The Thunderbolt

Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College



December 1976 **Issue No 7**

The Thunderbolt

JOURNAL OF THE

RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

Front cover:

The official launching of our namesake at Gosport on Tuesday 27 July 1976

Article appears on page 74



Lieutenant Colonel N S Bruce RAOC

Commanding Officer RAOC Apprentices College

FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

As the new boy in command it now falls upon me to write this my first foreword to the College Magazine.

I am sure you would wish me to thank Lt Col Paul Vickery for all that he achieved while serving with the College, and trust that he is enjoying his appointment as CRAOC Rhine Area.

Having had the privilege of serving twice before with junior entrants, I am well acquainted with the fact that this is a stimulating, challenging and rewarding job. The standard of entrant is higher than ever before and I am sure that the majority who leave us for adult service will be a credit to their Corps.

One point I would like to bring to the notice of readers, especially the old boys, is that due to the apprentices stay at the College being reduced from seven to four terms it is no longer possible to promote apprentices above the rank of platoon sergeant. Sad though this is, there is not enough time to train the apprentice in these extra duties nor for him to gain the necessary experience and confidence required.

Finally, I would like to thank all my staff for their tremendous support and to the producers of this magazine for their hard work. To the old boys, it is nice to hear from you, keep sending us your up-to-date movements and progress.

A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

CONTENTS

Thunderbolt

Commanding Officer

Foreword by the Commanding Officer

Contents

Editorial 1
Staff List 2
Passing Out Parades 5
A Company 10
Swiney Platoon 13
Aden Platoon 14
Ex Warcop Womble 15
Alamein Platoon 16
Arakan Platoon 19
Arnhem Platoon 21
Arrass Platoon 23
Ardennes Platoon 24
Anguilla Platoon 25
Ex Birdwatcher South Wales 76 26
B Company 32
Body Platoon 34
Hill Platoon 36
Parsons Platoon 38
Watts Platoon 39
Tyler Platoon 39
College Annual Camp 1976 41
Balaclava Platoon 44
Benghazi Platoon 45
Blenheim Platoon 47
Burma Platoon 50
Training Wing 52
Education Department 57
Sports Reports 58
Cricket 60
Cross Country 61
Golf 62
Rugby 63
Soccer 64
Squash 66
Tennis 67
Angling Club 68
Canoeing 69
Gliding 70
Kon Tiki Club 72
Model Making/Art Club 72
Parascending 73
Sailing Club 74
Sub Aqua Club - Deepcut Divers 77
Swimming 80
Operation White Lodge 82
Exercise Long Haul 83
The College Cannon 86
College Christmas Day 1975 87
College Prizewinners 1975-76 89
Valete 91
News of Old Boys 94
Letters to the Editor 96

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief — Major PA Easton RAEC

Editor - Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) Royal Signals (Retd)

The last issue of 'Thunderbolt' was made in August 1975, which is now some four terms ago. As forecast in the Editorial of that issue, the delay has been caused by the need to synchronise the publication of the magazine with the departure of the majority of the apprentices in December of each year following the introduction of the 'Four-term Concept'. This issue, therefore, reports on the activities of the College from April 1975 to August 1976. Subsequent issues will report on the normal academic year, the next one being from September 1976 to August 1977.

Possibly the main event of the past year has been the change of Commanding Officer. Lt Col P H J Vickery left us in February 1976 after 'reigning' here for very nearly three years. He left to assume the appointment in BAOR of Commander Royal Army Ordnance Corps Rhine Area. We wish him continuing success in his new job and we hope that he, Paddy and the children will greatly enjoy their new 'scene'. In his place has come Lt Col N S Bruce RAOC, one of the Corps more well-known characters, whom we welcome back to the College for the third time. Since he was here as a Platoon Commander, Norman Bruce has held a wide range of appointments, his last being that of Second-in-Command, 16 Battalion Bicester. One cannot introduce him, of course, without mentioning his outstanding sporting record, but in these brief remarks let 31 Scottish Rugby 'caps' and 40 appearances for Hampshire in county championship matches speak for themselves. We hope we will be able to live up to his example. We know life is going to be tough!

Not only has the father-figure of the College changed, but so too has the mother-figure. Eileen Jones, our WRVS representative for more than four years, left us in March 1976 to take up a similar appointment at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. We were sorry to see her go and miss her very much. We wish her the best of luck and further success in her new job. Meanwhile we welcome as her replacement Miss Pamela Riddell who has already shown herself quite capable of taking over what is clearly an exacting and arduous responsibility.

Perhaps the two most important events since April 1975 not chronicled elsewhere in this magazine have been the visits by the Inspectorate of Establishments and by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools of Further Education. It is no part of the function of this column to comment on either of these events or to anticipate the reports which are still awaited. But one aspect does concern us and that is, that, as a result of these inspections, we understand there is a fair chance that the name of the unit will revert from 'Apprentice College' to its former 'Junior Leaders Battalion' and that the boys will cease to be 'Apprentices' and become yet again 'Junior Leaders'. If so, the change is going to come too late to be incorporated in this magazine, and, as we go to print the old style and titles remain. Any amendments which become necessary before December 1976 will have to be made in this publication by our readers themselves.

Finally and as usual our most sincere thanks are due to the printers and reproduction experts who do most of the hard work associated with the publication of this magazine. This time, in addition to the stalwart services of the Printing and Reproduction Branch, COD Donnington, we have called upon the expertise and professionalism of OS 14 at the Ministry of Defence and of the REME Publications Centre at Woolwich who have done their best to make our amateur photography printable. We are indeed deeply grateful for all the time, trouble and effort all these organisations have spent on our behalf, and for the production of yet one more 'Thunderbolt'.

STAFF LISTS AUGUST 1975 - AUGUST 1976

College Headquarters	Summer Term 1975	Winter Term 1975	Spring Term 1976	Summer Term 1976
Commanding Officer	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC	Lt Col N S Bruce RAOC	Lt Col N S Bruce RAOC
Adjutant	Capt A P Haden RAOC	Capt A P Haden RAOC	Capt A P Haden RAOC	Capt A P Haden RAOC
Bursar	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)
Regimental Sergeant Major	WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC	WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC	WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC	WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC
Chief Clerk	WO2 (SQMS) E S Garner RAOC	WO2 (SQMS) E S Garner RAOC	WO2 (SQMS) C E Fear RAOC	WO2 (SQMS) C E Fear RAOC
HQ COMPANY				
Officer Commanding	Major M J H Connolly RAOC	Major J Lyle-Carter RAOC	Major J Lyle-Carter RAOC	
OIC Admin Platoon	Lt J G Griffin REME	Lt J G Griffin REME	Capt J G Griffin REME	Capt J G Griffin REME
Chaplain	Rev J C Vernon CF	Rev A C Stockbridge CF	Rev A C Stockbridge CF	Rev A C Stockbridge CF
WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS	Miss P Riddell WRVS
TRAINING WING				
Chief Instructor	Maj M J H Connolly RAOC	Maj J Lyle-Carter RAOC	Maj J Lyle-Carter RAOC	Maj J Lyle-Carter RAOC
OIC External Leadership	Capt G J Morton RAOC	Capt G J Morton RAOC		
Training Officer	Capt D R Marks RAOC	Capt D R Marks RAOC	Capt D R Marks RAOC	Capt D R Marks RAOC
Assistant Training Officer	WO2 (CSM) P D Pheasant RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J M Ellsmoor RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J M Ellsmoor RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J M Ellsmoor RAOC
WOIC Physical Training	WO2 (CSMI) D W E Bridges APTC	WO2 (QSMI) G Neill APTC	WO2 (QSMI) G Neill APTC	WO2 (QSMI) G Neill APTC
A COMPANY				
Officer Commanding	Maj J H Rose RAOC	Maj J H Rose RAOC	Maj R A Maby RAOC*	Maj R A Maby RAOC
Training Captain	Capt A P Byles RAOC	Capt A P Byles RAOC	Capt A P Byles RAOC	Capt A P Byles RAOC
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) J T Foster RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J T Foster RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J T Foster RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J T Foster RAOC
PLATOON COMMANDERS				
Sreevens Platoon	Lt R J Knight RAOC			
Baker Platoon	Lt J C Williams REME			
Gordon Platoon	Lt M Sullivan REME			
Valon Platoon	Lt P J Walton REME			
Swiney Platoon	Lt P R Hanlon RAOC			
PLATOON SERGEANTS	Sgt J D Lee REME			
	Sgt J Bennett REME			
	Sgt J R Davies Int Corps			
	Sgt R G Anderson RAOC			
	Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC			
PLATOON COMMANDERS				
Senior Platoon		Lt J C Williams REME		
Arakan Platoon		Lt M F Fox REME	Lt M F Fox REME	Lt J Payne REME
Aden Platoon		Lt P R Hanlon RAOC	Lt P R Hanlon RAOC	Lt P R Hanlon RAOC
Alamein Platoon		Lt R J Knight RAOC	Lt R J Knight RAOC	Sgt J R Davies Int Corps
Arnhem Platoon		Lt T Tayler RAOC	Lt T Tayler RAOC	Lt T Tayler RAOC
Swiney/Anguilla Platoon		Lt J P Hopkinson RAOC	Lt J P Hopkinson RAOC	Lt J P Hopkinson RAOC
Arras/Ardennes Platoon			Lt J C Williams REME	Lt J C Williams REME

PLATOON SERGEANTS		Sgt J Bennett RAOC Sgt C A Proverbs RAOC Sgt J R Davies Int Corps Sgt J D Lee REME Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC Sgt J F Kreft RAOC	Sgt J Bennett RAOC Sgt C A Proverbs RAOC Sgt J R Davies Int Corps Sgt J D Lee REME Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC Sgt J F Kreft RAOC	Sgt J Bennett RAOC Sgt C A Proverbs RAOC Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC Sgt J F Kreft RAOC Sgt N P Botfield RAOC Sgt B D Macro REME
B COMPANY				
Officer Commanding	Maj H D Lucas RAOC	Maj H D Lucas RAOC	Maj H D Lucas RAOC	Maj H D Lucas RAOC
Training Officer	Capt A T Bettaney RAOC	Capt A T Bettaney RAOC	Capt A T Bettaney RAOC	Capt M F Fox REME
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) G K Maule RAOC	WO2 (CSM) G K Maule RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J C A Thorner D & D	WO2 (CSM) P S Slaughter RAOC
PLATOON COMMANDERS				
Watts Platoon	Lt J S Lamb RAOC			
Tyler Platoon	Lt J D Hart RAOC			
Hill Platoon	Lt P A Ball RAOC			
Parsons Platoon	Lt P B Linney REME			
Body Platoon	Lt J P Inman RAOC			
PLATOON SERGEANTS	Sgt P M Carrick RAOC Sgt D G Hardstaff REME Sgt M A O'Malley RAOC Sgt S C Bonta RAOC Sgt T J T Flowers RAOC			
PLATOON COMMANDERS				
Hill/Barossa Platoon		Lt P A Ball RAOC		Lt P A Ball RAOC
Body/Senior B Platoon		Lt G W Paton RAOC	Lt G W Paton RAOC	Lt G W Paton RAOC
Benghazi Platoon		Lt J D Hart RAOC	Lt MHP Buchanan RAOC	Lt MHP Buchanan RAOC
Balaclava Platoon		Lt J S Lamb RAOC	Lt J S Lamb RAOC	Lt J S Lamb RAOC
Blenheim Platoon		Lt P B Linney REME	Lt P B Linney REME	Lt P B Linney REME
Burma Platoon		Lt J Payne REME	Lt J Payne REME	Sgt D G Hardstaff REME
Bruneval Platoon			Lt P A Ball RAOC	
PLATOON SERGEANTS		Sgt M A O'Malley RAOC Sgt J T J Flowers RAOC Sgt D G Hardstaff RAOC Sgt P M Carrick RAOC Sgt S C Bonta RAOC Sgt J A G Earl REME	Sgt M A O'Malley RAOC Sgt D G Hardstaff RAOC Sgt P M Carrick RAOC Sgt S C Bonta RAOC Sgt J A G Earl REME Sgt W L Rice RAOC Sgt C D Harris REME	Sgt M A O'Malley RAOC Sgt P M Carrick RAOC Sgt J A G Earl RAOC Sgt W L Rice RAOC Sgt C D Harris REME Sgt P M Thayre RAOC

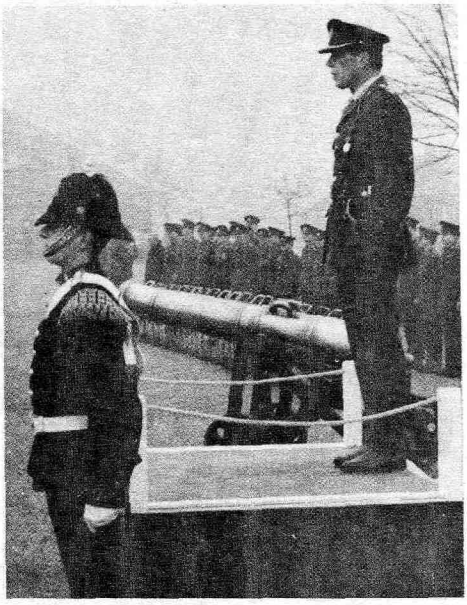
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT				
Senior Education Officer	Maj P A Easton RAEC	Maj P A Easton RAEC	Maj P A Easton RAEC	Maj P A Easton RAEC
Military Lecturers	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Capt A G Thomas RAEC Lt R R Stuart RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Capt R R Stuart RAEC Lt B F Kane RAEC Lt C Manvell RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Capt R R Stuart RAEC Lt B F Kane RAEC Lt C Manvell RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Lt B F Kane RAEC Lt C Manvell RAEC
Civilian Lecturers	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd) Wg Comd P W Hope BA RAF (Retd) Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd) Mr W E Smith Mr J F Watson Mr M F Johnson BA Mr W J Waddington Mr A C F Legg Mr P Heap BA	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd) Wg Comd P W Hope BA RAF (Retd) Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd) Mr W E Smith Mr J F Watson Mr M F Johnson BA Mr W J Waddington Mr P Heap BA	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd) Wg Comd P W Hope BA RAF (Retd) Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd) Mr W E Smith Mr J F Watson Mr M F Johnson BA Mr W J Waddington Mr P Heap BA	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd) Wg Comd P W Hope BA RAF (Retd) Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd) Mr W E Smith Mr J F Watson Mr M H Johnson BA Mr W J Waddington Mr P Heap BA

PASSING OUT PARADES

Since the last publication of 'Thunderbolt' there have been four Passing-Out Parades and one Change of Command Parade. This last, on 20 February 1976, saw Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC relinquish the appointment of Commanding Officer which he had held for very nearly three years, and Lt Col N S Bruce RAOC assume command in his stead.



Lt Col P H J Vickery leaves the parade after relinquishing his command to .....



Lt Col N S Bruce on taking up his appointment as Commanding Officer

Our Inspecting Officers for the Passing Out Parades, all of whom paid high tribute to the apprentices for their turn-out and bearing, were:

2 August 1975
Major-General H Macdonald-Smith BSc, C Eng, FI Mech E, FIEE
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering

13 December 1975
Major-General P J O'B Minogue
Commander Base Organisation RAOC

8 April 1976
Brigadier A D Burley
Commander RAOC Training Centre

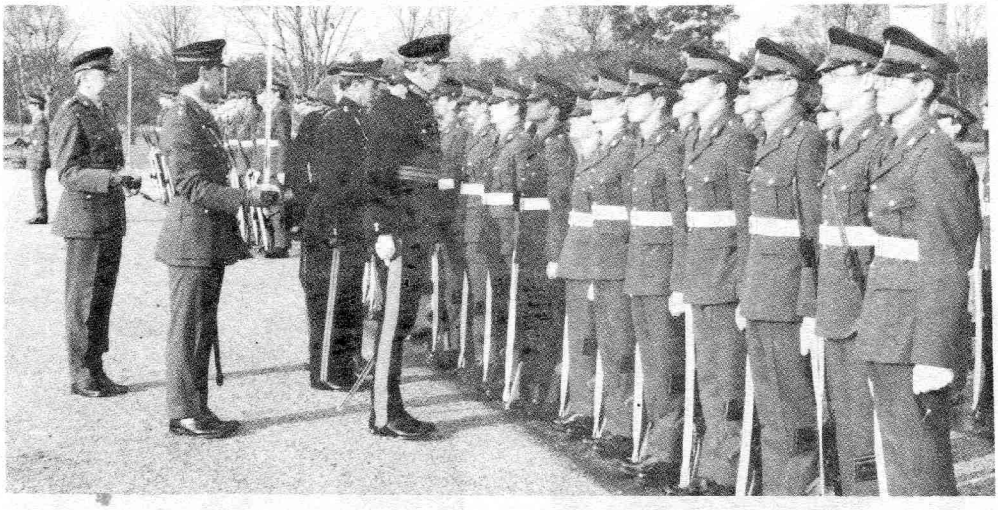
12 August 1976
General Sir William Jackson GBE KCB MC
Quartermaster-General



Major General H Macdonald-Smith, DEME, inspecting the Senior Platoon during the Passing-Out Parade 2 August 1975



Part of the demonstration of College activities staged for the Summer 1975 Passing-Out Parade. Note the spectator participation



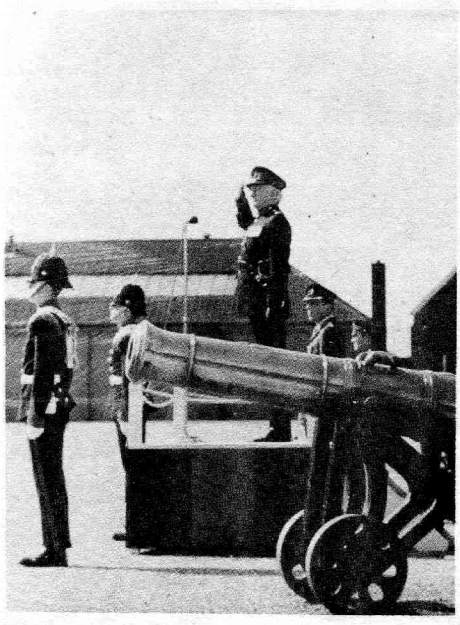
Passing Out Parade December 1975. Major General P J O'B Minogue inspects the Senior Platoon



Prize Giving December 1975
Mrs Minogue presents the Education Cup to A/Lcpl Liddle



Part of the December 1975 Pageant depicting College activities - in this case a demonstration of "commandless" drill



Passing-Out Parade April 1976 Brigadier Burley takes the salute at the March Past



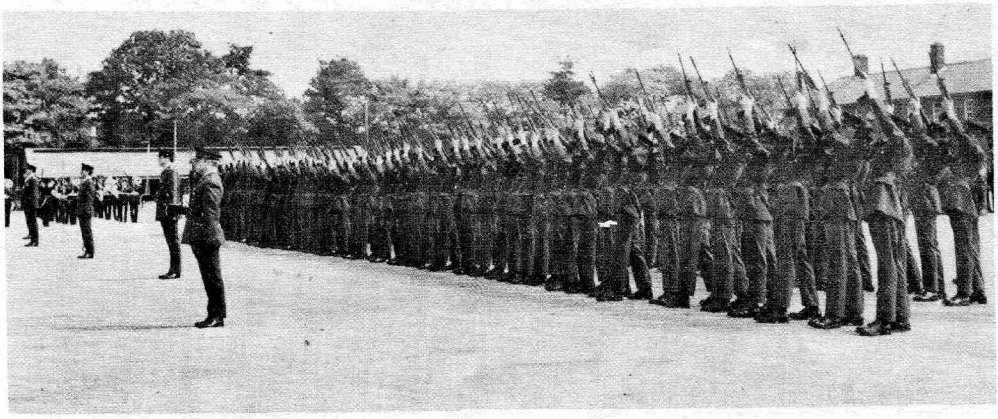
Brigadier Burley congratulates Sgt J Gilbey after presenting him on parade with the LS & GC medal



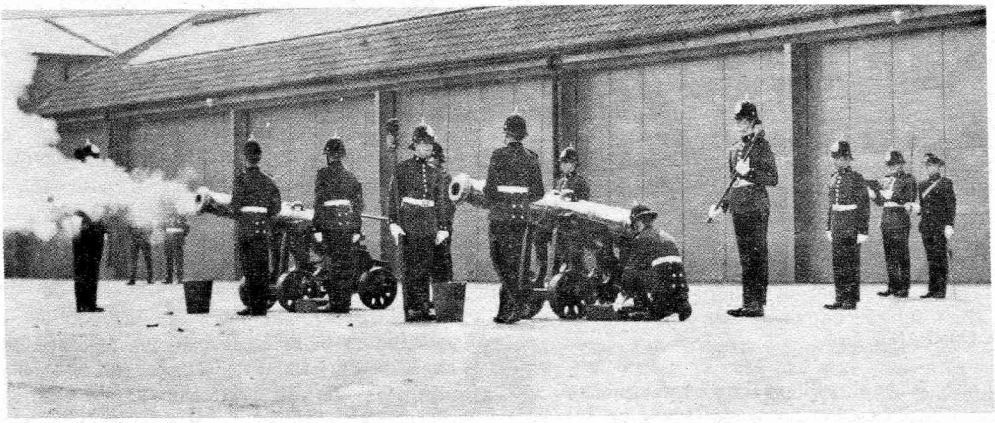
Passing-Out Parade August 1976. General Jackson and the Senior Platoon



Lt J Payne REME leads his platoon past General Jackson



Passing-Out Parade August 1976. The "Feu de Joie"



The same. Lt P Heap RA(V) with his RAOC gun crew firing the 21-gun salute

'A' COMPANY

"An acre of performance is worth the whole world of promise" James Howell

OC Major R A Maby RAOC

Training Officer Captain AP Byles RAOC

CSM WOII J Foster RAOC



"The Command Powerhouse of Shiny A"

Back Row (L to R): *Lt Williams* *Sgt Kreft* *Lt Payne* *Sgt Rowlands* *Sgt Marco* *Lt Tayler* *Cpl Cook* *Sgt Botfield* *Lt Hopkinson* *Sgt Davies* *Lt Hanlon*

Front Row (L to R): *Mrs Parratt* *Capt Byles* *Mrs Vipond* *Major Maby* *Mrs Flowers* *WO2 Foster*

A COMPANY

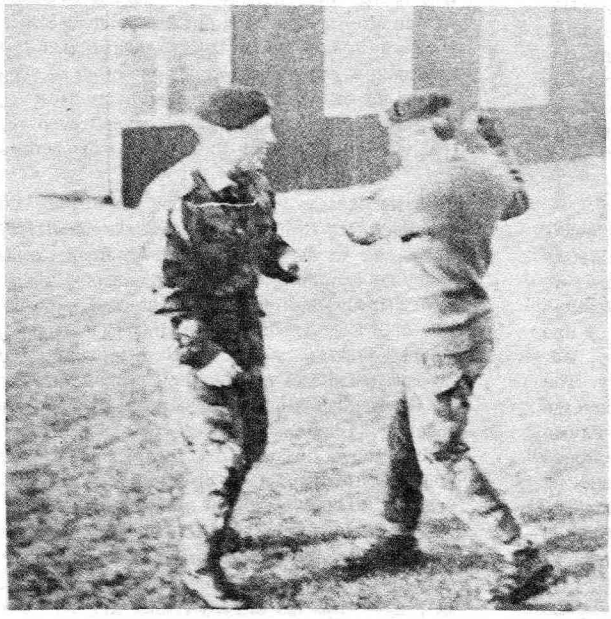
If only James Howell (whoever he was....or is!) could see us now, he would surely be given ample proof that his quotation was accurate in the extreme. A Company has always had the potential to blossom, has always promised so much, but invariably have been pipped at the post. Now, the years 1975 and 76 have taken us out of the realms of "well - better luck next time", into those of success and achievement. However, to the beginning . . . . .

The start of the Winter Term 1975 heralded a new era for the Company as approximately 120 new, fresh and eager faces descended on sunny Deepcut. Aden, Alamein, Arakan and Arnhem Platoons sprang into existence and the Company had four new recruit platoons to lead through the tangled path from schooldays to soldierhood. It took various College departments until half-term to realize that all platoons starting with the letter A belonged to A Company and in fact both our second term Swiney Platoon, and our 'Seniors', were equally confused. But, by the end of term, we were all the best of friends. (honestly)

If the Recruits' Acceptance Parade was considered to be a sign to relax and rest on one's laurels, then all must have had a nasty shock. Immediately after half-term, Company Camp at Penhale was upon us. "That means work" was one horrified, and cleverly accurate, observation. Work included, as can be discovered on reading the various platoon reports, swimming in the luxuriant and delicate surf of the Atlantic (there is no beating a raging November storm), a 24 hour exercise (amid fragrant mist, refreshing drizzle, and the occasional sleet), a planned 48 hour exercise for Swiney and Senior Platoons on Dartmoor which unfortunately had to be abandoned due to the weather (too hot?), and the first battle for the Assault March Cup, well won by Alamein. On the swimming side, it was strangely coincidental that whenever a platoon was due to go for a dip, its platoon commander was 'necessarily' otherwise engaged. Captain Byles began to regret that he had said that an officer must swim with all platoons. He never really warmed up the whole week!

The Winter Term also brought two well earned trophies to the Company's ample stock. The Inter Platoon Rugby Sevens Shield was won by Swiney Platoon and it is considered no coincidence at all that Sgt Rowlands was Swiney's Platoon Sergeant. The Inter-Company Football Shield was carried off again, this time with A/Pte McBurney achieving a hat trick. Definitely "Haweay the lads"!

The Spring Term 1976 welcomed Arras Platoon to the fold and they promptly made their mark with splendid performances in everything they did. In fact, during this term, the Company as a whole performed superbly. Warcop, of course, was the focal point of attention during the first part of term, and there are various writings on our activities in the platoon reports. The grand finale of the camp was the Assault March Cup, when, on the last day, the two favourites, Swiney and Arnhem, battled it out together. Swiney, led by Captain Byles, was victorious in the end after a most dramatic finish and both platoons were invited to sample the local brew with the Permanent Staff afterwards in the Mess. A most fitting end to a thoroughly successful camp.



Capt Byles and CSM Foster "in conference" - Warcop 1976

Success breeds success and this showed forth in profusion over the remainder of the term. Again Swiney Platoon, aiming to end their time at the College with a bang, won the Moving Targets Cup at the College Rifle Meeting, at which many other

individual successes were chalked up. Alamein won the inter platoon Football Shield in a nail-biting final with Body Platoon and also ran away (please excuse the pun) with the inter platoon Cross Country Shield. In this race, Major Maby, our OC, led at the beginning but was slowly overtaken by Captain Byles who went on to win the Open (or Old Fogies) Trophy by coming fifth. The best effort in the race was by Lt Williams in coming 30th, and was promptly presented with some Phyllosan. Everyone was most upset at this as we all know he's really only 22. We're also still trying to discover if an inter company trophy exists, 'cos we would have won that too! The inter company Rugby Cup does exist, however, and is firmly positioned in the OC's office. That must make us the CO's favourite Company, surely!

To round off our string of successes, Arras Platoon bowed out of existence before amalgamating to become Ardennes by winning the White Lodge Rose Bowl. Their achievement was even more remarkable in that they fielded less than half the number of boys than some other platoons. The life of Arras was indeed very short, but oh so sweet!

We greeted Summer Term 1976 with our heads held high and straight away won the Athletics Competition Shield at the College meeting. There were some superb performances by A/Sgt Manley, A/Cpls White and Smith, A/Lcpl McBurney and A/Ptes Marchi, Scot R C J and Vanstone. We then prepared for College Camp at Tenby. The main Company activity there was Exercise "Birdwatcher" in which the Company was formed into small groups of 10 which had to move around the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, completing 'Command Tasks' on the way. The photographs of "Ex Birdwatcher" at the end of the platoon notes relate all the drama.

At the time of going to print, all are enjoying the summer and its activities. Life is as hectic as ever, as we prepare for everything in general but nothing, at the moment, in particular. Captain Byles has just made his first parachute jump and his report goes something like "His exit count (one has to shout loudly from 1 to 6 on exit) was indecipherable. It sounded more like a blood-curdling scream". (The author refuses to comment further!)

We welcome Anguilla Platoon to our ranks, having formed up halfway through the term, at the same time as we prepare to say farewell to Alamein and Arnhem, both in their final term. We wish them all the best for the future and hope that the new platoons next term will be able to follow in their footsteps and enable us to maintain the success of "Shiny A"!

Salvete - Valete

It is truly amazing to realise how many faces have stayed within the portals of Shiny A over the last year. It is always with refreshing interest that we welcome the new, but with sadness we bid our overworked and twitching nervous wrecks goodbye.

Starting, as always, with the lovely ladies, Sylvia Fielden left us after a brief spell and we welcome Betty Parratt who has taken over the task of sorting out all the numerous files and pieces of paper that float all over the place. She also makes an unusually good cup of tea, for those who are so honoured to receive one. Nancy Vipond still taps away superbly attempting to decipher our scrawls and her smiling face reminds us that we must retain our sense of humour whatever the problem. Mary Taylor has left us after many a term and we welcome Sheila Flowers in her place. It is a shame that the husbands of our gorgeous girls can often be seen around the office therefore rendering any liberties few and far between. In fact we haven't seen any real ones at all, which is, frankly, most boring.

Not necessarily following on from the last sentence (but it did pass through the mind!), we now come to the men. Major John Rose took a fancy to two things during the end of his time here: firstly the idea of Cyprus and secondly one of B Company's lovely ladies in the form of Audrey Jenkins, who he took as his bride. He promptly then took one fancy off to the other, and we wish them all happiness in their new life together. Lieutenants Geoff Cox and Bryden Ritchie have departed our shores and are, no doubt, still jumping out of aeroplanes. Lt Matt Sullivan was posted to the Adult Recruit Selection Centre at Sutton Coldfield and one would be most surprised if his experiences here "in the front line" did not stand him in good stead there. Lt Phil Walton has since left the Army and was last seen in Katmandu tripping over his hair. (The author will refrain from any further comment for fear of becoming too green with envy!). Sgt 'Andy' Anderson was taken away from us by 3 BAPD, but has recently been seen around in Deepcut, no doubt longing to come back(!). Sgt Paul Thain left us to take various civilian exams in which we wish him all success, and we have just bid a sad farewell to Sgt John "Boots and Cap" Lee of Arnhem Platoon. Lt Williams has just received his posting order to BAOR (32 Engr Regt Wksp, Hohne): some people have all the luck! We hope he, and all others, will visit us again soon.

We welcome our new OC, Major Rene Maby, who came straight to us from Hong Kong. That he fancied Deepcut, like Major John Rose fancied

Cyprus, is somewhat doubted, but he didn't argue the toss with AG9. Sgts Cliff Proverbs and John Kreft transferred from Training Wing to the Company in what we consider a wise move and welcome too to Sgt Jim Davies, our Intelligence Corps representative. There does appear to be truth in the rumour that Sgt John Burnett has been a member of the Company since May 1975, but there hasn't been a great deal of visual proof of this. (Seriously, though, he doesn't volunteer for these courses . . . . or does he?)

Cpl Colin Wolfe decided to swap the Regimental Depot for the College, which is an obvious indication of his fine mental quality, and we recently welcomed Sgts Taff Botfield and Brian Macro. To them all "Welcome to Shiny A".

SWINEY PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J P Hopkinson RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC

Winter Term 1975

After coming second in all the competitions of summer 1975 there was a great determination to win this term. Unfortunately we were thwarted in many cases, but we did win the Rugby seven-a-side competition.

Platoon camp at Shorncliffe was a notable event. This training area is used very heavily by many units. A map reading and tactical movement exercise on the first day became rather confusing when it appeared that two other units were engaged in similar training. However, the platoon managed to overcome the difficulties and cross some very difficult country without being seen too often by the Permanent Staff who knew all the best OPs.

The night exercise, splitting the platoon into two teams, half defending and half attacking, started well but then the weather turned against us. We could not have been wetter had we walked under a waterfall. The platoon base was awash so we moved back to St Martin's Plain Camp. The first part of the next day was taken up with sorting out the platoon base. The advance to contact then began, initially with section actions building up to full platoon attacks.

The educational visit to France was also hit by the weather. We could not take the ferries planned but eventually managed to get to Calais. All had an excellent time until, on the return trip, the French Customs decided they were going to keep some of the boys. When they were told they were perfectly welcome to them they seemed to decide that as we were so willing to part with them, perhaps they did not want them after all. Various rumours were rife about this incident but it is still maintained that this was a very clever ploy by the Permanent Staff and not an attempt to get rid of the most troublesome members of the platoon.

Company Camp at Penhale was again a successful time for the platoon. The ELT phase was particularly enjoyed. The exercise was Swiney against the Seniors. Again the weather caused severe modifications to the plans and the exercise had to be stopped early. Rumours that the platoon have been seen with their bags of bones and beads performing strange dances are hotly denied.

Spring Term 1976

This was to be the platoon's final term together and also the last time that the name Swiney was to be used. Everybody was determined to bring glory to the platoon. However we had lost eight of our number as NCOs to other platoons. Of course, we wished them luck, but not too much.

Platoon camp this term was at Fremington with Arnhem and Arakan. The first morning the platoon went out on exercise. We were to assault the beach by DUKW but the weather again was against us. Using a 4 ton DUKW, we maintained a very active patrol programme throughout the day and night, culminating in a pitched battle with the enemy in the early hours of the morning. The bulk of the platoon were then withdrawn and the remnants fought a stalwart delaying action against the might of Arnhem platoon. We were eventually destroyed by the enemy but only after they had sustained crippling casualties.

On the Sunday afternoon the whole platoon went off riding. This was much enjoyed by all and several requests for transfer to the cavalry were later received.

Company camp this term was at Warcop, a

shooting camp. The ranges were of wide variety and much enjoyed by all. Everybody also learned a great deal.

The exercise this time had Swiney as the enemy in small groups attacking the other platoon. Although heavily outnumbered they managed to cause considerable chaos. However they were eventually pinned down and defeated. Again it rained during this exercise, the only time during the whole camp. It is said that the 2IC has a special indent form for rain for all his exercises, fact which he strongly denies.

Camp is the time of the Assault March Cup. This was the Trophy the platoon really wanted. Both the Platoon Commander and the Platoon Sergeant had been injured during the Company exercise so Captain Byles very kindly stood in. In a nail-biting finish with Arnhem, we came through victorious.

Yes, we really have won it; the most important prize of all.

The members of Swiney Platoon have gone and the name is no more. A very sad occasion but let us hope that the ex-members of the platoon will never forget the name and its tradition.

ADEN PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt P R Hanlon RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt C A Proverbs RAOC

On 9 September 1975 Aden Platoon came into existence. Under the eagle eye of Lt Hanlon and Sgt Proverbs, 34 young schoolboys and four experienced NCOs were banded together in Block 9, Dettingen Barracks ready for the first term as a recruit platoon.

The term passed quickly with a first weekend camp at Bordon, where the basics of camouflaging and concealment were taught. We were all surprised when A/Pte Wilson managed to remember where he had hidden himself. Company Camp was held at Penhale and we enjoyed for the first time such activities as abseiling and canoeing. There is no truth in the rumour that the Platoon Commander holds the record for capsizes! During this time A/Sgt Eades went away on an Outward Bound Course and came back with a desire to show the Platoon how easy it was to run up the Pirbright sand hill. On the sporting side our only star this term was A/Pte McBurney who played for the College soccer team and found the net regularly, on one occasion getting nine out of 12 in a cup match. A/Pte Gammon also played in the College rugby team, when his training allowed. The Pageant at the end of term saw the platoon acting as they had done only 14 weeks before, lost souls being met by a 'friendly' sergeant. A/Sgt Eades, A/Lcpls Bingham, Woods and Gosney all left at the end of this term and A/Ptes Wilson, Buckley and McBurney found themselves as A/Lcpls.

In January 1976 A/Sgt Cull replaced A/Sgt Eades and a wholly intact platoon quickly went away on a platoon camp at Shorncliffe. After a night battle in which Alamein platoon were destroyed, the platoon went to France for a day trip. Accompanied by the Company Commander we were given a guided tour around Boulogne and its surrounding hamlets including a good meal in a country inn. After half term the Company went to Warcop to use the field firing ranges there. We left behind the Platoon Commander who had managed to break his ankle the night before we left. Some people have all the luck!

Our sportsmen were busier this term with A/Lcpl McBurney still starring for the College soccer team and Gammon showing his rugby skills. A/Sgt Cull, A/Ptes Dorn and Hodgson were regular stars for the cross country team and A/Ptes Townsend, Wilson, Snell, Wynne and Howes sustained the College hockey team.

This term saw our first rush of departures and we said goodbye to A/Ptes Bullock, Dorn, Heyworth, Smalley and Wallace. We wish them the best in all they do in the future.

The Summer Term 1976 started with the platoon gaining third place in the College Athletics meeting. The star of our team was A/Lcpl McBurney who won the high jump and long jump and came second in the 100m.

At College Camp just a week later we all enjoyed a week of para-ascending, sailing, fishing, cycling and walking. The second week was taken up in a very exhausting but enjoyable exercise around the Pembrokeshire coast.

At half term A/Cpl Wilson left to join the recruits of Anguilla as a Sergeant and the platoon went to recover from an enjoyable week at Harlech.

There was promotion too for A/Lcpl Buckley and A/Pte McMillan and the new look Aden Platoon prepared for the rest of the summer term and the winter term (the last) 1976. All in all it has been a very enjoyable year with everyone having travelled, and tried a large range of varying activities.

Aden Platoon at Browndown
by A/Lcpl Pip Taylor

On Monday 28 June 1976 Aden Platoon returned from half term ready to go away the following morning for our summer term Platoon camp. By 9 o-clock everyone was ready, the vehicles were loaded and we were on our way to Browndown Training Camp, everyone that is except A/Sgts Cull and Wilson. The weather was perfect and the only grumble was that it was too hot.

On arrival at Browndown we were shown our homes for the next four days - they were not bad - and everyone started to unpack. The meals we enjoyed there were not too bad considering that the cook, Lcpl Ballantyne, was on his own. That evening we were allowed out, some of us going to the fair at Southsea whilst others looked around Gosport and Portsmouth. Everybody came in that night having fully enjoyed themselves.

After a good night's sleep we ran down to the beach for a swim. The sea was warm and most people stayed in for about half an hour. This early morning swim became a regular feature of every day down at Browndown. Some mornings we stayed longer, swimming and playing water polo. Some lads even played football or softball. The nights down there were most enjoyable and on the Friday when we had to return to Deepcut everyone wanted to stay another week, especially Aden Platoon who were going out onto G1 Training Area to take their RPC 3 Fieldcraft and Tactics test.

On Saturday morning 2 July 1976 we moved out to the Training Area in three sections plus Platoon Headquarters. Each section had no more than 8 men. On arrival at our testing area we had to 'bivvy up', dig trenches and camouflage up. This was the first part of the test, and the whole time out there we were being watched and marked.

Late that night each section sent out a patrol of three men to try to find the enemy. The patrols had to put into practice everything they had learned about movement and observation at night. After successful patrols we all returned for a de-brief and a good night's sleep.

Next morning after a wash and shave we prepared for question time by the Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant. Unfortunately during the afternoon the rest of the exercise had to be called off because of a heavy downpour when we all got soaked and we returned to the block wringing wet. Now began the worst part of the exercise. All kit had to be cleaned and then we had to wait for the results of our tests.

Oh, the trials and tribulations of this life!

EX WARCOP WOMBLE

by A/Pte E Hodgson Aden Platoon
Winner of the "Warcop Womble Essay Tankard 1976"

To begin with, our platoon briefing on the eve of camp was short, very explicit and to the point, given by our Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Proverbs.

He explained to us the usual things, such as what he expected of us, but, above all, he stressed safety the most. He told us that we would be "almost brainwashed" with this word every day - and it worked, because nobody in Aden Platoon had any injuries.

Most things went according to plan as far as our transport and accommodation went, but minor things, such as the food at Derby railway station being delayed indefinitely, were only to be expected on an operation of this scale. On the whole, plans went incredibly well throughout the whole of the eight days there.

There were two highlights in my opinion, the ranges and the 14 hour Company field exercise, To begin with, the ranges there, and I am certain anyone who has been on any one of them won't disagree with me, were absolutely marvellous, showing the different types of tactics, attacking as well as defending. We all, at least those who were listening and taking notice, learnt more at that range area than we ever could in long weeks at Deepcut. It all boils down to the fact that we have not got the facilities required here which

they have at that small desolate village of Warcop.

I must say it is the perfect place, up there in the picturesque hills, unperturbed by the utter confusion of civilians. I have asked my colleagues here at Deepcut what their opinion of the ranges were and not one person disagreed with me; in some cases they did not wish to come back to the barracks.

The first of the three ranges which we all attempted was the jungle range. Very easy and impressive. Here I found out my first weak point of weapon handling - leaning back from the rifle whilst firing in the standing position. It has now been corrected, for now I lean into the rifle.

Next came the "Section in Attack Range" - very exhausting and frightening, especially when one uses live ammunition for the first time in one's life, whilst carrying out an attack. Here I realised the points which may cost the section their lives!

Finally there was "Hazel Rig" - I've heard and read of ranges which automatically record the score, drop when hit, and targets which work synchronizingly, but to actually fire one was, for me, a dream come true! Without a doubt, this was my favourite, not only giving the user various targets to shoot at, but varied places to shoot from. I have learnt a great deal here too, but not as much as mentioned above.

It is quite understandable why Warcop ranges are considered the best ranges in England.

The next highlight was the 14 hour Company exercise, our Platoon being led by Lt Hopkinson and Sgt Proverbs plus the four Section Commanders - A/Lcpls Buckley, Wilson, McBurney and A/Pte Taylor, now Lance Corporal. In my opinion they all did their jobs remarkably well and it paid off too.

From this exercise alone I found just how much I could endure of all the patrolling, section attacks, terribly wet weather in the hills, and rotten Compo meals.

It was by no means pleasant, indeed morale was very low at times, but we attempted what we thought the ridiculous, and achieved the impossible, to our minds at least!

Thanks to the forced march, map reading exercise, fatigues, pony trekking and the fabulous NAAFI, we led a very varied and interesting life at Camp. By the way, that was the first time that I had been on muster parade on Saturday and Sunday morning with A Company!

I enjoyed camp very much, even if I did not think so at the time; but I was pleased to return to the barracks for decent entertainment at night. It was worth it, having returned proud of the platoon's achievements and my own particularly, with greater knowledge of fieldcraft and tactics - the "Soldier's Bible".

ALAMEIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander Sgt J R Davies Int Corps

Platoon Corporal Cpl L Cook RAOC

Winter Term 1975

Alamein Platoon's time at the College began with Lt Knight and Cpl (now Sgt) Rice, Sgt Davies was away on his drill course having failed to convince the CSM that Intelligence Corps NCOs really didn't need one!

At the four week point the platoon was settled in and doing well. Sgt Davies returned to see this confirmed by A/Pte Hennis eventually completing the left turn at the halt.

Platoon camp was held on the weekend 11/12 October and co-located with Aden Platoon. The scene was set at Bordon beside a lake with the platoon constructing their own camouflaged shelters from groundsheets. After training in sentry duties, silent movements and field signals, the weekend culminated in an evasion exercise followed by a camp fire sing-song. The evasion exercise was very popular, with the boys having to move from positions several hundred yards away and get as close to the fire as possible without being seen. This operation was severely hampered by Lt Knight, complete darkness, and Sgt Davies in that order. Lt Knight was a complete nuisance, stumbling over people and returning them to the start; the darkness was a partial nuisance causing several people to cross streams and bogs on hands and knees and Sgt

Davies was a slight nuisance kicking the fire and calling for more logs!

Half term arrived with the usual first term requests to travel home by train in uniform - this unfortunately cannot be allowed but a refusal has yet to deter anyone from doing so!

On 6 November Towpath Tango was under way with boys doing a forced march along the Basingstoke canal from Deepcut to Aldershot. First and second places fell to the two Alamein teams led by A/Sgt Mulholland and A/Lcpl Pike. Both teams came in shattered but singing and in good spirits.

A few days later the Company moved to Penhale in Cornwall for two weeks outdoor training. The camp started with a run and quick freezing dip in the sea, Sgt Davies leading the first tentative charge into the water and a definitely rapid one out again. The rest of the camp was taken up with relatively routine training which included a night out in the open when everyone got soaking wet and freezing cold: again! It was on this camp that the platoon won the Assault March Cup which was one of the hardest things they have done.

Spring Term 1976

On 15 January the platoon went with Aden, once again, to St Martin's Plain camp near Folkestone for a long weekend. The camp began with a military phase involving trench digging and night attacks. Sgt Davies' attempt to eliminate the camp brass, namely Lts Knight and Hanlon, merely resulted in the command tent being ventilated by a thunderflash. Some said it was a pity about the tent, others just said it was a pity! The camp was highlighted on the Sunday by a trip to France for the day. A splendid lunch and coach tour obviously did not impress A/Pte Cook - his diary entry for that day reads - "Went to France for the day. Got drunk. Bought Mum fags." (Platoon staff are adamant that Cook didn't really get drunk!). Then came Company Camp at Warcop which has been well written up by A/Pte Scott J after this report.

March 1976 saw another Alamein peak with the Platoon winning firstly the Company Inter Platoon Sports, having excelled at the murder ball and won it outright. Then the College cross country shield was won with A/Pte Millican coming fourth. The inter platoon football shield also fell to Alamein who came from 4-0 down at half time to 4-4 at full time and went on to beat Body Platoon 4-6 in extra time.

Here credit must go to the team captain, A/Pte Scott J, and to Sgt Cliff Proverbs our coach, kindly donated by Aden Platoon.

The College shoot in late March gave A/Pte Pain an armful of cups and tankards and in fact at the end of term one fifth of the College end of term awards and colours went to Alamein Platoon.



A much deserved "Well done!" from the CO

Summer Term 1976

Summer term began in early May with inter platoon sports. Alamein came fifth with A/Pte Scott R C J winning the discus and A/Pte Vickers winning the hurdles.

Sgt Davies was by now officially elevated to the position of Platoon Commander and was promptly 'invited to deposit 20p with the office coffee fund.

College camp at Tenby was a great success with Alamein's team No 15, led by A/Lcpl (later Cpl) Jackson, coming second in Exercise Birdwatcher, a very good effort. The platoon was joined half way through by A/Lcpl Stuart and A/Pte Pain, hot from the SE District Small Arms Meeting, where both were in the falling plates winning team and where Stuart won the junior individual SMG shoot.

The platoon was represented at the Travers Clark meeting by Scott R C J throwing the discus, Stewart and Vickers in the 400 m relay and Vickers also in the 110 m hurdles.

On 5 June the inevitable assault march took place yet again with the platoon doing very well but led astray by Sgt Davies taking a right turn instead of a left and adding a considerable distance to the route! However the mistake was partially rectified later by a half pint all round at the back of the Sergeants' Mess.

Just before half term the platoon was joined by Cpl Cook from Training Wing, a most welcome addition with his infantry training and experience. Summer term's platoon camp was planned as a complete break for four days at Browndown Training Camp near Gosport, opposite the Isle

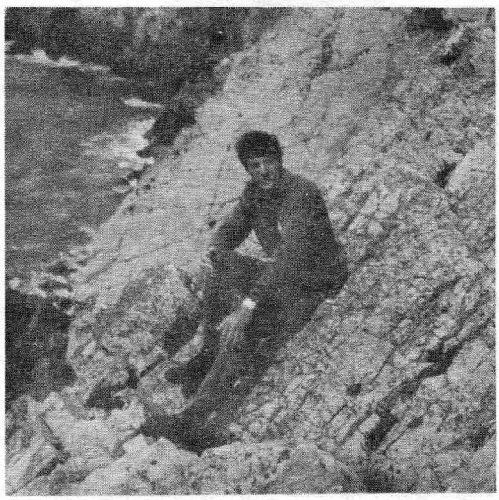


"Moscow 1980 - here I come"
A/Pte Vickers hurdles to victory

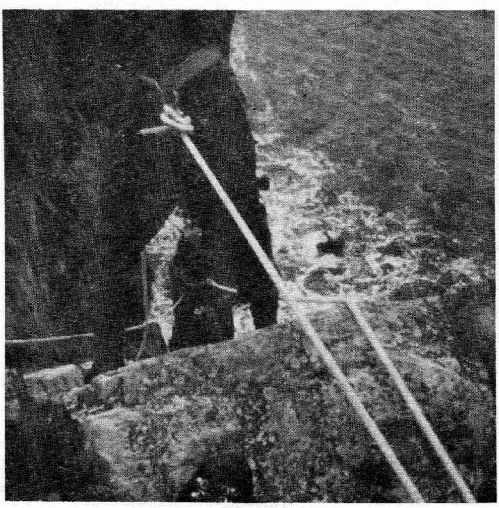
of Wight. Here the lads' declared intent was to go bird watching and A/Ptes Smith and Gaskin were seen to be actively engaged in this sport with some local specimens on the superb stretch of beach next to the camp. The four days are well summed up by A/Pte Stubbington after this report.

Alamein Platoon at Browndown Camp July 1976 by A/Pte 'Stubby' Stubbington

We knew before we started our camp that we were not going to do much military training. This was very much an understatement. I was one of the lucky ones who live near the camp so was able to travel there on Tuesday morning. The accommodation was by far the best we have ever had at camp. I have no complaints about the camp or what we did there, but I am afraid the food was one factor that marred the weekend slightly, as it was all compo. I am sorry to say that I only went to one meal, the first one, the few days we were there. One compo meal was enough for me! I cannot write much about the next few days except that I enjoyed myself so much I forgot I was in the Army. It was left entirely up to us what we did in the afternoon and this generally ranged from sunbathing to going out on the beach or just casually strolling around the area. We did have some orders we had to abide by and these were sensible requirements such as being back in camp by 11.30 and being up by 0830 hrs. Everyone respected and carried out these reasonable times and there were no mishaps. I think the main object of the camp may have been to get us to be responsible for ourselves and be able to do things without having Sergeants and Officers around us all the time telling us to do this and that, and of course this helped us all the more to enjoy it. From the comments made by other members of the Platoon, it is a good thing to have camps such as this one, and I only wish we had time at the College to have another one. I would just like to say thank you to everyone concerned for letting Alamein and Aden Platoons have probably the best few days they will ever spend in the Army.



"I've just fallen down here, and my knee hurts a bit!" Cpl Cook of Alamein Platoon



"I hope these knots hold!"

ARAKAN PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt M F Fox REME Lt J Payne REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt J F Kreft RAOC

On 9 September 1975 the throbbing metropolis of Deepcut greeted the nervous, overawed and excited individuals, who all wished in their own way to become apprentice soldiers. Thus Arakan Platoon was born. The initial interviews over, bed spaces sorted and beds made ("My Mum always makes mine, where does this go?"), the training commenced.

Early risings, loud voices and quick thinking (Permanent Staff only) taught the difference between civilian left and College left, friendships were formed and the beginnings of a team were forged. Six weeks seemed like six years, but the day arrived for our acceptance into the College, celebrated by a parade to which our parents were invited.

Camping was introduced to us at Bordon. Two man bivouacs and 24 hour ration packs sounded like a foreign language, however, lessons were learnt even if it was only how to clean a dirty, burnt mess tin. The countryside is beautiful, but not when you cannot get back to camp because you are lost. For some, the importance of maps, grid references and compass bearings was forced home the hard way!!

Sport and PT played a large part in our lives for reasons that did not appear apparent and inter platoon football competitions found us lacking in something - we always lost.

The hallowed ground of the square did not hold such a dread; our feet and bodies had learnt what to do with the appropriate pauses. Other aspects of our training did not seem as hard as we had imagined, not that it was easy. Penhale was the cry next heard. Imaginations ran riot trying to work out what it could be, not realising it was a place and that another camp was in the offing. Before the delights of Penhale we enjoyed a 'walk' (run/march) along the canal to Aldershot in the form of Exercise Towpath Tango. The need for PT was becoming more apparent!

Cornwall in November can be bleak, but we were fortunate in the weather being dry although cold. The activities at camp, however, did not give us much time to worry. A platoon exercise introducing us to the fun of fieldcraft and tactics, march and assault course competition, map reading and abseiling involved everybody, testing endurance, fitness and all round military ability. For the first time rifles were fired much to our excitement and the trepidation of the PS. The Christmas break was the next milestone on the calender to which we were all looking forward with great anticipation.

Spring Term 1976

"Second term blues" was the 'in phrase' at the start of term, but an indoor sports competition involving 10 sports did not give us much chance to suffer from them. Once again we didn't win but also didn't come last!

Towpath Tango came round again but this time it was completed more easily. The joys of PT and runs were obviously having their effect. A/Pte Docherty volunteered for the first lung transplant operation and gave up smoking for the umpteenth time. Fitness was uppermost in our minds as everybody had to participate in the College cross country. Needless to say we didn't win.

The training cycle continued and life was becoming easier. The lessons learnt in the Winter term were bearing fruit and the initial team spirit was hardening and paying dividends.

Preparations for the Company Camp at Warcop got under way; days on the range learning and brushing up shooting techniques made time fly. A long interesting train journey took us to Cumbria, where pony trekking, march and assault course and the best ranges we had seen to date greeted us. The weather, however, turned for the worse and it snowed, but this did not deter anybody from enjoying the camp.

The efforts made on the ranges at Warcop were put to good use in the College Rifle Meeting held on Ash Ranges. Again we were not among the prizes but things were beginning to look up.

Training continued at a hot pace and the results were now showing; fitter, healthier apprentices, keen to learn and becoming more soldierly day by day. Our platoon camp at Fremington was, however, something of a contrast, the emphasis being put on more non military activities. We visited the Fording Trials Branch at Instow and saw how vehicles were prepared and tested, finishing with a "swimming" demonstration. No camp would be complete without its march and assault course. They (PS) never forget!!

Summer Term

The term started with a bang, athletics competitions being held early to prepare a team for the Travers Clarke competition: the College members did not let the RAOC Training Centre team down, well done A/Pte Rafferty, who was our Platoon contribution.

South Wales was our next stop - Penally Camp - situated on the outskirts of Tenby to be precise. Early morning runs and swims in the sea put us in the right frame of mind for the various activities; canoeing, sailing, fishing, cycling, hill walking; abseiling and para ascending were all undertaken by each apprentice. The first phase was exciting and enjoyed by all. Para-ascending was a definite favourite.

The second phase was an exercise where all the skills that we had learnt to date were put to the test. The biggest test of all, however, was that we were to be by ourselves and had to make our own decisions. Various check points were set up, manned by the PS, where command tasks had to be completed, and time checks, map reading, setting up camps and the country code all played a part. The platoon yet again did not win the competition although thoroughly enjoyed the exercise.

A new Platoon Commander greeted us on return to Deepcut; the shock worked both ways!! We managed to impress him in the March and Assault course competition by coming third, we still don't know how.

Sporting achievements by the platoon remain at nil. However, A/Pte Davies D A must be congratulated on earning his College rugby colours and representing the RAOC Corps side against the REME XV. At such an early age he has a bright future on the rugby field. A/Pte Rafferty has been awarded his College gymnastics colours and has represented the College and Training Centre on the athletics field. A/Pte Docherty, apart from smoking too much, manages to see through his own smoke screen and represents the College full bore rifle team. A/Pte Davies A P is a "one off", archery being his thing, and although not returning with a prize, he came third in a recent Somerset county championships; well done.

At the time of going to press we are looking forward to another camp at Folkestone (with a trip to France) and next term, when our trade training starts - we become Seniors.



"A matter of local convenience." Ardennes and Arakan Platoons in a moment of light relief
Somewhere in France - July 1976

ARNHEM PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt T Tayler RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt J D Lee REME Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC

Winter Term 1975

Steevens Platoon was renamed Arnhem in September 1975, the only survivors of the old order being Sgt Lee, A/Cpls O'Hare, Parsonson and Wells. However, with the new name came 32 new REME recruits and A/Sgt Bruce Denwood from Baker Platoon. Three of the 32 soon decided that the Army was not for them but the remainder under the experienced eye of Sgt Lee and Cpl Anderson from 3rd Bn Parachute Regiment, settled down to the unforgettable experience of basic training. The first six weeks were, as Jock Strang put it, "Not quite hell but pretty near it," and they culminated in Exercise Free Piece at Bordon. This was a 24 hour exercise where, in conjunction with Arakan Platoon, we practised the duties of a sentry, went orienteering and learnt what "stand-to" meant.

After the October acceptance parade and a much appreciated half term break, preparations got under way for Company camp at Penhale, in Cornwall. What happened there is described by A/Pte Rod Jeffrey:

"It was about 8 am on 10 November 1975 when we left Deepcut. Four-tonners took us to North Camp station where we boarded a special train which took us to Truro. We then went by bus for the 15 remaining miles to Penhale Camp where we were to spend the next adventurous week.

The next day, which was Tuesday, we spent firing the SLR. In the morning we shot with a .22 Heckler-Koch attachment to get us used to the feel of the weapon. In the afternoon we were on the 30m range which was better as we fired the real thing. 7.62mm ammunition gives a much bigger recoil but we all did pretty well for a first attempt.

On Wednesday morning we went for a dip in the sea which is no joke in November. After breakfast though we revised our drill with Sgt Lee to get warmed up. After dinner we went for a 10 mile bash which was really tiring as the last two miles were over sand dunes. At the end was an assault course. Some of us got cramp on that, but it didn't stop Arnhem Platoon completing it in the fastest time.

I really enjoyed the abseiling; we did that all day Thursday and 95% of us had never done it before. To abseil you have to walk backwards down a cliff face holding onto a rope. We all had a really good time at that.

On Friday we went canoeing and we all enjoyed that too. I had never been in a canoe before so I spent a lot of time in the water. When the water is really cold it makes you learn quickly not to capsize. We were pretty tired that night and had just got to sleep when we were woken up to start a 36 hour exercise. We set off at 2330 hours and headed out in the dark to the sand dunes. There we made camp using our ponchos for shelters. The next day was spent learning to move tactically through different types of terrain and patrolling.

In the afternoon Cpl Anderson showed us how to set up an observation post and man it. It was then that we saw the enemy and sent out a fighting patrol to annihilate them. After that, much to our relief the exercise ended as it poured with rain all the time and we were soaked.

The next morning, Sunday, we were duty platoon and in the afternoon we had a map reading exercise which I found quite difficult in the rain and mist. We came home the following day. It was a very enjoyable week and we all learned a great deal but I was still glad to see Deepcut again-"

At the end of term we dined out Major Rose, Cpl Anderson and Bruce Denwood, the latter taking away with him not only education prizes but also the term award for the best all-round apprentice.

The last day was marked by the Passing Out Parade Pageant in which Arnhem put up tents in record time, ministered to a casualty midst the swirling mists of a gas attack and made short work of Lt Hopkinson when he tried to crash a road block. A satisfactory term's ending!

Spring Term 1976

After Christmas A/Cpl Michael Tracey joined Arnhem from Swiney Platoon in time for a week-end camp at Fremington in Devon. Following a very interesting day at REME Fording Trials Branch at Instow, the platoon practised section battle drills in the sand dunes and went map reading in the hills around Barnstaple. Highlight of the weekend though was the excursion on Exmoor ponies. It was the first time in the saddle for many of us but we were kindly treated.

We did not fare so well on the untamed stallions of Northumbria during Exercise "Warcop Womble". This was a very successful 10 days of battle shooting at Warcop near Penrith, in March. The company used all kinds of field firing ranges and our weapon handling and the standard of shooting improved enormously. There was a 12 hour exercise in pouring rain when we played hide-and-seek with Arras and Swiney which culminated in a company attack on their position. At one stage of the proceedings quick-witted Peter Dear narrowly avoided capture when his patrol was ambushed. As the enemy closed in he jumped into a nearby van where roadmen were having a tea break and buried himself in the Daily Mirror! Other highlights were the march and assault course competition in which Arnhem again made the fastest time, and the horse riding. Unlike the gentle ponies of Exmoor these were wild ferocious beasts and at one stage the scoreboard in the MI room read "Horses 11, Apprentices 0". In spite of that a thoroughly good time was had by all. The NAAFI was a very popular feature and well patronized at all times. Clive Vanstone says he has yet to see a better one.

Summer Term 1976

The experience gained at Warcop stood the platoon in good stead at the College rifle meeting at Ash, Paul Rafferty, Jim Watson, Steve Young, Michael Ditton and Gus Meredith won the falling plate match, Gus Meredith and Steve Young being amongst the top twenty individual rifle shots. Steve Young came equal first in that competition.

While the rest of the College enjoyed its half-term, Arnhem Platoon provided the RAOC Apprentices College contribution to the Aldershot Army Display. As part of the RAOC display the platoon manned a tent containing details of the College's activities. As well as static stands there was a demonstration of canoe building by Cpl Rozales; a trampoline; table tennis and a miniature range for the public's entertainment.

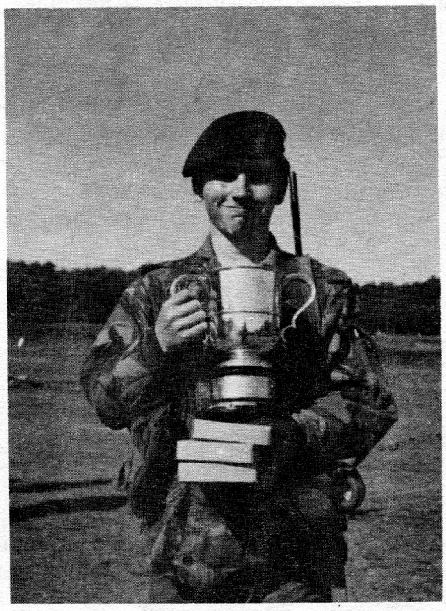
On the following weekend we went to the Petroleum Centre where, after a very interesting tour of the installations, the boys all had a chance to try their hand at fire fighting. The day was spent on a map reading exercise and discovering the fleshpots of Bournemouth. The weekend was rounded off with a sweltering morning at the Montagu Motor Museum at Beaulieu and a cool afternoon swimming at Calshot.

The last four weeks raced past as RPC III tests were taken, arrangements made for the end of term, and preparations for moving to Bordon. One afternoon worthy of mention though was that of the Regimental fete. After much practice and rehearsal the platoon represented the Apprentices College in a landrover stripping race. This was a very exciting contest and our team of eight apprentices competing against two teams of trained vehicle mechanics. The apprentices acquitted themselves well until the moment came to drive out of the arena when their vehicle would not start.

Defying all efforts to bring it too life it was eventually pushed ignominously from the ring. A sad ending to many hours of enthusiasm and hard work.

The passing out parade on 12 August was held in brilliant sunshine and the platoon, as term leavers, were inspected by the Quartermaster General, General Sir William Jackson. Now they have all gone. Most will train as vehicle mechanics at Bordon. Ivan England, forever being different, has gone to Arborfield; Brian Pattison and Kelvin Kemp like the College so much that they are coming back next term to train as storemen, but with a different platoon.

So on 14 September 1976 Arnhem Platoon will reform with a new platoon commander, new platoon sergeant, new NCOs and 36 new recruits, some of whom will not like it.... and so it goes on ad infinitum.



A cheshire cat and his winnings
A/Pte Gus Meredith heavily laden with silver

At the end of term Michael Tracey, Jim Watson, Pat White, Clive Vanstone, Jock Strang and Brian Pattison were all awarded their college colours and Michael Tracey had the honour of playing for

the Junior Army football side throughout the term.

The summer term got off to a fine start with College camp at Tenby. Although the weather was not as splendid as it was last year, it did little to mar the fortnight. After a full week spent abseiling, sailing, walking, cycling, diving, parascending and sand-yachting, A Company embarked on Exercise Birdwatcher. This was a four day event on the magnificent Pembrokeshire coastal path. Each platoon, divided into three sections, made its way for 35 miles along the coast, stopping at intervals to deal with such situations as crossing a stream on a raft and hauling a casualty up a cliff. It was all hard work but good experience for the boys. The exercise was a competitive one and the winning section was that led by Pat White, then a newly promoted Lance corporal.

The big event in June for Arnhem Platoon was winning the Company Assault March Cup. Despite several attempts, it was the first time that Arnhem had won it. This was Sgt Lee's final achievement as he was posted at half-term. After 2½ years at the College he was the longest serving member of the Company staff. In that time he had seen through three platoons and eight platoon commanders. He has gone to 8 Field Workshops at Colchester and will be sorely missed by the platoon. Sgt Rowlands has taken his place.

Arnhem went on their half-term leave a week early in order to be back in time to man the Apprentices College tent at the Aldershot Army Display.

ARRAS PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt J C Williams REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt J Bennett REME

Platoon Corporal — Cpl C Wolfe RAOC

Spring Term 1976

The platoon was formed on Tuesday 5 January 76 from half of the January intake, the remainder going to 'B' Company to form Bruneval Platoon. With Sgt Bennett at Arborfield on his Regimental Duties course, the initial management was taken on by Cpl Wolfe. By Wednesday morning the magical transformation had been achieved with excesses of hair deposited on the barber's shop floor and faded jeans exchanged for bright new Army green. The change proved too much of a shock for four of the number, and after tearful interviews they were returned to the security of mothers' apron strings.

Training proceeded at the usual brisk pace, each week producing a noticeable improvement in standards. The many periods of PT were also having their effect, and individuals were becoming increasingly fitter as the term progressed.

The last weekend in January saw the platoon at Bordon living in the field for a night. We camped beside Shortheath Lake which was completely covered in a thick layer of ice, an indication of the outside temperature.

Some useful training was carried out and the apprentices were introduced to bivouacs, sleeping bags, and the composite ration pack. Some impromptu skating early on Sunday morning was called off when large cracks appeared in the ice.

Time seemed to flash by, and in less time than it takes to say Acceptance Parade, Arras Platoon (together with Bruneval) were parading before the Adjutant and a large gathering of Mums and Dads. It was a proud moment for apprentices and parents alike, and the standard of drill and turn-out displayed was a credit to themselves and to the hard work of Cpl Wolfe. A well-earned half term followed before the platoon set its sights on Company Camp at Warcop. Early in the week, we set off for the local stables at Brough and for many their first taste of horse riding. More by good luck than good riding, all escaped unhurt, unlike platoons later in the week who suffered casualties of varying degrees.

Coubrough was the first to be unseated in spectacular style. The horse made a series of short dashes, each ending in an abrupt halt and on each occasion Coubrough stuck like glue in the saddle. The horse then rushed a fence, and Coubrough crouched in the saddle ready for take-off. Again the horse stopped dead and this time, hey presto, one airborne apprentice.

Whilst Coubrough picked himself up, the horse

bolted for the busy A6, to be returned later under police escort. Almost simultaneously another mount was attempting the land speed record this time with McAuley hanging on like grim death to its neck. Another sudden stop, and one more apprentice bit the dust. Pollock had almost finished the circuit when the horse reared up and slid him back into the mud. Thankfully, all survived with nothing worse than a few bruises and affronted dignity.

The platoon exercise at Warcop was set in beautiful mountain scenery and based on Murton Pike. The only casualty was Cpl Wolfe, who twisted his knee during one of the many hillside skirmishes. The exercise was useful in confirming basic fieldcraft, and beneficial as individuals battled against some harsh climatic conditions.

The termly Assault March produced some excellent teamwork, and although going by the "pretty route" the platoon put in a lot of effort and recorded a very good time.

On return to Deepcut, the next major event in the calendar was the College Rifle meeting, with Arras featuring in the top half of the final league table; a fine achievement after such a short time in the Army. Smith was awarded the cup for Best Recruit.

On Saturday 3 April, truck loads of apprentices were seen disappearing towards all points of the compass armed with collecting boxes in aid of the White Lodge Handicapped children's school. Arras Platoon had the Bagshot and Old Dean areas, and were rewarded for a hard afternoon's work by collecting the highest platoon total, a remarkable feat with only 18 apprentices on the job.

End of term arrived, and the normally happy atmosphere was a little saddened by the knowledge that Arras Platoon was to be disbanded. During the short time of its existence, a tremendous spirit had grown up, and all concerned were determined to carry this forward under the new banner of Ardennes.

ARDENNES PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Lt J C Williams REME
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt J Bennett REME
Platoon Corporal	Cpl C Wolfe RAOC

Summer Term 1976

Ardennes Platoon was formed on 7 May 1976 from the amalgamation of Arras and Bruneval platoons. Both elements integrated very well and the platoon got off to an excellent start in the College athletics meeting. Against more senior opposition, we achieved overall second place out of 11 teams competing. Manley and Marchi won their events in the 200 and 400 metres respectively and Manley also came third in the Shot Putt. Smith collected more team points in the jumps, coming second in the Long Jump and third in the High Jump. In the 100 metres, Brown came a good fourth and Montrose achieved third place in the Discus event. Pollard managed sixth place in the Javelin to add further to the team total and ensure that the Company Trophy went to "ABLE A".

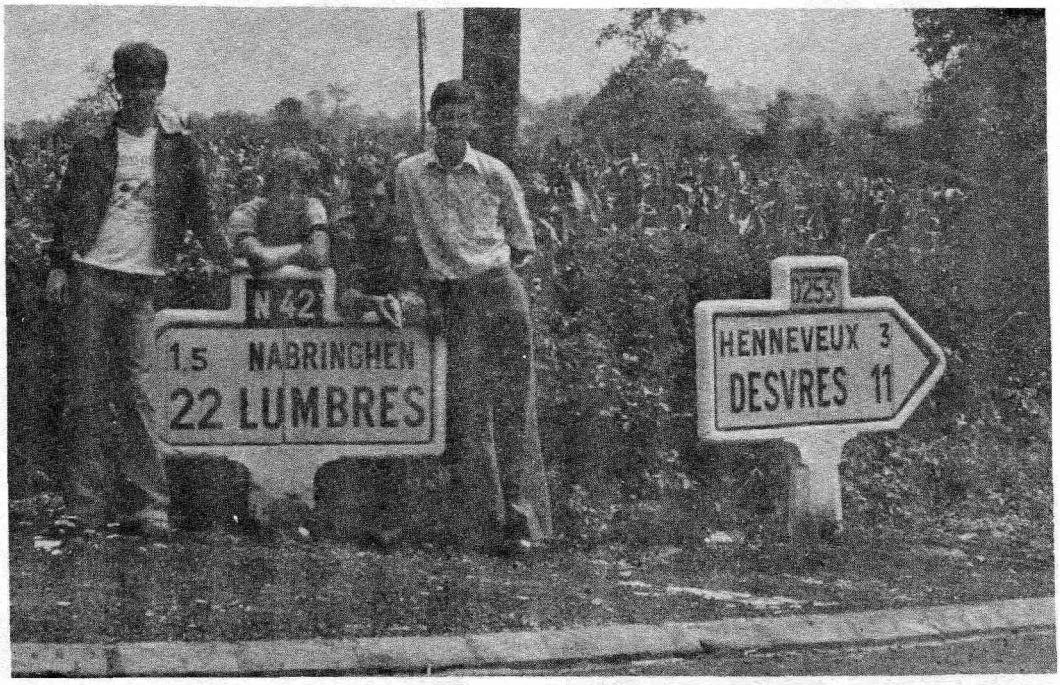
No sooner had the athletics kit been packed away than we were off to Penally for Annual Camp. Although not having the best of weather, the camp was enjoyable, varied and interesting. The continuous outdoor activity was welcomed by all and an improvement in the weather towards the end of camp ensured that the Company exercise "Birdwatcher" went off very smoothly. This exercise placed high demands on individual determination, physical fitness, initiative as well as teamwork, and all three sections from the platoon responded very well, with A/Lcpl Smith's section achieving the best results.

One item missing from the camp programme was the battle for the Assault March Cup, but we were not to be disappointed! On return to Deepcut, the gauntlet was thrown down yet again, and the five A Company platoons set off at intervals on a very warm Saturday morning early in June. Ardennes set off last, but came in a very worthy second, being pipped by Arnhem for the prized Cup. Let the Company be in no doubt as to who will win it next term!

On the sporting front, athletics and cricket have dominated the College representative scene. Manley, Marchi and Smith are currently training with the College athletics team in preparation for the Army Junior meeting, whilst at cricket

McLean, Brown and Ewers are confirmed members of the 1st XI, and at the time of writing, still progressing well in the Army Cup competition. In addition to the 'gladiators', others in the platoon are taking advantage of the warm summer days to enjoy their own particular sport. Clyde at his golf, Ihle and Hailstone at volleyball to mention but a few.

As we go into print half term is imminent and looking beyond we return to the re-awakening of the soccer season with a College and Training Centre six-a-side competition. Mid July will find us on platoon camp at Shorncliffe for four days, during which an excusion to France is planned. There are bound to be a few stories worth relating from these events, but for now they will have to be logged in the diary of events for publication in Thunderbolt "77".



"Which way home?" A/Ptes McAulay, Swan, Cummings and McBride of Ardennes Platoon (Lost? Surely not!) in France - July 1976

ANGUILLA PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt P J Hopkinson RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt N P Botfield RAOC

Summer Term 1976

Anguilla is the newest platoon in A Company and the first of the half term intakes. The effects of this new system remain to be seen. Initially it seems that things in many ways have gone more smoothly, with all departments fully functioning rather than just starting up after recess.

The name Anguilla was chosen as the most recent action, beginning with 'A', apart from Northern Ireland. Also it would be a very nice place for a visit.

Intake day was rather fraught with only one person arriving before lunch. The permanent staff were beginning to wonder if they would have a platoon at all. However, after lunch the rush started and the hopes of a one man platoon were dashed.

Training has been progressing satisfactorily and there is a very good platoon spirit. The first introduction to the assault course went well with everybody ending up in the water jump (including the Platoon Commander!)

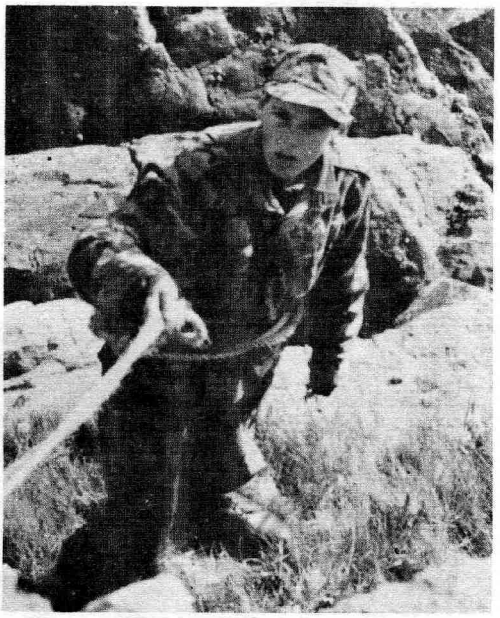
It is early days yet but the platoon is shaping up well and we all expect great things from this new band of warriors.

Epic Tasks - a pictorial essay

Kit over Water - Stackpole



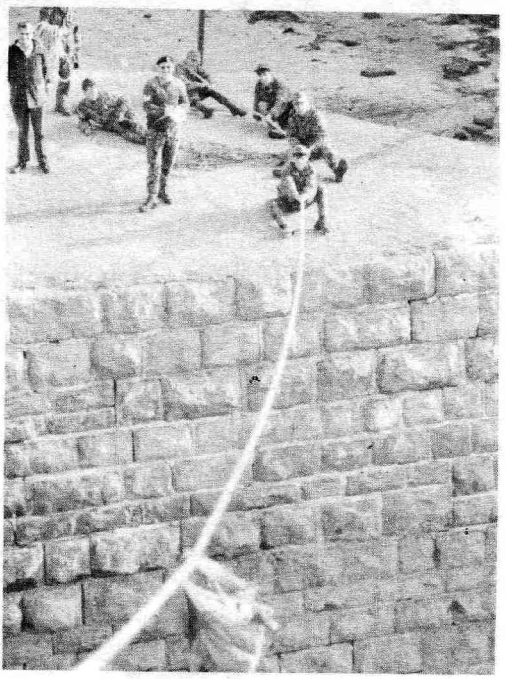
Getting the rope taught



"Something's not quite right here"
A/Lcpl 'Al' Buckley



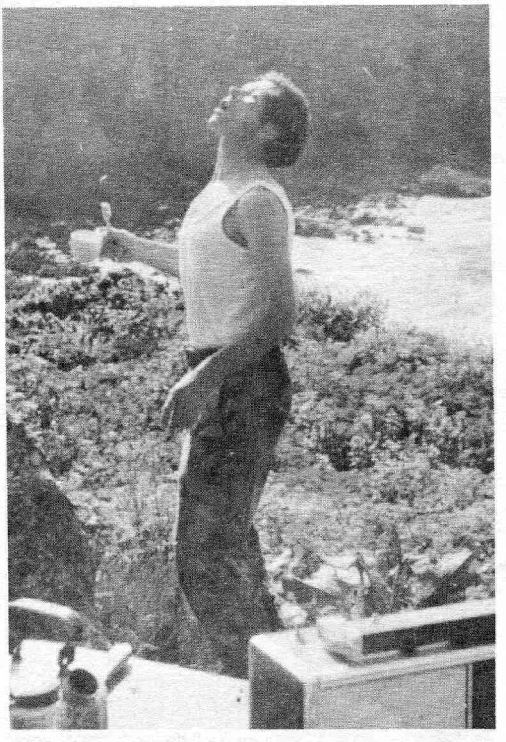
"Swing it high, swing it low
Over the gap it must go" (Anon)





Mission accomplished

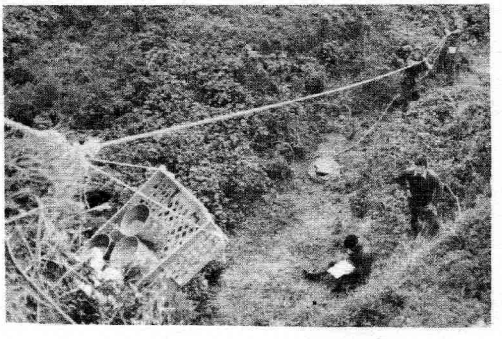
Radio-active crate up cliff - Caerfai



REME mating call? Lt Williams



Up it comes



"Watch out below"

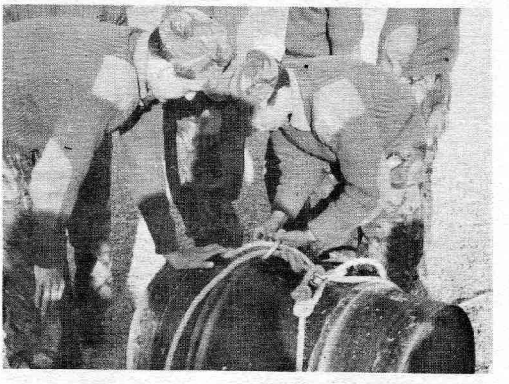


"Well, what the h... do I do now?"

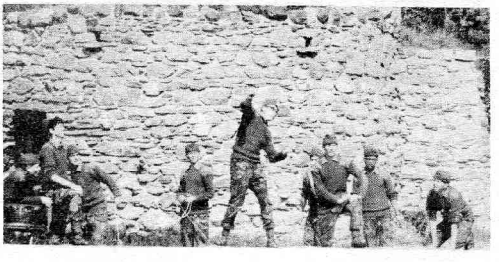
Barrel over water - Porthclais



"Nothing like a well-coiled rope"



A double reef bowline, three half-turns, a semi-quadruple hitch; sheep bend grannie and it still falls off!



Olympic Throwing?
(Straight into the water!)



"Hey mate, it's supposed to go t'other way"

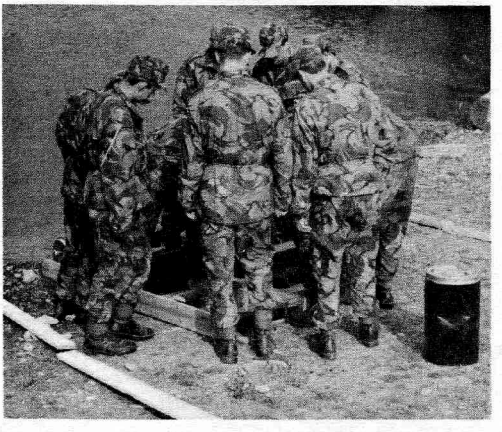


"Go on, move!"

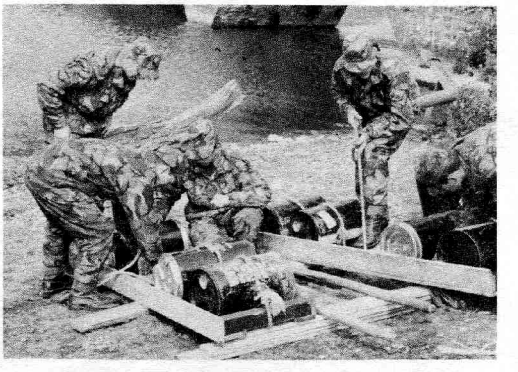
Kon Tiki expedition - Bosherton Bridge



And over it comes



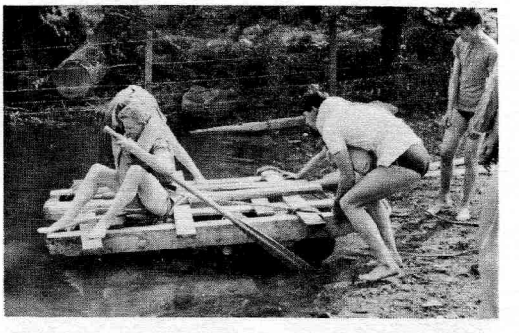
High level conference or confusion?



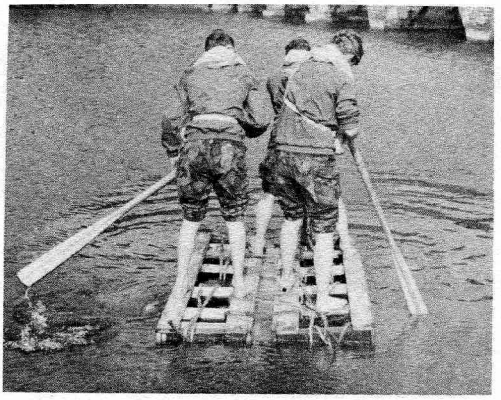
Manufacture



Not a pretty sight!



"I name this ship 'Optimist' and God save all who sink with her . . . . "



"Full ahead both"



"I'm not totally convinced that we worked out our tolerances right"



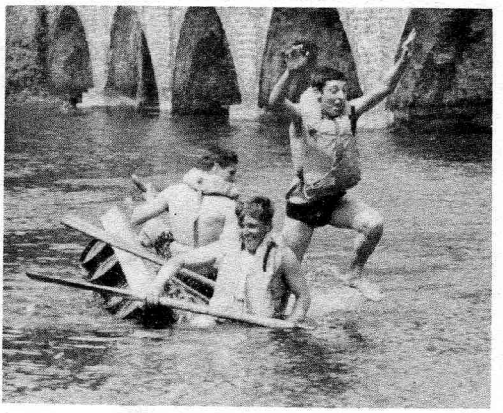
"Riding along on the crest of the wave"



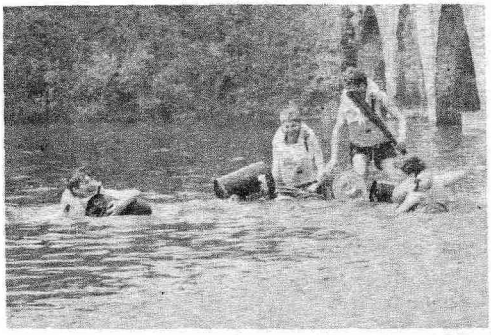
"Hey, my troos are getting wet!"
(and that's not all!)



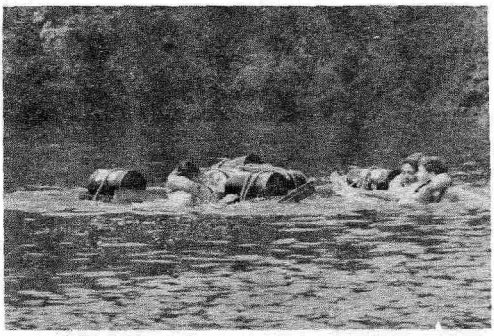
"I think the ballast has shifted"



"Abandon ship!"



Going ..... going .....



..... Gone!

Footnotes



On the move - and in step, too



And on the seventh day God ended his work . . . . and he rested on the seventh day. Genesis II 2



"Old radio sets going cheap!"
Cpl Mdira Bahadurrana of 2/2 Ghurkas

'B' COMPANY

OC Major H D Lucas RAOC

Training Officer Captain M R Beer REME

CSM WOII G K Maule MSM RAOC

WOII J C A Thorner D & D

WOII P S Slaughter RAOC



B COMPANY PERMANENT STAFF

Standing: Lt P A Ball Sgt J Earl Sgt J Rice Sgt O'Malley Sgt D Hardstaff Lt J Lamb Sgt C Harris Cpl Ogden CSM J Thorner Sgt P Carrick Sgt S Bonta

Sitting: Mrs A Carrick Lt G Paton Major H D Lucas Lt P Linney Mrs C Blythe Lt M Buchanan Mrs B E Titmus Lt J Hart Lt J Payne

In the last year the Company Permanent Staff has undergone an almost complete changeover, from the Second-in-Command downwards.

Captain Beer departed in August to take up a two year posting to Northern Ireland and with him went reams of paperwork on cricket, hockey and REME matters. We wish him and his family well and trust that he has cricket in Northern Ireland organised to his satisfaction.

Captain Bettany, promoted on his appointment as 2IC B Company, took over as Training Officer for the Company and OIC Sports Co-ord for the College. In March Captain Bettany left us for the School of Ordnance and Lt Hart took over, but not for very long, and we were beginning to wonder if there was something wrong with us all!! Lt Hart retired from the Army in June to begin six years of medical training. Between his departure and starting his studies, he has been working on a farm growing muscles as well as the usual things that grow on a farm. He must be commended for starting again as a student after his years in the service.

Captain Fox then joined us from A Company and immediately impressed his very cheerful and witty personality on the Company. Now that he has followed suit as sports co-ord, the office staff are deeply involved in sporting activities yet again. Lt Inman left us in August to commence his studies at Manchester University. In the summer break he chose to return to us for a short time to have another helping as a Platoon Commander.

Lt Payne joined us in September 1975 from Arborfield but sadly had to go to A Company in exchange for Captain Fox. A fair deal as both

are REME officers. Very regretfully we must relate that CSM Maule retired from the Army at the end of the winter term. He was dined out with a Regimental Dinner by the whole Company. A unique event, but worthy of CSM Maule's long and loyal service to the Army and the Company. He is now a civilian but working for the army and must indeed be an asset to 44 Sqn RCT. We see him often driving his immaculate truck and on several occasions he has driven members of the Company on exercises and visits.

With an engaging accent and a great sense of fun came WO2 Thorner from the Devon and Dorset Regiment, as a temporary CSM. We thoroughly enjoyed having him but unfortunately he had only a short time left in the army and sadly, we had to see him go. He was replaced by WO2 Slaughter posted in from Germany, who took up his new post with zest and enthusiasm. He has a very difficult task in following CSM Maule's long and distinguished tour.

Lt Linney took over Blenheim Platoon on coming from the Scots Dragoon Guards in Germany and the platoon continues to flourish under his leadership. After acting as assistant adjutant in CHQ for a while, Lt Paton joined us as Body Platoon Commander and then as Senior B Platoon Commander. Scottish accents abound in the Platoon Commanders' office.

Lt Buchanan came in January and took over as Benghazi Platoon Commander and tries hard to look after his platoon between various sailing ventures.

Blenheim Platoon, unfortunately, lost Sgt Bonta, their Platoon Sergeant, in May to COD Hong Kong. Sgt Bonta has served as a Platoon Sgt for 3½ years and the place isn't the same without him.



CSM Maule as we all like to remember him

Sgt Flowers, on promotion to Ssgt, was happily looking forward to an overseas posting. He can now be found in the CQMS store in the College.

Sgt O'Malley is off to Germany in August and in the meanwhile, is acting as Mess Treasurer in the Sergeants' Mess. We congratulate him on his

promotion and the forthcoming addition to his family.

Sgt Harris joined us in January from 9 Field Workshop REME, to keep up the REME strength, both literally and metaphorically.

Sgt Thayre came from Bramley in April to take over from Sgt Bonta. He returned from Easter recess minus his moustache making him momentarily unrecognisable. Both Sgt Earle and Cpl Ogden were transferred to the Company from Training Wing, Sgt Earl becoming Platoon Sgt of Benghazi Platoon and Cpl Ogden as assistant to, first Body Platoon and then Barossa Platoon Sgt.

Sgt Rice became a Sgt on leaving A Company to act as father confessor to the recruits in Barossa Platoon.

Company office staff, except Mrs Titmuss, the Company Clerk, has completely changed, 2IC and CSM have already been mentioned. Mrs Audrey Jenkins, our typist, married A Company's Officer Commanding and departed for Cyprus in January and Mrs Caroline Blythe joined us in her place. CHQ stole Mrs Esther Redman from us but we have been amply recompensed by the services of Mrs Anne Carrick.

During the past year the Company has had two camps, one in November at Penhale in Cornwall and one in March at Warcop in Cumbria. In addition, a week of the College Camp at Penally was devoted to Company Training.

All three were most enjoyable and although each differed from the others, they all proved to be successful and profitable from training viewpoint. A more detailed account of these camps will be found elsewhere.

In the sporting field, Blenheim Platoon have done most to carry the Company colours. They won the inter platoon swimming, athletics and six-a-side football competitions as well as taking a half share in the Indoor Sports League with Body Platoon after a hard fought competition where the result was always in doubt. For Body Platoon, a half share was as near as they got to winning a trophy having finished as runners up in the inter platoon soccer and seven-a-side rugby competitions.

While individual platoons have done well in the platoon competitions, as a Company our aggregate scores have not been so good, and therefore there will be no mention of the inter company football, athletics, cross country and cricket: suffice it is to say that we are planning to have our revenge next year.

At the College rifle meeting, Blenheim proved to be the dark horse in the platoon competition having previously lulled everyone else into false senses of security. They ran out winners of the Association Cup (Gallery Match) and the inter platoon Full Bore Shield for Champion Platoon. Body Platoon were again runners up, this time in the Falling Clays Match. Individually, A/Sgt Weeks of Body Platoon won the Roupell Cup and A/Pte Fawcett of Blenheim came second in the Rifleman's Cup. Overall, it was another good performance by the Company.

Academically, the apprentices continue to surprise the Staff by achieving an impressive number of successes in CSE and GCE 'O' Level examinations. Lack of space precludes listing all the successful candidates, but we do offer our congratulations to all who have done so well and maintained the steady improvement which we now witness year by year.

No one will deny that 1975-76 has been different from previous years, but it too has been both successful and enjoyable in its own way. In August we say goodbye to the apprentices in Senior, Burma and Balaclava Platoons and wish them well in their Adult Service. We shall then recoup our strength over recess ready to welcome three new platoons to join Barrossa and the new Senior Platoon at the start of what we hope will be an equally memorable 1976-77.

BODY PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J D Hart RAOC

Lt G W Paton RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt T J T Flowers RAOC

Summer Term 1975 by A/Cpl Griffiths D P

The 6 May 1975 was a black day for all at the RAOC Apprentices College. The day when 30 long haired convicts stepped from a battered 4 tonner to become members of Body Platoon.

It took Major Lucas only four short days to see the danger and so in his infinite wisdom he decided to move the rest of the Company 250 miles away for a rest at Penally, Wales.

It seemed A Company were having the same problem with Swiney Platoon as they too fled to Penally leaving only the two recruit platoons in barracks at Deepcut. The lads, for some reason, didn't get on too well and this was reflected in the attendance roll at sick parade each morning.

The first ten days were mainly for settling in to Army routine and drill which some found harder than others. A/Pte Barlow was a prime example - with a unique method of marking time which drew large crowds. The platoon soon came to know their Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Flowers, a large but highly mobile voice at legs. It took some time for the apprentices' ears to adjust and for them to become used to being chased about by myself, A/Cpl McKenzie, Smith and that coffee-cream soldier, A/Sgt Mohamed. However they managed it eventually.

The ten days passed quickly and we prepared to devastate Penally in one fell swoop, but between sunny Deepcut and Penally was an eight hour train journey on unbooked carriages. Whips and chains at the ready we moved the platoon off the station in a scene more than faintly reminiscent of "Rawhide". Each recruit was chained to his seat and drip fed through one of A/Cpl Smith's socks, whilst guards, posted at every exit, watched on. How slowly those nail-biting hours passed and how lucky for Britain that no one escaped.

Our first impression of Penally was that of a desolate Boer-war concentration camp - with food to match. Our opinion about the accommodation soon changed but, alas, only those with strong stomachs could even look at the food. A/Pte Collins, the animated dustbin, was the sole recruit to enjoy it. However, food apart, the lads had a good time. Even Sgt Flowers got into the swing of things with a series of dubious "education" lessons given to the guard certain nights of the week, but we were well advised to forego his driving lessons as insurance companies refused to cover him.

The many other activities included parascending, hill walking, map reading, eyeing up the local talent on the beaches, and a series of 'educational visits' to places of interest such as the 'Victorian Bar', 'The Sun', and the 'Horn and Crumpet' or was it 'Trumpet'.

The time passed far too quickly at Penally but in some ways it was a good thing as the guardroom were getting fed up with telephone threats of shotgun weddings and tarrings and featherings. So back to Deepcut we went.

For other platoons it was back to the old routine but Body and Swiney were thrown straight into the Acceptance Parade preparations, all bull and drill. Then disaster struck and one of the most popular members of the platoon, Spike Monks (six foot two of fun and laughter with 4 lbs of cow dung between his ears) pining for the open fields and trees of his rural home, left us for a new job as a beachcomber.

The parade was soon upon us and dressed up in their No 2 dress and best boots with stomachs churning, the lads waited to march on. As I saw 30 upright smart young men march onto the square, I remember asking myself what happened to that scruffy shower of yobs who had arrived only five weeks before - thank heaven there was no marking time!

The parade was soon over and it was time to meet all the mums and dads, who were already shaking at the thought of having their little angels home for four long painstaking days.

After half term the smooth running of the platoon was destroyed by A/Lcpl Smith who was bust to A/Pte. This demotion did not affect his position as No 1 in the 'College Smelly Socks League 1974/75'. Enter now A/Lcpl Dobbs promoted early from within the platoon and also A/Sgt Jepson (known as Jepo) who had one slack earring in his left ear and was always accompanied by a suspicious looking caravan. His arrival was soon to bring a sombre note into the platoon as 'the battle of the downstairs bunk' developed. A/Lcpl McKenzie, 5' 8" of nose and the longest serving A/Lcpl in the College, had been in the bunk for nigh on one year and was not to be easily evicted at this stage of the game. By leaving saucers of bread and milk outside the door we managed to trick the tearful apprentice into leaving. It was four days before he would even talk and he was reduced to a dim shadow of his previous self. We hoped he would take interest in his new room and, as luck would have it, it worked - once the smell of power wafted into those massive nostrils all was well again.

The term was culminated by a noisy and very successful platoon party and an equally noisy but less enjoyable passing out parade. I myself have a lot to thank the lads for, I have really enjoyed my last term at the College and together with the other A/NCOs I should like to wish all of Body Platoon the best of luck in the future.

Winter Term 1975

Panic stations hit Body Platoon this term as our

previous NCOs had left and I cannot say I blame them. We were left with three half wits who pretended that they were our NCOs. One of the NCOs, known to all as Hitler, alias A/Lcpl Turner, was one for thinking himself the leader of the platoon and so everyone decided to play along and keep him in his fairyland dream. It was even blamed on us that the platoon was going to 'pot'. Most of the others were beginning to blossom and show their true character, which caused a very good laugh, especially when we went on camps and on our exercise on Dartmoor.

Whilst in Penhale, our platoon managed to scrape quite a few good laughs, especially when we attempted a Royal Marine Commando rope course. The largest part of our platoon was scared of heights and tried to skive. The majority made it over the last obstacle, which was a rope across a river but a few, including A/Ptes Lane, Adams and Collins did not and made the remainder carry out their life saving drills.

Most of the camps which we have been on this term have provided enjoyment and a lot of different talents have come out from the lads with the exception of A/Pte Sykes who managed to fall asleep one day whilst the remainder were working. For his gallant action he was awarded every extra guard for the rest of term.

We must thank, however, the great effort from our Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Flowers and Cpl Ogden, for all the laughs and especially at the end of term party, which all the lads agree, was the best one in the College.

The platoon, under the leadership of all the PS, have managed to win many achievements in the football and rugby. We came runners up in the College 7s and also we are in the B Company final at football, which is yet to be decided.

The platoon must, once again, thank all the Platoon PS for a most enjoyable term and although Ssgt Flowers is leaving the College the platoon is looking forward to a new and enjoyable term after Christmas.

Spring Term 1976

As Body Platoon was confronted with its third and final term (for a few) they began to knuckle down to a time said to be purely for endurance and hard work and whenever PT popped up A/Pte Sykes was sure to be on the sick list.

The lads have enjoyed many camps such as Salisbury Plain, Warcop and Harlech. Salisbury was a camp with Balaclava Platoon who reckoned they could beat us at Fieldcraft and Tactics and they did.

Warcop was the Company camp and once more the platoon enjoyed themselves by coming first in the 8 mile bash and coming 4th overall. When the weather was bad and cold, A/Pte Sykes was once more to be seen on the sick list. Then we went to Harlech and we were told that this was to be a hard camp and so 19 out of 22 of the platoon left for Harlech.

The lads that stayed were A/Lcpl Pays and A/Pte Lane and would you believe, A/Pte Sykes.

In spite of all that we were told about Harlech it proved to be an enjoyable time and 18 out of 19 got the ELT badge but A/Pte Murphy dished out because of chest injuries.

The term has proved a very hard but enjoyable one even though we have had three different Platoon Sergeants.

We now look forward to our end of term party and all our farewells as Body Platoon disband.

HILL PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt P A Ball RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt M O'Malley RAOC

Summer Term 1975

After three weeks of soft living on Easter leave, the platoon was given a 'wake up' kick in the seat by going over the Queen Mary Assault Course on the day after we returned. A/Pte MacKenzie seeing much of the underwater world falling from the monkey bars and into the water about three times.

A week later, Hill Platoon went for 17 days on summer camp to Penally (Dyfed) in South Wales where we took part in many activities new to us; ie parascending and sailing • Lt Ball found that

capsizing in a canoe in Pembroke Dock was very expensive - losing his T-shirt and polaroid clip-ons for his glasses. Much of the time was also spent basking in the sunshine on the beach getting brilliant sun tans. The seaside town of Tenby (about 1½ miles away) provided off-duty entertainment for the lads. The only rainy day had to fall on the day we went on a day's outing to Swansea. In Swansea the platoon was allowed to roam freely. The lads went to cafes, did a lot of shopping and some went to Swansea Museum, where stuffed birds greeted us as we walked through the entrance (the feathered variety). However, the weather that day did not spoil our entertainment although A/Pte (now A/Lcpl) Mackay was compelled into purchasing an umbrella for the 'occasion' while in the town. Sports facilities were limited, but our platoon commander kept us well occupied exercise-wise. For instance, after a gruelling 16 mile coastal march through the Pembrokeshire National Trust Park we arrived in the town of Manorbier to discover that our transport back to camp had not arrived. The platoon kept themselves well occupied while waiting for the truck by taking the 'Mick' out of Sgt M O'Malley (all in fun of course), but still the transport did not arrive! It was this which led up to Lt Ball taking his own initiative (mad ideas) who kindly suggested a run back (3 miles) to camp, despite strong objections from Sgt O'Malley and the platoon. However, we still ended up running back. All in all the platoon, plus Lt Ball's dog, Sheba, enjoyed this camp immensely and we were sorry to leave.

A week later, half term leave crept upon us and the platoon had ample opportunity to tell their parents of the adventures of the summer camp in Wales.

After the half term break, normal training and education resumed back at Deepcut and hobbies nights were back again. The platoon athletics team began preparing for the College inter-platoon athletics afternoon. A/Ptes Mackay and Lake going on to represent the College in the Junior Army Athletics Championship at Aldershot A number of athletics awards were won by the platoon, mainly in the AAA five star award scheme where these members of the platoon won either one or two stars. For the present:

A/Pte Mackay	2 stars
A/Pte Lake	2 stars
A/Lcpl Brown	2 stars
A/Pte Liddle	1 star
A/Pte Brown A	1 star
A/Sgt Bryan	1 star
A/Pte Center	1 star

Congratulations to these members of the platoon, particularly to A/Pte Liddle who besides winning a star, has gained promotion to A/Lcpl and also his College Colours award for cricket.

We lost, with bitter regret, A/Sgt Moyles, who for the last few weeks of this term went on an outward bound course. Dave passes into man's service after the summer leave. He was awarded, in his absence, his Colours award for cricket, the Sergeants' Cup for the best all-rounder, plus best staff clerk award.

In the period 4-7 July, Hill Platoon and Watts Platoon spent a long weekend on camp at Tregantle Fort in Cornwall where the activities included firing the Light Machine Gun, the sub machine gun and the self loading rifle plus an afternoon on the Royal Marine Commando assault course nearby.

Many congratulations to A/Ptes Liddle (again), Mackay, Lake, Hart, Hall and Aisbitt who have gained promotion to A/Lcpl and to A/Cpls Martin and Bryan who started off the term as A/Lcpls and have risen rapidly to A/Sgts. Next term the platoon waves goodbye to A/Sgt Bryan and A/Lcpls Hart, Liddle and Hall who leave to undertake the task of settling the new recruits in.

Next term, we hope, is a good term, as the REME members (three quarters) of the platoon pass out into man's service at Christmas. Best wishes to them.

Winter Term 1975

Hill Platoon returned to the College at the beginning of their third term as senior platoon in B Company. Training was soon underway, starting with a strenuous assault course, followed by an inter platoon football match against Body.

As the term progressed, Hill Platoon was soon making a name for themselves in sports, with A/Lcpls Aisbitt, Brown, Lake, Mackay, A/Ptes Austin, Barley, Brown, Center, Saunders, Fox and Lewis representing the College in various activities.

The platoon has been well occupied by various camps at 40 Commandos in Plymouth, Penhale

The platoon has been well occupied by various camps at 40 Commando in Plymouth, Penhale training camp and Harlech ELT camp, during which the platoon took part in exercises and most physical activities.

We are glad to hear that A/Pte Dale received the perseverance award and that seven members of the platoon are receiving their colour awards at the end of term.

We are sorry to see the disolvement of the platoon but we hope that the term leavers will be prosperous and get on well in the Regular Army.

Lastly, we would like to thank all members of the PS for the work they have put in to make us reach the standard we have all reached.

PARSONS PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt P B Linney REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt S C Bonta RAOC

Summer Term 1975 - by A/Pte Copley

This term started off with quite a bang - with a two day exercise:

Night 1: Moved to camp and set up lean-tos, established patrols.

Night 2: Tactical operations, established camp 2.

Night 3: Three mile bash - return to camp

It could be said that everyone had a good time even though many spent their time at the patrol base running up and down the nearby hill.

That weekend the platoon packed and moved from Deepcut to Penally on College Camp. The camp included deep sea fishing, beach casting and a few early morning dips in the sea. Lt Linney, who joined us at the beginning of the term must be congratulated on his determination to stay with the platoon on one of our early morning runs.

The second week of the camp we moved for our adventure training at Harlech - which was carried out in some of the best weather we had at the whole of the camp. The camp was spoilt for A/Pte McLure who after the first day came down with a bad attack of sunburn and had to spend two days in bed, and A/Pte McDonald who knocked himself unconscious on the first day because he forgot to duck as he came through a low door. On the whole everybody enjoyed the abseiling and rock climbing and the trip down the slate mine. We extend our most grateful thanks to Chris King and Bryan Bottomley for making our stay at Harlech interesting and educational and we wish them the best of luck with modifications and renovations to Ffridd Farm.

A week after we returned from Wales we broke up for half term and on 20 June we moved to Scotland for a sponsored John O'Groats to Land's End cycle ride which was to last four days covering an average 250 miles per day and despite vehicle trouble on the first day when a mini we had been loaned blew a cylinder head gasket and CSM Greenleaf's Escort lost a gear box, and a few late starts, the whole ride was finished, arriving at Land's End with five minutes to spare. Perhaps the biggest driving force was the knowledge of the kids we were trying to help. That and Lt Bettaney driving the Landrover.

On the last lap Lt Col Vickery joined us and I think both he and Lt Col Connolly were a bit amazed at both the cheerfulness and freshness of the platoon.

The weekend after our return from Land's End the Company went on a much needed 48 hour pass.

On our return we were whisked away to the Portesbury School for Handicapped Children to present our cheque and the pleasure of handing over £813.15p to Mrs Alexander made everybody glad for the kids we were helping. Lt Col Vickery looked pleased when one of the kids assaulted his nether regions with a toy gun.

On 17 July the platoon swimming team; A/Ptes Smith, Jackson, Tracey, Hodby, A/Lcpls Bradley, Archibald, A/Sgt Jepson, not to forget A/Pte McDonald, walked away with the College Swimming Gala by 22 points. And most of the swimmers proved in high spirits for the rest of the day.

So with RPC 3 drill and the platoon party to come we say farewell to 17 term leavers on 2 August 1975 and bring an end to Parsons Platoon.

WATTS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J S Lamb RAOC

Platoon Sergeant _ Sgt P Carrick RAOC

Tregantle Camp by A/Pte Frampton

After an uneventful train journey from North Camp to Plymouth, Watts and Hill Platoons embarked on 4 tonners for the short trip to Tregantle, Cornwall. We had to cross the river Tamar at Torpoint ferry.

Tregantle Fort was built in the 1860s after the threat of the Napoleonic wars in 1815. The Fort is a pretty large one constructed in granite. The stone was cut and carried from Dartmoor, and there is some evidence that some of it was cut by French POWs.

While there, we took part in such activities as an all night exercise, LMG firing and a commando assault course.

The night exercise comprised Watts Platoon in defence, and Hill Platoon attacking. Hill did not know our positions. We had two LMGs, our personal weapons and 30 rounds each. In addition to this each man had a thunderflash. Hill stumbled onto our positions. We opened up on them and the majority scattered. A few minutes later, a trip flare, which we had rigged up went off when a member of Hill Platoon hit it. When the flare caught, it set fire to the surrounding grass and scrub, which was very dry owing to the lack of rainfall in the south west. Upon an order from our Platoon Commander, Lt Lamb RAOC, we broke off the engagement and went to act as fire fighters. We quickly got the fierce blaze under control. After this the attack was scrubbed. Watts Platoon went back to their positions and stayed the night.

While at Tregantle every platoon member had the opportunity to fire LMG 'live'. We all agreed that the LMG is a powerful fire weapon.

The Commando Assault Course wasn't an assault course in the true sense of the word, but more like a confidence course. In all there were eight obstacles, all except one involved ropes suspended above ground. The trickiest obstacle involved a river crossing. The river was about 7 meters deep by 10 metres wide. The whole rope length was about 30 metres. Only one member of Watts Platoon fell in - that was A/Pte Pfluger, although several lads had a sticky time crossing.

The last obstacle was a rope slide which ran for about 100 metres. The rope passed over the same 7 metre deep river at a height of about 30 metres. This obstacle was thoroughly enjoyed by all personnel, some platoon members went as many as three times.

TYLER PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J D Hart RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt D G Hardstaff REME

Summer Term 1975

Blessed by good weather and a varied programme, supplied by the training wing, fortune has again smiled on Tyler Platoon, who have had a particularly good term this summer.

Casting the mind back over the many events that have elapsed over this term, it seems a long while since the first hectic week spent busily preparing for College Camp at Penally in Wales.

The events of the camp itself could easily fill many of these pages but perhaps it is better if you turn to A/Pte Astbury's uncensored account of all that befell us. Suffice to say, a good time was had by all. The only moans and groans to be heard came from over suntanned bodies suffering KF shirts.

Returning from College Camp we were to hear of our comrade, A/Pte Wragg's considerable achievements at Bisley ranges where he had won many Junior Army shooting awards while we were at Camp. It also cheered us all to hear how it had rained here in Deepcut while we were at Penally.

However the sun seemed to follow us, as the platoon went off on Exercise "Wessex Wyvern" the platoon weekend camp, which the platoon commander had carefully contrived to take place



in Dorset, his home county. Someone, unknown obviously got wind of his plan as he was exiled in Wales on a course and so missed the platoon camp.

From all reports, though, the camp was a success and the platoon commander's fears that he would have to return to his home under an alias were quickly dispelled by the good reports from the farmer whom the platoon had helped in his haymaking.

The camp was pitched near the coast which afforded the platoon such pleasures as boating in Royal Engineer recce boats and on their last night, a beach barbecue. To provide the exercise with some military flavour a navigation exercise was held on the first night of arrival. This was to investigate local legend and ghostly apparitions which are supposed to haunt the area. Although the platoon saw nothing - what the locals saw of the platoon must have since inspired many new legends of the area, to add to those they already have.

After this and another fleeting glimpse of Deepcut, the platoon were soon on their way, bound for their ELT camp at Harlech. Here with a programme of mountain walking, rock climbing, canoeing and mining, the camp could not help but succeed.

Though no budding "Joe Browne's" were discovered during the rock climbing, one member of the platoon, A/Pte Youle, contributed a new variation to the standard climbing calls. When answering the instruction "Climb when you're ready" he correctly answered "Aye, aye, climbing now". A minute later came the cry "Climber stuck!"

Another useful piece of information was discovered when it was at last found out that A/Pte Nellist is entirely motivated by coca-cola. He is reputed to have averaged six cans per mountain walk. (Thinks! I must suggest this to Sgt Hardstaff for Nellist's drill).

Having now returned to Deepcut, most of the platoon (except the few old regulars) are now preparing for their last passing out parade. Many of the lads have said before they go they would like a mention in the magazine. Well! since I've been bribed, here we go

Those leaving are: A/Sgt French, A/Lcpls Gaines and Worrell, A/Ptes Hamill, Swatton, Nicholson, Roffey, Thorburn, Weightman, Youle, Moiser, Spittle and Strickland.

Ah! Thanks lads, another quid.

Those staying are: A/Cpl Roff, A/Lcpl Burnlees, A/Ptes Astbury, Hamblin, Mcllwaine, Nellist, Shearer, Smith and O'Hara.

Finally to those leaving, the very best of luck with your careers, while those remaining, I am sure hope to have an equally good conclusion to their stay at the College next term.

COLLEGE ANNUAL CAMP 1976
PENALLY NR TENBY SOUTH WALES

By A/Pte Astbury

On our return to the College from Easter leave we were faced with a week's training at Deepcut before travelling to Penally camp in South Wales on 10 May 1975.

Lecturers at the Education Wing and some of the permanent staff had told us of previous College visits to Penally which filled us with anticipation as we boarded our camp-bound train.

The journey to Penally was long but also enjoyable and an early morning departure, after a short delay, from North Camp Station ensured an arrival at our destination by late afternoon. We discovered Penally to be a small village with scenic natural surroundings greatly taken advantage of by campers and holiday makers. Our camp was situated on a slanting piece of ground outside the village, it was indeed a very compact and tidy camp site.

On our immediate arrival at the camp site we quickly settled in before being taken on a reconnaissance of the facilities by A/Cpl Roff, who had travelled to Penally the previous day with the advance party. The evening meal was followed by free time to appreciate the camp and the surrounding areas.

On Sunday 11 May we participated in canoeing, safety drills and swimming at Tenby baths under the instruction of Captain Morton. These drills were acted out to prevent any trouble with capsizing during canoeing periods later on at camp. After lunch we had more free time which gave us the opportunity to visit Tenby resort.

Tenby was a surprisingly quiet town built around some ancient castle walls which presented a sense of mystery about the historical activity of the area. The town contained good shopping facilities, most of which, of course, were aimed at the tourists in the area. Public houses, hotels, a dance hall and a picture house were also included in its list of attractions. The town itself was situated on some huge coastal rocks which became littered with sea-fishermen during high tide in the evening. Boating and sub-aqua facilities were also to be found on the coast. During low tide one could walk to a small off-shore Island from Tenby which contained a small children's zoo. The beaches surrounding Tenby on a hot day, which was the case during most of our stay, were graced with lovely golden sands and to many sunbathers it must have seemed like paradise to bathe from them. The calm sea also provided good swimming for the cold water addicts amongst us. All in all it was an extremely pleasant area to visit.

On Monday 12 May we were programmed to take our first NBC lesson. During the lesson, taken by Sgt Hockburn, we were made aware of the dangers of nuclear biological and chemical warfare. We were shown two films which gave us all a good knowledge of the types of nuclear attacks, defence against nuclear attacks, immediate action (IA) drills and the effects of chemical agents. Although the lesson was long lasting everyone's undivided attention was captured as we were learning more of the terror's of nuclear war. After the lesson we all felt that we had learnt something useful but we were not particularly looking forward to our next NBC period in which we would be introduced to the CS gas chamber.

Tuesday 13 May was one of Tyler's duty platoon days and so our military training was ignored as we did fatigues.

On Wednesday 14 May the platoon was split up into two groups for activities, the sailing enthusiasts going to Pembroke Dock for experience in sailing whilst the angler's went out to sea with Sgt Watson to try their luck with the rods. Unfortunately, as at Fremington Camp in 1974, Tyler Platoon sailors were struck by calm conditions which made sailing virtually impossible and so after a few attempts to sail, the vessels were brought ashore and we had to admit defeat. However the sailors were not totally dejected because they were each given a turn at driving the speed boat used for safety. The anglers, who set out at 9.30 am were also unlucky at first as the sea did battle with their stomachs but once they were settled out at sea some nice fish were caught and given to the Sergeants' Mess.

On Tuesday 15 May Tyler Platoon was involved in an OCs exercise. Operation "Blunder's Brew" was an exercise in which B Company had to find four predestinated camping areas, one per

platoon, and from there go on to map an unknown area. If two platoons went in search of the same camp and one of them found the equipment and food rations, then that platoon would claim the camp and the other platoon would have to march on to the next camp hoping no other platoon would be there before them. We set off early from Penally and Tyler was the last platoon in B Company to be dropped off the transport. The platoon was split into three sections commanded by Lt Hart, Sgt Hardstaff and A/Sgt French respectively. Lt Hart's group went straight to the mapping area and did a good afternoon's work at the end of which they must have completed over ten miles walking with packs. Sgt Hardstaff's group boldly made an effort to claim the nearest camping area to the unknown mapping area but competition was strong for this camp and unfortunately section 2 were pipped at the post. A/Sgt French's group were extremely fortunate in capturing a camp after a very short walk from the transport. It was at this camp that the platoon stayed for the night. The cockerel at a nearby farm must have been on strike because it was nearly 7 o-clock when we arose instead of getting an early start as planned. However once we were up we quickly struck camp and bashed over the moors to finish off the previous days mapping. At noon the mapping was completed and we marched back over the moors to the awaiting transport. Due to a few mistakes by the platoon in general we did not win the competition but the experience was worthwhile and rivalry between platoons helped to keep morale high during the course of the exercise.

Sunday 18 May saw the one church parade at camp. It was a lively and original service which helped to keep a strong interest amongst the congregation.

On Monday 19 May after fatigues and an afternoon in the gas chamber some members of the platoon decided to participate in the leisurely activity of horse riding. After the evening meal we set off for the local riding stables. During our previous riding experiences we had progressed well but here we were shown by the horses just exactly who was boss. Trouble began early on when I was thrown by my mount into the marshes. The other 'cowboys' thought it was extremely funny, but it was my turn to laugh next when they realized how highly strung their own mounts were. Although previously we had been keen to race our animals, we suddenly became quite content just to stay in the saddles. The big event came when the horses sensed they were on the way home. A couple of them started bolting over the fields, quickly disposing their riders and heading for their stables. Other horses decided to follow suit and very soon the fields were covered with riderless horses and horseless riders. Our guide recovered the horses and we again mounted, knowing our chances of survival were slim, but fortunately the guide was taking no more chances and we strolled back to the stables without further incident.

On Tuesday 20 May our coastwalk was blessed with lovely weather and as we stopped at the various resting points we were quick to take advantage of our chances of a suntan. The walk was meant to be leisurely and indeed it was. We covered the distance within our time limit and at the end of the walk we were honoured by the visit of Brigadier Burley who takes a great interest in the College activities.

On Wednesday 21 May the platoon was again divided into two groups for cycling and canoeing. Canoeing was extremely enjoyable but made harder by the fact that the tide was against us for most of the morning. Capt Morton instructed us on the basic movements and was quite pleased to see people capsize and use the correct safety drills that we had practised before at Tenby pool. The canoeing was done on an estuary near Pembroke on which some very nice speed boats were anchored. The cycling was a combination of cycling and map reading skills. We later found out that A/Pte Hammill and A/Lcpl Gaines of Tyler Platoon had won the competition. Each pair of cyclists were issued with a map and question paper. On the paper were questions about various places on the map. If each question was answered in the correct sequence the total journey would cover 27 miles. A big problem to many of the riders was faulty cycles and this is the reason why nobody completed the whole course.

Our visit to Pembroke Power Station on Thursday 22 May was interesting but the information from our guide was too complicated to fully understand. We were taken through all the various stages necessary for making power including the main computer control room. The station was opened in 1973 by the Rt Hon Edward Heath and is very modern in appearance and ideas. If it continues to grow at its present rate it could soon be supplying the whole of Wales with its power. We also visited Pembroke Castle which is restored in its natural beauty by the local council. The castle had played a very important role in history and contained a small museum at the entrance gate. Pembroke town was in fact built around the castle centuries ago and is now a pleasant resort for campers in the area.

We arrived at the runway at 10 am and began practising para-rolls, which are used in an emergency, ie speedy descent. We were taught the various parts of the canopy and harness before actually using them. Sgt Flowers kindly

gave us a demonstration before we went up A team was picked by Major Easton to help with the launching, consisting of a crown man who untangled any twisted cords, two 'wing' men who helped in the launching of the canopy, two harness men who secured the parachutist to the canopy and two truck-men who gave instructions to the driver of the landrover. By dinnertime half of the platoon had been in the air. They were very excited and hoped for the chance of another go! After our meal the wind had changed and so we had to move to a different take-off spot to get maximum assistance in launching.

Parascending is a sport which is becoming very popular in Britain and America. The object of the sport is that the person doing the launch should be taken as high as possible in the air whilst attached to a rope of a certain length. The best accomplishment must go to A/Lcpl Burnlees who is in fact the lightest member of the platoon, and likewise to A/Pte Nellist who found difficulty in landing. Photographs were taken by A/Pte Weightman and we were fortunately all free of injury at the end of the day. Major Easton at the end of the day, was launched high into the air and he released himself from the landrover to make a spectacular landing.

Tyler Platoon were fortunate to take part in the activity of parascending on Friday 23 May. Major Easton and Major Beaumont were there to ensure our safety and instruct us in our participation. Luckily weather conditions were favourable for some good ascents during the course of the day.

Before our return to Deepcut, the Permanent Staff arranged a competition which was to be the final climax of the summer camp. All platoons were to participate in this competition which was run on a similar basis to the TV series "It's a Knockout". About 15 games were arranged on the sports field and MT square, each game being judged by a member of the College permanent staff. The platoons gained points for their performances in each game.

One of the most liked games involved a team of 10 men pushing an Army 4 ton lorry across the MT square in a time limit of 25 seconds. Most of the platoons managed to do this; including Tyler in a time of 24 seconds. Other games involved climbing a greased telegraph pole, transporting buckets of water in a wheelbarrow and weightlifting.

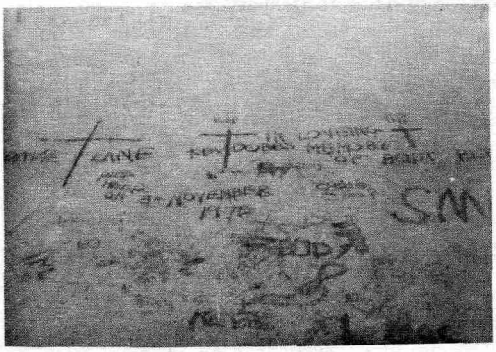
When all the games had been completed by each platoon the scores were announced and Tyler Platoon found themselves in 4th position out of 10 competing platoons. Lt Col Vickery awarded prizes to Baker Platoon, winners of the competition, and he also presented two members of Tyler Platoon, A/Lcpl Gaines and A/Pte Hammill, with their cycling trophies.

College summer camp had ended but memories of of the activities we did in this enjoyable area will be fresh in our minds for a very long time.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Permanent Staff have requested to spend a whole summer term at Penally camp sometime in the future!



Brigadier Burley, Commander RAOC Training Centre, talking with members of Tyler Platoon during their coast walk at Penally May 1975







Rock climbing at Penally against a background of beach graffiti

BALACLAVA PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J S Lamb RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt P M Carrick RAOC

Winter Term 1975 by A/Ptes P Gooderson and W Stewart

The official starting day of Balaclava Platoon was the 9 September 1976, when people arrived from the most northern point of civilisation in the British Isles to the most southern part of England, ranging in various sizes.

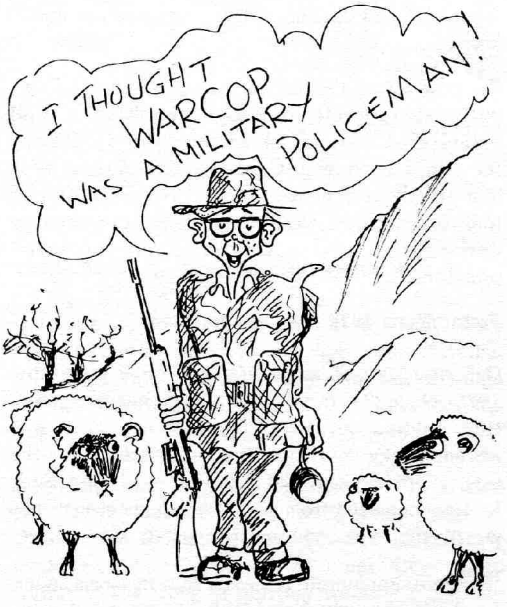
The general reaction of the recruits at first was to try and hold back the sorrow of leaving home but soon the men were sorted from the boys when a few members of the platoon left to go home after a very short term of service. The remainder came to admire the Platoon Commander Lt J S Lamb for all the aid he gave us in the first few struggling weeks.

Gradually everybody got to know each other and the recruits were eventually moulded into soldiers, under the most watchful and best Platoon Sergeant - Sgt P Carrick - who had the priceless help of the Apprentice Sergeant A/Sgt Dagnall, who in turn had the help of the three Apprentice Lance Corporals, A/Lcpls Standing, Frampton and Ryan.

Eventually on 23 October the recruits, with great pride, officially proved themselves soldiers, on passing their acceptance parade, inspected by the Adjutant, Capt Haden. After the parade the lads had their first taste of leave and some were even relieved to get back after a few days at home.

Later on we went on a Company Camp to Penhale, Cornwall and had a most enjoyable week with some of the lads being shown new forms of entertainment and more about army life, ranging from abseiling to tactical warfare training, including our first shots with the 7.62 SLR with some surprising results.

After returning from the camp we indulged in a solid week of boring but rewarding education, after which we started to train for the end of term pageant. This was also to mark the loss of our first and very helpful A/NCOs and we now wish them the very best for their future careers in the Army.



Christmas Party

For many weeks the Platoon had planned a party which eventually materialised and turned out to be a success. Many of the lads went out hunting for girls to invite to the party and counting the total the day before the party, we had to accommodate more girls than ourselves, but on the night only 16 turned up. At the party there was a cold buffet which everyone enjoyed (including the lads for a few days after the party!). The choice of drinks was ample with three barrels of beer, lager, Double Diamond and Tartan. There were some spirits as well but they were for the females and in all the drinks stretched the length of the evening.

About half way through the party we had the Platoon's christmas presents given to Lt Lamb and his wife and also to Sgt Carrick and his wife. We even had a visit from the OC and 2IC, who quickly showed us how to down a pint. Of the many members of the PS who were invited, only a few came and they really enjoyed themselves. The evening would never have been as good if it had not been for the discotheque, which gave us ample entertainment throughout the evening, making the party a great success.

Spring Term 1976

At the beginning of the second term, it took the lads quite a while to settle in again and get rid of the fat that had accumulated over the Christmas leave. But soon we went on a platoon camp with Body Platoon which was held on Salisbury Plain and turned out to be a successful camp with days of fieldcraft, map reading and a planned shoot which had to be cancelled because of the fog but overall everybody enjoyed themselves despite the weather.

Then after half term we went to Warcop on our Company camp. Attached to our platoon were five cadets from the NE London Royal Green Jackets. They were a joyful bunch and will be remembered for their determination to have a go at everything. On the camp we spent a week doing a variety of things from a run and assault course, to shooting on many different ranges in the many different situations that face a soldier of the army today and overall a thoroughly enjoyed week was had by all - roll on next term.

(Editorial Note: The cartoons in this section were drawn by Under Officer Hopkins, one of the five cadets from the Royal Green Jacket Cadet Force who were attached to B Company for the Warcop Camp in Spring Term 1976. We are most grateful to him for giving them to us and are delighted to be able to publish them under his name.)

BENGHAZI PLATOON

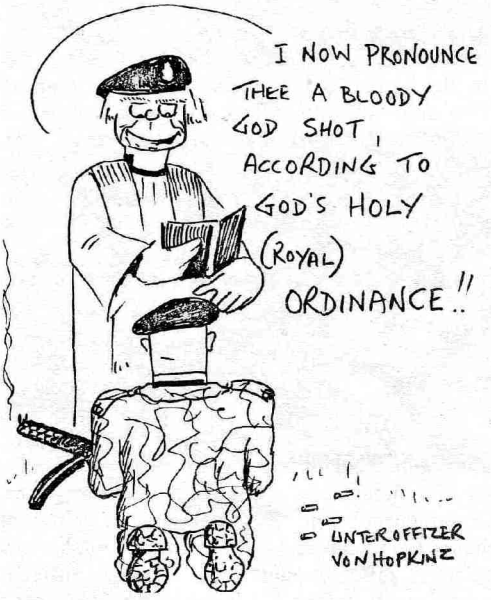
Platoon Commander — Lt M H P Buchanan RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt J A G Earl REME

Winter Term 1975 - by the Platoon Commander

Once upon a time on a dull, sombre, September day, 37 unsuspecting civilians found themselves in HMF, altogether in one of many red bricked buildings, Block 1 - and so began Benghazi Platoon. Expressions of bewilderment and mutterings of unbelief subsided as platoon members settled down into the routine of being a recruit at the Apprentices College.

It was a routine of inspections and blackened forefingers from 'bulling' - sorry, I mean polishing boots, which passed and we were soon out on our first field exercise in Longmoor, away from blocked beds but where not only fingers were blackened, but faces too, as camouflage for a night exercise. If nothing else, it was an experience and good taste of what was to come, One patrol enjoyed it so much, they were in two minds as to whether to return.



However, we all returned 'old soldiers' back to Deepcut to be reminded that we were still recruits. Not for long though for in the following week it was the acceptance parade, which if the platoon passed, meant they were fully fledged junior soldiers. As it was, the platoon passed well and parents proudly looked on unable to recognise their short haired sons. A/Pte Burgess had a cunning ploy to attract his old folks attention - he collapsed on the ground. "It was the emotion of the occasion!" he exclaimed.

Refreshed by the half term break the platoon returned to be quickly despatched off to Company Camp at Penhale in Cornwall. Here we continued to improve our field craft as well as indulging in many new pursuits, notably canoeing and rock climbing. A/Pte Frame obviously inspired by the recent British conquest of Everest, decided he would scale the cliffs of Penhale with a flag for Benghazi Platoon. Well, it certainly brought us fame.

Another "Jock", as they always are, also bought us fame. Jock Rennie and his patrol were the fastest team around the Bodmin Moor map-reading exercise. I suspect the prize of a crate of beer had something to do with it. The other Benghazi teams also did very well, all except one team got round all of the check points.

Returning from camp, the platoon went to the education centre to be educated, where among other things, they learnt that Benghazi was not in Australia but in North Africa. A later trip to the Imperial War Museum proved worthwhile, where we saw a film on Benghazi and the desert war.

We now await the end of term, when sadly, we will say farewell to A/Cpl Archibald, a well established platoon character, who is leaving for man's service in Germany. The platoon wish him all the very best of luck. The rest of us now look forward to a well earned leave and a happy Christmas, after what has been a very successful term for all.

Spring Term 1976 - by an apprentice

Our first day of army life was on 9 September 1975, when 32 intrepid young men became apprentice soldiers in Benghazi Platoon. That was seven weeks ago and then we were unde- the tender loving care of Lt Hart and Sgt Earl. Lt Hart departed from us to 'work', as rumour has it, in the dark and mysterious B Coy office.

We were appointed a new Platoon Commander, Lt Buchanan, who had barely joined us when we went on Company Camp. We were very successful at camp and in the various competitions we dropped only one point and finished outright winners of the barrel of beer.

Members of the platoon have been on various excursions A/Lcpl Jock Rennie and A/Pte Parkin went to Aviemore for the Army Ski Championships and were quite successful, whereas A/Lcpl Daly went on the Military Pilgrimage to Rome via most of Western Europe in November.

In March of this year we descended on the unsuspecting citizens of Boulogne in France, everyone enjoyed themselves apart from a few sore heads the next morning.

We turn now to sport. As Sgt (Uncle Jim) Earl is a soccer player (or so he says) the platoon team, coached by him, turned out to be a good one with several players turning out for the College teams. We reached the semi-finals of the Platoon competition only to lose on penalties, but we won the five-a-side competition. In other sports, various members of the platoon have represented the College:

A/Pte King - Cross Country
A/Pte Boyle - Shooting
A/Lcpl Batty - Hockey
A/Pte Tressler - Squash
A/Ptes Wilson and Tilley - Basketball

Another memorable day was on 7 December when we tackled the Para's confidence course. To our amusement Sgt Earl (an ex-Para) was tackling the course for the first time in 10 years.

A/Sgt Bryan leaves us this term and we wish him well in his new posting. A/Cpl Archibald left us at Christmas to join 1 BR Corps, Combat Supplies Battalion and is now in the same Coy as A/Pte Frame's father.

And so as leave approaches and College Camp draws nearer, we close our contribution.

BLENHEIM PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt P Linney

Platoon Sergeant Sgt C Thayre

Three Terms in Blenheim by A/Pte W M Tilley

Here we are in our third term at Deepcut Camp and it seems as though it were only yesterday that it started. We have now only two weeks to go till we have another Passing Out Parade and then the term is over. Our third term started

then the term is over. Our third term started excellently with our two week long camp at Penally in Wales. It was a week of military training and a week of External Leadership training. The week of military training consisted of four days of map reading and compass work. We were walked into an uncharted piece of our map and told to map the area (by saying uncharted, I mean the exercise leaders had cut a piece out of our map and told us to fill it in). Well, we pitched camp on the very edge of the uncharted land and from there we split into three groups. We each had a certain task to perform in order to get a scaled down diagram of the land. Well after we had completed our tasks and returned to our base camp for the third day in succession, we (the group leaders) began to set our map out and started to see where we had gone wrong and then we finally produced a scaled down, detailed representation of our hole in the map. On arrival back at Penally, we had to give a talk on how we charted the hills, etc, and when we were finished the competition was declared a draw between everyone. So we had all enjoyed a good day's exercise in the Prescelly Hills.

The next week was to be very full and exciting as we had to take part in a number of different sporting activities. We started off cycling and then walking and eventually two days fishing in a boat. We all had enjoyed ourselves tremendously in our two week spell at Penally and some of us were sad to say goodbye when the time came. On arrival back at camp we had a lot of sports ahead of us. We had an athletics meeting against the Training Centre, Deepcut, (Depot) team and from this the judges had to pick a team to represent the College in the Travers Clarke Athletics Meeting which was for the whole of the RAOC. When we met the Training Centre we, the College, had only one thing on our minds and that was to win but sadly we did not win overall but we did win some individual events and some team events and from all those who were picked for the Travers Clarke team, seven were from our platoon and overall about 14 were picked from the College. When you consider that only 23 were in the team we did not do too bad in that two thirds of the team were from the College. When we arrived and took part in the competition we walked away with lots of individual prizes and the overall 'winners' trophy meant that we were the best in the Corps and no one could say otherwise. Later on in the term (after half term) we went in for the Junior Army Championship Zone 1 finals. This meant that we had to qualify in the Zone championships to actually get a crack at the really big event the Junior Army Finals. We arrived at Aldershot Stadium and the meeting began. We were lying 3rd in the competition most of the day with the Junior Guards only three points behind with one race left. The race which was left was the 4 x 800m relay. Just before the team was called to the marshalling area, they were told it was make or break in the 4 x 800m, so they left with only one thought in their minds and that was to win. The starters gun sounded and they were off and by the time the Apprentices College had got to their last runner, he was 40m or more behind the man in front of him and was last. We needed to beat the Junior Guards by at least two places. The race was over and the Apprentices College had failed to beat the Guards. BUT to everyone's surprise the scoreboard was now brought up to date and the Guards were 10 points behind us so even though we did lose the race we got through to the finals. We got all set to have a go at the finals but when the competition was over the College came last though we were one of seven to get through to the finals anyway.

Later into the term we had Platoon Camp in the New Forest. While there we took part in pony trekking, swimming and fishing. The camp lasted three days and we also had a barbecue. And here we are now near the close of the third and last term with Blenheim and I can say on behalf of all the lads who are/were in Blenheim Platoon, a great big thank you to all the Permanent Staff in Blenheim, Lt Linney and Sgt Thayre, for all the work they have done for us all and for turning us all out something like soldiers (which must have been a hard job) but seriously, they have devoted a lot of spare time to take us. I would also like to say all the best to the rest of the platoon and when Blenheim doesn't exist any more always remember that you were one of mighty Blenheim and you'll never go wrong.

Blenheim - A recruit's eye view by A/Pte Watts

Blenheim Platoon is one of the newly formed recruit platoons. We arrived at various times at Brookwood station where we were met by Cpl Duke. He instilled great confidence in us by foretelling events that we thought only happened in "It ain't half hot Mum". We arrived at the camp and proceeded to the Kontiki Club to be documented. After, we had a look around at the camp. We were very impressed, in fact so much that one of our number caught the first train home. Well, the dye was cast - we were in the army. We were young and innocent and had yet to learn the pleasures of making bed boxes and bulling boots. The first few days went very quick and so did the people leaving Deepcut. We met our NCOs and were divided into rooms. I think I am right in saying that we did have a little trouble in understanding A/Lcpl McGaugey (now A/Cpl). In fact, for the first few days, we never understood a word he said.

The early weeks of our initial training were a completely new experience and we have learnt much that will be of great use to us. We were not idle in the evenings - we spent much of our time being instructed in kit husbandry by our expert NCO A/Cpl P Smith. When we had finished our kit we were almost willing to sweep and bumper the floor - we didn't mind hard work?

In just eight weeks we have had many memorable events. The most notable was the first time the platoon attempted the Pirbright assault course. One of our platoon boys, a noted martial art expert fell off the scrambling net, hit his shoulder on the ground and has never been the same since. Another less significant, but just as amusing, event happened at the same place. One of my room mates "mad Stewart" fell off the Queen Mary three times. This may not seem very exciting, but he only went across it once.

Well the weeks went on and the time came around for our first camp. This was at Longmoor and was supposed to be a night movement exercise but someone lost the Very pistol so we could not play. We were returned to camp the next day after a chaotic weekend. The next few weeks were to see our first Regimental bath and our first demonstration of martial art in which the demonstrator rather hurt himself.

The preparations that came in the next few weeks for the Acceptance Parade were very gruelling. These included the usual hair cut and best boots. After a lot of hard work and gentle persuasion by our Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Bonta, we finished them. Well the big day arrived and we were all as nervous as we were told we would be. The day started off alright but then it happened. We decided that sharp halts and people marching on your feet was not very good for your boots as the trail of 'bulling' from block 8 to the drill shed had shown. We must have looked a sight marching like penguins but at least it saved our boots.

The parade went well and we were off for our half term holiday. However, before we had time to darn the holes in our socks, we were back again.

Perhaps the finale to our stay has been Penhale Camp. This was great if you like getting up at 4.45 am, getting into soaking wet combats and trying to get wet meta blocks alight. However, that was the worst bit. I think throughout the platoon the abseiling and canoeing were the most popular and we would like to thank the ELT staff for making it possible. We also had a very interesting morning at HMS Culdrose where we were shown the latest fire-fighting techniques and were also taken round some sealing helicopters. In the evenings most of us went sight seeing in Newquay and there was a very good Company party.

I think the majority of Blenheim Platoon have enjoyed the past weeks and I hope we enjoy the coming ones as much.

A term with Blenheim by A/Lcpl Tilley

Blenheim Platoon is only one of six platoons in B Company. The Platoon Officer, Lt Linney, REME, who has been with Blenheim for two terms, the Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Bonta RAOC, who has also been with Blenheim for two terms but has been at the College longer than Lt Linney.

Our second term started on 10 January 1976, a term which was to let Blenheim show the College

that they were out to make their platoon known for being top in almost everything that was to happen throughout the term. At the beginning of the term the CO of the College (then Lt Col Vickery) organised an indoor league, consisting of football, snooker, darts, table-tennis, basketball and chess, all of which were to be played on a platoon basis (one against the other). Blenheim were to be beaten miserably in the first few games, but bad scores at football were to be counteracted by good scores at snooker, etc.

The league went on for about four weeks and at the end of the tournament, Blenheim were found to be the winners along with Body Platoon, who shared the shield with Blenheim for the indoor league.

With the indoor league over and a shield already to the credit of Blenheim's name, word came round that a College 7s tournament was to be played at rugby, so, after trying out the boys in the platoon A/Lcpl Tilley picked the best eight players and set out on the field. The team was as follows: A/Lcpl Tilley (Capt), A/Lcpls Bush, Walker, A/Ptes Baughen, Reynolds, Smith R A, Sayers. Sub: A/Pte MacGregor.

The team were to go on through the knockout competitions and into the final, where they came up against Bruneval (the new intake of this particular term) who were to prove that they were not easy to beat. The final whistle went and Blenheim had won a most energetic game by 20 points to 4. While the rugby was still being talked about, an 11-a-side football league got under way (again a straight knockout). A/Lcpl Bush was to captain his side all the way through the preliminary rounds and into the final, where we faced third termers, Body, who always seemed to be on the tails of Blenheim everywhere they went.

The final was played on the same afternoon and Body and Blenheim led onto the pitch. The whistle went and within 10 minutes Blenheim were 1 goal up, the goal being scored by A/Lcpl Bush. The game started again and just before half-time, Body equalised. During the interval A/Lcpl Bush gave his team a thorough briefing and set out into the second half of the game more refreshed than they were in the first half. Three more goals were to be scored in the second half, all for Blenheim (goals were scored by A/Lcpl Tilley 2, A/Pte Sayers 1). The final whistle went and Blenheim had won the football tournament, as well as the rugby.

The football trophy was lifted by A/Lcpl Bush and the rugby trophy was lifted by A/Lcpl Tilley, so by the time the College break for half term, Blenheim had three major trophies to their credit.

At the second half of the term the College had a change of command parade, when Lt Col Vickery handed over command of the College to Lt Col Bruce, who has been capped 13 times for Scotland as a rugby player (he was known to the crowds as Bonzo). The next main event in Blenheim's term was the Company camp at Warcop. Warcop is a range camp right at the foot of the Cheviot Hills, which enables both Scottish and English Regiments to use it. On arrival at Warcop we were issued bedding, handed in our weapons and then got settled in for the night. We did a lot of shooting (which was to help the platoons later on in the term) at Warcop and we also did an eight mile run and got lost. I will not mention the map reader's name in case he finds out who has written this. Anyway, after spending a week at Warcop, the next main thing on the programme was our Platoon camp. We went to Folkestone for two days and went to France for one day. When we reached France we boarded a £30,000 coach and set off to tour France for the day. We had a French lunch and as it was Sunday it was a real French meal with red and white wine on the table, etc. After having a very filling 4-course meal we boarded our coach again and set off for the last part of our journey, back to England.



After we arrived back at Deepcut we only had one week before the College rifle meeting, so we all got stuck in practising and firing. The week passed and within no time the meeting was under way. Blenheim had a 12 man shooting team including 2 reserves. The team was as follows A/Lcpl Sharpe, A/Ptes Fawcett, Taaffe, Tipton, Smith R A. Watts, Cowley, Powell, Taylor. Subs: A/Lcpl Tilley, A/Pte Reynolds.

After the first day's shooting Blenheim came out on top but it was all up to the last day of shooting to settle it. At the end of the meeting Blenheim had won the Platoon shooting shield plus individual medals and A/Pte Fawcett came second in the whole College of 250 people to take the silver spoon and of course, Blenheim got the overall winners' cup which brought a fantastic close to the College rifle meeting for Blenheim.

Well since then we have had education tests and only have one week left to our term before a new one is upon us again and I can only say that I hope the summer term is as successful for Blenheim as this one has been. Unfortunately we are facing a great loss because we are losing our Platoon Sergeant. Sgt Bonta and his family are moving off to Hong Kong to begin a new life in a new country and I hope they go knowing that all of Blenheim are thinking of them and hoping that they enjoy their time in Hong Kong. We also hope that they appreciate him as much as the lads of Blenheim do.

TROPHY GALLERY

Rugby Sevens *Football Shield*

Indoor Platoon League

Platoon Full Bore Shooting Shield and Cup
10 Individual Medals and Silver Spoon

Warcop Camp by A/Pte K Smith

We arrived at Appleby Station about 1730 hours, after a long train journey, which took us eight hours to complete.

The camp was not too much to look at, the huts did not have toilets or washrooms, which were in separate buildings.

The whole idea of the camp was to shoot for the practice.

There was a competition for the best platoon which included the assault course and run, battle craft and an eight mile bash, which for us, came to a 12 mile bash.

The night exercise was quite successful and good fun and good experience for everyone. The best thing for everyone were the good ranges we used, they are the best in Britain. They were the first electronic ranges that most of us had used. The new ranges were the ETR and Battle range which were good for the exercise of fire orders. The best piece in the competition was the assault course and 30m shoot afterwards. We were supposed to have a little drink, but instead, the beer was handed out after tea but nobody minded. It was different than the usual.

There was a trip available for people to go and see the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Guards, Pipes and Drums, in Carlisle, it had a full house and it went down well.

Everyone enjoyed the camp because of the good shooting on those brilliant ranges and because of the competition.

BURMA PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J Payne RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt D G Hardstaff RAOC
(later Acting Pl Comd)

Winter Term 1975

This first term proved to be very profitable for Burma in both the sports world and military affairs. Indeed, we got off to a good start right from the word go and it was not long before the recruits were fully settled into their new environment. The platoon's first real opportunity to shine was a Company weekend camp on the Longmoor Training Area after three weeks of basic training. The aim of the camp was to learn map reading skills and although our mapping and compass work was not always first class, in fact some of it was very undesirable, the platoon managed to win the camp map reading competition staged in darkness. Every platoon was given a marked stronghold to defend and they also had to send out attacking patrols to each of the enemy strongholds whilst retaining our own. The camp was a success because everyone learnt from the many mistakes that were made.

The following three weeks were spent at Deepcut in which the recruits carried on with their basic training and were introduced to the education programme at the College.

Immediately on our return to camp after the half term break, B Company travelled down to Penhale, Devon for an adventure training camp. This camp proved to be hardworking but very enjoyable. Platoon morale reached its peak as we were given the opportunity to pursue the external activities that are not always possible at Deepcut. On our arrival at the camp, the Company assembled in the cinema where Lt Ball proceeded with his lecture on fire safety precautions, parts of which the narrow-minded element found highly amusing. Then Capt Morton and his merry men treated us to a dramatically constructed performance of "The Equipment and Principles of ELT", before entertaining films were shown.

The first full day saw Burma Platoon out on the coastal training area being educated by Capt Marks (who along with Cpl Smith had taken over the administration of the platoon from Lt Payne and Sgt Hardstaff at the camp) on the art of self concealment and camouflage and when the recruits put theory into practice the scene became comical as some tried hiding behind single tufts of grass whilst others on the opposite extreme were looking like walking bushes. The whole day was spent doing Fieldcraft and Tactics, in which



map and compass work, distances, fire control orders and battle attacks were practiced before we engaged onto our overnight camp. The objective of this camp was to acquaint the recruits with living out in the field. Capt Marks began teaching the technique of cooking compo rations and one special piece of advice he gave was to cover the small mess tin containing food, with the large mess tin, thus conserving heat. Surtees, the platoon comedian, then asked, "How can you tell which is the large mess tin, Sir?". Everything else went well until the following morning when the platoon, due to inexperience, was a little slow to strike camp and move off. Later on during the day a visit to RAF St Magwan, proved to be very interesting and was well appreciated.

A talent contest had also been included in the camp programme. Each platoon produced an act for the show which was judged by the OC. Needless to say Burma triumphed again, taking a crate of brown ale as a prize.

An orienteering exercise on Bodmin Moor proved exhausting but again was enjoyed by all concerned. Surf canoeing and abseiling were also experienced before the recruits had their introductory shoot with the SLR on the final day of the camp.

Back at Deepcut, Burma won the Company Swimming Gala and also secured themselves a place in the Company football final. We now prepare for the end of term, with a view of enjoying more successes during next term!

Sadly, the five platoon A/NCOs leave at the end of this term to proceed on to their units as trained soldiers in the regular army. The five are: A/Sgt Roff, A/Lcpls Astbury, Burnlees, Shearer, McIlwaine.

Day Trip to France by A/Pte Surtees

We were at our platoon camp at Folkestone in March 1976 when our Platoon Commanders arranged a trip to France. We went on Sunday at about 6.30 in the morning. We arrived at Dover at about 7.30 and boarded the boat ready to leave at 7.45. It was a Sealink boat.

Most people went straight to the Bureau and changed their money (8 francs for £1). Once they finished changing their money they either went to the duty free shop or the bar where the drink was cheap. Beer was about 20p a pint. We arrived in Boulogne about 9 o-clock. We were told on the boat to put our watches an hour forward.

At Boulogne there was a great coach waiting for us and then we went on a tour around Boulogne. We visited the tower with Napoleon's statue on with his back facing Britain. This was because he could not conquer her, so he thought it was not worth it and turned his back on Britain.

We moved off then, back through Boulogne and passed all the fishing villages until we came to our cafe for dinner. The meal was good, consisting of bread and wine, then white fish in an

oyster shell with cheese sauce on the top. There followed chicken, chips and runner beans and then ice cream. Once everyone was finished we had coffee.

We left the cafe and went through all the rich places where people come just for the weekends. We visited a place where the French buried all the soldiers who died during the war. It was a massive place and very tidy.

Then we went to Boulogne and had a walk round. The shops were very small and untidy. The clothes were very dear, they pay £20 for a pair of jeans, £5 for a reasonable tie and £8-£9 for a shirt. The kids would have to pay about 40p for a normal size bar of chocolate.

The clothes were all out of fashion and would laugh at us wearing baggy trousers and big high shoes. People would look at us and laugh because we all had short hair. Most of the boys would ride around on 50cc mopeds and most adults would drive very small cars because the petrol was about £1 a gallon.

We went back to the port and on the boat everyone was buying duty free drink and fags, which were about £2.90 for about 200. Most of the drink was knocked down by a £1. A great day out and well worth while.

Patrol to Nowhere - A/Lcpl Mullin

We left Warcop Camp in keen anticipation at the venture that lay before us. Each individual imagining what it would be like out in the darkness.

As we emerged from the transport, our eyes accustoming themselves to the darkness, we felt the chill of the night air on our faces as a disorganised rabble slowly found its way into sections. A bearing was taken and off we went to our first RV. At this RV we left the defence section, which formed all round defence and prepared themselves for the long wait that lay ahead.

The fighting patrol then once again took a bearing and set off to find an enemy position. We began the patrol keen and alert, give or take the odd idiot, walking half crouched through the fields at the ready. We made our way over fences, streams, through woodland and open fields for what seemed an eternity. Then Lt Payne called the patrol in a group and announced the mission was aborted as we had run out of time so we turned round and started our return journey.

While making our way through open ground, a white figure shot past us accompanied by a strange thumping sound that scared the hell out of us until we realised it was a horse, but a horse heading for you at full gallop, is quite frightening, so after hastily departing from that field we continued our journey back to base camp. Our defence section were busily fighting off the onslaughts of Bruneval Platoon. By the time we reached base all was quiet, the defence section had been successful, even if our patrol had got nowhere, so we withdrew from the position and returned to camp feeling rather disillusioned but glad to get back to a nice warm bed.

TRAINING WING

Chief Instructor Major J Lyle-Carter RAOC

Training Officer Capt D R Marks RAOC

Winter Term 1975

This term has seen a considerable change in personalities in the Wing: CSM Pete Pheasant has left for CVD Ashchurch to be replaced by CSM Mick Ellsmoore. The Companies have once again repeat the harvest of talent provided

again reaped the harvest of talent provided by Training Wing and Cpls Rice, Kreft and Earl now spend more time brandishing a pace stick than an SLR or prismatic compass; a sorry loss which resulted in two weapon training instructors being borrowed from "Rent a Rubber Duck"; yes, Cpls Thomas and Briley were attached for the duration of a term and things can't be too bad as "Taffy" Thomas has asked for, and got, a posting here! Also gone is Staff Rayner, replaced by Sgt Reid, and Cpl Frampton replaced by Sgt Full.

Latest postings in are Cpl Cooke and Cpl Wolfe who enjoys but a fleeting stay before departing for A Company as Platoon Commander. Also leaving next term is Cpl "Smudger" Smith who is bound for Arakan Platoon to learn the guile of Platoon Sergeant. If a change is as good as a rest we should be well rested to face the coming term! We await with interest the arrival of the new replacements (we hope).

This term the Wing has had an insight into how the other half lives as Capt Marks and Cpl Smith served as OC and Platoon Sergeant for Burma Platoon at Penhale Camp. Perhaps this section would be more aptly called "Humour in Uniform". In a centralised training organisation one tends to lose sight of the mundane detail one has to go into in order to achieve the basics of life; and so it was that Burma Platoon was issued with the necessary equipment to venture forth into the depths of Penhale training area to spend their first overnight camp. On the list were two 5 gallon water jerry cans and it was with some amazement - and not a little pride in the gymnasium staff - that one young platoon member was seen ably manhandling both cans up a fair incline en route for camp. Overtaken with pity Messrs Marks and Smith allowed the aforesaid Herculean recruit to proceed only 9/10ths of the way to the bivouac area before offering him a lift in their British Racing Green, 2 litre, fully convertible Rover (GS). At once accepting, this Samson-like figure deftly flicked the cans into the wagon where they landed with a resoundingly hollow thump.

I suppose we should have specified that the water cans should have been filled before embarkation!

When the section which was sent back for water returned puffing and panting some two hours later we got down to some field catering. Most apprentices were quite adept at a bit of the old cauldron bleughhh on their hexamin burners but most lacked that touch of finesse which turns sausage, beans and rice (pudding) into an amorphous mass, decked with spent matches and topped off with grass, on which we seem to thrive when on exercise. So the unsuspecting Platoon staff donned DPM chefs hats and demonstrated, among other things, that by putting water to heat in a small mess tin and covering it with the large one heat loss is minimised. After due consideration of this exercise in thermo dynamics one lad was heard to ask, "but Cpl, how do you know which is the large mess tin . . .?"

Meanwhile, back at the base camp.... Burma was doing exceeding well on the boards by winning the B Company talent contest, ably assisted by Terry Tinsel, the Stylistics and A/Pte Surtees, who seemed to get in on every act somehow or other. With their latest effort, Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody", they are sure to take the NAAFI, if not Tin Pan Alley, by storm.

Back at Deepcut life maintained its humour..... .....was it again Burma Platoon which formed up for its mass X-ray on Alma Square? Seeing that they awaited only the executive command to fling their bared chests before the all-seeing lens like so many pigeons in Trafalgar Square, Sgt Full, leaning like a U-boat Commander from the Training Wing first floor window, directed them to the awaiting standard green, box-like trailer which houses everything in the Army from field offices to Generals' suites and in this case obviously held an X-ray machine. I suppose it is to be expected of such raw recruits that they knew not what a mobile X-ray unit looked like. The emission of steam, creaks, groans and a steady stream of drawers cellular did nothing to diminish their confidence in Sgt Full's judgement as the Platoon waited in three ranks for the call to enter, one by one, for the X-ray. And they waited and waited and..... Sheer coincidence it was that CVHQ had chosen that very afternoon to practice in one of their mobile laundry trailers on Alma Square and it wasn't until the belated arrival of the **Boner** Fide X-ray truck that the mistake was seen through!!!

Well Christmas is here again and it remains only to be said, on behalf of Training Wing, for all those people who actually look at the training programme "A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO BOTH OUR READERS".

Spring and Summer Terms 1976

On 2 January 1976 we arrived back off leave with a very hard term ahead of us due to the weapon training programme necessary before the College Rifle Meeting. Nothing outstanding really happened during the month of January but on 2 February the Inspector of Establishments descended upon us and decided that we could do the same amount of work but with less instructors.

After half term we found ourselves departing Deepcut for the outback of Warcop and 2½ weeks of graft. A hard time was had by all. Sgt Dave Watson celebrated his birthday in fine style and was found conducting all the boys in a rendering of "Happy Birthday".

When we arrived back from Warcop we lost Cpl 'Andy' Andersen (almost) when he departed with a group of skiers for Aviemore for the Army Ski Championships. During a day's training he was moving (on skis) from one slope to another when he suddenly disappeared down the side of a mountain in a cloud of snow. He must have thought he was at Saporro because he was heard to shout out "Banzai".

After Aviemore we descended upon Ash Ranges for the College Rifle Meeting which was a resounding success with A Company eventually running out the winners.

Prior to the end of term the Training Wing held their renowned end of term drink. Sgt Dougie

Elsworth decided that as it was the end of his first term in the College he would rather let his hair down than end up in Netley and true to form he was slightly the worse for wear (weren't we all).

Summer term started and within one week the whole College left for Wales to make a takeover bid for Tenby. Unfortunately the weather was not as good as in the previous year but the "roughie toughies" could stand for it, or should I say lay down for it. Sgt Dave Watson found out that he wasn't just an angler but a sailor as well. The parascenders enjoyed themselves at Templeton airfield but weren't very happy when they found themselves being buzzed by Canberra bombers. They then found out that they were in the middle of a practice bombing range and Cpl Andy Anderson thought that he was back with the paras.

Cpl Taff Thomas found himself at home on Tenby harbour wall nearly every day fishing. He said that the RAF cooking was terrible. Sgt Bob Smith was in his element behind the bar of the Sergeants' Mess, walking around the camp daily trying to get rid of his perpetual hangover.

During the second half of the term we lost CSM Mick Ellsmoor to civvy street, as a drill instructor to the chocolate toy soldiers at Cadbury's. Good luck to him!

Ssgt Bernie Brace arrived to take over from Mick Ellsmoor (rumour has it that he has already booked a room at Netley) and the standards in training should rise even higher than what they are now.

Farewell from us all until next time:

Gaffer:	Ssgt Bernie Brace
Weapon Training Experts:	Sgt Frank Reid Sgt Dave Watson Sgt Dougie Ellsworth Cpl Taff Thomas Cpl Andy Anderson
Noddy Suit Kings and Medicos	Sgt Bob Smith Cpl Steve Duke

Thoughts on External Leadership Training (ELT) by Capt G D Morton, erstwhile OC ELT

Whether it has been an apprentices record seven capsizes in an hour while playing canoe polo at Penhale that I can remember most or the sight of a mighty wall of water tipping me out into the surf from my canoe I don't know, but all in all ELT has again had its fair share of excitement and fun this year.

And let's face it, Adventure Training is there to provide a personal challenge whilst still being fun. I often wonder, however, whether in Harlech the impressions of fun are really felt. Does the limited amount of adventure training give us time to prepare boys for the time when the challenge becomes fun and not the need to learn how to operate 'that compass thing'. (Silva - of course). In Harlech, besides the usual walks around the Rhynnogs we walk over the spectacular Moelwyn range overlooking High Stillwyn Dam and the Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station - a solid chunk of concrete seven miles distant. We scramble through a disused slate mine, emerging filthy but satisfied that our lot was not our predecessors and that for 1s 9d per day we were luckily, born too late. No, one ventures to the mountains to share the splendours and intrigues of the past as well as explore. That trail from Harlech for Bala for instance which 600 years ago

Harlech to Bala for instance which 600 years ago passed close to Ffridd Farm, was a trail used by our ancestors. Did they think about those hills, those streams to cross? Certainly they didn't have to worry about those hundreds of miles of stone walls to be crossed, which were built in the early 1800s by French prisoners from the Napoleonic wars.

It has all been done before: we aren't new to the hills. One wonders, however, when walking at Harlech how high and what the 'Harlech Dome' looked like, the mountain said to join Snowdon with Cader Idris. Its disappearance over the last few million years or so has certainly left some rough, rugged ground to walk.

Oh yes, walking has its pleasures. One must, however, be interested in the local topography of the area. After all that is what the challenge is about - to learn, look and listen for more.

Canoeing has a different effect. You cannot spend the time reminiscing on all the past history that has traversed your piece of water. The three or four seconds you get in between those white crashing breakers as you try to turn to get a free run into shore on the surf allows no time for a cough, in fact it is better to keep your mouth shut while canoeing, since you never know where that next water gush will come from. That reminds me of my favourite bar trick - but that's another story!

It's great to be wet and cold thrashing about in the white surfy cauldron knowing that the body is benefiting so much from the open air and physical endeavour and that you are not becoming a cabbage in some humdrum downtown office job with central heating high but spirits and potential party conversation piece memories low.

It is exhilarating to sit in that warm bath that night knowing it was great fun watching your mates capsize.

To abseil and climb gives us the opportunity to concentrate and apply those mental and physical techniques harboured within us. Many times I have longed for a camera as I watch a boy on his first abseil. The look of fear and apprehension at the thought of just walking down a vertical face - but why bother, there's always an easy way down.

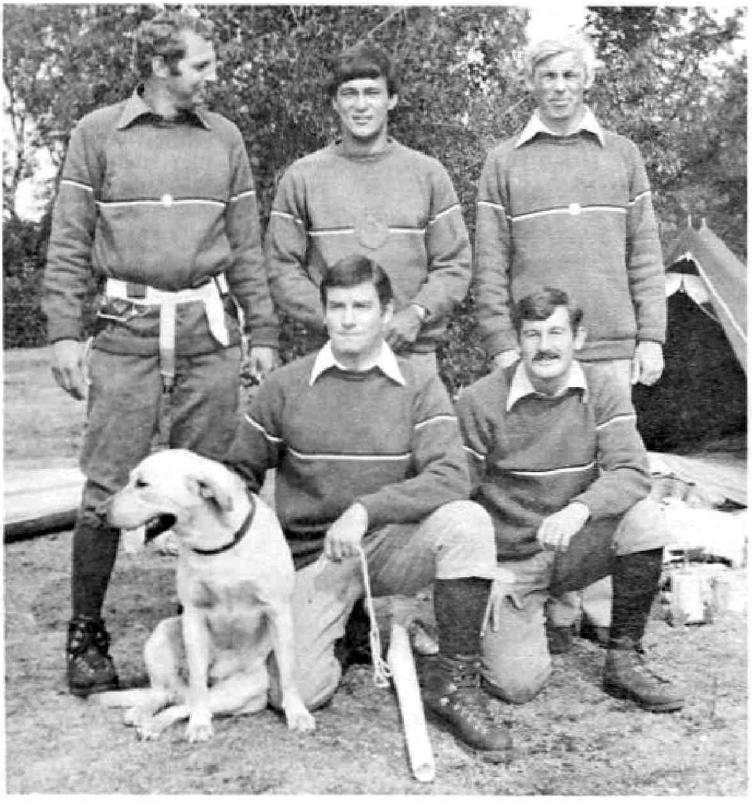
But there's an easy way to everything. If you took it each time, life would lose its challenge and I would be out of work too.

How do you explain to the potential abseiler that to climb up is harder than to abseil down - I'm never believed.

This last year has provided many challenges for us as ELT staff (memories of cliff top rescues at Penhale, but has provided more for the boys. It has been a year too full to select individual stories, there are too many of them, though I do believe we taught Hill Platoon to navigate - the hard way, their fault too!

To please you all there is more in store. Scotland will appear in the ELT programme in the summer term. Its advance on Harlech, being a second stage camp for 4th termers, will be most noticeable, and the final day's ascent of Ben Nevis should provide the climax to an exacting but enjoyable week.

ELT helps to provide a chance to develop those in-built attributes given to us and there for using - concentration, quick thinking, stamina, self-confidence and self survival. Keep at it! Adventure Training is great fun; remember what you have done this year on the hills, in your canoes and whilst tied to that piece of rope.



THE ELT INSTRUCTORS

Back Row (L to R) Cpl G S Dymond Cpl I Rosales Cpl H J Green
Front Row (L to R) "Sparky" Capt D R Marks LCpl P W Wilkie

ELT Summer Term 1976

Life in the ELT Wing has, in the last half term, changed with the coming of two new faces. The grey old one is Cpl Jim Green who arrived only hours ahead of the young, beautiful Cpl 'Legs' Dymond. Both members holding MLC meant life was going to be rough here-on-in for the students at Harlech and anywhere else we could walk, climb, run or map read over.

Students at Harlech have noticed how fitness has started to be more of a punishment than washing dishes used to be. The hymn goes "There is a green hill far away" and at Leg's and Jim's drop of a hat you could be lucky enough to run to the top of it and wave to them. Finger tip press-ups are very good for you - but with a 30-lb stone on your back!

We say goodbye to Cpl Bill O'Neal who has gone to A Company and Sgt 'Brum' Mortell who is going back to Kineton. Capt Marks said once that he did not know Sgt Mortell was part of ELT until he asked for leave. (A good case of misemployment).

The wandering Wendel Wilkie returns every weekend with tongue in cheek over a grandmother he has found to do his washing for him. The poor lad can hardly speak so we reckon this old lady is filling him up with sticky buns.

As I sit here I look around me at posters of Mont Blanc and of Chamonix, dreaming of 13 September when we step onto French soil to bring another page of history into the Apprentices College. Boys from the College will attempt the beautiful Mont Blanc and many other good mountain routes around Chamonix

With this pleasant thought in the back of my mind I will now fall asleep at my desk until next term starts.

The Vibes of Harlech by A/Pte D A Fleming (Blenheim Platoon)

On 19 June the Platoon set off excitedly for their annual ELT Camp at Ffridd Mountain Centre, Harlech.

On the first day we began a map reading exercise in the immediate surrounding area. This was completed successfully but after much instruction by our 'bosses' we ended up in several bogs up to our ankles in freezing cold muddy water. Also, after much searching, 'Ginger' Roberts could not find the cafe on top of the mountain that we jokingly told him about.

The second day was virtually the same as the first, this time we were exposed to more mountainous and rugged country, with little or nothing happening apart from the dreaded 'Ginger' being discovered having a sly smoke in a mine. (We were previously instructed not to smoke at all whilst staying at Ffridd).

The next day we had a change of scene. In the morning we went into the heart of a slate mine with our hero 'Ginger' almost killing an instructor by accidentally causing a minor landslide. In the afternoon we went rock climbing. After a compulsory 30-ft climb we had the choice of going on a more difficult 60-ft climb if we wished. One member of the party declined by stating: "It ain't my vibes is it" and also commenting that he would much rather do canoeing and abseiling. Apart from that most of the group successfully finished the climb.

The next three days were spent on an expedition which included two nights out. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone but it turned out embarrassing for one group who achieved the near impossible by losing the safety rope to an overjoyed civvy and, much to their shock, dropping their kit bags in a stream.

The whole of Blenheim Platoon would like to thank all the staff at Ffridd Centre and also all the College ELT staff for an adventurous and enjoyable week.

Physical Training - Summer Term 1976

The term started with emphasis on Endurance and Fitness Training, PT skills being left until the latter part of the term. Reports from Company and College camps indicate that the standards of fitness of the apprentices have been very high.

Notable performances in PT skills include double front somersaults over the high box by four members of the College Gymnastic team, all military swimming tests being completed and a Swimming Gala at the RMA Sandhurst where performance levels were much above average.

Gymnastics - Summer Term 1976

At the beginning of term the College boasted only four trained gymnasts, but by half-term 20 apprentices were ready to form the Display team. Much of the training had to be carried out in the boys' own time (although they did escape the RSM's drill parades!). After much hard work, the team gave three very much applauded displays. The first was at the Bristow School fete in Camberley the second at the RAOC Training Centre weekend and the third at the Summer term Passing-Out Parade. This last display was their best as befits their last appearance together, most being posted away this term.



The College Gymnastic Display Team in practice

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

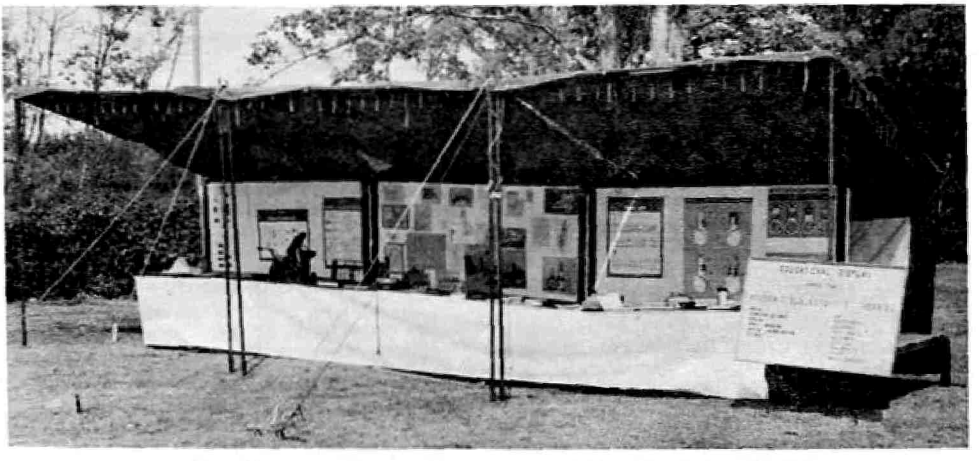
Senior Education Officer Major PA Easton RAEC

This past year under review has seen the final stages in the change over from the old philosophy of education to the most recent.

Whereas in the past there was considerable accent on academic work, we now have a programme of studies better suited to the needs of our budding tradesmen, with the work orientated toward their individual jobs in the future.

All apprentices study four subjects. First, everyone takes English, or as we call it, Communication Skills. This means that it is more "applied" English as opposed to an academic study of the language. Our students learn to use their language in discussion, to give lecturettes, to give instruction and orders. They must also 'correct' their civilian written English into the form required in military written matter.

Mathematics is especially studied to suit individual needs. Those intending to be clerks and storemen revise their skills in basic computation, whilst others heading for vehicle mechanic or technician trades study up to 'O' level Mathematics standard. The clerks and storemen include in this phase of their work Computor Studies as useful background to those aspects of



The Education Display at the Summer 1976 Passing-Out Parade

their future jobs which are processed by Computors.

Contemporary World Affairs is also taken by all apprentices. However, the title implies something different to that which most have been used to at school, under such titles as Current Affairs or Liberal Studies. An apprentice first learns about the structure and purpose of his own Unit - this College - and his Corps. This study then gradually widens to embrace the purpose of the Army and its structure, and the reasons for UK being a member of Alliances and why British troops serve in various overseas locations.

The fourth subject studied is that peculiar to either the Clerical trades or the Mechanical and Electrical trades. Those destined for clerical trades follow a course in Office Studies whilst the others cover a Science Syllabus designed to cover the vehicle in all its mechanical and electrical aspects.

Despite the new emphasis upon trade and service orientation of subjects, those desirous and capable of sitting external examinations, may do so. In fact, during the past year 411 apprentices entered for CSE English Language. Of the results known 250 out of 252 gained successful grades of which 23 were equivalent to an 'O' level pass. in GCE English and Mathematics, 49 candidates sat and gained 33 successes.

The Wing continues to offer a wide range of hobbies, with new additions each year. During the past year we have included Wrought Iron work and Toxophily. Also the opportunity has been extended for those wishing to use their evening activities periods for tutored study of some academic subject - usually at 'O' level.

The staff has not changed a great deal this year but there have been the usual comings and goings. Firstly, we must record with regret the death of Mr Andy Legg in November 1975. The suddenness of it shocked us all and his departure left its mark upon the staffroom for some considerable time.

We said goodbye to Capt Alan Thomas during Autumn term 1975 on posting to the School of Preliminary Education at Cosham.

To make up our complement we welcomed in November 1975 Lts Bernard Kane and Colin Manvell RAEC.

Generally speaking, the Wing has had another year of encouraging progress and development and we can look forward to the next to refine and consolidate those changes that have been introduced in the past twelve months.

SPORTS REPORT

Oic Sports Co-ordination Lt J D Hart RAOC
Capt M F Fox REME

Summer Term 1975

The summer term saw brilliant weather help to encourage the various sports teams. It was therefore most gratifying to see both the College cricket and athletics teams reach their respective Army Junior Knock-Out Competition Finals. Unfortunately after their good early round runs they neither won their finals, belittled by our much larger rivals from Harrogate and Chepstow.

During the athletics season 44 apprentices qualified for various standards of AAA 5 Star awards. A/Pte Hamill represented the Junior Army Team at 5,000m and A/Sgt Sheldrick gained 3rd in the Army Junior High Jump Championships.

In golf we had the distinction of taking 1st, 3rd and 4th places in the SE District Junior Championships through A/Lcpl Dean, A/Pte Cavanagh and A/Pte Street.

Other sports pursued in the summer, but with less distinction, included swimming, canoeing, tennis, sub-aqua and sailing.

Winter Term 1975

During the winter term teams have been fielded in the following sports - football, rugby, canoeing, and cross-country.

The football squad has formed three teams which have competed in SE District Leagues. Mixed success has been achieved by the 2nd and 3rd teams both ending up in the lower half of their League, however, some promising new talent has emerged from these teams. The 1st team has had an excellent season finishing runners-up in both the SE District League and in the Army Junior Cup Final, each time being beaten by the Paras. A/Sgt Dagnall and A/Lcpl Tracey both represented the Junior Army team during the season.

The rugby squad formed a completely new team with no survivors from past teams. During the season they have won seven of their eight games, collecting 230 points against 67 against them. Four of the team, namely A/Sgt Sheldrick, A/Lcpl Mastin and A/Ptes Moore and Davies represented the Junior Army XV. Swiney Platoon

won the Inter Platoon Competition from Body Platoon by 30 points to nil.

In canoeing, a relatively new sport for the College, A/Lcpl Richards and A/Lcpl Lawrence came 2nd and A/Lcpls Wilkinson and Bolwell were 3rd in the Army Wild Water Canoeing Championships at Richmond, Yorks at the end of November in the Canadian Double Canoe Class. In view of the cold water and tricky navigation required to cover the five miles of low water, low due to this summer's drought, their performance caught the eye of the Army Canoe Union for future training. A/Pte Austin and A/Pte Barley were respectively 4th and 7th in the Kayak Single class and were also impressive.

The Cross Country team has not fared so well due to a lack of depth, however, their enthusiasm has remained high even in defeat and A/Lcpls Lake, Liddle and A/Pte Dorn have run with moderate success.

Other activities carried out this winter include swimming, in which 10 boys achieved their ASA Fitness Personnel Awards, 10 achieved their 1500 metres distance awards and four their 800 metres awards.

Sub aqua has seen much enthusiasm and standards improved to the stage where some of the apprentices are ready for their 3rd and 2nd Class Diving awards. Both Angling and Shooting have taken place but mainly for the purpose of forming teams for future competitions.

Gymnastics has also been pursued with a very successful squad taking part in various displays around the area. Their hard work and enthusiasm is to be congratulated.

Two sports pursued but with no team competition as yet, have been basketball and hockey. We hope they will be "off the ground" next term.

Spring Term 1976

There was no hesitation in starting sports this term, as our bloated bodies from Christmas leave were launched into the inter platoon sports competition. Although this continued until March, enthusiasm did not generally waver. It was a source of great interest to watch the results being plotted, and the consequent changing positions of platoons. However, the final result was an overall win by Blenheim Platoon.

There were still more inter-platoon/company competitions to come, which deserve a separate mention, before relating the College team events. There was first the inter platoon football, which after a few knock-out rounds, resulted in those giants of the football world, Body and Alamein, meeting for the final game. It was, as promised, a close match resulting in a win for Alamein Platoon - the score 6-4.

In soccer the College 1st XI have had another excellent season. They were runners-up in the SE District League. They also reached the final of the Army Cup, only to lose 2-1 to a very fit Junior Para side. The climax of the season was a victory in the District League Cup, defeating an old rival, the Junior Guards by 2-1.

The hockey team, formed from the survivors of Junior RGJ team. Morale was scaled down, however, after a defeat by C Coy REME Apprentices College.

A well intentioned but doubtful combination of Apprentices and Permanent Staff formed a team, only to be defeated in all eight games, despite including the fastest man on four legs, Capt P. Haden.

Our ski team were also the first in the College to enter the Junior Army Ski Championships. The team moved to Scotland on 9 March 1976, and lived at Loch Marlich camp site. The result was a fifth place for the A team and the B team, 13th out of 23 teams, which for their limited training, was a very good effort.

The sub aqua squad continue to gain in experience. 13 divers have now completed their 3rd class test and lectures, and now await to take their final qualifying exam. Penally Camp should prove the climax to their sport.

Summer Term 1976

This has been a term of intense activity and sport has had to take its turn alongside all the other College summer activities which are reported in detail elsewhere as, indeed, are all the major sports as well. Suffice here to mention but two. In canoeing, we entered the Army Sprint and Long Distance Championship. We did not win any prizes although managed to reach several finals even though we were competing against canoes of far better design and weight than our own. The following apprentices have won their proficiency award: A/Lcpl Johns, A/Pte Hodgson, A/Pte Hexton. This term the Canoe Club has managed to build three canoes, otherwise apart from training the Canoe Club has been quietly ticking over. Next comes Full Bore Shooting.

The College Rifle team competed at the REME, RAOC and SE District and Army meetings. At the RAOC meeting the Juniors excelled themselves by winning the RAOC Inter Unit Rifle Match and finished runners up in the Falling Plates. In the

Snap Shooting match the spare team of Juniors entered for the College and outshot all the other adult teams. At the SE District meeting although we did not win any major trophies the team came first and second in the Falling Plates. At the Junior Army meeting, special mention must be made of A/Pte Pain of Alamein Platoon who came third in the individual Junior Army SMG, and the team came top of all other Services at the meeting. Overall a very successful season.

CRICKET

Officer in Charge — Wg Comd P W Hope RAF (Retd)

Assistant — Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)

Having trained hard in the Sunningdale Indoor Cricket School during the Spring term we felt that this could be our year for winning the Army Junior Cup. It was not to be because in the semi-final we met a buoyant side from the Junior Leaders Regiment RE and were well beaten.



The College Cricket Squad: Names appear in the text

However, the College Cricket Club, with a membership which varied during the season between 20 and 25, has won more games than it has lost and, even more important, has turned many apprentices who started the season as "uncertain cricketers" into players who are now justifiably proud of their skills and have a real liking for the game. Your reporter regards this progress as the Club's most newsworthy item and greatest achievement.

As for the individual players, special mention must be made of the Captain A/Cpl Wheater. He is a fine medium-fast swing bowler and, on occasions, a free scoring bat. If he maintains his present rate of progress he could well be an Army player within a year or so. Congratulations 'skipper' on your personal performance and for instilling your team with enthusiasm in such a pleasant and effective way.

Other players who served the College well on occasions include: Vice Captain Daly of Benghazi Platoon who has the makings of a stylish and fluent batsman; Daly of Senior B whose bowling from his great height frequently troubled the opposition; Sharpe, a player of considerable talent who is not yet applying himself consistently; Brown who has developed in a few weeks from an occasionally effective 'slogger' into a sound and careful accumulator of elegant runs; and, finally, wicketkeepers Cronin and Ahmet, both of whom are already good club standard behind the stumps and effective "tonkers".

The players already mentioned have been our stars but cricket is essentially a team game: all the following apprentices contributed in their various ways to the Club's successful season and are entitled to the College's congratulations:

Wheater, Davies, White and Combes of Arakan Platoon; Macdonald, Snell and Buckley of Aden; McLean, Ewers and Brown of Ardennes; Edwards and White of Balaclava; Daly and Kincaid of Benghazi; Surtees of Burma; Sharpe of Blenheim; McBurney of Aden; and Daly, Cronin and Ahmet of Senior B.

As a postscript I must record two successes

gained late in the term. The first was a resounding victory over the Training Centre side and the second a moral victory over the Permanent Staff. Only Major Beaumont's 'gift of the gab' saved the day for the old hands.

Finally the College Cricket Cup was won handsomely by A Company for whom Cpl Wheater reserved one of his best innings.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Officer in Charge - Lt C Manvell RAEC

Assistants Sgt D C Hardstaff REME

Cpl L L Cook RAOC

The 1975-76 cross country season was not very successful counted in terms of trophies won. However, despite finishing in the lower half of the SE District Junior Cross Country League, the small squad of apprentices involved trained hard and ran to the best of their ability. In addition to league matches, the College was involved in other events. Firstly the RAOC Training Centre Championships. A/Ptes Dorn and Vanstone finished first and second respectively in the junior event. In the Army Junior Championships, our runners ran gallantly against much superior opposition. A/Pte Rostron was our first placed runner in the Zone Finals.



The College Cross Country Race March 1976. Starter in difficulties



The Over 30s claim their prize



"Where's Vanstone?" Lake comes 2nd



Mrs Bruce presents the trophy



"Still going strong!"

The College was asked by the Surrey Association of Boys Clubs to organise their annual race for teams from the home counties and London. The College entered a team representing the Kon Tiki Club but who also ran for Surrey. It was most pleasing to see our apprentices win the team event by a wide margin. The team of A/Sgt Strang, A/Lcpl Lake, A/Ptes Pattison, Millicen, Rostron and Vanstone have been awarded county colours.

The season was brought to a conclusion by the College Cross Country race held on Saturday 27 March. Some 270 apprentices and Permanent Staff made a massed start just failing to trample the starter under-foot. First home over the four mile course was A/Pte Vanstone in an excellent time of 23.30 minutes. He was followed home by A/Lcpl Lake and A/Pte Rostron. In fifth place was Capt Byles. The Commanding Officer and Major Maby ran strongly and finished well ahead of the tail of the field. The inter-platoon Shield was won by Alamein Platoon, whilst the gallon of beer was consumed with great satisfaction by the Over 30s Permanent Staff team.

The following apprentices have been awarded their College colours: A/Sgt Cull, A/Sgt Strang, A/Lcpl Lake, A/Ptes Pattison, Milligan, Kendall, Rostron, Vanstone.

GOLF

Officer in Charge — Lt M Sullivan REME (Summer 75)

Lt J Payne REME (Summer 76)

Assistants — Sgt J D Lee RAOC

Cpl W A O'Neill RAOC

Lt Col S Schofield Royal Signals (Retd)

Summer Term 1975

Golf practice began in earnest at the end of May on the return of the College from Tenby. About 20 apprentices showed interest in golf, but for instructional and administrative reasons, the number had to be reduced to 10. After some preliminary testing, the squad was reduced to the following apprentices:

Lcpl Dean	B Coy	Pte Cavangh	A Coy
Lcpl Platten	A Coy	Pte Turner	A Coy
Lcpl Street	A Coy	Pte Brighton	B Coy
Pte Austen	A Coy	Pte McLachlan	B Coy
Pte Sneddon	A Coy	Pte Green	B Coy

The programme which followed consisted of practice during hobbies on Mondays and Wednesdays, professional tuition on Tuesdays and playing on Thursdays at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot. Membership of the Army Golf Club was obtained through the kindness of the

Commanding Officer for three apprentices.

The sport increased in popularity and the squad became more and more proficient. Many rounds of golf were played at Aldershot, where the value of accuracy off the tee soon became apparent after several safaris into the trees.

Clubs and balls were borrowed from various sources in order to get the sport going. In this connection our thanks are due to the Commanding Officer who produced a No 3 Wood and Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield who donated several clubs, golf balls and other pieces of kit.

On 25 July 1975 most of the members of the squad were entered for the South East District Junior Army Golf Championships. The professional tuition, coupled as it had been with practice on hobbies evenings and with play at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot, on Thursdays, soon bore fruit as the following extract from Part I Orders shows:

"Result of SE District Junior Golf Championship played at the Army Golf Club on 25 July 1975:

Handicap Division

1st	Lcpl Dean	B Coy	(Nett 58)
3rd	Pte Cavanagh	A Coy	(Nett 61)
4th	Pte Street	A Coy	(Nett 65)

Prize for best 9 holes: Pte Street A Coy

Spring and Summer Terms 1976

Golf was introduced, once again, during the Spring term. The object was to get the apprentices used to swinging a club, hitting the ball and the etiquette of the game on a course. The object was achieved with varying degrees of success.

The Summer term golf sessions had to wait until the College returned from Tenby, when the original squad whittled itself down to the following apprentices:

Grant (B), Patterson (B), Lockett (B), A/Lcpl Jackson (A), A/Ptes Farrington (A), McCready (A), Cook (A), Clyde (A), Blake (A), Crawford (A), Kennedy (A), Woodcock (B), Carrol (B)

- to name the ones able to hit the ball!!

Nature rambles, bruised trees and battlefield fairways are no longer the order of the day. The whole squad have progressed and the standard of play is gradually improving. Balls manage to get from the tee to the hole in a reasonably straight line, often to the astonishment of the player.

The programme to date has been as follows:

a. Monday evenings College sports field for practice.

b. Tuesday afternoon Aldershot Golf course

c. Wednesday afternoon Golf clinic with a professional from the Club.

d. Thursday afternoon Aldershot Golf course

Two of the more accomplished apprentices were entered in the HQ RAOC Training Centre competition and although no prizes were won, much useful experience was gained.

A match was held against the ACC Apprentices College on 29 July 1976 and the College won most comfortably by three matches to nil with one halved. It was hoped that the confidence acquired from this would benefit the players in the South East District Junior Army Championships, as it did last year. Unfortunately this was not to be; again no prizes were won, but A/Pte Carroll came fourth in the open competition.

RUGBY

Officer in Charge Lt P Linney RAOC

Assistant A H Rowlands RAOC

Winter Term 1975

The season started with a completely new first XV, and very soon made its presence felt in the district as a Rugby force to be respected.

Over the period of this term they have now played eight games, winning seven with one defeat, amassing a total 230 points for and 67 against. It has also been a term where four of the College team have been chosen to represent the Junior Army XV, they are:

A/Sgt Sheldrick	Swiney Platoon
A/Pte Moore	Swiney Platoon
A/Lcpl Mastin	Arakan Platoon
A/Pte Davies	Arakan Platoon

The term also saw the inter platoon 7-a-side competition which provided some very close and hard fought games, with Swiney Platoon eventually running out as the winners by beating Body Platoon by 30 points to nil and thereby winning the Rowlands Shield.

Next term sees the College in two Cup competitions, the South East District Cup and the Junior Army Cup.

Spring Term 1976

The successful start made in September 1975 in the SE District Junior Units Rugby League Championship was continued and culminated in the College winning the League. The team played a total of 10 games, winning 8, losing 2. It was points that decided the winner, the College scoring 318 with 71 against. The runners up, the Junior Paras scoring 214 with 69 against. This is believed to be the first time the College has won a major trophy. Mention should also be made of A/Sgt Sheldrick, A/Lcpls Mastin and Walker, A/Ptes Moore and Davies, for being selected for the Junior Army squad. This must be the best season that Rugby has had in the College.

SOCCER

Officer in Charge Lt J C Williams REME



Back row: (L to R) *A/Pte Watson A/Pte Scott, A/Pte Davies, Sgt Earl (Coach), A/Lcpl Andrews, A/Cpl Liddle A/Lcpl Smith A/Cpl Aisbitt*

Front row: (L to R) *A/Pte Stubbington, A/Lcpl White, A/Lcpl Ahmet, Lt J C Williams, A/Lcpl McBurney, A/Sgt Turner A/Sgt Tracey*

The season got under way in late September 1975 with the College attempting to retain the two SE District League Championship trophies won the previous year. With only a handful of experienced players remaining from the successful 1974 league sides, the prospect looked daunting, and it was with some concern that we looked to the large September intake to fill the gaps in our College representative teams.

The 1st XI, consisting mainly of old stalwarts but including several new recruits, were quickly off the mark with a convincing league win by 4-0 over the ACC Apprentices College.

The team settled quickly. In goal, Ahmet was a model of consistency, doing the simple things well, always fearless at the feet of opposing forwards, and able to produce the spectacular

save when needed. Tracey, although disliking the role, turned in flawless performances as sweeper behind the back four, reading the play superbly and soon catching the eye of the Army selector with his commanding displays. The 'powerhouse' of the team, the midfield, portrayed a contrast in styles. On the right, Smith will be remembered for his ball-winning tackles and tremendous work rate. In contrast, the tall Hesling, sometimes lazy, but with aristocratic skills and masterly touches of distribution. The third of the trio, perhaps possessing all the qualities of the other two, and certainly the player singled out for attention by the opposition whenever the College took the field, was the irrepressible 'Chalky' Francis. It was not uncommon to see three or four defenders buzzing around him like angry bees, while he swerved, sidestepped and stroked the ball about before laying it off.

Thirty three goals in six matches bears testimony to the effectiveness of the strikers. Aisbitt at left wing, delighted with his sorcery and tantalising runs, and often supplied the venomous finish. In the middle, McBurney proved the most consistent in finding the net, and the team owes much to his early form and prolific goal scoring. On the right, Dagnall, already an established Army player, provided the width to give McBurney space in the middle and complimented this with electrifying bursts of speed, close ball control and devastating finishing.

Above all the game was about teamwork, and the College built steadily on its already sound reputation for producing skilful, competitive play on the field, coupled with the highest standards of personal conduct. The College inflicted heavy defeats on all three Arborfield teams, winning 5-1 against A Company, 12-0 against C Company and 8-0 against D Company. The game against the RAPC Apprentices, played at Winchester on their dreaded sloping pitch, was a hard fought battle with the College maintaining their 100% record with a good 2-0 win.

The final game of the term was played at Pirbright against the Junior Guards, also unbeaten but having dropped a point in an earlier match against the Pay Corps. The College needed a draw to retain the League Championship Trophy. In an enthralling match during which the College led by 2-0 at one stage, the Guards won the game 3-2 and took the title by a margin of one point.

Running concurrently with the League we had the Army Cup, open to all Junior soldiers' units. 16 teams entered the competition and in the first round the College met and defeated the Junior Riflemen from Winchester. In the quarter-final the Scottish Junior Division team from Aberdeen travelled down on the weekend of 18 October to find the College team in particularly fine form. Smith opened the scoring after three minutes with a direct free kick from thirty yards that left the Scottish keeper helpless. McBurney scored eight goals with consummate ease, his best ever tally and the College progressed to the semi final with a 10-0 win, Dagnell being the other goal scorer.

In the final on 20 November at the Aldershot Military Stadium we met the Junior Parachute Company. In a game largely dominated by the College, the essential goals went to Junior Para, who emerged as 2-1 winners. With so much of the play it was a story of missed chances and we were left to wonder what might have been had the deserved early goal fell to the College. Para scored first with a free kick just outside the box, against a 'sleeping' defence and their second just after half-time on one of their rare quick breaks. The College pressure was rewarded by a solitary goal from McBurney, a fine effort from the left edge of the penalty area.

The term ended with the annual inter-Company match. This year the honours went to A Company who after absorbing the first ten minutes of pressure from the B Company side, gradually got on top and ran out winners by 5-1. It was unfortunate that Dagnall of B Company, an Army player, was unfit for this game, but even with him in the side, it is doubtful if the result would have been influenced.

The Christmas break put a new complexion on things, and the disappointment of being only runners-up in both the League and Army Cup was soon forgotten. Our sights were now set on the League Cup, and qualifying games against the ACC and RAMC Apprentices College, and C Company of the Army Apprentices, Arborfield. We had an unbeaten run in the qualifying games to emerge as top of Group 2 and met the runners up of Group 1, the RAPC Apprentices College in the semi-final at Aldershot. We were in good form for that game and progressed through to the final with a comfortable 4-0 win with Aisbitt producing everything that afternoon from his bag of tricks. The stage was set for an epic final, for our opponents were to be the Junior Guardsmen, and our team had not forgotten the last meeting which had cost us the league title.

The Aldershot Services ground was covered in brilliant sunshine on Thursday 4 March 1976 when we took the field against the Guards from Pirbright in the Final.

The referee, WO2 Myers ACC, got the game under way, and immediately the Guards pressed forward and went all out for the early goal. We defended

stubbornly, and at times desperately, and were a trifle lucky not to go a goal down in these early stages. However, after having soaked up the initial pressure we started to settle down, and Watson put Liddle away for a good run down the left, but the final shot failed to find the net. The game developed into an even struggle, play going from end to end, but with the Guards always looking dangerous on the quick break. At the back for the College, Andrews, playing a deep sweeper role, was having a superb game, and Ahmet in goal looked his usual safe and competent self.

After thirty minutes, the College were awarded a free kick in a dangerous position just outside the Guards penalty area. White stepped up and rifled a superb right-foot shot round the wall and past a stranded goalkeeper, only for the referee to disallow the effort on the grounds that the ball had entered the net direct from an indirect free kick. At this stage we were getting well on top, with the midfield of White, Tracey and Watson dominating the midfield. For the Guards, Davies, the centre back was having an excellent game against McBurney.

The teams changed round at half-time, with the pattern of play going much the same. The College with the patient build-up and the Guards breaking quickly out of defence. Ahmet was tested on several occasions, and one reaction save at point blank range from the Guards' No 10 was sheer brilliance. In the final 20 minutes we applied all out pressure in an effort to break the stalemate. McBurney was now beginning to get the better of his tussles with the Guards centre half, and with Turner, Watson, White and Tracey giving full support to the attack, a goal looked imminent. An injury to Watson forced us to bring on Scott on the right wing as substitute, with Liddle dropping back to midfield.

After 90 minutes the game was still at deadlock and two tired teams turned about for a further 10 minutes each way of extra time. This time it was the Guards who dictated the play. A long throw-in from Treadgold found Ward unmarked in the six-yard box. He hammered an unstoppable shot past Ahmet to put the Pirbright team a goal up. The score remained at 1-0 when the sides again turned round for the final 10 minutes of play.

From the first kick the Guards knew they would have to pull out something special to retain their slender lead. The College laid siege to the Guards goal and after four minutes the pressure paid off, with ten red shirts in the Guards half, White sent in a perfectly placed corner, which committed the goalkeeper to come out. Under pressure from McBurney, he dropped the ball and Aisbitt's head steered it into the corner to set the scores level.

We continued to press forward and again the persistent pressure paid off. A chipped in ball found the substitute running in on the blind side, the goalkeeper hesitated, and Scott coolly side-footed it past him from six yards to give the RAOC Apprentices College the winning goal and the 'Sutton Cup'.

The Cup and winners' medals were presented to the College team by Brigadier R C Thorpe OBE.

After the drama of the Sutton Cup final, we turned to internal matters and the preliminary rounds of the inter-platoon knockout tournament. After the initial games, it looked odds on that a platoon from each of the two companies would contest the final, and so it turned out with Body Platoon of B Company and Alamein Platoon of A Company winning through. The final itself turned out to be an incredible match, with Body Platoon going into a seemingly unassailable 4-0 lead. Relentlessly Alamein plugged away, eventually running out 6-4 winners in extra time.

Congratulations to both teams on an exciting game and to Alamein on never giving up the fight.

During the season, three players, Dagnell, Tracey and Ahmet represented the Army Youth side. The latter two were fortunate enough to attend a close season tour with the Army side, playing matches against good opposition in Leicester and Scotland, and also spectating at the Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park. Congratulations to all three players, and it is pleasing to see that Dagnell, who has now left the College, is currently representing the RAOC Corps side.

Finally, a word of thanks to the hard working staff who contributed so much to a very successful season. To Eddie Smith, Peter Hope, Sgts Jim Earl and Geordie Carrick, and Ssgt Tom Flowers, many thanks for all the hard work and may your efforts be as well rewarded next season.

SQUASH

Officer in Charge Lt B F Kane RAEC

Throughout the past year Squash has proved to be one of the College's most thriving sports.

An apprentices' ladder provided motivation for many competitive games; changes at all levels,

especially among the top five, were frequent.

In April the College entered a team in the Army under-17½ Squash Championships. The competition was played on a league basis; the College met four other teams, winning two of the matches and losing the other two. In the Summer term a number of friendly matches were played against other junior soldier units. In all, six apprentices were awarded their College colours.

At the end of the Spring term there were two College championships. The Apprentices Championship attracted eight entries from those at the top of the apprentices' ladder. The final between A/Pte Stubbington and A/Pte While, both of A Company, was played before a packed house. Stubbington won a hard match by 3 games to 1. There were 16 entries for the open Championship. Stubbington again did well to reach the semi-final. The final, played between Capt Byles, A Company and Cpl Smith, HQ Company, immediately after the Apprentices' final was a classic. The match went to two games each and 9 all in the final game. Both players demonstrated great fitness, skill and determination. Smith finally emerged as the winner.

Finally we wish luck to those apprentices who have entered the 1976-77 REME and RAOC Squash Tournaments which will be played towards the end of the year.



A/Pte Stubbington. 1976 College Apprentices Squash Champion



Cpl Smith. 1976 College Open Squash Champion

TENNIS

Officer in Charge	Major P A Easton RAEC
Assistants	W E Smith Esq
	Sgt Davies Int Corps
	Sgt Rice RAOC

Tennis commenced in the first week of June this year because of Summer Camp during the last two weeks of May. This meant a very short season in which to achieve anything at all.

The group started with 14 apprentices, just enough to fill the available courts with 'doubles'. However, the membership swelled to well over 20 as the popularity of the sport became apparent. This meant we had umpires and linesmen as well!

The aim of the tennis season was to teach the whole sport not just have to acquire the skills. All members of the group learned how to umpire a match with the official score pad (at first a tricky and complicated affair) and how to conduct themselves during a tennis match.

Despite the short 'season' we were able to enter six apprentices as singles and doubles players in the Junior Army Tennis tournament held in Aldershot from 9-11 July 1976. These six

certainly did not disgrace themselves after only six weeks of instruction and enthusiastic practice. In fact Field and Tressler were finalists in the doubles, gaining the runners-up prize after being beaten 6-4, 6-4 (a very creditable performance). To complete the season for us 16 players were entered in the Junior Prize competition of the RAOC Tennis Championship for 22-24 July 1976. This was singles only, resulting in a final between Field and Tressler. Field was victorious 6-2, 6-2. It is confidently expected that both of these players will be playing for their Corps in the not too distant future.

In the future it is planned to commence tennis coaching in January 1977 using both outdoor courts when the weather permits and the indoor courts of the Aldershot Officers' Club on inclement days. It is hoped that the longer run-up to the season will achieve even better results and produce more enthusiasm for the sport.



A/Ptes Field (left) and Tressler. Junior Army Doubles Runners-up

ANGLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr W J Waddington

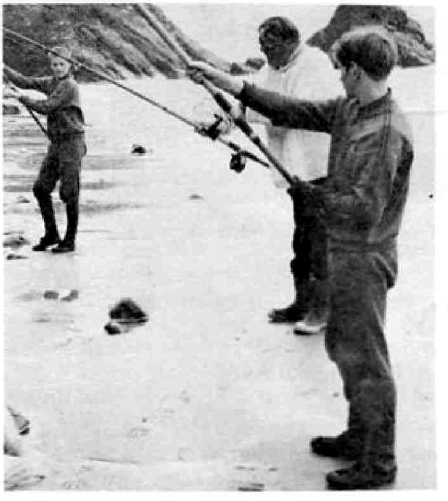
Once again the Annual Camp at Penally in South Wales provided the highlight of the year. Nearly 100 apprentices, many for the first time, went off-shore fishing. Most catches were good, consisting of dog fish, ballhuss, dabs and a near Welsh record rock-fish.

Beach fishing was not so successful, although the art of casting was discovered by many.

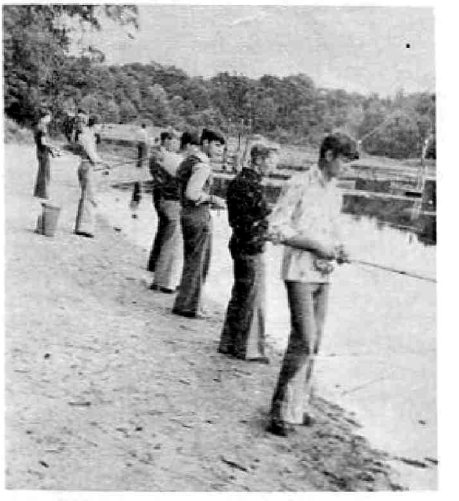
At the beginning of the coarse fishing season nearly 50 apprentices wished to join the club in spite of the £2 licence fee payable to the Thames Water Authority and the Mychett Lake fee. Unfortunately we had to limit the numbers to 20. Mychett Lake too, like so many other inland waters, has suffered from the drought of the summer months, but many 3 lb tench are still being caught.



Off-shore angling - Milford Haven



Learning the art of beach casting - Monk's Point



Coarse angling - Mychett Lake

CANOEING

Officer in Charge Lt P A Ball RAOC

On Thursday 22 July, it was a happy 11 year old Nicholas Reynolds who saw a car pulling up outside his home at 6 Lime Grove, Hayling Island. The occasion was the delivery of a brand new canoe, built by the RAOC Apprentices College Canoe Club, and won by Nicholas in a raffle at the Aldershot Army Show. Making the presentation were Cpl Ian Rosales, A/Pte Christopher Petty and A/Pte Anthony Foster. Nicholas intends to use the boat in one of the creeks near his home and, next term, under the auspices of the Hayling Island Secondary School Canoe Club.



L to R: Nicholas Reynolds Mrs Reynolds Cpl Rosales A/Ptes Petty and Forster

GLIDING

Officer in Charge Capt A P Haden RAOC

Last October the College formed a gliding club; the unit took out a block membership of the Army Kestrel Club based at RAF Odiham and up to eight apprentices at a time were able to enjoy a day's tuition.

For many it was their first flight in an aeroplane, for others it was a change from the commercial jet which takes them from Luton to perhaps Dusseldorf in one hour.

The novice is strapped into a two-seater trainer (no parachutes till you've learned to fly, sonny!) and his stomach tightens as a tractor chugs slowly towards him from the other end of the airfield. Attached to a towbar on the tractor is a steel cable, about five millimetres in diameter. The other end of the cable is connected to a winch, hull-down over the airfield horizon. The pupil hears the magic mnemonic - CB SIFT CB - Controls, ballast, straps, instruments, flaps, trim, canopy, brakes.

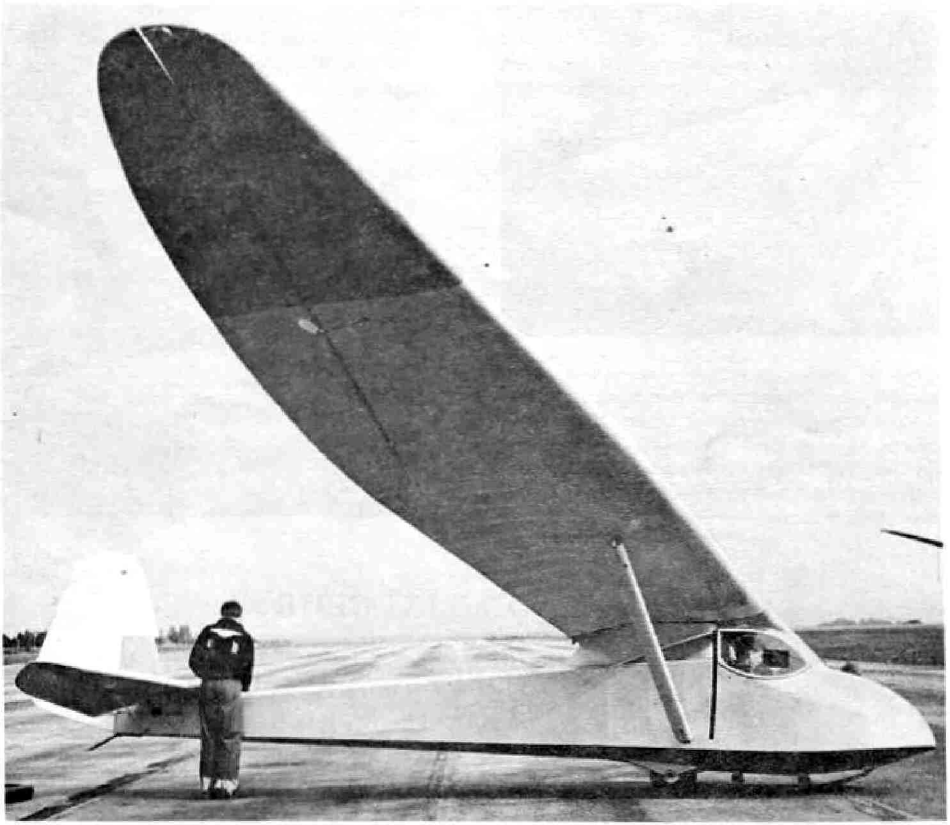
"Brakes closed and locked, cable on please."

The instructor pulls a large yellow knob and the cable mechanism ring will drop several minutes and one thousand feet later.

"All clear above and behind?"

"All clear" from the ground crew. One last glance at the field.

"Up slack please."



The signal lights flash from the top of the control caravan and the winch driver engages gear. Slowly the cable tightens and the glider twitches forward on its single wheel. The ground crew are holding up the wing.

"All out!"

Rapid acceleration, two or three bumps and she's off. A gentle climb to about 100 feet. Nothing worse than a stall too near the ground. No problem this time, however, plenty of speed and a safe height. Now, back on the stick into a climb angle. The pupil feels as though he's lying on his back. There is no noise, just a sound of rushing wind.

Slowly the nose is pulled down by the cable. The pilot eases it down a fraction more to remove the tension and pulls the yellow knob - twice to be sure. It is quieter now, in level and almost silent flight. Below is Odiham, in the distance is Basingstoke.

On an initial flight the pupil is invited to sit back and enjoy the view. Later is practicees the turns, stalls and even the spins which he must master before he can fly solo. He may find a thermal, that rising bubble of hot air which will lift the glider several thousand feet. He may have only a few minutes flying time before he must turn downwind and position the glider for the final approach. Three hundred feet. Turning final. Fifty five knots. Select half air-brake. The turf looms up to meet the glider. The pilot makes an initial check back with the stick to give a shallow approach angle, then "rounds out" to hold the glider inches above the ground. Finally it loses flying speed and sinks to the grass. A short taxi-run and the flight is over.

"Enjoy that, did you?"

Gulp. "Yes".

"Want to learn, do you?"

"Er, yes, please."

"Great. So now get out and push the glider back to the launch point!"





About 50 apprentices have been introduced to the sport in the past year. For some it will be no more than an experience. Others may become addicts. Once in the blood it stays there. Either way, soaring above the Hampshire countryside at five thousand feet on a sunny Sunday morning takes some beating!

THE KON TIKI CLUB

Officer in Charge Miss Eileen Jones WRVS

Miss Pamela Riddell WRVS

Valete by Eileen

Regretfully I am writing in the Thunderbolt for the last time, as I am due to be posted to Chepstow in June.

There have been many changes during my stay. Our old club was pulled down (not before time!) and we now have a much more comfortable room for the boys' use, with chocolate and cigarette machines, computer football and bar billiards as the latest innovations.

Normally the Clubrooms are well used, but since the lighter evenings I am not seeing as much of of the boys as usual, as of course they are out on the playing fields - much better pastime I might add, than sitting in our smoky "den of iniquity" as the Kon Tiki Club is frequently called. In fun I hope?

Our numbers vary and although at present we have 340 boys (approximately) in the College we have had as many as 600 after a particularly large intake.

Being a resident of Deepcut for nearly five years I have naturally become very attached to the College, and indeed, the whole area, and it really will be quite a wrench to leave all my friends.

I should like to take this opportunity to say how very much I have enjoyed working with the RAOC and to thank everyone for the help given to me over many happy years.

Sincerely, Eileen

Best of Luck at Chepstow, Eileen!
Editor from all

MODEL MAKING/ ART CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

The Model Making Club moved to a larger room in September enabling the club to expand both in terms of membership and space in which to work.

Corporal Duke joined the club at this time and has proved a valuable member, starting two apprentices on a long term project building relief

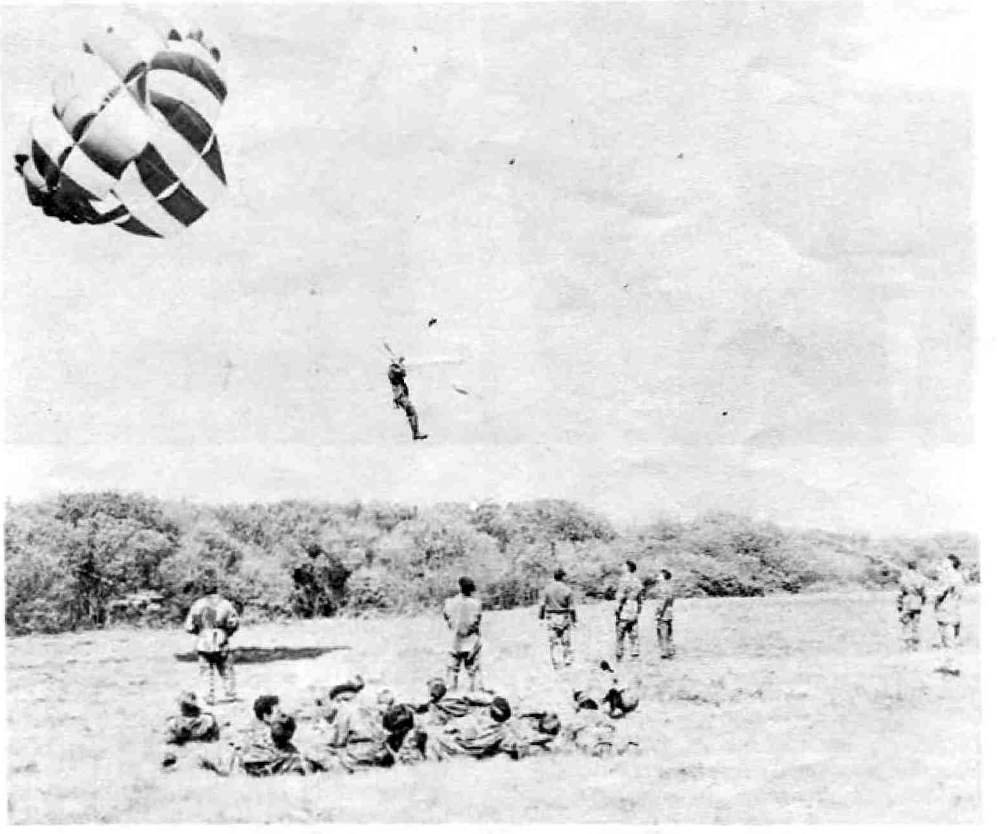
models to illustrate map reading lectures.

In November the Model Making hobby amalgamated with the Art hobby to form one creative Arts hobby. This has brought into the combined club the indispensable talents of Mrs Souter and Lt Hart. The club has benefited from the combination as it has allowed apprentices to discover hidden talents. Apprentices who thought their limit was sticking together plastic models have found new pleasures in painting in oils or in other creative pursuits.

PARASCENDING

Officers in Charge Major P A Easton RAEC

Major G D Beaumont RAEC



The Easter Recess saw Majors Easton and Beaumont preparing revised SOP for the Army Ascending Parachute Association. These were finished, approved and adopted at midday on the day preceeding the unit move to camp at Penally. At Templeton and Castlemartin airfields over 350 launches were achieved in spite of days of high wind. Because of the two day allocation of each group to the activity, it was, in certain cases, possible to progress to self release by the pupil ascenders. A/Cpl White and A/Pte Rideout accompanied members of the Permanent Staff to the BAPC National Championships at Oakington Airfield on 17-18 July. In return for sterling work at various administrative camp site duties, they were able to participate in long line launches to 600 feet and begin accuracy training.

The College sports field has been the scene of short line introductory training this term. The

club is hampered by lack of a suitable airfield in its attempt to pursue continuation training. Negotiations are in hand for the use of Queen's Parade, Aldershot, as a partial answer. Advanced training, however, must wait on the finding of suitable facilities and will probably, even then, have to be on a weekend basis. It is planned, however, to send teams to next year's BAPC National Championships.



SAILING CLUB

Officer in Charge **Mr J F Watson**

Assistants **Mr M F Johnson**

Lt M H P Buchanan RAOC

Undoubtedly the highlight of 1976 was the launching of our new offshore yacht "Thunderbolt".

Three years ago our then SEO, Major Harry Richmond, suggested that we, as a club, ought to stop building small dinghies and try our hand at a 'big one'. We applied for and were fortunate in getting an Army welfare grant which enabled us to buy the fibre glass hull which we considered most suitable for use in the College, that is, small enough to be housed during building operations and yet big enough to take five people to sea.

The gleaming white hull finally arrived and was safely installed in the sailing club where it sat for almost a year before we tackled our project. No - we weren't afraid of it - we were just too busy building another boat. The same SEO had convinced us to build an "Aston Longboat" and I am sure that many of you have seen and indeed sailed in "Craftsman".

I know that two previous COs and many officers and visitors have gazed at the dusty hull and wondered if it were to be a permanent fixture on the sailing club floor. When "Craftsman" was completed - and proved to be a success, we set about the task of turning what many regarded as a 'white elephant' into a sea-going yacht.



"Thunderbolt" at sea with Jim Watson at the helm and Mike Johnson and Pte Haden as crew

When our present CO had been with us for a term he came into the club one day and asked: "Are you ever going to put that thing on the water?" I don't know whether it was his obvious challenge or the fact that he referred to our beautiful yacht as a 'thing' that spurred Mike Johnson and I on to finish the construction and launch it for use in 1976.

In June she was ready! An inboard engine; five bunks; cooker; water tank; sink and all the many smaller items necessary for comfort and safety at sea. The insurance company accepted her as a sea-worthy risk and valued her at £6,750.

We had turned an investment of £2,200 into a yacht worth £6,750. Yes - we felt very, very proud! She looked beautiful - everybody said so - but would she sail?

On Thursday 24 June she was lifted from an Army 'ten tonner' and lowered gently into the murky waters at Marchwood.

She floated - she didn't leak a single drop! We stepped the mast; rigged her; hoisted brand new sails and left the murky waters, heading for the 'mecca' of all yachtsmen - Cowes.

For three days we put her through her paces and she proved to be a very, very good sailing boat. Unfortunately we had to leave her on her mooring at Gosport and return to Deepcut. Everytime I walk into the sailing club and look at the empty floor space I have a little grin - a quiet chuckle - she's no longer a dusty white elephant, she's a very pretty little yacht bobbing on her moorings at Gosport.

After several trips to sea, some adjustments and a few minor alterations, Mike Johnson and I decided to ask the CO if he would come down to Gosport to name the boat and perhaps even risk a short trip in her.

At 1400 hrs on 27 July our yacht was officially named "Thunderbolt". The Colonel and the Adjutant explored Portsmouth harbour aboard her and at 1630 hrs the same day Mike Johnson and I, with three apprentices aboard, left Portsmouth for a three day trip which we named "Exercise Offshore I". During the past few years offshore sailing has become a very popular sport in the services for it offers real adventure, healthy exercise and can be, on occasions, a real test of leadership.

We hope that in the years to come many, many apprentices and members of the permanent staff will take part in and enjoy "Exercises Offshore" aboard our own yacht "Thunderbolt".

It only remains for me to say thank you. Thank you to three COs who have watched and waited so patiently. Thank you to all the permanent staff who have assisted us; and finally thank you to all the apprentices who have worked with us over the past three winters.

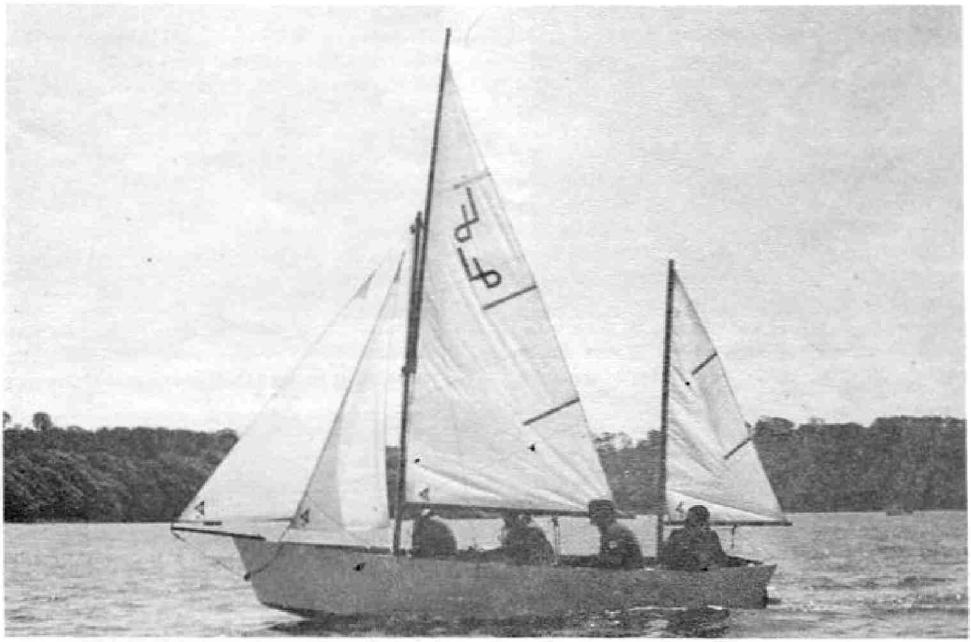
Dinghy Sailing

Meanwhile the advent of the offshore section of the Sailing club has not diminished the activities of the dinghy sailors. Indeed, under the skilled





guidance of Lt Buchanan they have gone from strength to strength, culminating in some very fine racing at the RAOC Regatta at Netley in July 1976. The following photographs show members in action at Milford Haven during Summer camp at Penally.



"Craftsman" in full rig. Penally 1976

SUB AQUA CLUB - DEEPCUT DIVERS

Officer in Charge Capt A P Byles RAOC

Diving Officer Lt J P 'Flipper' Hopkinson RAOC

The monsters arose from their deep, eerie lair;
A vision of terror, a horror so rare!
Oh no! Are those bubbles arising I see
Run for your lives! Deepcut divers they be!!

Anon and Apologies (many)



"The Monsters"

Despite the numerous uncomplimentary and exasperated comments from the various Platoon Commanders who have been asked to release their boys at the most inconvenient times, the Sub Aqua Club continues to expand and to fin along speedily with the minimum of splash.

The Club, in fact, was re-activated in the spring of 1975 and the first real chance of sea training and general progress came whilst at Tenby that summer. Its members at that stage were small: Capt Byles as OIC, A/Pte Roberts of Hill Platoon as the other qualified 3rd class diver and A/Sgts Marshall and Shelton, and A/Ptes Balfour and Nicholls as enthusiastic novices. Shrinkle Haven and Manorbier Bay provided superb training grounds, although were not too popular with the novices as the initial tests had to be done without wet suits. However, Deepcut Divers did it undaunted! Capt Byles and Roberts managed two good dives from the fishing boat of Tom Scholl, much to the interest of our worthy onlooking fisherman.

Back at Deepcut pool training continued and our open water diving was done at Horsea Lake, near Portsmouth. The winter was no barrier and we dived and snorkelled whenever we could. The arrival of Lt Hopkinson, a 2nd class diver, in September 1975 meant a great boost for progress and, together with the hope that our application for a grant for a great deal more equipment would be successful, we really felt in business.

The official Club Log Book was opened and started by registering dives at far flung places such as Stoney Cove in Leicestershire and Penhale in Cornwall. By now we had increased our number to 14, additions being A/Cpl Lawrence and A/Ptes Dear, Moore, Reynolds, Taaffe, Taylor 941, Taylor 168, Thompson, Wiscombe, Whittall and Woodcock. We therefore felt ready to tackle an expedition to Fort Bovisand at Plymouth in May of this year, during the Easter leave. The new equipment arrived just in time and, with Capt Byles at the wheel of a somewhat misfiring Bedford RL, the Club moved south towards Plymouth and the deep.

Lcpl Tom O'Brien, a 3rd class diver from the Regimental Depot, was a welcome new edition to the Club for this expedition, Exercise "Bovisand Bonus", and we lost no time in finishing off the small amount of initial training left to do before we started to log up some good diving. We spent a total of 66 hours underwater, generally 'grotting' around among the kelp and crabs, talking to the fish and otherwise informing the undersea world that man is a truly odd species. But our novices were novices no longer and they had reached the stage, after the lectures and training were over, of being able simply, without apprehension or fear, to 'don a bottle and dive'.



A/Pte Roberts Tom Scholl Capt Byles

Within a fortnight of returning from 'Bovvy', we were off again to College Camp at Tenby. A Company divers had the first five days, by now having been joined by A/Pte Watson, and B Company the other five days. The weather wasn't too kind overall, but we had some good diving none-the-less, including a working dive where we cleared a yacht's propellor of rope. We had the odd drama too. Capt Byles and A/Pte Watson surfaced from a dive to discover that the sea-



Two unrecognisable specimens

surface had gone mad, the assault boat tossing like a cork, much to the horror of its occupants, and the current sweeping on to the rocks. Our



"Cast off forward!"

training, however, prevailed and, thanks to the boatmanship of Lt Hopkinson, man beat the elements for once. The other out of the ordinary event occurred again to Capt Byles (he must be a bad omen!) and, this time, A/Pte Dear. At 80 feet down, in pitch darkness (neither divers could see each other), they began to surface. They finned upwards for a good three minutes with no effect at all as they discovered they were still on the bottom. A heavy over-current had developed. This was no time for a joke, and curiously enough, neither diver made one. However, stronger finning brought more light and eventually the surface. Again, our fitness training and the old adage "keep your cool" paid off. The healthier diving consisted of fighting man-eating crabs, wrestling with monster octopi, and generally chasing killer sharks.

After College Camp we welcomed two new recruits from Barossa Platoon, A/Ptes Hughes and Cooper, both of whom are successfully com-



Off to the deep



"A motley bunch. They look better underwater!"

pleting their initial training. At the time of going to print they have just been introduced to that marginally important piece of kit - the cylinder.

Lt Hopkinson has just taken Capt Byles on his 2nd Class Diver exam which lasted for five hours and it is rumoured that Lt Hopkinson was the more exhausted, trying to find questions Capt Byles could answer. However, seriously though, an overflowing ashtray and a room full of empty beer cans later, he passed and now he too has a licence to kill novices. The lads have been taking their 3rd class exams, all of them with success, and they thoroughly deserve their achievement through hard work and enthusiasm.

Our next fathomstone is the Regimental Weekend fete, at which we shall be putting on a display of eating, drinking and playing cards underwater.



"Flipper about to flip"



"Flipper and partner flipping"



A/Pte Taylor, his feet and hat



"Mermaid?"

Impossible you say? Well then, folks, just roll-up, roll-up. Deepcut Divers do it again! Anything you can do on the surface, Deepcut Divers can do it deeper. And that means ANYTHING!!!

SWIMMING

Officer in Charge Major P A Easton RAEC

Assistants	Lt P Linney REME	Sgt S C Bonta RAOC
	W Waddington Esq	Sgt C D Harris RAOC
	Cpl S Duke RAOC	Sgt J F Kreft RAOC

Unlike the last year reported upon 1975-76 has seen swimming as a permanent and continuous part of the sports programme. This has been most beneficial to a large number of apprentices as they have had at least three terms of progressive training and improvement resulting in the successes reported below.

We finished a year of hard work in July 1976 by entering a team in the RAOC Corps Champion-

ships held in the RMA Sandhurst pool. Against strong opposition, and to the shock of COD Bicester, we won the Championships. In fact, we beat COD Bicester by 80 points. The last time the College won the Cup was in 1972. We also held it for the three years prior to that, and we now fully intend to hang on to it.

We owe a lot of our success to the efforts of A/Pte Payne who won the 200 metres and 100 metres Free-style in record times, knocking 11

Throughout the year we have concentrated most of our efforts on ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) and STA (Swimming Teachers Association) swimming awards. 75% of the 37 swimmers have passed at least two of the awards during this term. These range from ASA Personal Survival, Bronze and Silver; and STA Distance Awards up to 3,000 metres (2 miles). A/Ptes Baughen, Stewart and Fazakerley deserve a special mention. At the beginning of the summer they could hardly swim more than a couple of



seconds and 6 seconds respectively off the old times. He also came 2nd in the finals of the Backstroke, being pipped at the post by A/Lcpl Andrews. He then helped A/Lcpls Andrews and Mason and A/Pte Wickham to win the Medley relay. Not wishing to tire himself, he only entered two more events. A/Sgt Wilson, A/Lcpl Mason, A/Ptes Broadbent and Wickham won the Breaststroke relay. In the Chain of Command race we did not command very well, and had to settle for 3rd place.

The full team consisted of Lt Linney, Sgt Kreft, Cpl Duke, A/Sgt Wilson, A/Lcpls Andrews and Mason and A/Ptes Payne, Broadbent, Benjamin, Hulley, Saunders and Wickham. Congratulations to all!

lengths. Showing great determination they have passed ASA Silver and all the STA awards up to 3,000 metres by the end of term. Well done!

September 1976 started a new College year with many newcomers to the sport. Those left from the previous year have already started well with ASA Gold Awards. Life Saving classes have progressed and we hope to have our first successes in the Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Medallion Awards very soon. We have also commenced style improvement coaching so that we can meet our aims for 1977. These are to retain the RAOC Championship Cup and take the team prize in the Army Junior Championships in July 1977.

OPERATION WHITE LODGE

By the Padre - Rev A C Stockbridge CF

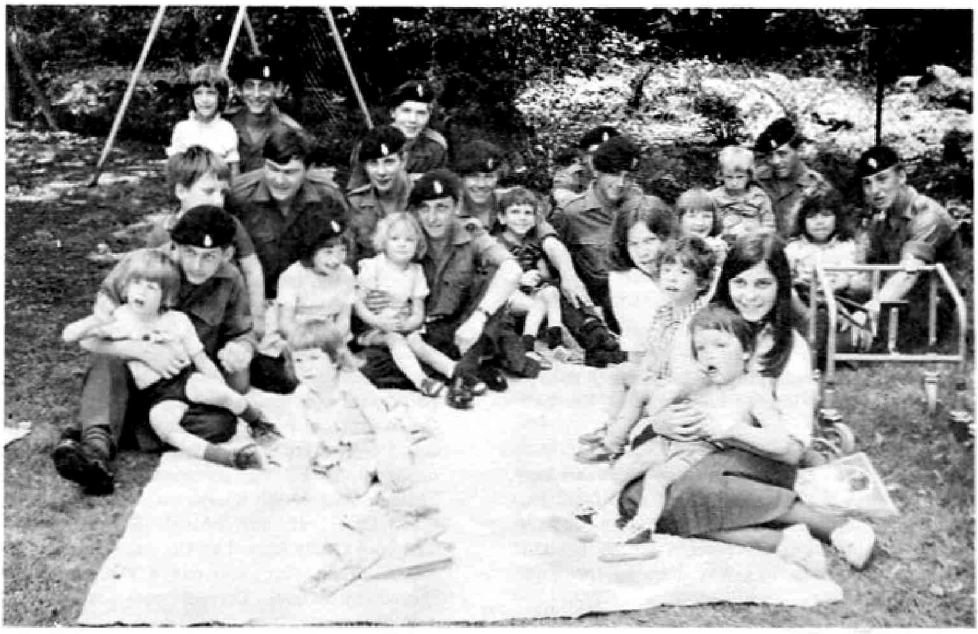
For some years now the College has raised money, through a door-to-door collection, to help the White Lodge Centre for Spastic Children at Chertsey. The amount raised each year has always reached several hundred pounds. This year the total broke all records - £1,038.

This magnificent sum was achieved in spite of





Arras Platoon presents the cheque. CO, Adjutant and Padre watching



Arras Platoon with children and staff of White Lodge

there being fewer boys taking part than in previous years.

The choice of date for the collection this year may have had something to do with it; 3 April - Grand National day. Some of the more enterprising members of the College decided to visit the betting shops where punters, filled either with euphoria for their wins or sorrow for their sins, felt moved to give to charity. Perhaps, though, it was mainly the natural charm and sincerity of the apprentices themselves which inspired the public's generosity, despite tightness of money and the cost of living.

The platoon which raised most money and thereby became winners of the Rose Bowl Trophy, presented by the Matron and staff of the White Lodge Centre was Arras Platoon, the smallest and most junior platoon of the College at that time.

Well done, everyone! Good and faithful servants!

EXERCISE LONG HAUL

SPONSORED CYCLE RELAY JOHN O'GROATS-LANDS END

By Capt A T Bettancy RAOC

The idea of taking my platoon of apprentices (Parsons) cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End was born in the Sergeants' Mess, whilst having a quiet pint of beer with my platoon sergeant, Sgt Steve Bonta RAOC.

Each term platoon commanders are allowed four days to hold their own platoon exercise, and after gently persuading the chief instructor to allow us an extra two days for travelling, the idea became a reality.

Then began the task of detailed planning, having only four days in which to cycle approximately 900 miles. It was decided to divide the distance into equal legs of 230 miles and request District Headquarters to assist in unit accommodation for our overnight stops. By doing this we could concentrate our maximum effort on cycling whilst host units could look after our accommodation. Fortunately accommodation was offered within a reasonable travelling distance of the end of the day's cycling. The next stage was to finalise

the route, and many hours were spent browsing over relief maps of Scotland to find the easiest.

Since joining the College the apprentices of Parsons Platoon have done considerable work in the adventure playground of Portesbury School, Camberley, a day school for up to 60 mentally handicapped children aged between 2 and 16 years of age. Such projects included the building of a greenhouse, laying the foundations of a sand pit, repairing the floor of a milk float and the siting of an old rowing boat to make it safe for the children to play in.

Knowing that the school is always short of money it was decided to sponsor the ride in the hope that the platoon could raise a few hundred pounds for cycles, and a larger climbing frame for their playground.

Needless to say the response was overwhelming, not only from unit personnel, but also families, outside military units, businesses in the Camberley area, and staff and parents of the school. Much of the canvassing was done by the boys themselves.

geant was admirably carried out by Lcpl Davies, our loaned driver from 10 Field Workshops.

As the great day loomed near, we were kept very active in making final adjustments to the club cycles (standard Raleigh team racers), packing of kit, converting a 4-ton Bedford into a mobile home and seeing the donations and promises of sponsorship steadily creep over the £500 mark. Rehearsals showed that, with 27 boys, it was best to divide them into three groups of nine and further divide each group into teams of three, taking into account height and build of each boy. Thus, three out of eight cycles would be on the road at any one time and each group would cover approximately 75 miles before a relief group would take over, and the race would go on with each group cycling one leg each day. Our escort vehicle was a landrover and trailer, and the Bedford provided a rest area for non-cyclists. Our PR was provided by the Recruiting Liaison team of the Regimental Depot, driven by SQMS Greenleaf, now retired. A fourth vehicle was very kindly loaned by Colonel Richard Cooke of CAD Longtown, who has a son boarding at Portesbury School. Drivers were loaned by 10



Dressed to take over the cycling
L to R. A/Pte Mellear A/Cpl Griffiths A/Sgt Shelton A/Pte Gray

My co-driver and second in command for the exercise was Lieutenant Peter Linney REME, who commanded Parsons Platoon until they left for man service later in 1975. Although Sgt Bonta had done a lot of the preliminary work leading up to the exercise, he was unfortunately unable to partake on the day. The job of platoon ser-

Field Workshops and REME Arborfield.

First stop and our jumping off point was Fort George, Inverness. In four independent groups the platoon made their way there, either by road or rail. Much to our amazement British Rail enabled phase one to be successfully completed

on time!

After a very pleasant and welcome meal, kit and stores were re-arranged and the first group set off for John O'Groats to begin an exercise that will be remembered by many for a long time to come, for these 16 and 17 year old RAOC and REME apprentices were about to complete an event that relatively few people manage to do in their life span.

We arrived at John O'Groats at 0330 Friday 20 June 1975 and, much to our surprise, we did not need headlights on the vehicles whilst driving so far north. As each day's cycling started so early, we carried fresh rations to provide breakfast on the road for the group cycling first. I still can't fathom out how I got conned into cooking bacon, beans and sausages for nine hungry boys - especially as the only convenient wind shelter was the gents' public loo!



Wishing he too was travelling by car - A/Cpl Bradley

With breakfast over, kit repacked and photographs taken, the exercise finally got under way, with the first team setting off at 0445 hours. 935 miles and 55 cycling hours away, was Land's End and success. We hoped!

Competitive spirit built up straight away by the first team falling 3 mph short of the required average. Despite losing a cycle on the first day (the rear wheel was ruined by a piece of wood thrown up by a passing car) we managed to reach Perth, our target for day 1, at 1915 hours as planned. It was near Perth that we were flagged down by a police patrol car and although the boys had been sweating blood and tears to make up their lost time, even I couldn't believe that we had broken the speed limit. However, they had a message for us to ring Dingwall police station any hour on the hour. On telephoning we learnt that SQMS Greenleaf and A/Ptes Tracey and Archibald were stranded 70 miles north with a broken gearbox - we had encountered our first problem. Fortunately they were mobile the next day and rejoined us at Preston. Our overnight stop that night was with the 45 Royal Marine Commandos at Arbroath.

Soon after the start of day 2, problem two was encountered when A/Pte Cherry got lost. On his pre-route briefing he had been told his final destination was the Forth road bridge, so after we had spent an hour searching for him we decided to backtrack from the bridge. This proved unnecessary as Cherry arrived there just we did - he can't have liked the roads we chose to cycle!

It was heartening to be cheered through CAD Longtown, as it was to encounter a familiar car racing up Shap Fell. Behind the wheel was the familiar sight of Major Henry Lucas, our Company Commander, who had come to see our progress. However, instead of a boot full of beer, he was carrying his golf clubs - hardly adequate sustenance for hardworking young boys!

After a comfortable overnight stay with the Gloucesters at Present, we set out at 0330 again for Shepton Mallet, Somerset. This was to take us through the beautiful scenery of the Wye Valley, on the hottest day of the exercise so far. Problem three was that our relief group travelling in the Bedford were not at the changeover point as planned. We had previously decided that if this happened, the group that was cycling would carry on. And so they went, and it was over five hours later that a relief group took over the cycling. Seldom have I seen such enthusiasm from 16 and 17 year olds, covering 170 miles in 12 hours. Naturally they were allowed the privilege of cycling into Land's End next day. Our overnight stop that night was with 16 Ordnance Support Battalion, Devizes.



Steadily plodding on - A/Pte Watson and A/Sgt Jepson

We woke up on day 4 for our final phase which was to take us to Land's End, a mere 160 miles away. By this stage of the exercise we were easily able to maintain our average mileage, and morale was very high. So good in fact that we arrived at Land's End five minutes ahead of

schedule with five cycles still roadworthy and with no casualties apart from some very tired legs and a few pounds in weight shed on route. For the last 60 miles we were accompanied by our Commanding Officer, Lt Col Paul Vickery and our Chief Instructor, Lt Col Mike Connolly, who joined us at Bodmin.

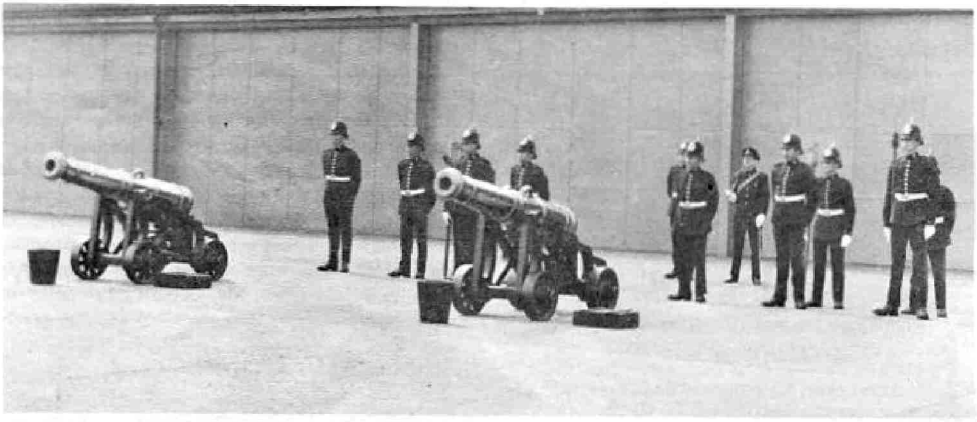
After an overnight stop with the Royal Navy at Culdrose we returned to Deepcut. Success - success for these young apprentices and more amenities for the children of Portesbury School. Our cheque for over £800 was presented to the headmistress, Mrs Alexandra, by A/Sgt Shelton on 15 July 1975.

THE COLLEGE CANNON

By Paul Heap Lt RA (V)

Education Wing

The two guns on parade are of considerable historical interest. They are both light Smooth Bore Muzzle Loading Twenty Four Pounder guns.



The two gun crews ready to fire the 21 gun salute which accompanied the "Feu de Joie" on the Passing Out Parade August 1976

The nearer gun was cast at Woolwich in 1780, during the American War of Independence, by the Master Founders, I & P Verbruggen, whose names are cast into the breech ring. Also moulded on the barrel are the arms of King George III and George, Viscount Townsend, the Master General of Ordnance. The gun weighs. 21 cwt 2 qr 9 lb The further gun was also cast at Woolwich, though 21 years earlier in 1759, in the midst of the Seven Years' War. W. Bowen, the Master Founder's name, appears on the breech ring, with the arms of George II on the first reinforce and the arms of the Master General of Ordnance, John, Viscount Ligonier, on the chase. This piece is 28 pounds lighter, though both are of the same type.

The guns were used throughout the latter half of the 18th century, being withdrawn from service by the end of 1811. They were used both in fortresses mounted on standing carriages, as you see them on parade today, and in seige trains, as battering guns, mounted on heavy, double bracket field carriages.

The guns fired a 24 lb shot about 850 yards, which included two bounces, at zero elevation and 1700 yards at 5 degrees elevation, using an eight pound charge of gunpowder. The muzzle velocity was 1600 ft per second. With a good detachment a rate of fire of one round per minute could be maintained.

COLLEGE CHRISTMAS DAY 1975



The CO takes his turn as waiter at the Christmas dinner



The toast to the Apprentices



The toast to the Permanent Staff

COLLEGE PRIZEWINNERS 1975 - 1976

The boys who win prizes each term are the top twenty (or so) boys of a College some 300 to 400 strong. To be included in this select few is no mean feat and we intend to pay more attention to their achievements. Admittedly their names are engraved on the trophies they win and they take home with them replicas and other prizes to remind them of their moments of triumph. But it is felt that a more permanent record is needed. The lists covering August 1975 to August 1976 are printed herewith.

		Prizewinners Summer 75	Prizewinners Winter 75	Prizewinners Spring 76	Prizewinners Summer 76
RECRUIT AWARDS					
McEwan Shield	Best Recruit	507 A/Pte Lawrence	Jointly to: 954 A/Pte Manley 216 A/Pte Chandler	077 A/Pte Smith	203 A/Pte McLean
Recruit PT Cup	Best Recruit in PT	A/Pte Tracey	263 A/Pte Rees	077 A/Pte Smith	276 A/Pte Forster
Best Rrecruit	Best Recruit			077 A/Pte Smith	
Rifle Cup	Rifle Shot				
EDUCATION AWARDS	Education 1st Term		890 A/Pte McGready 700 A/Pte Noble	064 A/Pte McLean 071 A/Pte Hextall	078 A/Pte MacDonald
	Education 2nd Term		988 A/Pte Grundon 179 A/Pte Scothern	686 A/Cpl Storey 795 A/Pte Boyle	734 A/Pte Dick 136 A/Pte Frame
	Education 3rd Term		448 A/Pte Bolwell 107 A/Lcpl Liddle	006 A/Pte Ortock 013 A/Lcpl Du Feu	707 A/Pte Townsend 124 A/Sgt Batty
	English	A/Pte Astbury	808 A/Sgt Bryan	881 A/Pte Fawcett	881 A/Cpl Fawcett
	Maths	A/Pte Pike	013 A/Pte Dufen	748 A/Lcpl McBurney	718 A/Pte Rogers
	World Affairs	A/Sgt Marshall	736 A/Pte Gratton	175 A/Pte Munrow	149 A/Pte Mellor
	Science	A/Pte Fishwick	400 A/Pte Jannaway	930 A/Pte Hennis	997 A/Pte Askew
	Office Organisation	A/Pte Standing	216 A/Pte Chandler	216 A/Lcpl Chandler	655 A/Cpl Wheater
	Geography	A/Pte Balfour			
TRADE TRAINING AWARDS	Best Staff Clerk	A/Sgt Moyles	705 A/Lcpl Astbury	868 A/Pte Welford	976 A/Pte Adams
	Best Technical Clerk		762 A/Sgt Dagnall	A/Pte Esslement	012 A/Pte Pays
	Best Clerk REME	A/Sgt Mohamed	890 A/Lcpl Smith		429 A/Cpl Daly
	Best Storeman RAOC	A/Lcpl McKenzie	776 A/Sgt Sheldrick		960 A/Lcpl Doherty
	Best Storeman REME		887 A/Pte Smith		397 A/Pte Thrower

COLLEGE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS					
Rifleman's Cup	Best Rifle Shot			891 A/Pte Pain	
Crawford Tankard	Best All-round Shot			891 A/Pte Pain	
MacDonald Shield	For Perseverance	A/Pte Hamilton	203 A/Pte Dale	216 A/Pte Chandler	223 A/Pte Bos
St Albans Cup	For Initiative	A/Lcpl Painter	780 A/Sgt Roff	107 A/Cpl Liddle	939 A/Cpl White
Toch H Sportsmans Cup	Boxing			077 A/Pte Smith	
The Neal Cup	For Cricket		107 A/Lcpl Liddle		
Proficiency Shield	Most Proficient Soldier	A/Sgt Moyles	884 A/Sgt Shelton		
Maule Cup	Most Militarily Proficient Soldier			150 A/Cpl Walker	216 A/Sgt Chandler
Education Cup	Best Scholar	A/Pte Roberts	107 A/Lcpl Liddle	747 A/Pte Clark	
Sergeants' Cup	Best All-rounder in military training, education, conduct and sport	A/Sgt Shelton	502 A/Sgt Denwood	462 A/Sgt Holt	954 A/Sgt Manley
COMMANDING OFFICER's SPECIAL AWARD					
	Awarded to the Apprentice who has contributed most to the College during the term, but who does not qualify for any other award	A/Cpl Griffiths	774 A/Cpl Archibald	013 A/Lcpl Du Feu	774 A/Sgt Gooderson
COLLEGE TEAM AWARDS					
	Athletics Cup	A Company			B Company
	Cricket Cup	B Company			A Company
	Swimming	B Company			
	Soccer Cup		A Company		
	White Lodge Spastic Centre Trophy			Arras Platoon	

VALETE

COLLEGE LEAVERS

SUMMER TERM 1975

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Martin D
A/Lcpl Smith S
A/Pte Spittle P A
A/Pte Taylor T

STOREMAN RAOC

A/Pte Edwards S J
A/Lcpl McKenzie A P
A/Pte Moiser S J

CLERK REME

A/Sgt Mohamed R

STOREMAN REME

A/Pte Strickland A
A/Pte Yearnshire K P

POTENTIAL INT CORPS TRADESMEN

A/Pte Harris N
A/Sgt Moyles D

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

A/Pte Adams R L
A/Pte Averiss C E
A/Pte Balfour R
A/Pte Beaumont R
A/Pte Beards P
A/Lcpl Bradley P D
A/Lcpl Brighton M D
A/Pte Brown G
A/Cpl Brown C H
A/Pte Brownson M A
A/Pte Brown W S
A/Pte Buckland J
A/Pte Buckland I
A/Pte Cavanagh G
A/Pte Copley G
A/Pte Cousins S R
A/Pte Crouch D C
A/Lcpl Crowley P J
A/Pte Cunningham B J
A/Lcpl Dean T M
A/Lcpl Evans D
A/Pte Farr P J
A/Pte Fawcett R D
A/Pte Fishwick M A
A/Pte Fletcher M S
A/Pte Flynn J G P
A/Sgt Forsyth T
A/Sgt French D
A/Lcpl Gaines R
A/Lcpl Geach G E
A/Pte Gould K
A/Pte Graham D D
A/Pte Gray I A
A/Lcpl D P Griffiths
A/Pte Gunner K A
A/Pte Hambelton I C
A/Pte Hamill C J
A/Pte Holder R P
A/Pte Hoyle S
A/Cpl Jacques A R
A/Pte Jaques C J
A/Lcpl Jones T M
A/Sgt Kidd L J
A/Pte Kuzera J
A/Lcpl Maclachlan A D
A/Pte Maiden C E
A/Pte Matthews L
A/Pte McClean R
A/Pte McDonald C A
A/Pte McClure R A C J
A/Pte Mitchell R J
A/Lcpl Mulloy P L
A/Pte Napolitano J G
A/Pte Neat F V
A/Pte Nicholls V T
A/Pte Nicholson R J
A/Pte Oakes D P
A/Lcpl O'Keefe A
A/Pte Owen A S
A/Lcpl Painter W S J
A/Pte Parnaby R N
A/Pte Parsons D
A/Pte Pearson K J
A/Pte Percival E O
A/Pte Pfluger I M
A/Pte Platten G J
A/Pte Pool M D
A/Pte Poolton V
A/Pte Roberts N
A/Pte Rodrigues F J
A/Pte Roffey R P
A/Pte Sharkie R
A/Cpl Sharp H
A/Pte Small S
A/Pte Sneddon R M
A/Lcpl Street G P
A/Pte Swatton A C
A/Pte Symss D R

A/Pte Thackeray R I
A/Pte Thorburn J
A/Pte Tracey S W
A/Pte Upton P L
A/Pte Wagstaff K E
A/Pte Watson T J
A/Pte Weightman D A
A/Lcpl White N C
A/Pte Wilkie J A
A/Pte Wilson S L
A/Lcpl Worrell R
A/Pte Wragg P T V
A/Pte Youle P A

WINTER TERM 1975

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Lcpl Astbury D M
A/Lcpl Bingham R
A/Pte Frampton D H
A/Pte Middleton P A
A/Lcpl O'Hara G N

TECHNICAL CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Crowhurst A D
A/Sgt Dagnall K T
A/Sgt Eades C N
A/Pte Edwards J A
A/Pte Green J F
A/Lcpl Hesling G G
A/Pte Heynes S E
A/Pte Lowrie M A
A/Lcpl O'Hara G P
A/Lcpl Percival M
A/Lcpl Pratt P H
A/Sgt Taylor J R
A/Pte Wells P R

CLERK REME

A/Pte Curtis N S
A/Pte Fairlie S R
A/Sgt Mulholland D J
A/Lcpl Shearer P J
A/Cpl Smith P W

STOREMAN REME

A/Lcpl Burnlees W G G
A/Lcpl McIlwaine S W

STOREMAN RAOC

A/Pte Abbott B A
A/Lcpl Archibald M G
A/Pte Austin P J
A/Pte Bamford S A
A/Lcpl Buttery G W
A/Pte Cherry D L
A/Pte Francis D A
A/Pte Hall D M
A/Pte Hamblin M R
A/Pte Hawkin T H
A/Pte Hodby S P
A/Pte Jackson P B
A/Sgt Jepson I K
A/Pte Jones J R F
A/Pte Lawrence S I
A/Pte Lawton I N
A/Cpl McGaughey A R
A/Pte Miller A R
A/Pte Nellist C L
A/Pte Purves J R
A/Pte Raw G
A/Pte Richards M A
A/Sgt Roff L G
A/Pte Ross P J
A/Lcpl Ryan K P
A/Sgt Sheldrick C J
A/Lcpl Smith M I
A/Lcpl Standing S D
A/Pte Varker I F
A/Lcpl Wilson J S

POTENTIAL INT CORPS TRADESMEN

A/Pte Barnes B K
A/Sgt Denwood R B
A/Pte Ferguson J J
A/Lcpl Gosney A
A/Sgt Marshall R D
A/Lcpl Mastin S J
A/Lcpl Rowles N W

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

A/Lcpl Aisbitt D J
A/Pte Austin M H
A/Pte Barley R I
A/Lcpl Brown I K
A/Pte Center J
A/Pte Dale L J
A/Pte Griffiths K M
A/Pte Lewis W N
A/Lcpl Mackay J
A/Lcpl McMillan J F
A/Pte Murphy T R
A/Lcpl Parsonson S R
A/Lcpl Pike J G
A/Pte Roberts N D
A/Pte Sanders-Fox K
A/Sgt Shelton J L
A/Pte Smith J J E R
A/Pte Smith R C
A/Pte Steere W W
A/Pte Stewart C W
A/Pte Vincent B P
A/Lcpl Woods W J A

SPRING TERM 1976

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Lcpl Aisbitt D J
A/Sgt Bryan V C
A/Pte Welford P A

TECHNICAL CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Esslemont A J
A/Sgt Hall D R
A/Pte Martin P

STOREMEN RAOC

A/Pte Brown A H T
A/Pte Hart A
A/Pte Johnson D G

POTENTIAL INT CORPS TRADESMEN

A/Lcpl Lake D J
A/Cpl Liddle D

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

A/Pte Bolwell D
A/Sgt Coates K
A/Pte Davies M P
A/Pte Dix J G
A/Pte Eames D
A/Pte Gibson P J
A/Sgt Holt M P
A/Pte Jannaway N T
A/Cpl Lawrence S W M
A/Pte Lowe W
A/Lcpl McCreevy R
A/Pte Mills P J
A/Pte Minto W
A/Pte Pagen W C
A/Pte Parker F I
A/Pte Pimblott B E

Potentional REME Tradesmen (contd)

A/Lcpl Richards H
A/Pte Scrimshaw E
A/Pte Smith K
A/Pte Taylor P N
A/Pte Telfer S T
A/Cpl Tracey M A
A/Sgt Turner R J
A/Pte Walker F J

SUMMER TERM 1976

STAFF CLERKS RAOC

A/Pte Adams W R
A/Sgt Cull K
A/Pte Orrock J T

TECHNICAL CLERKS RAOC

A/Pte Ahmet H
A/Pte Beverley M A
A/Lcpl Du Feu S F
A/Cpl Patterson D J
A/Pte Pays M H

STOREMEN RAOC

A/Pte Cronin D
A/Sgt Dobbs K J
A/Pte Doherty N
A/Pte Elliott J C
A/Pte Jones K J
A/Pte Lane D G
A/Pte Moore C L A
A/Pte Murphy C
A/Cpl Richards M D
A/Lcpl Vernon R
A/Cpl Wilkinson J D

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

A/Pte Almond D
A/Pte Andrews M R
A/Lcpl Andrews P S
A/Pte Askew C
A/Cpl Barrett S
A/Pte Baxter G
A/Pte Bennett G
A/Lcpl Bennett G B
A/Pte Berry S
A/Pte Blake R A
A/Pte Bowyer N K
A/Pte Burdett N H
A/Lcpl Buxton T W
A/Pte Christian G F
A/Pte Colton P
A/Pte Cook T N
A/Pte Crawford B J
A/Pte Coulson F C
A/Cpl Daly M T F
A/Pte Dear P R W
A/Pte Dedman A J
A/Pte Dewis A
A/Pte Dick P
A/Pte Diston C
A/Pte Ditton M
A/Pte Edwards B
A/Pte England I V
A/Pte Farcas S M
A/Pte Farrington C
A/Pte Gamble D M
A/Pte Gaskin P
A/Sgt Gooderson P T
A/Sgt Gratton R K
A/Pte Harrison S
A/Pte Haswell J
A/Pte Hedges D
A/Pte Hennis G J

A/Pte Hewitt D G
A/Pte Jackson W E
A/Pte Jeffrey R N
A/Lcpl Johns R G
A/Lcpl Jones E A
A/Pte Kendall J D
A/Pte Kennedy J A
A/Pte Laing J G
A/Pte Lamont C
A/Pte Leech P J
A/Pte Lockett T M
A/Pte Logie A
A/Pte Maher B J
A/Sgt Manley W A
A/Pte Maund S C
A/Pte McCready C A
A/Pte McDonald I
A/Pte Meredith A D
A/Pte Millican D J
A/Pte Money A J
A/Pte Moore S J
A/Pte Morton A G
A/Lcpl Mullin J J
A/Lcpl Noble R R
A/Pte Nolan P
A/Pte Paige K R
A/Pte Pain S B
A/Pte Parks L R
A/Pte Provins D J
A/Cpl Rafferty P P
A/Pte Rawlins G C
A/Pte Rideout P G
A/Pte Robb W J
A/Pte Rogers P
A/Pte Rogers S M
A/Pte Rome I J
A/Pte Routledge A P
A/Pte Saunders G W
A/Pte Scott J
A/Pte Scott R C J R
A/Pte Stead C E
A/Pte Simmons K J
A/Pte Stewart C J
A/Lcpl Stewart W
A/Pte Stubbington R L
A/Sgt Strang J M
A/Lcpl Stuart G J
A/Pte Surtees G J
A/Pte Swann M W
A/Pte Sykes
A/Pte Taylor B A
A/Pte Taylor N I
A/Pte Tester M D
A/Pte Thompson I A
A/Pte Thrower M J
A/Pte Todd S E C
A/Pte Vanstone C
A/Pte Vickers P F W
A/Pte Ware M N
A/Pte Watson J S
A/Pte Watson K D
A/Sgt Weeks P J
A/Pte White A A
A/Cpl White P W
A/Pte White R F G
A/Pte Whittall G D
A/Pte Wilkinson W D
A/Pte Williams C J
A/Pte Williams R T
A/Pte Wiscombe M G
A/Pte Wood K A
A/Pte Woodcock C J
A/Pte Worrall D
A/Pte Young S J

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Allport D	Ssgt	Jun 64	HQ RAOC Cyprus	Tech Clerk. Married. 1 daughter. Served in Singapore, Borneo, Sharjah, BAOR, MOD, Northern Ireland
Brocklebank G	WO I	Apr 60	Stores Sub Depot 15 Comp Ord Depot BFPO 40	Tech Clerk. Married. 2 children. Corps Rugby player, Army trialist. Served Berlin, Guiana, Malaysia, Iran, MOD, BAOR
Burrows M	Cpl	Aug 70	HQ Northag	Married August 76. Staff clerk. Served Berlin, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, BAOR
Craigie R I	Ssgt	Dec 63	85 Supply Depot RAOC BFPO 39	Tech Clerk. Married. 2 sons. Served with RN and in Aden, BAOR, Brunei, Northern Ireland, Iran

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Crowhurst S	Pte	Apr 74	HQ Scotland (Army) Edinburgh	Staff clerk. Single. Served in BAOR. Now qualified unit projectionist and Class III Sub-Aqua diver.
Davies A	Lcpl	Dec 68	19 Airptbl OFP Colchester	Married. No children. Apart from 2 years with 3 BAPD in BAOR has served entirely with 3 Div in UK
Dobbie A	Sgt	Apr 66	HQ RAOC Cyprus	Tech clerk. Married. 1 daughter. Has served in Aden, BAOR, Northern Ireland, Sudan
Eustace M	Lcpl	Dec 71	19 Airptbl OFP Colchester	Tech clerk. Married. No children. Before joining present unit in Feb 76, was involved entirely in supplying RAF Stores for 71 Fd Wksp (AC) in BAOR.
Francis D	Pte	Jan 76	19 Airptbl OFP Colchester	Storeman. Single. Has travelled on Exercise with the OFP to Cyprus, Isle of Man, BAOR
Grunnill P	Cpl	Dec 70	HQ Northag BFPO 40	Staff clerk B2. Has served with 4 OFP BFPO 17, Computer Centre BFPO 40 and 12 Int & SY Coy BFPO 80. Married. 1 child
Hastings A	Cpl	Jan 71	HQ Northag BFPO 40	Staff clerk. Single. Has served with the Berlin Inf Bde and at HQ 2 Div BAOR. Has visited Norway, Denmark and all the Benelux countries
Hay R	Pte	Aug 73	5 Airptbl OFP Tidworth	Stm/Driver. Single. First served with 16 Para Hy Drop and exercised in Turkey. Has done a tour in Northern Ireland with present unit
Hookway A	Cpl	Dec 69	HQ Northag BFPO 40	Staff clerk. Married. No children. Served 3 years with 22 SAS and 2 years at SHAPE, as well as 6 months in Sharjah
Jackson P	Pte	Jan 76	19 Airptbl OFP Colchester	Stm. Single. Has exercised in the Isle of Man and Sennelager in BAOR
Jones I	Sgt	Apr 66	Ord Branch British Forces Hong Kong BFPO 1	Tech clerk. Married. 1 son aged 7 years. Has served in Aden, BAOR and East Africa and represented Corps football in each Theatre (including UK when at Bicester
Lawrence F	Ssgt	Jun 64	HQ RAOC Cyprus	Tech clerk. Married. 2 daughters. Second tour in Cyprus. Has also served with 23 Engr Regt and at Viersen BAOR
Pratt F	Ssgt	May 61	19 Airptbl OFP Colchester	Printer. Tech Clerk, Stm. 12 years service in UK and BAOR then with 20 Maritime Regt RCT. Bosun of RCT yachts. RYA senior instructor and RYA Grade 2 skipper
Pratt P	Pte	Dec 75	RAOC Stores Sect 1 Fd Wksp REME BFPO 39	Tech Clerk III. Single. Has been on 3 exercises in BAOR and one in Denmark. Has met Pte M Richards at 3 BAPD

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Richards M	Pte	Dec 75	3 BAPD BFPO 40	Stm. Single. Enjoyed College but finds the job of ammunition storeman dull and wants to see more of the world.
Stevenson M	Sgt	Jul 61	HQ CRAOC HQ Rhine Area	Tech clerk. Married. 2 children. Has served in Didcot, Kenya, Aden, BAOR and Malaysia
Wheeler J	WO I	Feb 56	RAOC P & WSU	Work Study Operator. Married. 3 children. Variety of service worldwide including on the Permanent Staff of this College. Has represented RAOC in shooting, hockey, cricket, athletics and golf. Represented Army in shooting and hockey
Windsor R	Cpl	Dec 65	5 Airptbl OFP Tidworth	Stm B1. Married. 2 children. Has served in Aden, BAOR, Bahrain and Kineton. In ME won Army 100m high hurdles and represented Army in relay and hurdles

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Cpl J Wilde RAOC (1970-72)
HQ Branch
HQ British Forces Belize
BFPO 12

Dear Sir,

PROGRESS IN UNIFORM

As an apprentice in 1970, I was always told that the arduous training and customary 'Bull' would stand one in good stead on leaving boy's service to join the Regular Army.

In many ways this statement has proven truthful. To be frank, I look back on my junior service as having given me just two things - a sense of respect and a disciplined mind.

On joining HQ 3 Division in September 1972, I found that a fair portion of my basic training never had the opportunity to show itself. My posting in 3 Division was profitable in many ways, having worked in G Branch, AQ Branch and the Central Registry. After two years I was recommended for promotion, although the work hadn't been too strenuous. On reaching the dizzy heights of Lcpl, I found that there were more advantages in this rank than I had imagined, and supervision in my work became less and less apparent.

I felt a strange sort of achievement in being left to work unattended and enjoyed my work. Three and a half years soon passed and it soon became time for me to take my chance elsewhere. I volunteered for a six month tour in Belize - rather a controversial spot at the time. Being a small set-up, I rather expected things to be fairly quiet. For the first 2-3 months work was plentiful and the time passed almost unnoticed. The earthquake in Guatemala soon brought things back to normal and the workload decreased

noticeably. Not the best posting, from the leisurely point, but I must admit, for my first overseas posting, it has certainly opened my eyes a little. I took up a Corporal's post in Belize and after 1½ months was promoted to Corporal. So for me, promotion-wise, I am satisfied with the way life has gone - so far.

And next month Ordnance Depot Antwerp. Who knows!

Yours sincerely,

From: Lcpl P Harrison RAOC (1973-75)
HQ Belize Garrison
BFPO 12

Dear Sir,

"THE WAY AHEAD"

As you may know life as an apprentice was the upperstep from boyhood to manhood. It was to prepare us for that great leap to Regular Service. May 1973 was the year that civilian life left its mark on me and Army life set in. When I look back, although there were some bitter memories, I reckon it was the best time I ever had. DISCIPLINE was a word which made most apprentices shudder as it meant DRILL and ROOM INSPECTIONS, etc. But I tell you now, if you can survive that, there is nothing in Regular Service which you cannot handle. Boy Service in a way taught me a lot, not just discipline, but respect as you will find out to give respect is to earn respect.

My first posting was to the Staff College at nearby Camberley, only a mere drive from Deepcut. The first time I ever saw Camberley was when about 20 apprentices, including myself, descended on the Staff College to help out with the two major telephone battles Exercises SQUARE DEAL and RIGHT CROSS. I arrived there somewhat nervous as this was my first, well you could say, job. It was like a great test to show whether my training as a B3 clerk would overcome my inexperience. It took a while to settle in but once I overcome all nervousness I was away, I was no longer an inexperienced B3 clerk but a fully organised and proud member of the Staff. Regular Service was more of a dream. My training was an advantage as it began to show as I was the only ex boy among the dozen or so permanent staff. I was taught a great deal at the Staff College, some of the work I never even came across at Blackdown. I especially give my sincere thanks to WOI SSM Sheridan and Ssgt A W Parker who made me what I am today.

From B3 I became a B2 Staff clerk, and even more surprising after only 11 months in Regular Service I was recommended for promotion to Lcpl. I left the Staff College in November 1975, taking with me fresh knowledge of what I had learnt and most of all my promotion. My next posting was even more of a surprise to me, I was to embark on the next stage in my career, six months in the sunny Caribbean. commonly known as Belize. This is where I am now, a young and eager Staff clerk B2. Although I still have a lot to learn I look back over the few years I have spent in the Army and not forgetting those glorious one and a half years as an apprentice and say to myself "Well you eventually made it". By the way in June of this year I set off once again this time I am off to Belgium, to become part of HQ SHAPE staff. On leaving Belize I give my special thanks to WO2 Dey for his devotion and understanding he gave me during my short stay here.

From: Sgt R Sweeting (Staff 1970-73)
24 Airportable OFP
Topcliffe Barracks
Thirsk, North Yorks

Dear Sir,

It is now two years since I left the Training staff of the Apprentices College, and no doubt there have been many changes both in staff and policy since then, especially with the school leaving age going up to 16 years.

I am now firmly entrenched in 24 Airportable OFP RAOC and despite Operational and Exercise commitments with which the Unit is engaged, I maintain my interest in the love of my life, angling.

It was with regret that I handed over the running of the College Angling Club when I took my leave in April 1973, for I had seen the club grow from a mere seven members to a throng of some 30, who, on each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, would swarm onto the Service 44 bus, causing headaches over change for the driver, and in some cases, ladders for the passengers.

I remember one Tuesday, the look of amazement on the faces of Bill, John and Joe Raison, the Farnborough Tackle dealers, when one of our members asked for 2½p worth of maggots saying that it was either that or walking back to Blackdown from the North Camp gravel pits.

I am now in my second season as a committee member of the Thirsk Angling Club, and regularly order late meals in the Sergeants' Mess. I can be seen on most evenings, swinging out of the Barrack gates on my speedy Honda, festooned with basket, rod holdall and all the other accoutrements we maggot danglers take with us for sessions on the Swale or Codbeck. Happy days!

I hope that the Angling Club at the College still flourishes, and that when the Army Sports Board eventually decide to include our sport into their annals, that we will all meet up in friendly rivalry to compete for the Army Angling Championship and perhaps a mention in the Angling Times.

Until then I wish all members of the College, both past and present, all that I would wish myself, and to all Anglers, TIGHT LINES.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Sweeting