor at the Army School of PT. On completion of this training all were tested and awarded the Boxing Skills Proficiency Award Class 3; a well earned reward.

BASKETBALL

Officer in Charge: Capt A W Hilton RAEC

The College Basketball team have had a disappointing season. The squad played with enthusiasm and skill and were unfortunate to face strong opposition in the South-East District Championships. JLCpl Reddy proved himself to be a worthy captain of the team and played consistently well despite his other commitments, primarily to Rugby.

JCpl Watton added pugnacious strength to the team and considerable skill. Steady progress was shown by the defence and both JPte Brown (408) and JPte Stevens grew in stature as the season progressed. JLCpl Thompson and JLCpl Jeffery, the shortest member of the team, scored many baskets between them.

Team spirit was high in victory, and in defeat. Perhaps the highlight of the season for the players was their trip to Dover by minibus, driven in rota by 3 WRAC drivers. A thumping defeat by the REs left the players totally unruffled. The Dover trip was mentioned many times in later conversations - but never concerning basketball.

A summary of the results for the season 1970-71 shows:

P	W	D	L	F	A
12	5	1	6	308	463

SKIING

Officer in Charge: Lt B C Mobley RAOC

In November 1970 began the training of a College Ski Team to go on a Junior Cross Country Skiing Course at the Special Training Centre Silberhutte in the Harz Mountains, Germany.

After rigorous training in the Gym and instructional lessons on the Dri Ski Slope in Aldershot, 10 Junior Leaders set off to Germany.

All the boys completed a 2 week course in downhill and 'langlauf' cross country skiing which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Though it is not possible to learn to ski expertly in 2 weeks it placed the boys in a new and exacting environment, and helped them to master a difficult and sometimes frightening skill.

It is hoped we will have similar opportunities to go skiing next season in December 1971 and possibly to organise skiing trips to Glenmore and the Harz and Hoch Saarland Skiing areas of Germany.

CYCLING CLUB

Officer in Charge: Lt A C D Welch RAOC

Assistant: Cpl S Daniel

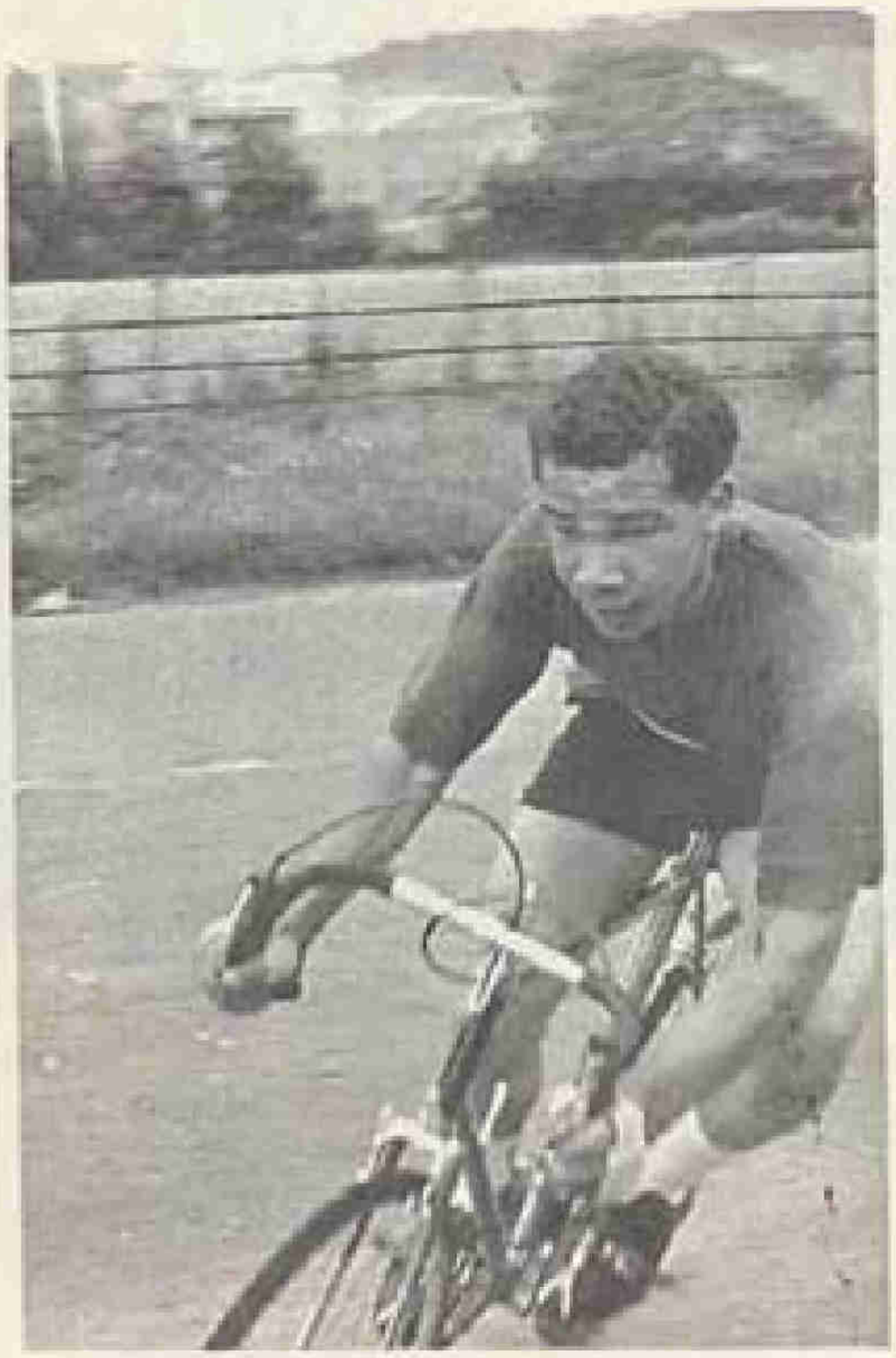
Winter is always quiet in the cycling world and this is no exception at Deepcut. The weather has forced the Club to stay indoors where most of the effort has been used up in Roller competitions on the borrowed ACU Rollers and maintaining the cycles.

The Club sponsored the ACU Roller Championships acting as hosts for the visiting teams and helpers during the event. A team was not entered on this occasion as there had been no rollers available for practice but it is anticipated that we will be in a good position to win some prizes next year. As summer approaches training has started for the Army Junior Championships. As runners-up last season (our first in the sport) hopes are high for a win this year. There will be a number of new faces in the team this season but the experience of older members will help.

A further trip on the lines of the Club's visit to France is anticipated and feelers are going out for financial backing. More use of the YHA Hostels has been arranged for the touring section now that the longer days are here.

JPte Hatton of Hill Platoon.

Army Junior 15 mile champion.



JCSM Daniel racing for the Army Junior title at Oswestry

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Officer in Charge: Lt A C D Welch

The College cross-country team surprisingly enough has this year consisted mainly of members of 1 platoon an a junior one at that. The platoon, Steevens of 'A' Company, can justly feel proud of this for the cross-country runners of 1971 have made up for race inexperience with plain determination.

Their record for the season has been good, they came second to the Junior Parachute Regiment in the Southern Zone finals and fifth in the Army Championships, the first time an RAOC Junior Team has got to an Army final. Under the direction of Mrs Halewood-Highton WRVS, members of the team entered privately for the Youth Clubs of Great Britain Cross-country Championships and walked (or is it ran?) away with the Southern Area title. They faired less well in the All-England but as most of them will still be at the College next year hopes are high for them to sweep the board in 1972.

SQUASH RAQUETS

Officer in Charge: Capt B J Bowell REME

The start of the Spring Term 1971 saw a change in the Officer in Charge, Capt Champion handing over in preparation for his move to BAOR.

Squash is still a very popular sport with the Junior Leaders, but due to Court availability, the numbers have to be limited. We have been fortunate in that Buller Barracks courts have been open to the College on Thursday afternoons.

Friendly matches were arranged during the term, the first match against Elliot Automation resulted in a defeat for the College but considering the standard of the opposition, the boys showed great potential and the experience gained invaluable. The second match against AAC Arborfield was a convincing win for the College 8 games to 1.

In March the Army Junior Championships were held at Aldershot, unfortunately the only honours brought home was the plate, won by JLCpl McKenzie having beaten J Fte Coley in the final. It was good to see a former member of the College winning the soldiers under 19 years Championship, JPte Robinson, now with the SAS at Hereford.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Officer in Charge: Capt D M Braithwaite RAOC

The swimming team's proud boast this year is the fact that they are the reigning Corps swimming and water polo champions. Although they were not well placed in the Junior Army Swimming Championship they did very well in the water polo finishing in 2nd place. This year we hope we will be able to win this trophy.

The numerous civilian clubs such as Southampton SC and the Amphibians could only rely on their senior members to help their junior teams get the better of us. However on 3 occasions we have challenged RMA Sandhurst, although they showed real gentlemanly spirit, we have been victorious each time.

The College Gala was an evening's entertainment enjoyed by all. With the College squad divided fairly evenly between the platoons, it resulted in a close competition, with Hill Platoon emerging as the winners. Well done. The Water Polo team showed off their prowess by beating RMA Sandhurst quite soundly by 9 goals to 5.

I feel I must speak for all the team when I mention Sgt McGregor's undying loyalty. He contributes a fair amount of his time but it seems to go unnoticed. Thank you.

JRSM Arnold, JPtes Carr and Eustace have been called upon by the Junior Army Team for matches and training weekends. Arnold and Carr are regular members of the Aldershot Services Water Polo teams.

Our congratulations to JRSM Arnold for being selected to represent the Army on 2 occasions. I am sure this is the beginning of a notable career in the swimming world.

The College have lost the services of Capt Jim (Fish) McLeod REME. The swimming team lost a brilliant and dedicated coach and water polo player, whose influence undoubtedly led to the team's success.

To finish on a happy note, Capt McLeod still renders his services on a Monday evening when he puts the team through some useful skills. Let's hope we benefit from them during the coming season.

JPte Gibson receives the Inter Platoon Swimming Cup for Hill Platoon after the College Swimming Gala

Winners' smiles - from Lt Welch and his Hill Platoon team

SHOOTING

Officer in Charge: 2Lt H G Denton

This year the forces of the College were combined with those of the Training Centre as a whole. Selection started after the College Shoot and training began almost immediately. The initial training was on Friday and Saturday of almost every week. The team captain was Captain J Fox RAOC of the Regimental Depot, and the College contingent consisted of:

2Lt Denton
RSM Dorning
Sgt Furneux Harris
Sgt Hosband
Sgt Gardiner
JSgt Mornington West
JLCpl Masham
JLCpl Catterall
JPte Sampson
JPte Wright
JPte Corkerton
JPte McGowan
JPte Bunker
JPte Jones

The first competition was SEDSAM (South East District Small Arms Meeting). This match was held at Ash Ranges from 3-8 May. The team set up a tent to act as HQ and Armoury, it also meant that administration was much easier than at the Corps shoot when we were not allowed to set up a tent. The shooting got under way in fine weather with Stage 1 of the SLR on Monday. However, only 2Lt Denton, RSM Dorning, Sgt Hosband and Sgt Furneux Harris survived to the 3rd Stage to get a medal for the "District 50". Despite the boys' lack of places in the "50", they were the real victors in the team. In the individual young soldier match we picked up 3rd, 4th and 5th places by Catterall, Mornington West and Masham respectively. They also collected an Army Rifle Association spoon each. The College boys' team won the young soldiers team match with a very commendable score. 2Lt Denton won the individual young officers' shield with a tankard and also a "District 50" medal.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment of the whole season so far has been the failure of the College boys' falling plates team of Catterall, Corkerton, Bunker and Mornington-West. This team beat all opposition until they were just beaten by 3 Para in a hair-raising final when, after Catterall had fallen on the run down, the remainder of the team almost beat the adult and supposedly fit Parachute Battalion team - they failed by ONE second. These boys deserve the highest of praise for their efforts after spending the week of 10-15 May practising. The team was ready for further victories in the Corps Shoot of 17-21 May. Unfortunately, if a good meeting is one where a lot of silver is brought back, then this was a disappointing meeting. However, we got 4 team members in the final "Corps 30" order of merit. They were 2Lt Denton, RSM Dorning, Sgt Furneux Harris and JPte Corkerton. 2Lt Denton was 3rd in the individual officers.

JPte Corkerton is to be congratulated on a fine performance for one so young - perhaps in the future we may see Queen's Medal lists bred in the College. The sub machine gun was disappointing with only 2Lt Denton and RSM Dorning reaching the final "Corps 30 SMG".

However, despite seemingly poor results we must remember that for the boys and 2Lt Denton it was the first time they shot competitively and so I can see in the future great possibilities.

SOCCER

Officer in Charge: Capt T Cowan RAOC

The College teams enjoyed one of their most successful seasons in the District League competitions. The first XI, under the captaincy of John Longfield became 'A' League champions, pipping the ACC Apprentices College on goal average. The most exciting matches were against the 'Chefs' team. At Deepcut the ACC team scored with the last kick of the match to force a 2-2 draw, whilst at Aldershot it was our turn to equalise with a fine 50 yard solo run by Hill in the dying minutes to make another 2-2 result.

In the 'B' League, the second XI finished a very creditable third. The most exciting game was played at Aldershot against the strong running Junior Parachute Company. On a very wet and muddy pitch the Paras, playing with a strong wind behind them, went into a 5-0 lead by half-time. With 5 minutes of full-time remaining the College was leading 6-5 but unfortunately were denied victory when the Para Company equalised in the last minutes to make the final result 6-6. In an earlier league fixture at home we drew 3-3 with them and this was the first point dropped by them in 2 seasons.

The details of the 2 teams were as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1st XI	12	8	3	1	53	21	19
2nd XI	20	12	3	5	84	49	27

In the Army Cup we met the holders, Infantry Junior Leader Bn Oswestry in the first round at Deepcut. Encouraged by a large vocal support plus toilet roll missiles from the 'Kop' end, the College won 4-1.

Our joy was short lived, however, since we lost in the next round by 3-1 to the Junior Leaders Regt RA, Nuneaton.

The 1st XI captain, John Longfield, played for the District Youth XI during the season and also included in the squad were 'Jacko' Jackson and Keith Russell.

SOCCER REFEREES

After long strenuous evenings of whistle blasting and flag waving, a total of 22 Junior Leaders gained reward for their effort by qualifying as Grade III Soccer Referees.

A considerable amount of experience was gained by refereeing Inter-Platoon games and acting as linesman in the College games.

One notable incident occurred during an Inter-Platoon match when the referee sent off a player for showing dissent. The player was himself a referee. A case of too many referees spoil the game?

HOCKEY

Officer in Charge: Lt P A Gee RAOC

The College Team acquitted itself well this season playing 16 games, of which 6 were won, 4 drawn and 6 lost. Our position in the SE District Hockey League was fifth.

The overall standard of the games played has been very good and the team has displayed a natural skill which developed as time progressed.

It seems to be prevalent amongst all ball games at present that defensive play is dominant. Our attack did not have the required gusto to slam home the goals that often were just waiting to be scored. Although this has been said the team scored 45 goals for and had 26 goals against. If the team had pushed forward a little harder there is no doubt that it could have won the league; the push required will come with experience.

The College team entered the Army Junior Hockey Tournament in January but unfortunately lost to the Junior Leaders RE Regt Dover 4-2 after 2 periods of extra time. It was a hard fought match and up to 2 minutes before the end of the match the College team were winning 2-1. A last minute goal by the Engineers forced extra time to be played with the end result a loss to the College. JRSM Dunn and JCSM Woulds played a fine game and the whole team acquitted itself very well indeed.

We have said farewell to JRSM Dunn, J Drum Major Nicoll, JSgt Giles, JPte Morris and wish them well in their 'hockey career'. The Corps will receive some fine new talent and no doubt in time we will see some of these Junior Leaders in the senior teams.

The 1st XI this season comprised Duncan, Woulds, Barnes, Suffolk, Latham, Congden, Dunn, Feary, Morris, Steedman, Brown 534, Toze, Watts and Giles.

The College has also been able to field a Second XI which has shown considerable up-and-coming talent. As there is no official league for a second team there have been several friendly matches all of which the second team have managed to win. The second team should provide a good pool of players for promotion into the First XI for the beginning of next season.

CRICKET

Officer in Charge: Captain G H W Neal RAEC

ATHLETICS

Officer in Charge: Major H W Richmond RAEC

TENNIS

Officer in Charge: Captain A W Hilton RAEC

At the time of going to press our summer term sports have not yet begun since the whole of the first 5 weeks of term have been devoted to the preparation for, and participation in, the College Annual Camp, of which an account appears elsewhere. Reports on our other summer sports will, therefore, regretably have to wait for our next issue.

RUGBY

Officer in Charge: Lt E B C Aitken RAOC

The 1970/71 season will not be put down in the annals of history as a great season - perhaps not even a good season - for the College Rugby team. But it was a season in which I feel some progress was made towards the moulding of a Rugby team.

With a large number of College "gladiators" in the side, it was difficult to keep a team together, and maybe in this respect the results are quite good. But what was achieved was a spirit - a good healthy Rugby spirit that led to harder and keener games, a willingness to train and the ability to accept defeat.

The team played 14 matches in the season, losing 8. 'We' scored a total of 126 points, and they scored 210. 23 of 'their' points were 'charity' points scored by the College Permanent Staff; it might have been much worse, but for the fact that Cpl Smith had been told to kick wide!

The worst defeat was at the hands of the Junior Guards Company, Pirbright - 35-Nil. The team really switched off - no fire, no panache, and they allowed the Junior Guards to run rings round them. This was the team at its worst. However, the tables were turned in the match against the RAPC Apprentice College, who had previously beaten the Junior Guards. The team took the field in good spirit and played hard, open, Rugby. They had lots of fire, and really showed a will to win - and win they did, by 24 points to 6. This was probably their best match of the season.

By next season some of our squad will have left, and their places will be filled by younger people. We do, however, keep the nucleus of a side and look forward to next season, when we must maintain the enthusiasm but improve the knowledge and skills of the game.

A line-out during College v Arborfield match. College in white.

EX SWAN SONG

or

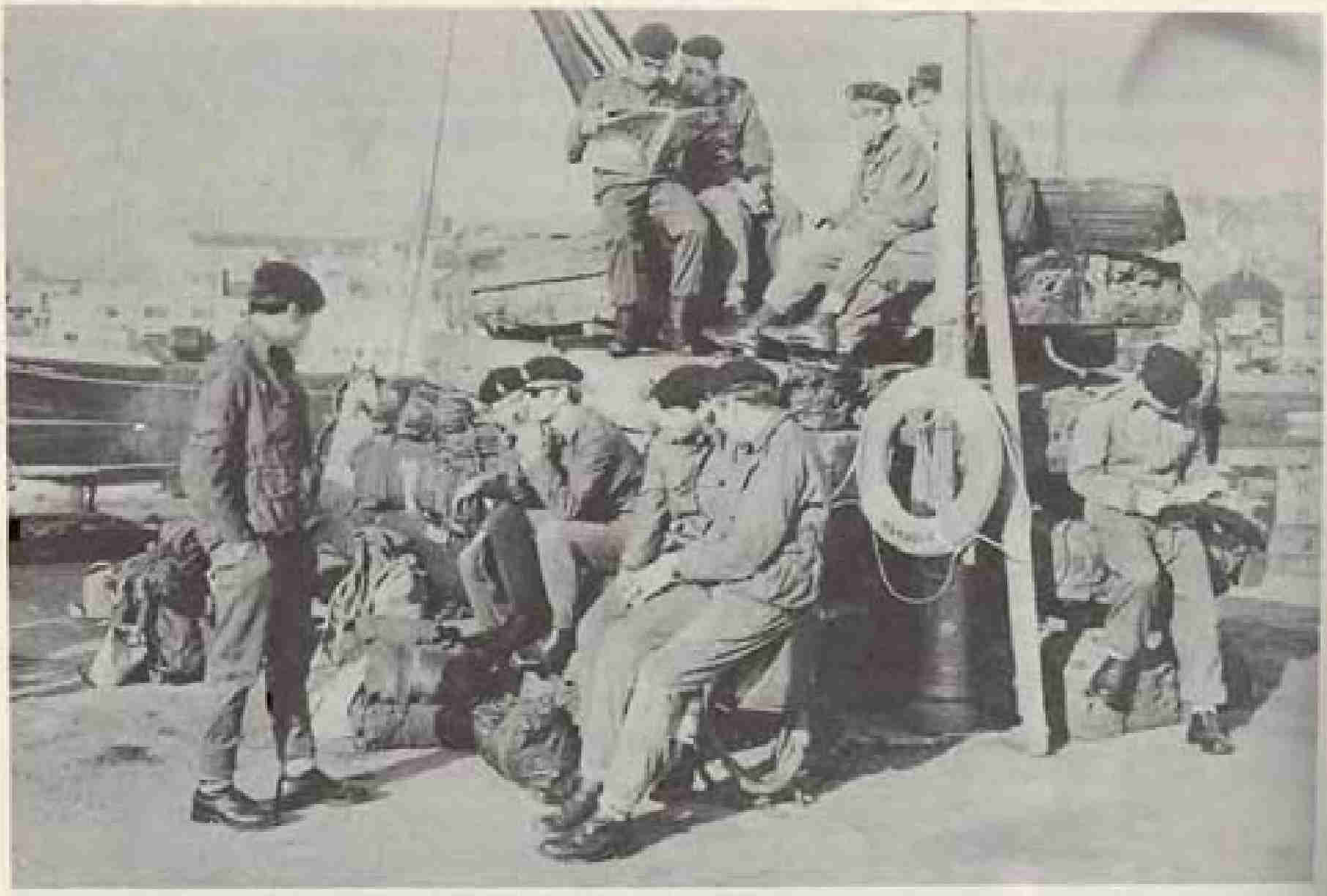
The Expedition to the Scilly Isles

Leader: Captain D F Fisher RAEC

A forty-seater ambulance coach, although highly suitable for its purpose, is not the most comfortable of vehicles in which to sleep. It is even more difficult when the coach is loaded with 16 Junior Leaders, 4 staff, endless stores and the inevitable brown-paper bagged haversack rations. Yet sleep came to most of us somewhere between Deepcut and Penzance.

We managed a break at an all-night transport cafe somewhere in the region of Exeter at about 0200 hours. At this stage I hoped that most would now sleep for at least a couple of hours in preparation for a frenetic unloading, re-loading and a 2¾ hour sea trip. Sleep, however, does not come easily to some and the coach was regaled with a series of choice barrack ballads. I have been present at many a post-rugger match party and thought that my education was reasonably complete. I found I was but a babe in arms, as some of the more modern adolescent ballads rent the Devonshire airs.

We arrived at Penzance with time to spare. We loaded our heavy stores, mounted a guard on the personal baggage and went in search of breakfast.



Waiting at Penzance

"The Scillonian" takes 2¾ hours to sail from Penzance to St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly. Many of the passengers were somewhat amused to see that much of the aft deck was strewn with the bodies of sleeping Junior Leaders.

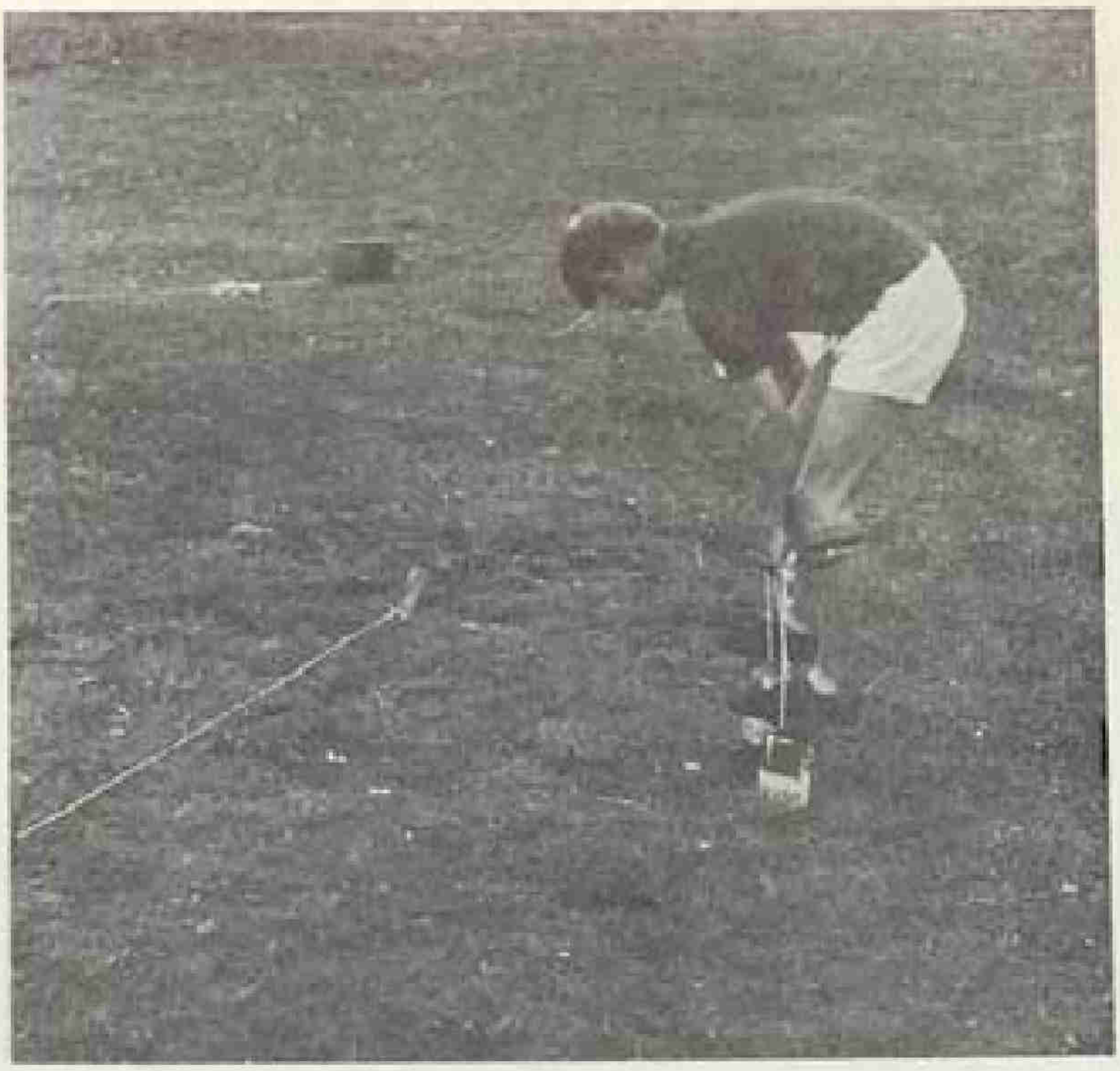
'Twas on the good ship Venus' (Scillonian)

The crew were both alarmed and dismayed when Bingham of 'B' Company won the jackpot from the one-armed bandit. A judicious blow to the side of the machine by Cpl Sweeting caused not only the jackpot but the reserve jackpot to pay out, much to the further chagrin of the crew.

After a 2 hour wait in St Mary's we boarded a smaller inter-island launch to St Agnes. From St Agnes a landrover, impossibly overloaded, ferried our heavy baggage across the bar to the island of Gugh, all 5/8 of a mile by 3/8 of it.

The first late afternoon and evening saw the camp pretty well established and all set for the following day's fishing and the like.

Unfortunately the weather was never really kind to us, much of the time we had thick mist and fine rain interspersed with thunderstorms - consequently our fishing trips were curtailed and few fish were caught. Various competitions were played, 34 Brown of 'A' Company became the undisputed tiddly-wink champion of the Island of Gugh, no mean feat.



'Not so easy as it looks'

Tony Brown, undisputed tiddly wink champion of Gugh, taking part in "It's a knock-out'

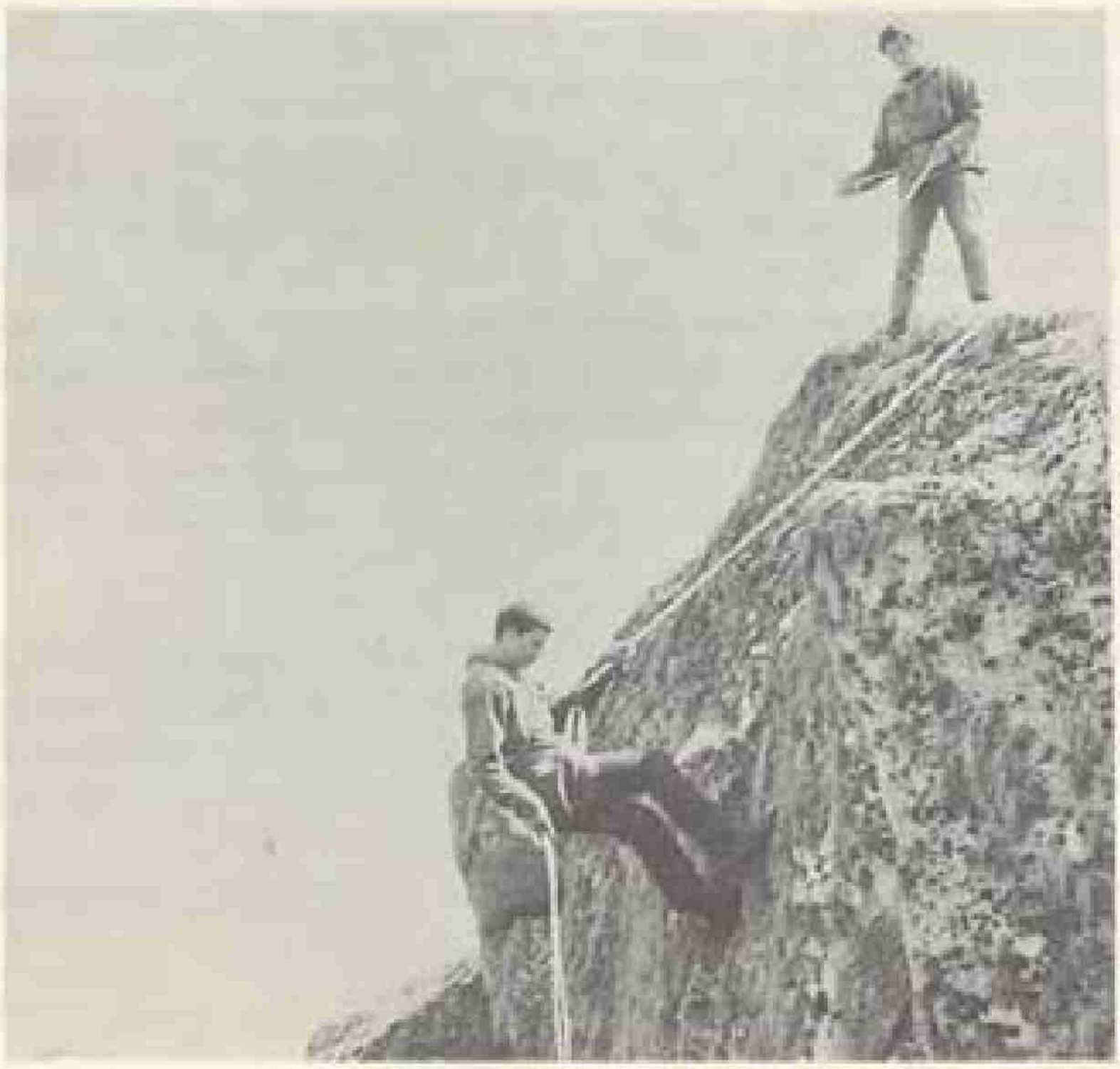
The football competitions proved to be very close. Probably the most outstanding individual performance came from Platt of 'B' Company. Though Gordon Banks is in no danger of losing his place in the England squad, Platt's astonishing lack of concern for his own life and limb is quite something to behold.

Our survival bivouac day proved to be most interesting. Some Junior Leaders have a natural ability to live rough. When we wandered round to assess each Section's ability it was refreshingly surprising to be offered tea and toast. Number 2 Section, under the leadership of Butcher of 'B' Company, were upset to find that survival does not mean obtaining illicit coca-cola; but still they took their "extras" in good part and were thought well of in consequence.

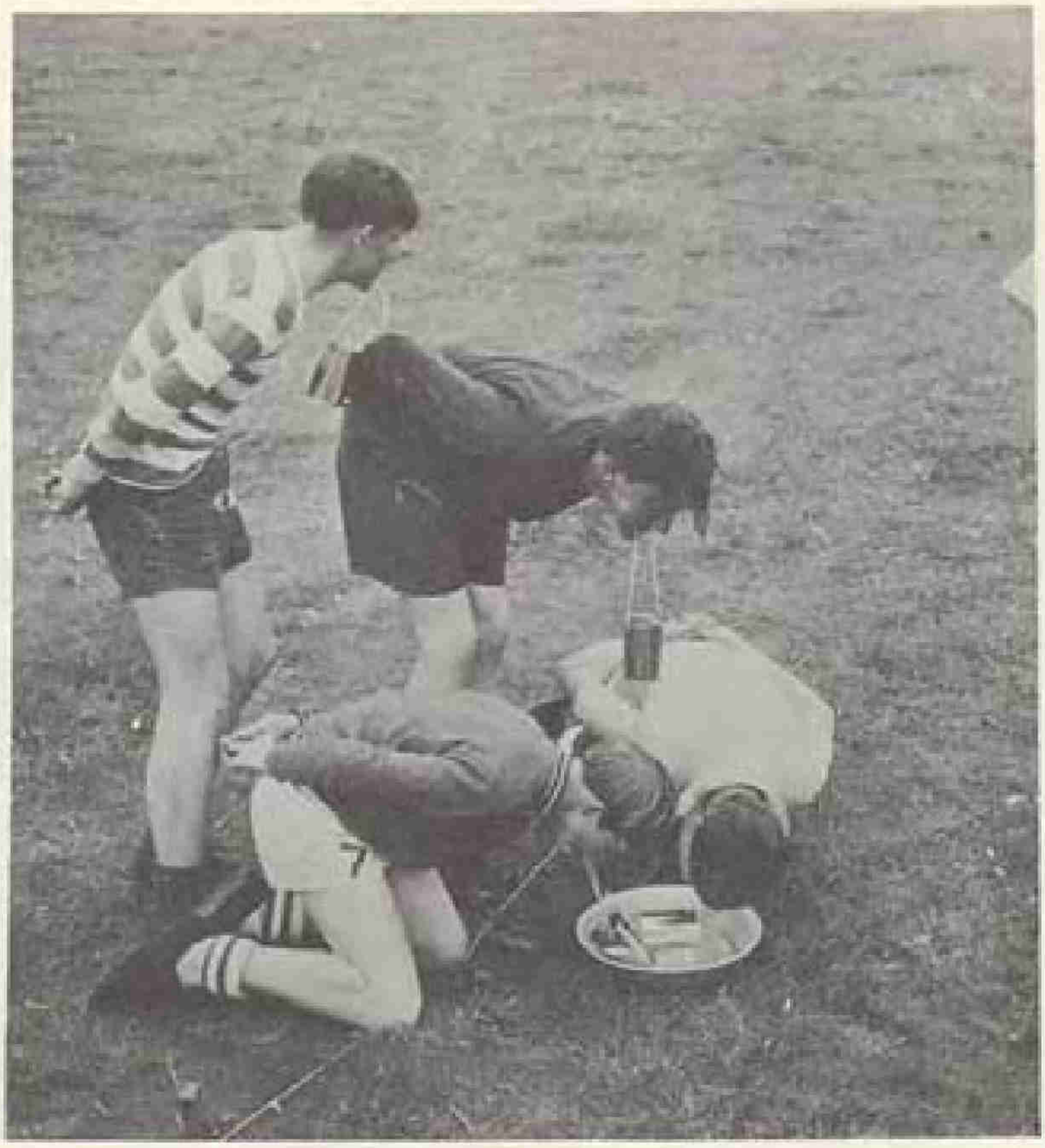
The Night Exercise proved to be quite fun though there were 2 nameless ones who claimed they couldn't see the light even though the light constituted almost a danger to navigation.

Three-legged football matches, absailing and the inevitable "It's a Knock Out" added to the excitement and discomfort of us all.

Three Legged Football



Absailing at Gugh



"It's a Knock Out"

If only we had been luckier with the weather we could have done more. Nevertheless I feel that most people enjoyed the camp and the exercise was a success.

So as the mist sank into the west we left the Island of Gugh. Maybe at some time in the future the coastline will again reverberate with Sgt North's stentorian bellow and the echoed answer of LCpl Toze's "Corned Beef". Maybe next time we shall be able to taste LCpl Rogers incredibly good dumplings made without suet. Again perhaps we shall be floored by a cross-bred mastiff-labrador. For myself, I shall treasure the memory of 18 kneeling soldiers bead-hunting and I shall guild and mount my piece of bread-pudding.

"TELLING THE TEENAGERS"

by W E Smith Esq

Many people look upon the modern world with dismay, but in most respects it is a more exciting time in which to live than any previous generations have known. Though materially poor, our own dear England is rich in character and genius, especially among its young people. 50 years ago this country was the wealthiest nation on earth. Today we are relatively poor. We need to import two-thirds of the raw materials necessary for our industry and half the food needed to sustain our present standard of life. It is a harshly competitive world in which we have to earn our living. The times call for leaders - specialists truly qualified in leadership, organising ability, and possessing a keen sense of responsibility.

We are often told that there is a paramount need for more work to be done. That is true. But what is also true, but not so often stressed, is the great need for more intelligent work to be done. The driving force behind such work must rest fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the persons appointed to lead. If anything goes wrong it is almost always the leader's fault. Young people will do well to remember three fundamental principles which will supplement all they have been taught and help them in the practice of their skills.

First they must learn to understand themselves - to know their own powers and limitations. Secondly they must understand those whom they seek to lead - they must not assume that other people are antagonistic towards them. They must remember that the shark which rubs against the small boat and terrifies the shipwrecked sailors, might only be trying to rid itself of sea-lice. Thirdly they must be prepared to expend great effort - it is they who will have to set the standards of hard work.

Perhaps the attitudes of so many present-day youths have been engendered by the lethargic outlook of their elders. If such is the case then it is the clear duty of all training establishments to instil into all trainees the invaluable asset of team spirit. The outlook for this great nation of ours will be bleak indeed if this lethargy, now so prevalent in various sections of our society, is permitted to remain unchecked and ineradicated. Surely both young and old have something to offer in this great adventure of "living". It only requires a little "give and take" in reaching real understanding. "Honour thy father and mother" may be sound catechism philosophy, but "understand your sons and daughters" is sound, practical, common-sense.

We are told that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton; similarly the battle for Western Civilisation will be won by the youth of today. They will need all the encouragement it is possible to give. They will need to remember the past hard work, the sacrifices and glories of England, and that essential asset, the team spirit. With the knowledge of these England will not, like Ancient Greece and Rome, collapse under the weight of indifference, lethargy, and self-satisfaction.

The Young are growing up in a world of variable values. There are more question marks for them than there were for their fathers and grandfathers and the answers will only be found painfully and slowly. Our experience will be of little help, for all experience is only "an arch where through which gleams the untrodden world"

Non damnemus, intelligimus! Let us not condemn, let us try to understand

SUMMER CAMP 15 May - 5 JUNE 1971

BRECON - LLYN GWYNANT - LEEK

TRAINING COMPANY

Summer Camp this year was much earlier than previous years and took place from 14 May to 5 June. For the first 2 weeks 'A' Company was located at Anzio Camp, Leek, Staffordshire and 'B' Comp- in Wales.

The object of the first 2 weeks was to allow for concentrated military and adventure training at Company level. As always both Companies were assisted in their training tasks by members of College HQ, Training Company and the Education department.

As the training was to have a tactical basis this year, College Headquarters and Training Company based themselves at Leek for the 3 weeks. In order to ease the administrative load the Education department set up a Tac HQ at Leek commanded by Major Harry Richmond, our SEO, and a small staff.

For the last week an exercise narrative was produced making use of the Training Area borders to simulate 2 small independent states. Three major exercises took place using both companies in a dismounted infantry role.
The exercises were made more realistic by the use of radio at all levels and this was ably controlled by our exercise Signals Officer, Lt Col S Schofield, Royal Signals (Retd) and by the expenditure of a large amount of blank and pyrotechniques.

The Night Recce and fighting patrol exercise based at platoon level was followed by a Company advance to contact over very difficult country. All platoons did exceedingly well.

"Now for the bad news ....."

The CO listening to a 'de-brief' of the night's activities.

Preparing for a tricky road-crossing during advance to contact.

Directing Staff and Enemy meet.

During the rest day between exercises a competition on the lines of "It's a Knock Out" was organised for the junior platoons, while the senior platoons were given their RPC III and RPC II Tactics examinations at stands on the Training Area. Using 14 examiners, 216 boys were tested during a 12 hour period and only 14 failures were recorded. A most gratifying result.

Brigadier Besley watching "It's a Knock Out"

'Prepare to ram!"

The whole period of camp was blessed with superb weather and the last day's exercise was watched by our Brigadier.

From a military point of view the camp was most successful and proved that a concentrated effort gains results. It also slimmed down many of the permanent staff and most important showed our Junior Leaders the infantryman's lot and the layout of a Company during an advance to contact.

'A' COMPANY

Rather like banging your head against a wall, it's nice when you stop!

We were very lucky in all aspects, the weather was good for the duration and we returned with the same number of Junior Leaders and Permanent Staff as we set out with.

During the first of our 3 weeks at Leek, Baker, Mulcahy and Gordon Platoons were out on the training area under canvas.

In the field

Respite for a bite

The Cliffhangers Location

Briefing in the field

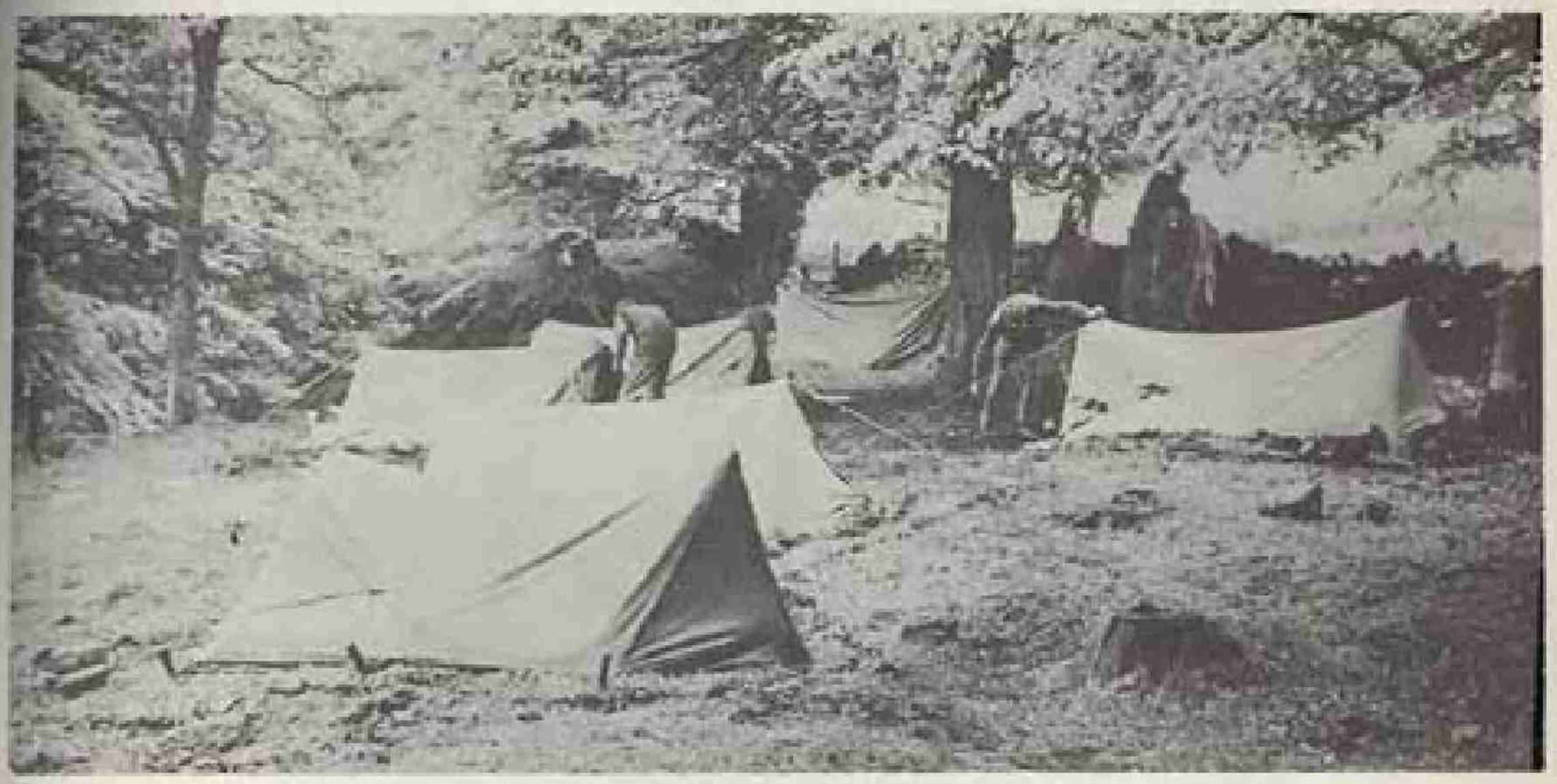
It required firm persuasion to get them back into camp after their new found liberty.

The second week saw the arrival of our recruits. Williams Platoon.

We are here.

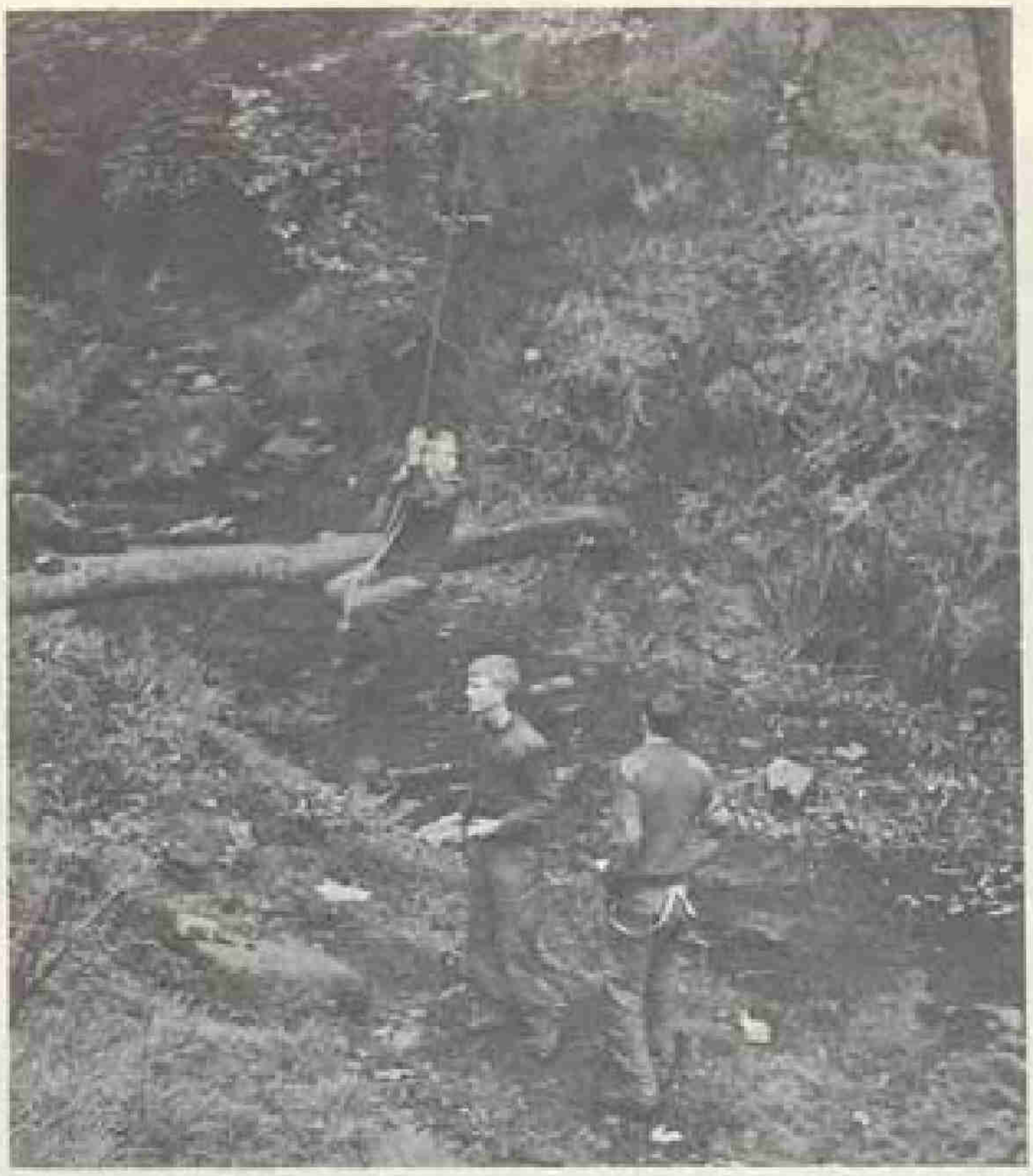
It was now the turn of our young element to get a taste of the good life!

Steevens Platoon in LUMPOOL PLANTATION



Williams Platoon in LUMPOOL PLANTATION

"If your mothers could see you now"



"Which way did they go?"

"Look out for the crocks!"

Rudyard Lake certainly offered a safe harbour for the sailing and canoeing fraternity, and very good use was made of it!

The two dinghies wait for Neraida

The most popular craft on Rudyard

All lashed down and ready to leave

Although Ramshaw Rocks have not featured on TV Bank Holiday spectaculars they provided mild excitement for the odd half day.

Mulcahy on the rocks

Do you think I am a lizard?

During the final week, whilst their elder brothers were "at the front", Captain D Fisher RAEC, ably assisted by the L O B Permanent Staff, kept the recruits occupied.

"It's a Knock Out" took top billing.

Recruit David Reilly taking an active part in "It's a Knock Out"

Williams Platoon scored their first victory by winning the competition and were duly awarded Sticky Buns and Fizzy by the Training Centre Commander, Brigadier P N W Besley.

It was a good camp. Proof of the training benefit was amply shown by the excellent RPC II and RPC III Tactics results.

The educational visits were enjoyed by the Permanent Staff and the leisure activities in Blackpool and Manchester were enjoyed by the Boys!

'B' COMPANY

Last year we sang the West Country song of the Blackbird, we ate tiddy oggy and drank scrumpy. This year we were in the "Land of our Fathers" sang to Cwm Rhondda, ate "compo" and drank from water bottles.

The Company camped at 2 locations, a platoon spending one week at each site. In the North just 4 miles from Snowdon we set up a most professional tented camp on the shores of Llyn (Lake) Gwynant. It was a most delightful spot in a valley surrounded by the grey granite mountains of Snowdonia. This formed the base camp for adventurous activities which really tested a Junior Leader's character, determination and fitness.

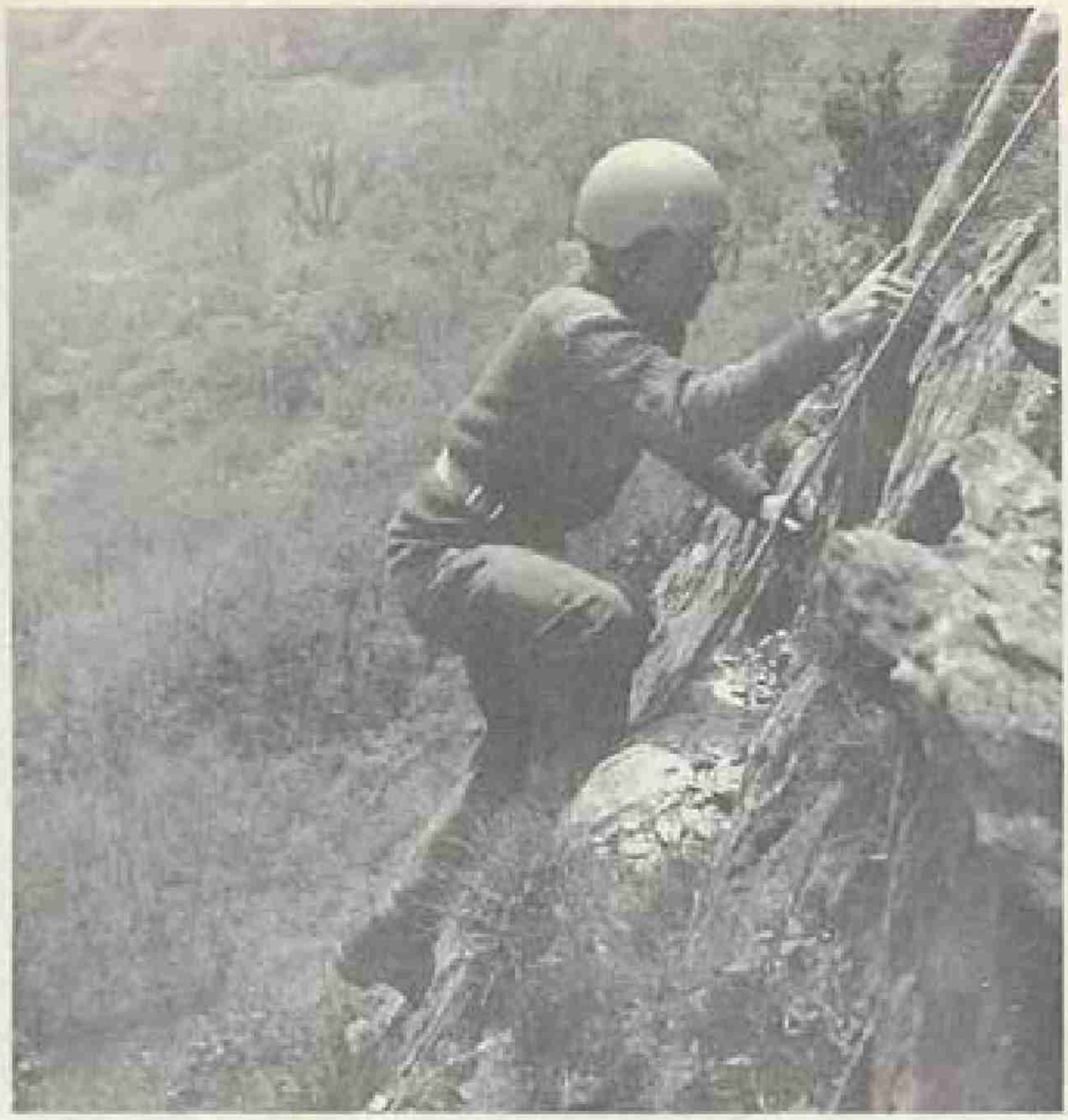
There was sailing, canoeing, hill walking, mountain and rock climbing - all carried out under expert supervision. The facilities were excellent and provided each Junior Leader, who volunteered for his choice of activity, a week of progressive training giving him a really good insight into the sport concerned. The weather except for one or two downpours was really excellent and, as experienced campers realise, resulted in most successful camp conditions.

A rough estimate reveals that the average hill walker climbed a total of 12,500 feet in 4 days. Some members of the Permanent Staff managed over 35,000 feet during their recce and the 2 weeks of training. For members of Richards Platoon the ascent of Snowdon meant they had climbed the 2 highest peaks in the British Isles in under 6 months. Ben Nevis in Scotland at 4406 feet being being the other mountain.

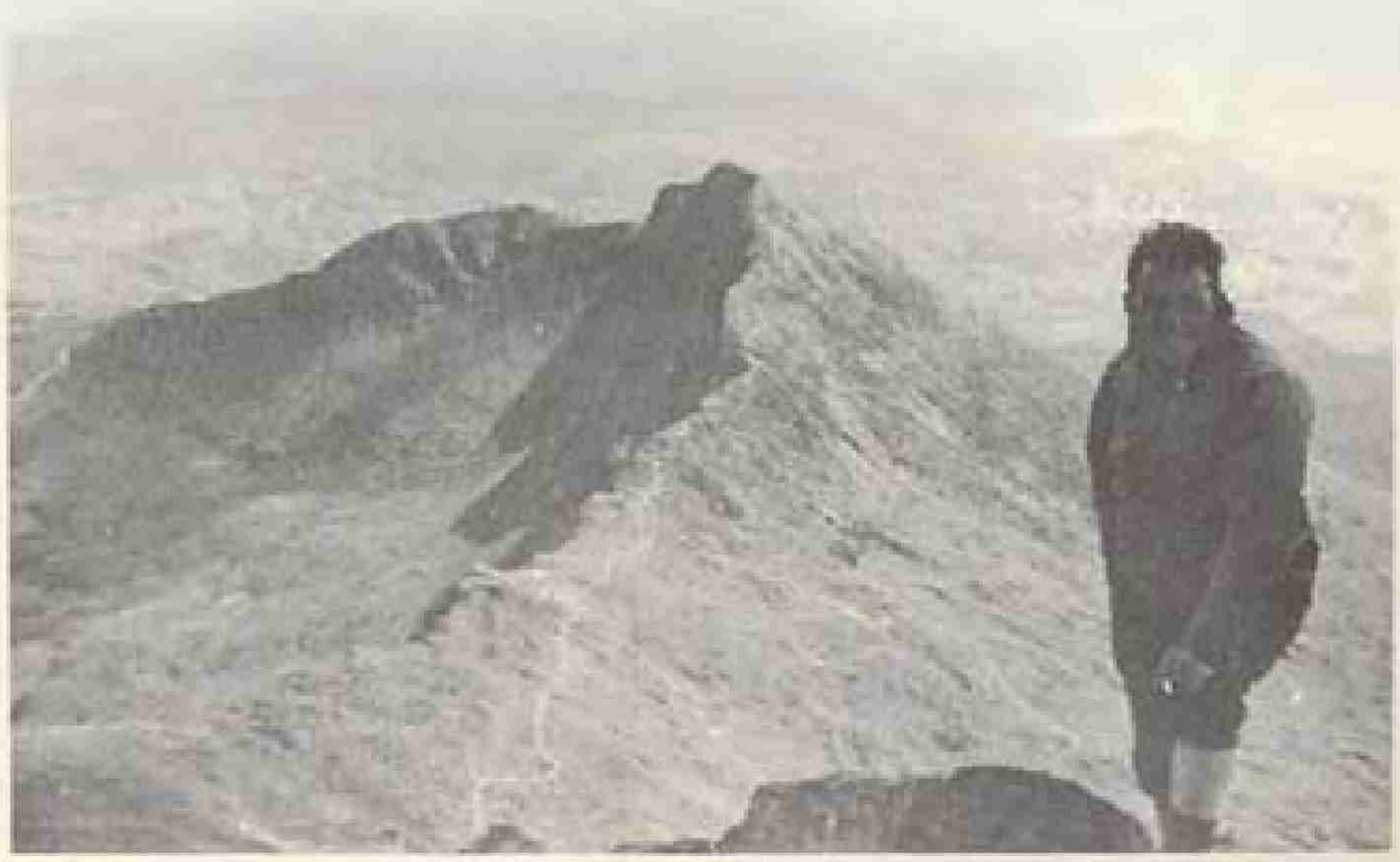
It is interesting to note that at least 8 other units co-operated in making the camp a success either by providing additional permanent staff, stores, and equipment or accommodation.

The Recce Party on Snowdon

L to R: Lt Wyborn, Mrs Wyborn, Mr Jesse James, 2Lt Welch, Lt Gee



JPte Rigby climbing above the camp at Llyn Gwynant



Capt Douglas-Hill makes the summit of Snowdon via the Watkins path

In South Wales, at Brecon, we were once again sponsored by the Parachute Regiment Battle School. The week of training concentrated the attention of Junior Leaders on more military subjects. Maximum use was made of the local Sennybridge Training Area which occupies 30,000 acres at an average altitude of 1,300 feet. Two days were spent operating from a platoon bivouac camp site exercising battle drills and operations. One day was spent on an open field firing range which provides realistic live firing practices at section level. A day of inter-platoon sport and theoretical and practical Company tactics and a day out to Porthcawl completed a busy active week once again enhanced by excellent weather conditions.

The third and final week was spent with the remainder of the College at Leek and a report appears elsewhere.

Rowcroft Platoon take time out for a photograph during EX ROYAL FLUSH

For Body Platoon, the recruits of the Company, 2 weeks were spent at Leek carrying out a variety of military and recreational training and educational visits to local centres of interest.

Recruits of Body Platoon watch 'B' Company in the attack.

Every camp has its risks and dangers otherwise there is no adventure. Fortunately, we lost no one, minor injuries were few and far between and everyone thoroughly enjoyed 14 days of fresh air and hard yet rewarding training. Every camp also has its amusing stories. A Platoon Commander operating with his platoon in an attack threw a couple of thunderflashes to add realism. When they exploded they set light to some dry grass. Being a well trained officer he immediately shouted "FIRE! FIRE!". The Junior Leaders reacted immediately by firing their rifles but little was done to put the fire out!

Planning for the camp in Wales took 3 months; the manpower bill for instructors and administrative build up was considerable; there were frustrations; thousands of pounds of equipment were used, but in the final analysis it was well worth it. Morale was high, achievements were considerable and "Shiny B" again was blessed with good weather. When and where are we going next year then?

OLD BOYS SECTION

Our "graduates" appear to be reluctant to provide news of their progress in adult service, although we hear of many who are carving a first class career for themselves in commissioned and non-commissioned rank.

We have heard from Lt N Ironside who is now serving with 3 BA and PD in Bracht, BAOR. Lt Ironside is an old boy of Parsons Platoon, vintage 1962. Since leaving Boys' service he has served at Kineton, Bicester and Singapore. He gained his commission in 1970 after passing OCS Mons. He has played Rugby for the Corps in the FARELF and is a keen sailor.

News also from Pte Alan Fairclough who left the College at the end of Summer Term last year. He is serving with 49 RP Coy in Germany. He certainly appears to be enjoying life in 1 (BR) Corps. Since entering man service he has passed his upgrading course to Storeman BII and gained another subject towards ACE I. He is also on the short list for an RPC I Course. Fairclough is obviously not wasting his time and has an eye to the future. We are delighted to hear of his progress.

WOI Halsall is an ex boy of the 1953-56 era whilst the unit was stationed at Haslar Barracks, Gosport. He has served at Chilwell, Kineton and in Borneo, Singapore and Hong Kong. He is now a WOI Clerk Tech with the School of Ordnance at Deepcut.

WOI Halsall has also given us news of his cousin who passed through Junior Service in 1961. Sgt Halsall, who is also a Clerk Tech, is currently serving in Belgium at the Ordnance Depot, Antwerp.

PROMOTION PROSPECTS FOR BOY SOLDIERS

The Ministry of Defence (Army) has recently released figures showing the progress made by ex boys from all Regiments and Corps after joining man's service. It is felt that this information would be of great interest to parents and relatives of boys now serving in this unit and accordingly we publish an extract showing the situation at 31 December 1970.

As can be seen from the RAOC column, the number of ex boys in the Corps represents a very large part of its total strength. It can also be seen that there is an extremely good opportunity for promotion to the commissioned ranks. The REME and Int Corps figures are just as encouraging.

ANALYSIS OF EX BOYS STILL SERVING AT 31 DECEMBER 1970 AND RANK HELD

	Brig	Col	Lt Col	Maj	Capt	Lt	Total	WO I	WO II	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	Pte	Total	Grand Total
RAC			1	7	9	1	18	7	22	62	255	293	313	942	1894	1912
RA			6	27	40	11	84	33	191	71	281	360	494	1319	2659	2743
RE			2	20	49	8	79	4	19	43	116	274	353	884	1693	1772
R SIGS			1	12	60	11	84	27	87	134	339	456	364	482	1889	1973
INF		2	2	10	23	11	48	51	139	147	679	1101	1122	4089	7328	7376
PARA								6	7	4	16	35	56	275	399	399
SASR									2	2	5	7	11	17	44	44
AAC				2	3	1	6		1	4	8				13	19
RCT	1	1	1	13	20	1	37	13	30	51	83	185	221	498	1081	1118
RAMC			4	2	2		8	8	7	7	17	23	7	23	92	100
RAOC		2	6	25	60	5	98	85	97	113	260	376	322	530	1783	1881
REME		1	4	34	57	10	106	4	12	20	87	156	124	92	495	601
RMP				1	2	1	4	1	2		20	158	32	1	214	218
RAVC									1		1	1	3	3	9	9
RMA Band					1		1		1			2	2	11	16	17
RADC										1	2	6	1	6	16	16
RAPC				1	1	2	4	3	14	25	31	47		2	122	126
SASC									15		7				22	22
MPSC				2			2	3	2	5	11				21	23
RAEC				2	4	8	14									14
RPC					3		3				3	7	1	3	14	17
INT CORPS				2	1	3	6	6	5	8	29	27	7	1	77	83
APTC			2	1	3		6	2	12	17	24				55	61
ACC					5	7	12	4	5	4	37	86	144	112	392	404
GEN LIST/ IS LIST					2	2	4	2	13	17	7				39	43
TOTAL	1	6	29	161	345	82	624	253	684	735	2318	3600	3487	9290	20367	20991