

THUNDERBOLT

Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College 1984

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FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER



The Commanding Officer
Lieutenant Colonel D M Putt RAOC

It is with some sadness that I pen this my last foreword to this magazine. Just before I assumed command my predecessor had warned me that the new build was about to begin and my first year would see bricks and mortar in abundance. As I leave I can certainly see many bricks as the old quarters are being razed to the ground but alas the College remains as it has always been. During my command I have lived under the threat of closure and seen the removal of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Apprentices to Arborfield, yet we still survive. I sincerely hope we will continue, despite all the pressures, as I am firmly convinced that apprentice training is the life line of the Corps, providing as it does a substantial element of our future senior ranks.

Throughout the period covered by this magazine we have striven to achieve our aim of producing a well trained soldier ready on his 'passing out' to take his place in an adult unit. I believe we have achieved that aim and the advent of the fourth term battle camp at Sennybridge certainly puts the apprentices through a final test giving them that added confidence. The reports I have received justify the training given to the apprentice, especially that training which develops their character.

APPOINTMENT	SUMMER TERM 1983	WINTER TERM 1983	SPRING TERM 1984
Balaclava Platoon	Lt D J P F Haynes REME 2Lt M Challinor RAOC Sgt D B Robertson RAOC	Lt L H Watkins RAOC Sgt D B Robertson	Lt L H Watkins RAOC Sgt D B Robertson RAOC
Burma Platoon	Lt L J Malin RAOC Lt P R Saddleton RAOC Sgt H C Jones RAOC	Lt L J Malin RAOC Sgt H C Jones RAOC	Lt L J Malin RAOC Sgt H C Jones RAOC
Benghazi Platoon	Lt A M Green RAOC Sgt M T Maguire REME	Lt A M Green RAOC Sgt C J Turpin RAOC	2Lt A W Burton RAOC 2Lt N C B Wilkes RAOC Sgt C J Turpin RAOC
Berlin Platoon	Lt R S Elwell RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC	Lt R S Elwell RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC	2Lt C P Dawson RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC
EDUCATION WING			
Senior Education Officer	Maj K E B Abnett RAEC	Maj M J McManus RAEC	Maj M J McManus RAEC
Instructors	Capt J M Chadwick RAEC Capt C G Hanlan RAEC Lt J L Newton RAEC Lt H A C Snow RAEC	Capt J M Chadwick RAEC Capt C G Hanlan RAEC Lt J L Newton RAEC Lt H A C Snow RAEC	Capt J M Chadwick RAEC Lt J L Newton RAEC Lt H A C Snow RAEC
Civilian Lecturers	Mr M F Johnson Maj (Retd) G Forrest Mr J F Watson Mr P Heap Mr W McShea	Mr M F Johnson Maj (Retd) G Forrest Mr J F Watson Mr P Heap Mr S McShea	Mr M F Johnson Maj (Retd) G Forrest Mr J F Watson Mr P Heap Mr W McShea

PASSING OUT PARADES
1983 - 84

PASSING OUT PARADES

Once again this year we have had clear skies for each of the major parades. The first of our Passing Out Parades in the Summer Term 1983 was an historic event, marking, as it did, the departure of REME permanent staff and apprentices from the College. On a splendid day the REME Colours were returned to a Colour Party made up of the remaining REME permanent staff. On this parade, as with the Winter 1983 and Spring 1984 Parades, all concerned performed magnificently to give all the guests and families the treat which some had travelled so far to see.

Inspecting Officers were:

Summer Term 1983

General W L Whalley
Director General of Ordnance Services.

Winter Term 1983

Lt General G H W Howlett OBE MC
General Officer Commanding
South East District

Spring Term 1984

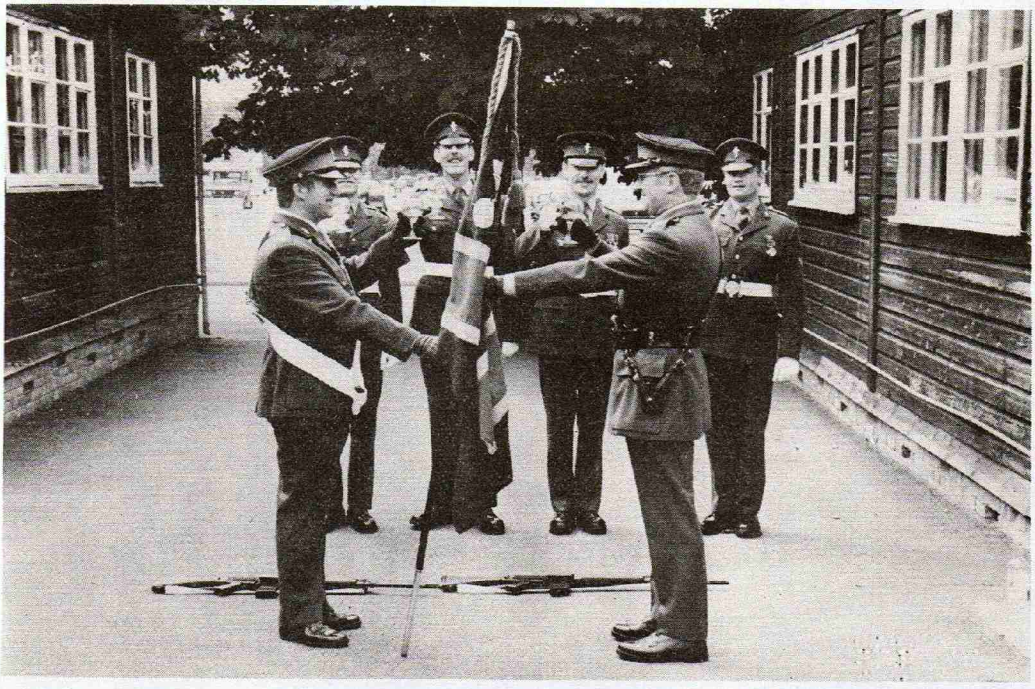
Brigadier P W E Istead OBE GM
Director of Administrative Planning (Army)



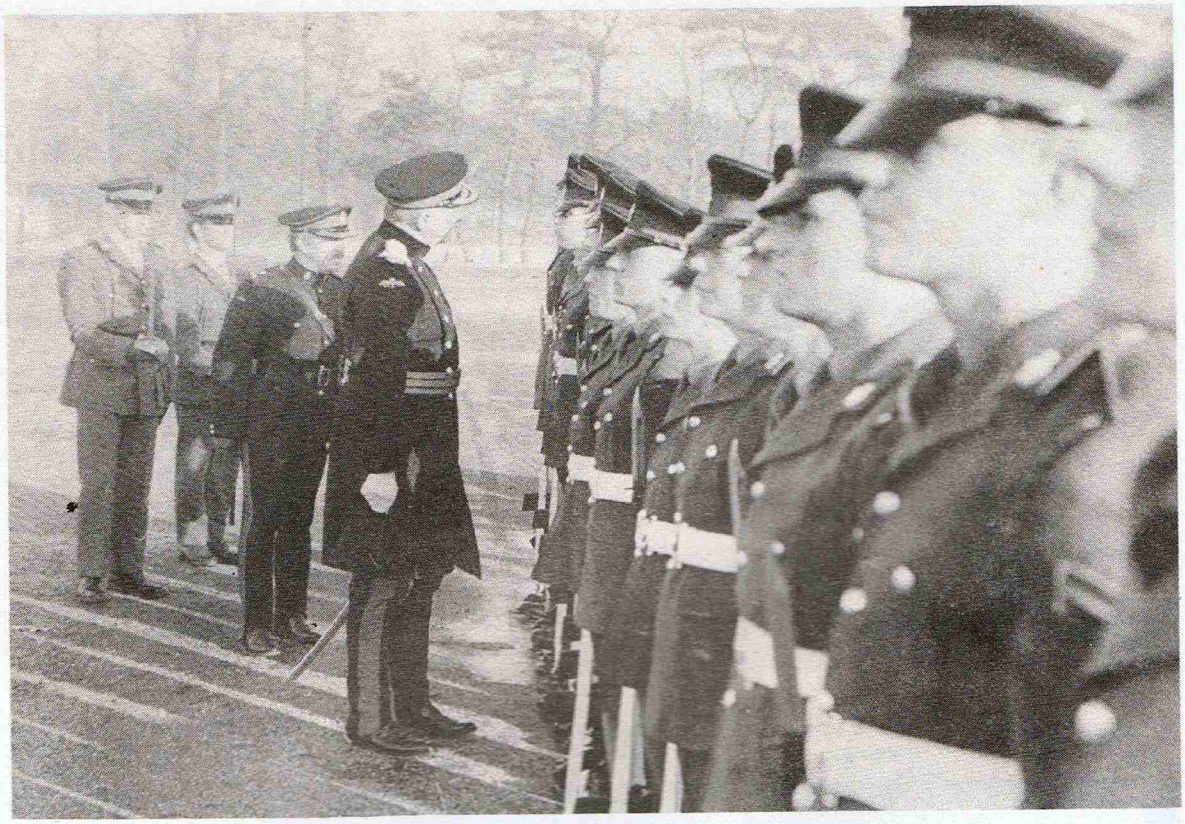
Major General W L Whalley inspecting the Term Leavers Summer Term 1983



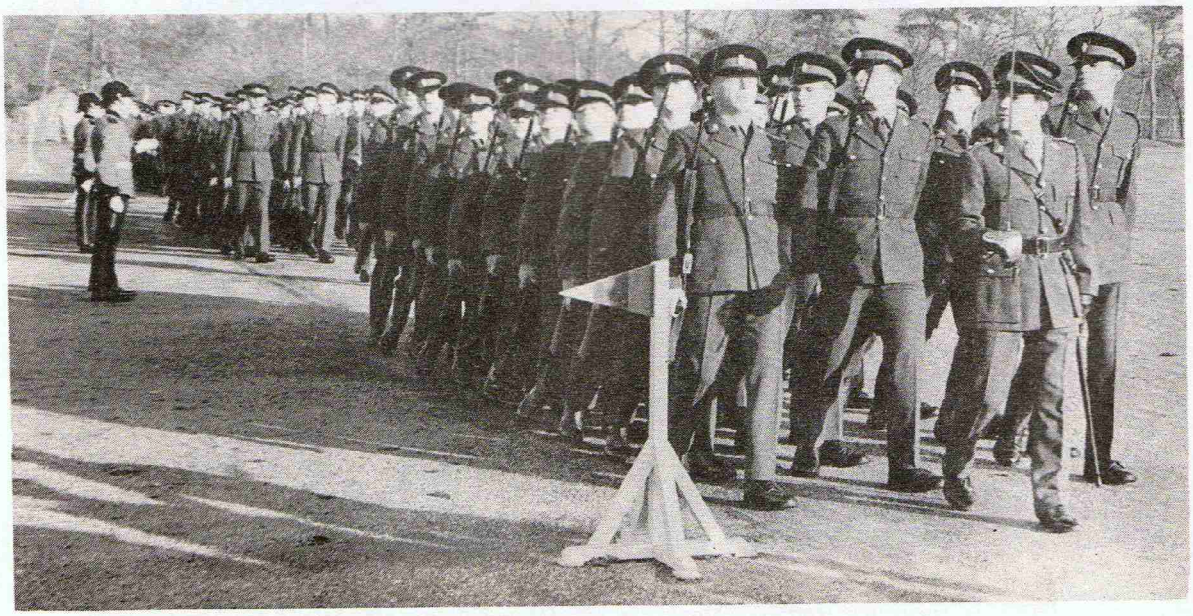
March Past in slow time by the Term Leavers Summer Term 1983



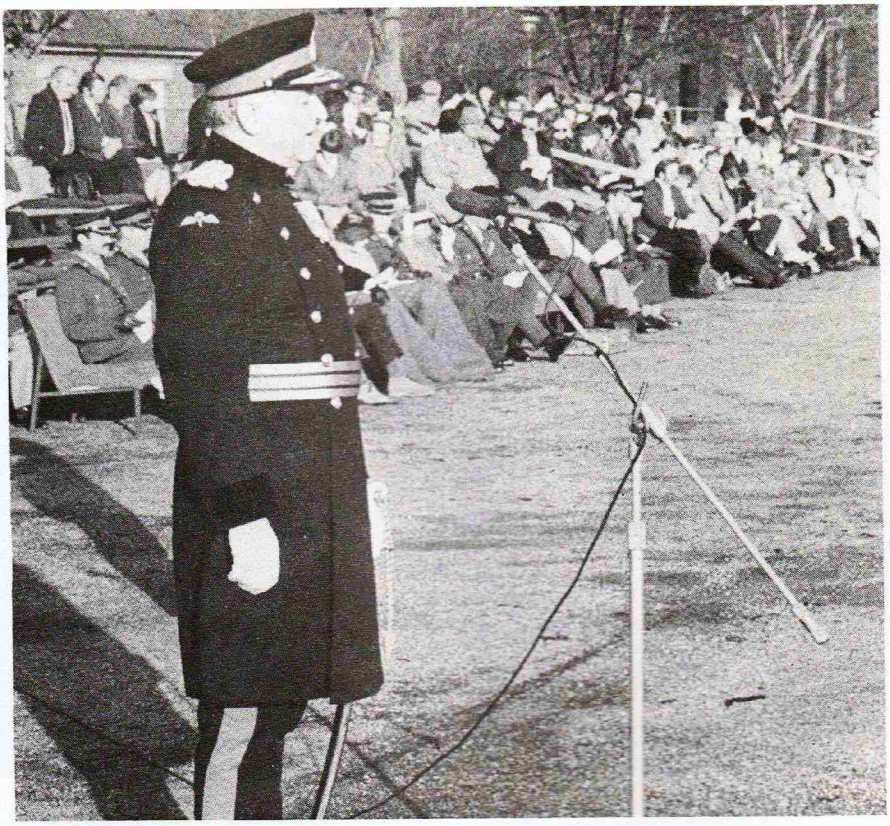
The REME Permanent Staff toasting their Colours after the last parade at the College



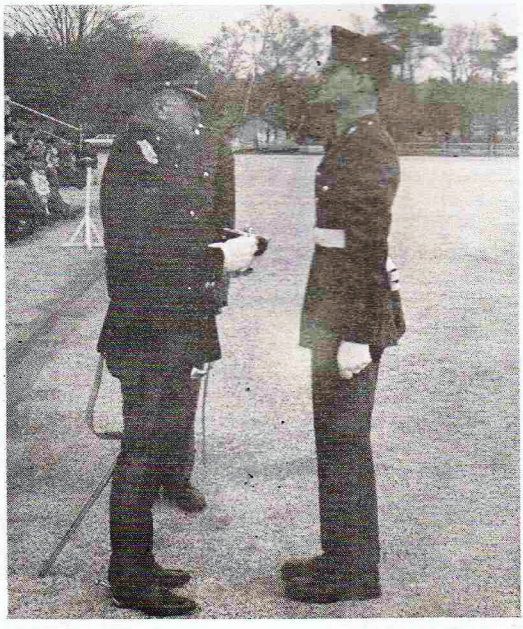
General G H W Howlett OBE MC inspects the Term Leavers Winter Term 1983



The March Past in quick time, Winter Term 1983



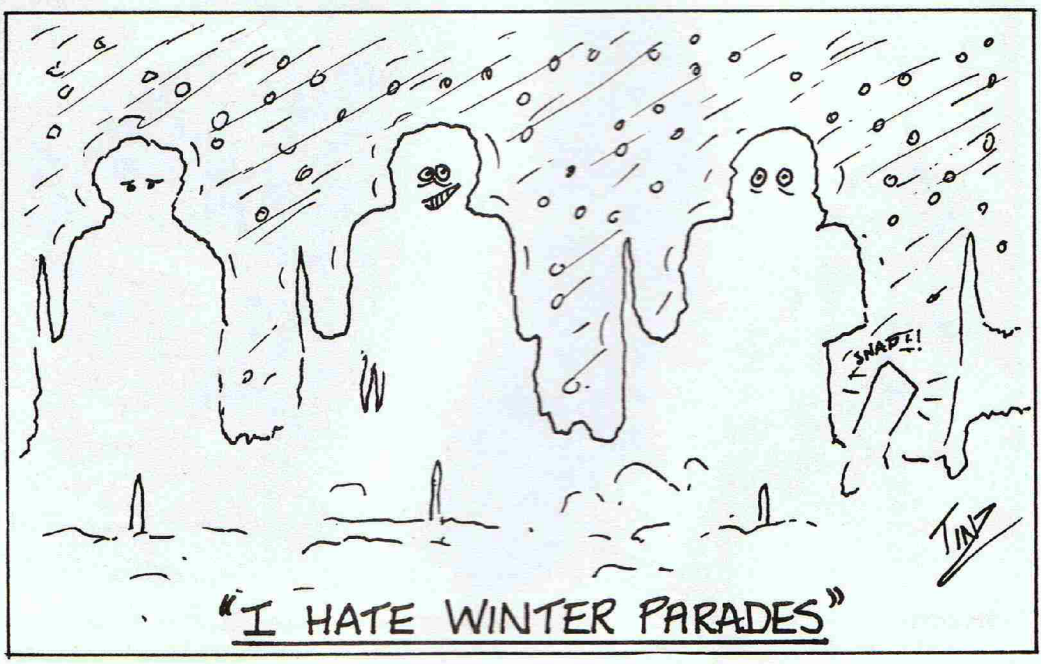
The Inspecting Officer addresses the Parade, Winter Term 1983



Brigadier P W E Istead OBE GM presents APte Jones with the Toc H Cup for the Best Scholar Spring Term 1984



The Term Leavers march past in slow time, Spring Term 1984



HQ COMPANY

A year in HQ Coy as seen by "The Mole".

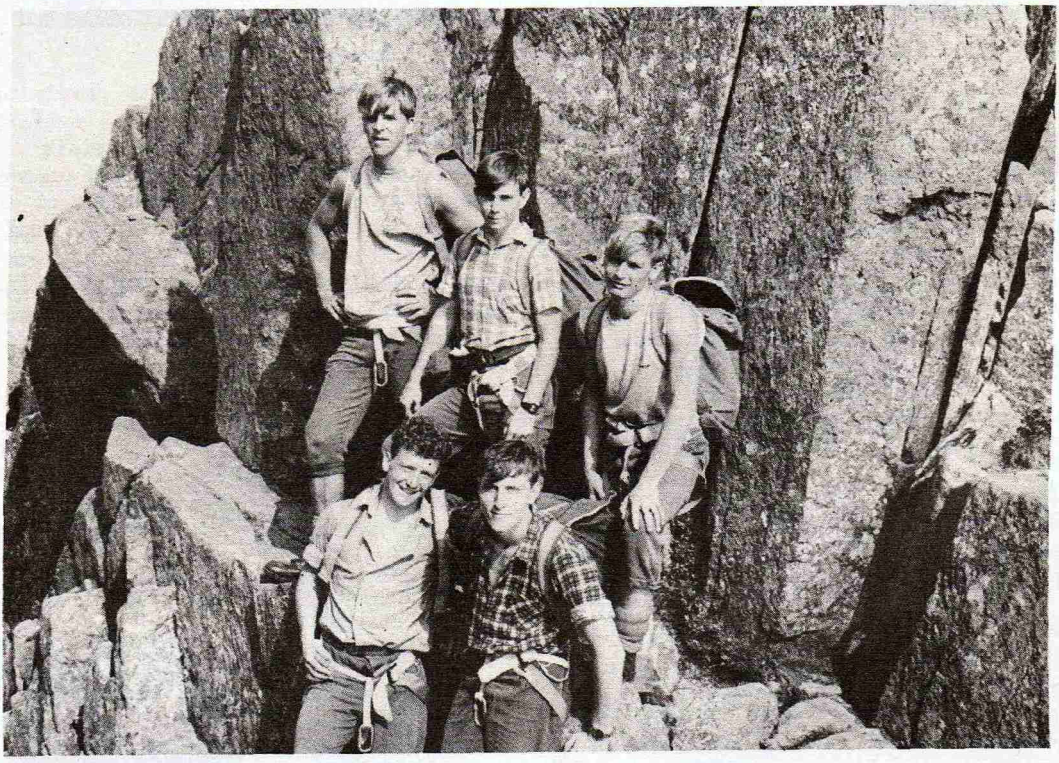
I worked underground most of the time buried by paperwork, rules and regulations, but now and then I surfaced (as moles often do) to see what was happening outside as well.

Consequently, though you may not know it, Moles are a pretty well-informed species.

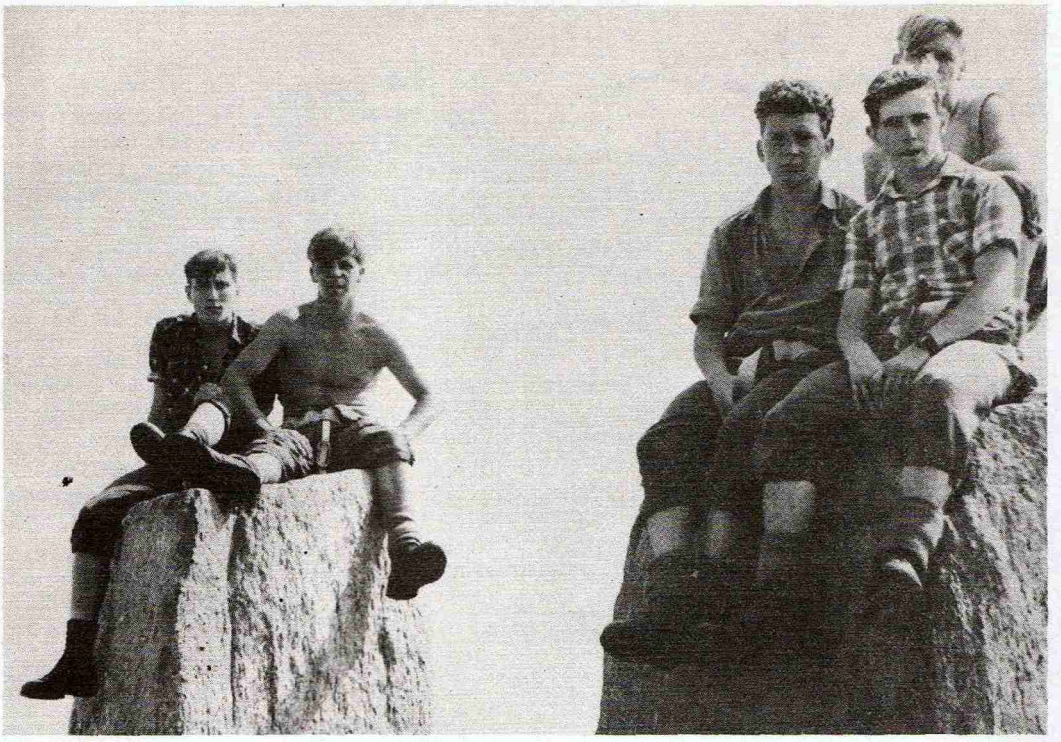
The first thing I noticed here was that a lot more goes on behind the scenes (and underground) that all other creatures are unaware of. As an example, I am only seen sometimes when I occasionally surface from HQ Coy, affectionately known as 'Hector's House'.

The work I do down there is seen by few, as are the miles of tunnels dug by us moles. All you see is me, a little creature. So spare a thought for those of us (especially the moles) who work hard but are seldom seen, as you read this episode of life at HQ Coy viewed from the inside.

They pride themselves on their fitness you know. All the time I have been here somebody has been doing something in the name of Sport. I didn't have to surface to see that all Coy personnel run every Tuesday and Thursday morning before work in PT sessions, I could feel their feet pound my mole hills above. A few of my tunnels even collapsed. Apart from this emphatic desire to keep



Law Lomax Duncan
Christie Benson



Benson Law *Christie Lomax Duncan*

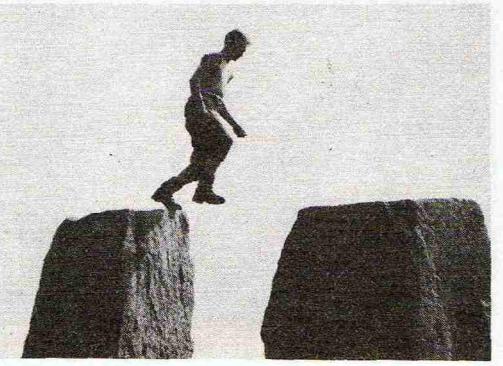
fit some even ran marathons (The Hares). Other sports I found them playing as I peeped out of my tunnel included sailing, judo, parachuting, gliding, parascending, badminton, squash and rugby...Not only did they play, they often won and brought back to the Company prestigious awards of merit.

But the Coy are often to be seen working hard as well as playing hard.

The Training and External Leadership Wings spent many hours inside and outside turning hundreds of boys into proud men soldiers.

Many will remember the great times they had climbing soaring peaks in Snowdonia, camping out and living rough in remote mountains in South Wales. Others will remember how they were taught to use a rifle or machine gun for the first time. Some may be proud to put their First Aid training to use in a time of crisis and all will be proud to go home and show off their uniform to their loved ones.

They will also have departed for Regular Service having matured, grown and developed from schoolboys into responsible, professional adult



Dunc - Adam and Eve, Tryfan



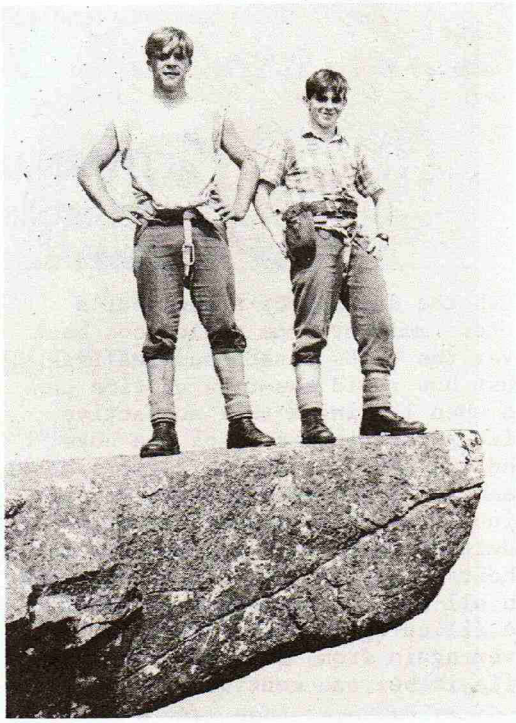
Duncan Law Benson Christie Lomax

soldiers, after just 15 months at the College.

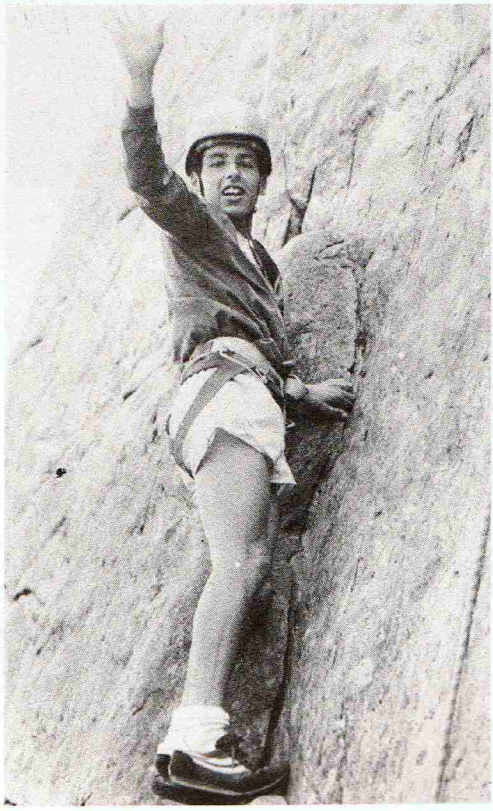
One of the reasons they all manage to do this is because of the dedication given to them by members of the Permanent Staff who often work nights and weekends to ensure that the finished product meets the required high standard.

But much of that happens on the outside. When I go inside I always see lots of civilians (they're the ones who don't wear uniform) who are always beavering away. Without their support, the Permanent Staff would struggle to survive and the result would be reflected in the finished product.

I have seen some creatures in my time but we lost some fine fellows over the past year: Cpl Smudge Smith, Capt Peter Knoll, Ssgt Jeff Edwards and Sgt Cass Castillo to name a few. But they have been replaced by equally fine fellows in Capt Peter



Law Lomax



Gracie

Ball, Sgt Dirk Wilson, Cpl Dave Burns and Cpl Tony Harwood, while we congratulate Cpls Mark Snelson, Del Free and Dick Rainey who received deserved promotion to Sgt. Sgt Snelson has since departed to B Coy and Ssgt Cook transferred from A Coy on promotion, whilst Cpl Starbuck joined us from the Gymnasium. Pte Tony Simpson joined us recently to deputise for Sgt John Self while he joins Cpl Norman Pilkington for a five month tour in the Falkland Islands.

With this issue we wish good luck to Lt Col Dan Putt, who goes to the USA, Maj George Ashcroft and Mrs Maria Hollands who recently married ex-Apprentice Cpl Hollands.

The story of the year must be of our RSM, WOI Stu Brierley MBE, who appears to have lost 2 or 3 stone by doing lots of sport and no doubt following a strict diet.

It is difficult to write about all the personalities in HQ Coy, but once again I ask you to spare a thought for all of us behind the scenes and under the ground, "The Paper Moles".

GYMNASIUM NOTES

WO2 (QMSI E Martin APTC)

With the dawning of a new year's notes imminent, one could look back over the 83/84 season and realise just how rapid the flow of time can be when leading a full and active life. Certainly some of the boys who are now 3rd and 4th termers barely seem to have been with us five minutes and it's time for their Adult PT tests and away they go to their new units - leaving a big void in all the College sports teams to be filled by newcomers who start all over again from 'scratch' - oh well, life is but one continuous cycle.

The re-implementation of a Combat test goes a long way in indicating the constant verve of the Army's fitness and the willing of the "Powers" to ensure we are indeed Fit to Fight! The 4th termers have now to pass this test by requirement.

College life continues to revolve around its physical activity - be it on the sports field, in the gymnasium or over on the training grounds of "G1" and "Four Sisters!" Nothing, however, is allowed to take second place and it is pleasing to note that success on the sports field inevitably breeds success in the classroom and in the trade training

rooms - well done boys!

Since last year's notes, much has happened within the Staff set-up, with A/1's coming and going, changing trades and career paths, etc, but most pleasing is that standards and continuity have been maintained throughout.

Movement to and fro include the "old stalwart" Cpl Norman Pilkington who leaves us (wait for it) - the Falkland Islands - well done Norman! Cpl Tony Franklin (no relation to the HQ Coy CSM) is busy upgrading himself in the trade training field prior to returning to BAOR. Tony is an amazing man to have had in the Gym and will be sadly missed. His many talents and relentless enthusiasm have paid dividends in the Gym and the boys have a lot to be grateful for - well done Tony.

Postings in of Cpl "Mac" MacCarter and Cpl Bob McDonald (the 'Macs" does not make them related) has injected new ideas and variety into the lessons and again the boys will benefit from their wide range of experience.

Cpl Chris Starbuck has moved out of the Gym and gone to the world of the 'MTI's' where I am sure he will do well, although he will be missed from the Gym; but we can call on him when we get pushed, (unless he is on yet another course).

Inter Company Sports competitions are forever flourishing with most sports being contested at - sometimes twice in a term! Bearing in mind that competition is the spice of life - this can only be a good thing. The Inter Coy 'Conker Competition' (not an Army sponsored sport yet) which Major Bunyard introduced has been relegated to a Company affair but I did manage a sneak of some of the competition - not too much! I reckon I'd have got to the Final this year.

Sport at Army level leaves us unsurpassed with the Apprentice College supplying members to most Army teams. Please read the Sports Notes for further information.

Adventure training camps and Exercises continue to flourish with success and enthusiasm and yet again the Apprentice College can be seen represented in the clear blue skies of Cyprus flying through the air in a parachute, canoeing or deep under in the Mediterranean, or climbing ice fields in the Mont Blanç area - to mention but a few areas.

Who can doubt life is lived to the full???



COMBAT FITNESS TEST

By Cpl McDonald

The CFT is in two parts.

Part One consists of marching 8 miles with at least 3 miles across country dressed in Complete Equipment Fighting Order (CEFO) with each soldier carrying a total of 30-35 lbs in weight.

Part Two starts immediately on completion of the march - carrying a man of similar weight for the predetermined distance, scaling a 6-ft wall unaided. As there is no laid down standard of CFT for apprentices it was felt that as our apprentices reached the 4th term and were very soon entering into Man Service this would be a very good opportunity to get them into the standard of fit-

ness required as a trained soldier in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and at the end of the 4th term we could carry out the CFT test. With this in mind we increased the periods to bring the apprentices up to the required standard so that by the time they reached the end of the 4th term they were at a standard of fitness that would enable them to pass this test with comfort and ease.

Of the final course to do this we had a 100% pass rate first time.

The next course is three quarters of the way through their training programme and is tipped for another 100% pass. Only time can tell ....

ALPINE ADVENTURE

By Captain C G Hanlan

Trapped in an Alpine Refuge Hut at 12,500-ft by a raging blizzard, the members of the RAOC Apprentices College 1983 Mont Blanc expedition were beginning to wish that they had never left the comfort and safety of Training Centre 10 days earlier. At 1630 hours on our second day in the Hut, the situation worsened considerably, when we received a radio telephone message informing us that our two base-camp drivers were lying badly injured in Chamonix Hospital as a result of a traffic accident.

Expedition "Great Heights II" had started much more favourably with a trouble-free Channel crossing and drive through Central France. The only awkward moments occurring at French Army bases, which we were using to refuel our Safari Land Rover and Sherpa minibus. There were 14 expedition members, myself, Capt Chris Hanlan, Ssgt Geoff Edwards, Sgt Jim Tarwacki, our drivers Lcpl Mark Stewart and Driver Rick Austin, and 9 Apprentices from Ardennes Platoon who were all relative newcomers to Army life. The 700 mile journey was completed in non-stop relays, driving through Reims, Dijon and Geneva, finally arriving in Chamonix. Our base was Les Deux Glaciers Camp Site, so named for its situation between the outflowing streams of the Bossons and Taconnaz glaciers, both only 15 minutes walk. From here we were to use the surrounding mountains to gain experience in the techniques of snow and ice climbing and to acclimatize physically to altitude, in preparation for an attempt on the summit of Mont Blanc; the White Mountain - at 15,773-ft Europe's second tallest peak. This was an attempt to repeat the success of the previous year when I led a group of 6 to the summit during a period of particularly favourable weather.

Having recovered from the journey in the excellent shower facilities of the camp site we carried out a recce of Chamonix. The town is a very pleasant mixture of old and new, with a strong Alpine influence which manages to survive the presence of large numbers of tourists and the inevitable gift shops. The surroundi scenery is magnificent, being dominated by the needle-like Aiguille du Midi and the massive Dome du Gouter, behind which could be glimpsed the object of our expedition. That evening was spent preparing kit for the next day's exploits - including the initiation into the use of the invaluable but complicated crampons.

Next day found our group at the foot of the Bossons glacier - an impressive terminal morraine with confused and jumbled shapes and a continual downdraught of cold air. The Apprentices were very apprehensive at first since walking and climbing on ice is quite a complicated process

although some seem to have a natural ability or perhaps some are just clumsy!

Only the lower areas were used and having formed a working knowledge of the ropes, axes, hammers and crampons we retired from the glacier having developed a healthy respect for the ice - a very unforgiving substance! The next day we ventured further up the glacier. The Apprentices were gaining in confidence but they were all impressed by the nonchalant ways in which the French professional guides strolled about on the ice in everyday clothes whilst their pupils clambered about weighed down with every conceivable piece of climbing gear. However, in the afternoon, the normally cold glacial wind turned warm - a sure sign of rain - so we headed back to the campsite and into Chamonix. Whilst shopping, the heavens opened and a torrential downpour started.

This had stopped by the next morning and so we set about some fitness and acclimatization training. Chamonix itself is about 4000-ft above sea level which helps this process, but to gain real benefit time needs to be spent above 6000-ft and preferably higher. The Bellechat Refuge on the opposite side of the valley from the Camp site is at 7000-ft and serves an excellent cup of hot lemon. It also provides excellent views of the whole valley and a good 5 mile climb from the valley floor which proved most beneficial for us all. The weather on the next day was very poor so we made a trip to the nearby medieval and beautiful town of Annecy for fuel and a hypermarket. However, the following day dawned bright and clear and we continued our acclimatization training which gave the lads their first taste of the effects of altitude. Gasping for breath and dragging leaden limbs we climbed along the edge of the Tour glacier from Le Tour, the village at the far end of the valley. This route leads to the 8000-ft Albert Premier Refuge which is the starting point for many important climbs such as the Aiguilles Tour, Chardonnet and Argentiere. The crystal clear air was perfect for photography and also showed just how important the dark goggles were to prevent snow blindness. The descent was markedly quicker than the ascent and the local hostelry provided the necessary answer to the thirst we had worked up. A day was then spent rock climbing and in preparation for the main climb. The weather forecast, although not good for the immediate future, showed a period of good weather moving in from the Atlantic. The main problem was to get to the Aiguille du Gouter Refuge Hut in good weather where we could sit out the bad spell and wait for the chance to make the attempt on the summit.

The route to the Mont Blanc summit begins at the village of Le Fayet, 15 miles back down the valley of the river Arve. From here the Mont Blanc Tramway, which is the steepest rack and pinion railway in the world climbs up through breathtaking scenery on a two hour journey to Le Nid d'Aigle (the Eagle's Nest) at 7,743-ft. Here, the effects of altitude are immediately notieeable, which tells on the large number of tourists who pack the train. Shouldering our rucksacks we set off in the bright sunshine, myself and Ssgt Edwards leading, and Sgt Tarwacki bringing up the rear. Avoiding the most popular route through the Valley of Round Stones, we instead cut off to the right and climbed up the side of the Bionnassay Glacier. Here the smooth but steep snow fields allow fitter parties to cut an hour off the ascent time to the first hut. The Refuge de la Tete Rousse at 10,391-ft, which we reached at 1310 hours after an hour and three quarters. Here we rested for a mid-day meal and could see, 2000-ft above us, the refuge which was our goal for that day - its aluminium walls glinting in the afternoon sun.

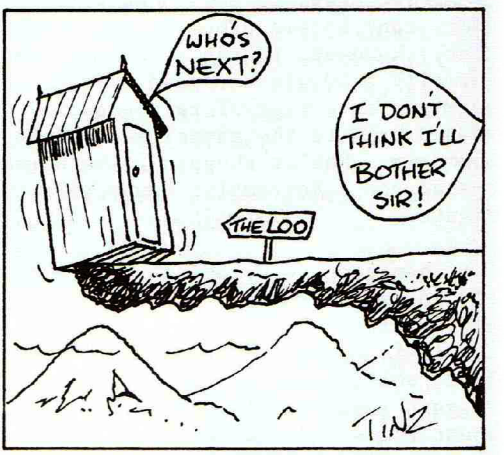
To reach the ridge leading up to this hut we had to cross a saucer-shaped snow field and then traverse a steep couloir (snow slope). Unlike the previous year, when

falling stones had been the main hazard, the presence of snow posed mild avalanche danger. Suitably roped and belayed we crossed this obstacle and climbed up onto the ridge. Altitude problems were much less than the previous year and progress was consequently quicker although a lot of care had to be taken not to climb too quickly. Iron memorial crucifixes hammered into the rocks were constant reminders of the dangers.

As the Refuge drew nearer rest stops became more frequent to allow leg muscles to reoxygenate, but by 1730 hours all members of the group had clambered onto the Refuge platform and into the Hut for a welcome glass of hot sweet lemon. We celebrated that night with an incredibly expensive meal of soup, followed by pork on a bed of peas. Spirits were high except for APte Watson who had a severe headache and Ssgt Edwards who felt too sick to eat his meal!

The usual method of getting to the summit from here is to wait until the early hours of the morning when the snow is hard though to support your weight and to complete the 8 hour return journey before the snow melts and hinders any movement. This means that 5 hours are carried out in darkness, so head torches must be used and many layers of thermal clothing are worn to protect against the extreme cold, which can easily be minus forty degrees centigrade, not including the wind chill factor. Because of these conditions, the weather must be perfect if any attempt is to be made safely.

At 0200 hours next morning a very strong gale was blowing which meant movement outside the hut was out of the question, and sleep was our only option, much to the relief of some of the Apprentices who by this time had altitude sickness. Daylight brought no relief to the weather situation and so we settled down to pass the time as best we could. The refuge is designed to hold 50 people and consists of a large communal room surrounded by smaller sleeping rooms which are lined with bunk beds, each provided with a thin mattress, a pillow and two blankets. All kit is kept in wicker baskets and plastic clogs are worn inside the hut. Frequent brews are necessary to help alleviate the altitude sickess caused by the dryness of the air, but at least this gives you something to do. The other main occupation is a trip to the loo - no mean feat as these were located outside and some distance from the main hut along a precarious walkway and all in the teeth of a 70 mile per hour blizzard!



I was woken by one of the Refuge staff telling me that Chamonix Hospital was on the radio phone with the fateful news of the drivers. This left us with no choice but to descend at the first possible opportunity, although this was out of the question in the blizzard. Then at 1900 hrs that evening a sudden break appeared in the clouds and the ridge below us became visible. After that the air cleared quickly providing an opportunity for some excellent photographs. However, that night the snow started to fall again and it was not until 1100 hrs on the following morning that we were able to make our move from the hut. The conditions were not ideal with very limited visibility, light snow falling and deep snow underfoot, but at least the wind had dropped and the radio forecast was for clearer

weather. We divided into three groups, Ssgt Edwards taking the first three Apprentices, myself the second trio and Sgt Tarwacki the last three. Some Apprentices were apprehensive about the descent, but at least glad to be leaving the Refuge.

The descent of the ridge to the couloir took four and a half hours and can only be described as awful. It is very difficult to move over snow-covered rocks with crampons but without them it would have been suicidal and so progress was very slow. Crossing the couloir was more difficult than on the ascent and we were hampered by some particularly awkward Italians intent on climbing up, and an international incident was only narrowly avoided. From here we made good progress to the Tete Rousse Hut, but there was now no possibility of catching the last train from the Eagle's Nest, which we reached at 1900 hours, and where we rested for a much needed brew. Ssgt Edwards' group had gone ahead but the second two groups joined forces and we began the march down the path alongside the railway track.

Our plan was not to walk all the way to Le Fayet but to reach the Bellevue Hotel and then drop down to the valley and march back to the camp site. We were aided in this by a crystal clear night with a full moon but consequently very low temperatures. It was essential to keep moving since having to bivouac would have been very unpleasant. From the Bellevue Hotel, which is only linked to civilization by the railway, the track plunges steeply down through thickly forested terrain within which it was so dark that our head torches were necessary, but despite these it proved a most unpleasant part of the journey with people slipping and stumbling on uneven ground.

Eventually, at 0330 hours we reached a metalled road which led to the village of Les Houches only nine kilometres from Chamonix. Spurred on by the fact that we were off the mountainside, we marched along the Route de Chamonix finally reaching the campsite at 0530 hours, having completed, what for the Apprentices may be the most gruelling 15 miles of their lives.

After snatching a few hours sleep, we began our struggle with French bureaucracy and eventually it became possible to reconstruct what had happened in our absence and to work out a solution to the problem. The drivers had collided with a bridge support on the Thursday night whilst driving the Safari Land Rover, which was now a mangled write-off in a Le Fayet garage. Despite the extensive damage to the vehicle the two were not critically injured but Driver Austin had a cracked pelvis, a broken leg and many cuts and bruises. Both were very bored - not being able to speak any French - and they were very glad to see us. Only having one vehicle was our immediate problem and after consultation with Deepcut we decided that the only course open to us was to return the Apprentices and Sgt Tarwacki to Calais and then Ssgt Edwards and myself would drive back to Chamonix and pick up the kit. This we did, and one of the worst experiences of the whole expedition was turning round at Calais and retracing the same route. 2100 miles later, having driven through Geneva, Switzerland on three different nights and feeling like long distance lorry drivers, we finally boarded the Calais-Dover ferry. The two drivers were flown back in a light aircraft from Geneva to RAF Farnborough.

In retrospect, our disappointment at not reaching the summit was balanced by the fact that we completed an extremely arduous descent in adverse weather conditions which, considering the inexperience of the Apprentices, was extremely satisfying in itself. I feel sure that had the unfortunate circumstances been different we could have succeeded in reaching the summit with at least some members of the party. All in all, we had a very

interesting and challenging two weeks which was a worthwhile experience for us all in the best traditions of Adventurous Training.

A COMPANY

OC Major R G Ginn RAOC

2IC Captain B J Johnson RAOC

(CSM) WO2 D M J Rooke RAOC



Rear Rank: 2Lt J M Gilbert Sgt R C Dunne Ssgt J A Cook Sgt C D Christopher
l to r. Sgt D R Brock Sgt P A Wells 2Lt J M Douglas

Front rank: Lt M C Simpson Capt B J Johnson Maj R G Ginn
l to r WO2 (CSM) D M J Rooke Lt J R A Lancaster 2Lt N I Astley

A COMPANY

Life in the Company is likened to a snowball on the top of a mountain, that at the beginning of terms starts to move slowly down picking up more snow with each revolution, this action culminates at the end of term with a thundering great avalanche that deposits tons of snow on the unfortunate below it. These last two terms have been no exception. So what has gone on in the Company during those hectic eight months.

September 1983 saw the arrival of Aden and Arnhem Platoons, their eager bright eyes looking out from under long tresses of hair. But we soon gave them that vacant lack lustre gaze beneath a No 3 haircut. Recruits they soon were. Against all expectations they were quickly moulded into something like soldiers. Ardennes Platoon, no longer rookies, moved smugly about muttering "sprog this and sprog that" and generally feeling pleased with themselves. Alamein, now the senior Platoon, were really in the big time - laid-back lords of the Company. Alamein Mafia rules - OK.

Spring 1984 saw the arrival of the "YETTEES" or YTs as the ASYTS Platoon was named. What a rabble. Very quickly we had their numbers down to 16 - soon they would all be back in civvy street, but surprise, surprise, by half term they almost resembled soldiers and they were narrowly defeated in the recruit drill competition. By Company camp time they were fully fledged accepted members of the clan.

Highlights of the Spring Term were the Company camp at Fremington and Fourth Term Battle Camp. Both are covered in more detail elsewhere.

During the period of this article the Company has come under new management. Major Richard Ginn joined the College from DMA London at the beginning of the Winter term. Being an Airborne Warrior and of course, a fitness fanatic, even greater emphasis was placed on the standard of both apprentice and staff fitness. Major Ginn's meticulous eye for detail initially caused many a Subaltern and Sgt to break into a sweat!

Needless to say the standard of instruction and learning has improved considerably. Company Sgt Major Rooke (or "BM" to the apprentices) continues to rule the Company with a rod of iron, and a sharp wisecrack. Still a keen runner he is entered for several half marathons this year.

Lt Simpson continues to collect used cars the way others collect stamps. He is currently P1 Commander of Alamein.

Lt Lancaster still overseeing Ardennes P1 and 2IC Sub Aqua. Rumour has it that he will have his own air bottle when Lt Snow goes.

2Lt Douglas- hockey super star (Army player) and P1 Commander of Arnhem.

2Lt Gilbert, our Snowdon mountain diver who specialises in chin first landings continues to motivate Aden Platoon



2Lt Astley, (or Mr Forgetful as he is known in the Company office) is the driving force behind Arakan Platoon (who?)

Sgt Cook, fresh from his RQMS course holds a tight rein on Arnhem. Sgt Wells again back in the Corps soccer side also holds a tight rein on Aden and 2Lt Gilbert.

Sgt Brock returned from his EPC(A) course capable of pronouncing and spelling such long words as cat and dog. Sgt Brock is, of course, the Unit QTO and is extremely popular with the fourth terms around driving test time.

Sgt Dunne, newly promoted and as keen as mustard, can be seen buzzing around the Arakan Platoon. He has recently made a rugby comeback to the Corps side.

Sgt Christopher ("the Hulk" to the apprentices - when he is well out of hearing) continues to run Alamein Platoon efficiently and play rugby for: Training Centre, Corps, London Irish, County, Army and Combined Services.

The end of the Spring Term sees the departure of the Company Second in Command, Capt Johnson. He leaves the College after three and a half years with much regret and many happy memories. He wishes to express his deep felt thanks to all staff and apprentices past and present for their support and loyalty.

Whilst detailed reports of our Platoon activities appear elsewhere I think it is worth mentioning a few outstanding characters in the Company.

APte Fuller has had an outstanding couple of terms. During the Summer he broke four Army Junior Swimming records. Then went on to compete in numerous Pentathlons, where with limited training and experience he went on to achieve high praise, and is short listed for the Army squad.

APte Lewis developed into an outstanding rugby player, scoring over 100 points this season for the College and was the linch pin to our rugby success

ASgt Fleming, who as well as being a mainstay in the Corps of Drums, has put in many hours work to bring his ASYTS Platoon up to such a high standard. No Company notes would be complete without a big "thank you" to our hard working office staff, Mrs Boorman and Miss Chaloner.

To all apprentices, past and present A Company is alive and running. You have our sincere wishes for every success in the future.

ADEN PLATOON

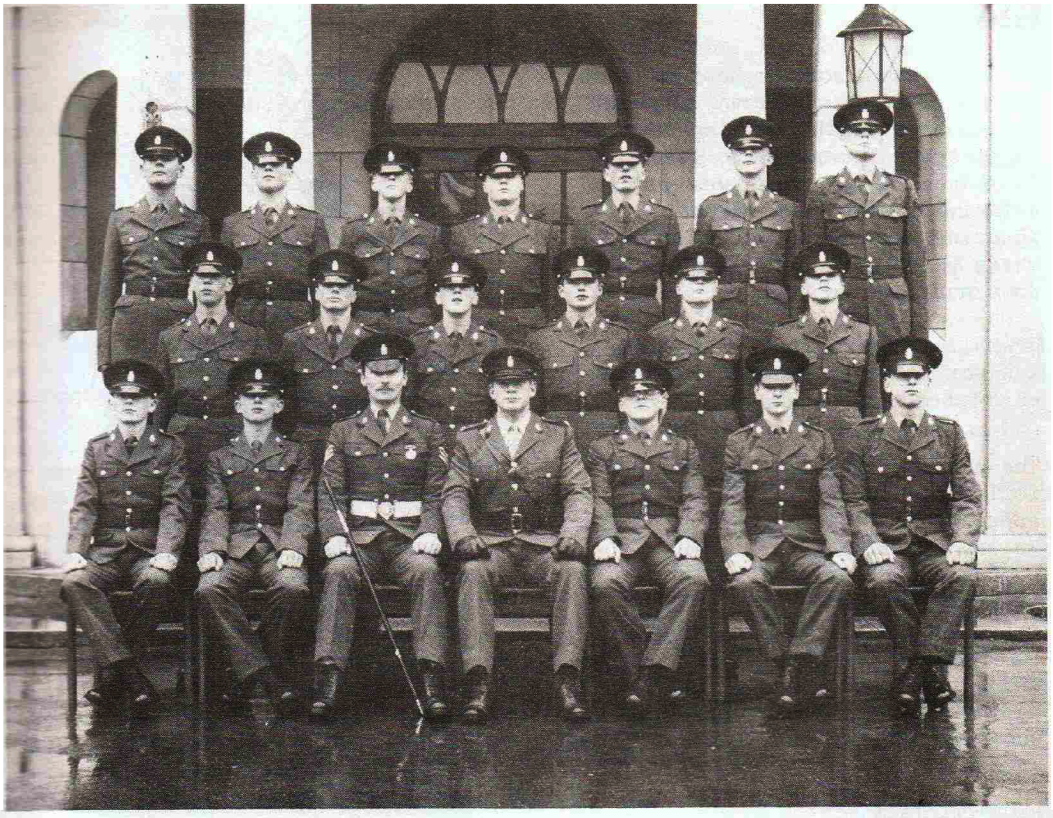
Platoon Commander 2Lt J M Gilbert RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt P A Wells RAOC

Winter Term 1983

On 6 September 1983, 24 rather ashen faced youths arrived at the College to begin the first of their four terms as apprentice soldiers in Aden Platoon. For many of them this new way of life was quite overwhelming, as LCpl Gregory recounts:

"As I arrived at the College at 6 o-clock on 6 September this was the first time it struck me that I had actually gone through with joining the Army. There was no turning back. I felt as though I had started a whole new life - all my civilian times were now in the past. When I saw all the barrack blocks and all the new people I was a bit apprehensive. Everything was happening too fast. Soon I was having my first locker inspection - it felt strange too at night pressing my clothes and bulling my boots ready for the next day. I



Addies Reed Shackleton Campkin Brown Pattison Elliott
Myers Stirling Treasure Bradbury Kane Burgess
Attwood Colemere Sgt Wells 2Lt Gilbert McKinney Burns Gregory

knew that now when things got rough, there was no running home to mum. I was also surprised that all these points about cleaning the block and having inspections were not mentioned at the Selection Centre.

My first CSMs muster parade was also a big shock - we were marched all over the place being shouted at continually. RSM's drill was even worse, but after a few weeks things became easier - I got used to the system and now I am enjoying myself".

By October two of the fainthearted had already left and we were down to 22. The platoon was beginning to get stuck into the military training and the first major event on the training programme was the recruit shooting camp at 10-14 October. APte Reed takes up the story:

"Our range camp consisted of both Aden and Arnhem Platoons. It took place at Hythe in Kent and we stayed in St Martin's Plain camp. The accommodation was comfortable; it had a good NAAFI and there was a cinema where video films were shown every night, so there was plenty to do in the evenings. The ranges were quite a long way away from the camp, but once we were there we had a really good time. Not only did we use the normal type of range, but also the electric target range, moving targets and a fire control range where we had

the chance to give fire control orders.

We used the SLR throughout the camp and we all took our Army Personal Weapons test with it which most of us passed. I managed to get a 'marksman' score which was very satisfying. When we weren't shooting we worked in the butts where we moved the targets up and down and patched them up.

Overall I though that range camp was very good value and everybody enjoyed it".

The platoon five day battle camp followed soon afterwards and the apprentices found themselves on Long Valley training area, living in bashas and practising various military skills such as platoon attacks, patrolling and ambushing. Some memorable patrols went out and and several successes were scored against our rival platoon, Arnhem, who were also on battle camp in the same area.

Once the platoon were back in barracks training began in earnest for the Passing Out Parade, where Aden and Arnhem had been selected to do the PT display. ALcpl Pattison and APte Bradbury describe how it all went.

"The PT display team was chosen from Aden and Arnhem platoons - the two first term platoons. After a few practices the team was decided and we started training straight away. We practised every sports afternoon, doing EMAs and also for an hour or so each evening.

First of all we had to learn the basic vaults. Once we were good enough we started to do cross-overs. As soon as this was going smoothly a basic routine was put together. From that point onwards we simply practised the routine again and again until it was perfect.



On the morning of the Passing Out Parade we went out onto the parade square and set the kit up before anybody arrived. As the people started arriving we stood in the drill shed until we were given the word from Lt Snow and then we doubled onto the square. As we ran onto the square we saw the stands packed with parents. The display went very well and no mistakes were made at all.

We all enjoyed doing the display, and a big thank you to Cpls Franklin and Starbuck for training us".

Spring Term 1984

The second term started with a bang (literally) with a visit to a fire-power demonstration at Warminster, thoroughly enjoyed by all the apprentices. There were several more bangs to come during a battle camp in February, as APtes Shackleton and Addies recall:

"The second term battle camp for both Aden and Arnhem platoons took place on Hawley training area and lasted for a week. It was a defensive exercise so about half the time was spent just digging trenches. We also practised patrolling and platoon and section attacks. On the third day we had a gas attack, everybody got a good

dose of CS gas and we spent the whole day wearing NBC suits.

Both platoons continued with rivalry, acting as enemy to each other when carrying out platoon attacks. As usual, the high amount of thunder flashes and trip flares were used, and it all added up to a very successful exercise".

By the end of February the platoon had been whittled down in size to a compact 18 - one of these who left us was APte Taylor who went to AAC Chepstow to begin training as an Apprentice Ammunition Technician. Once into March we found ourselves on our way to Fremington in North Devon, to take part in the annual Company Spring Camp, EXERCISE SPRING LEAP III. This is what ALcpls Stirling and Elliott found themselves doing in sunny Devon:

"Exercise Spring Leap III started on Wednesday 29 February with a five hour coach journey to Fremington Training Camp, during which most people in the platoon took the chance to catch up on some lost sleep. Our Platoon Commander, 2Lt Gilbert told us about some of the activities we would find at Fremington, such as shooting, abseiling, canoeing, an assault course competition and a two day exercise on Exmoor. Some members of the platoon weren't looking forward to the abseiling, especially APtes Addies and Colemere, but all credit to them because they both eventually managed to do it.

On Saturday 3 March we started our two day Exercise on Exmoor, Exercise Spring Heels, with an hour's journey in the back of 4-tonners. We were then dropped in the middle of nowhere and given the grid reference of the first checkpoint we were to go to. Each day we travelled about 16 miles stopping at checkpoints along the way to carry out command tasks such as changing a landrover wheel and a water crossing. Well done to ALcpls Gregory's section for completing the course and ALcpl Pattison's section for getting to within 600m of the final checkpoint when the Exercise ended. Altogether the platoon enjoyed the Exercise tremendously. We rounded off the camp with a company smoker which was a great laugh. We do hope that 2Lt Gilbert and the CSM enjoyed our little show. The camp was both physically and mentally tiring but nevertheless we all had a great time".

The end of term is now fast approaching and preparations for the Passing Out Parade are now well under way. Next term for the apprentices will be almost entirely education, but there are some moments of light relief to look forward to such as the third term battle camp and ELT camp in Wales, which are being eagerly awaited by the permanent staff at least!

ALAMEIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Summer Term Lt D Newell RAOC

Winter Term Lt M C Simpson RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt C Christopher RAOC

Winter Term 1983

The platoon entered its third term at College under the guidance of Lt David Newell and as a break from education was soon on its way to Capel Curig to take part in External Leadership Training. The notes below were compiled by ACpl Cunningham.

"On arriving at Capel Curig camp our thoughts of a nice enjoyable week were crushed as all we could see on stepping off the coach were hills, hills and more hills and a wind blowing that would have sliced Big Daddy in half. The platoon was split into two Sections and we set about the various activites including map reading, a 48 hour exercise and a visit to a local slate mine.

The week, however, went well and we learnt a lot of useful skills. In my opinion the highlight of the week was on the second from last day. We were on the hills practising map reading when Sgt Wilson said he would walk ahead, fall and pretend to be injured.

The instruction we had been given in First Aid came in handy because as Sgt Wilson was running ahead he accidentally tripped and really did sprain his ankle. We decided to carry him to shelter and relieve the pain in his leg. Having successfully done this we felt very pleased with ourselves. It was a good exercise and we all learnt a lot."

During this term the collection for the White Lodge Spastics School took place. ALcpl Doherty had the privilege of presenting Mrs Carol Myer with the cheque for White Lodge and a bouquet of flowers.



ALcpl Doherty had the privilege of presenting Mrs Carol Myer with the cheque for the White Lodge and a bouquet of flowers

The Passing Out Parade meant a sad farewell to Lt Newell who departed for his ATO Course at CAD Kineton.

Spring Term 1984

Alamein, now with Lt Simpson as Platoon Commander, entered their final term with the platoon spread amongst various activities ranging from trade and driver training to skiing, and in the case of APte Fuller, three weeks at the Army Modern Pentathlon Training Centre.

The following notes were compiled by APte Gleghorn:

"The term started rather haphazardly with the part-joining of Benghazi platoon and Alamein platoon. It was not long, however, before everyone settled down and began to work together. The majority of the platoon spent the first half of term taking their trade training and driving tests. In the meantime every Saturday morning was spent carrying out CFT training - enough said about that. Gradually the whole platoon, section by section carried out a week of military training organised by Lt Simpson and Sgt Christopher, concluding with a one day exercise on G training area. The platoon was then once again split up again to go away for a week on work experience to various working units.

After half term there was a quick week of military training before the majority went off skiing to either Germany or Scotland. Those who were sent to Germany were cursing the others in Scotland because they missed the two week pre-battle camp training, including introduction to the 66-mm and grenades. The whole platoon, however, met at Sennybridge on Sunday 18 March to start their final exercise before passing out. The first two days were spent on the ranges and assault course practising all we had learnt on the 66-mm anti tank and the hand grenades. Wednesday was the first day of the exercise with a bright and cheerful early morning call at 0315 hrs. Breakfast 0400 hrs. Move out 0500, a march to our location. Trenches dug, IPK's fitted. Morning: March, live firing ranges, assault course, march and a big sigh of relief from everyone. Transport back Friday morning just in time to get your kit done for drill, drill and more drill."

The end is now in sight and the members of the platoon are posted to units ranging from 28 Amphibious Workshops to HQ Northern Ireland (but mainly to 90 Ordnance Company). Good luck to all members of the Alamein Platoon with your career and we leave you with a poem:

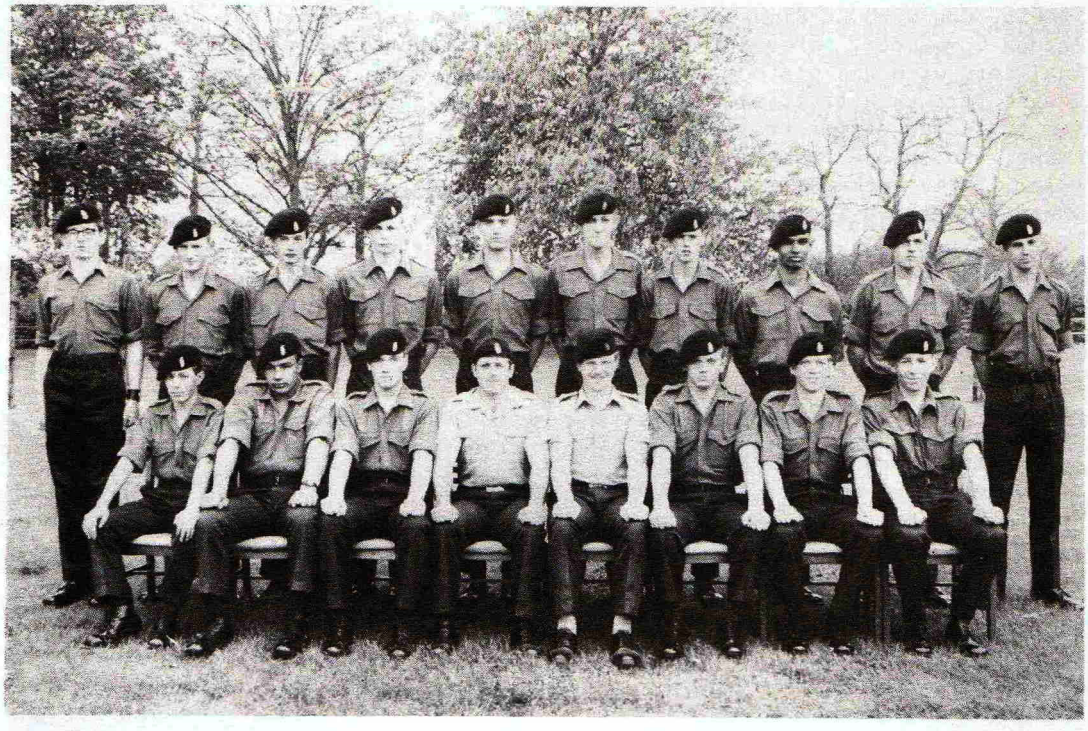
The young recruit is silly - 'e thinks of suicide
'E's lost his gutter-devil; 'e 'asn't got 'is pride
But day by day, they kicks 'im which 'elps 'im on a bit,
Till 'e finds 'isself one mornin' with a full and proper Kit.
Gettin' clear o'dirtiness, getting done with mess,
Gettin' shut o' doin' things rather-more-or-less.

Rudyard Kipling.

ARAKAN PLATOON

Platoon Commander 2Lt N I Astley RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt R C Dunne RAOC



Rear Rank: l to r *Procter Emmett Crane Parsons Telfer Hooper Robb Newton Vickers Brolly*

Front Rank: l to r *Smith Noonan Fowler Sgt Dunne Lt Astley Horsfield Lock Pennington*

Spring Term 1984 - Term 1

The arrival of Arakan Platoon heralded a new era for the College. The RAOC's first group of Armed Service Youth Training Scheme boys had arrived. Contrary to popular belief the "Yetis" as they soon became affectionately known, did not have green hair, earrings in their noses, or eyes in the centre of their foreheads! In fact they looked remarkably normal and, with the exception of four who decided that army life was not for them, swiftly settled into normal college routine.

The complacency of the other two recruit platoons took a slight denting when we were narrowly beaten into second place in the drill competition and after the company camp at Fremington most people had to admit to a grudging admiration for our enthusiasm and hard work.

On the sports front APtes Noonan and Newton soon became stalwarts of the College rugby team and APte's Telfer and Hooper put in creditable performances for the basketball squad.

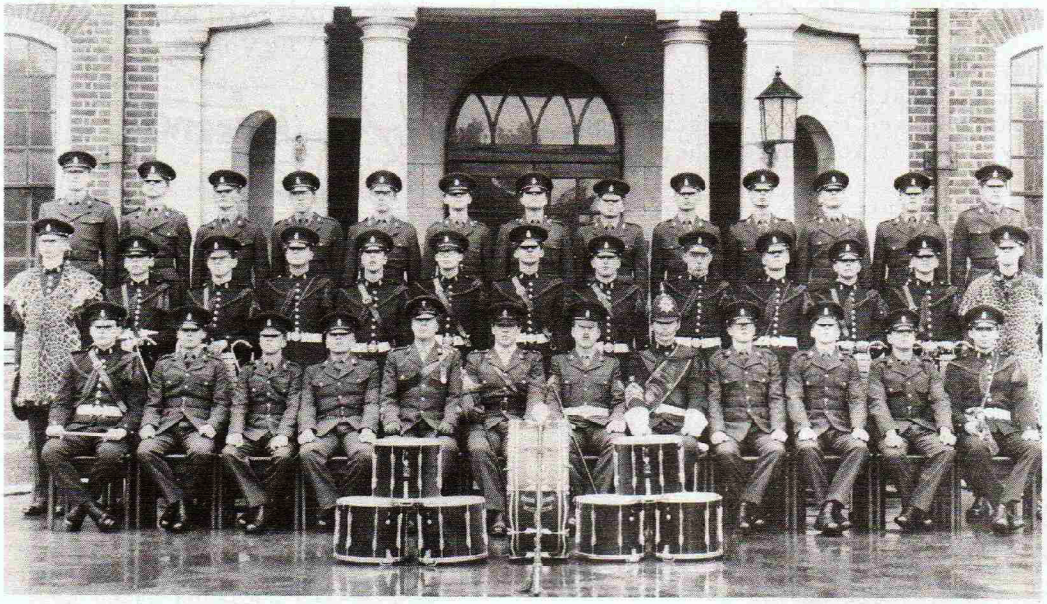
So the term draws to a close on

Arakan Platoon, and we look forward to next term when we hope to see many of our "Yetis" become fully fledged apprentices.

ARDENNES PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J R A Lancaster RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt D R Brock RAOC



Rear Rank: l to r *APtes Worden Blade ACpl Brown APte Kay ALcpl O'Donnell APte Denton ACpl Jones APtes Wilson Henry Buckle ALcpl Lewis APtes Simms Fowler*

Centre Rank: l to r *APtes Anderson Harper ALcpl Armitt APtes Parham Twells Hewlett Goodwin ALcpl Black Aptes Watson Hardman Smith Short Warner*

Front Rank: l to r *Aptes McLeod Rix ALcpls Cribbin Lord WO2 (BSM) P J Wise MISM Scots DG Lt J R A Lancaster RAOC (Pl Comd) Sgt D R Brock RAOC (Pl Sgt) J Drum Major Seymour ALcpls Harrison Bennet APres Johansson Brand*

Summer Term 1983 - Term One

On 28 June 1983 APte Brown 24634037 walked through the gates of the College as the first member of the newly formed Ardennes platoon. He was soon followed by 41 other young boys all hoping to make a life out of the Army. One of them recalls the first time he saw the College: "When I first saw the College it looked a bit old and broken down, but I soon got to like it". Another remembers: "My Army career began amidst great confusion as the total time between medical test, Selection

Centre visit, confirmation of job, and my final journey from civvy street into the 'alien' military surroundings of the College was all of five days. On arrival I did not know what to expect: the mass of unsuspecting teenagers had entered a life that was going to bring out the varying degrees of ability and self-determination, developing skills we did not know existed, and levels of fitness we never hoped to achieve."

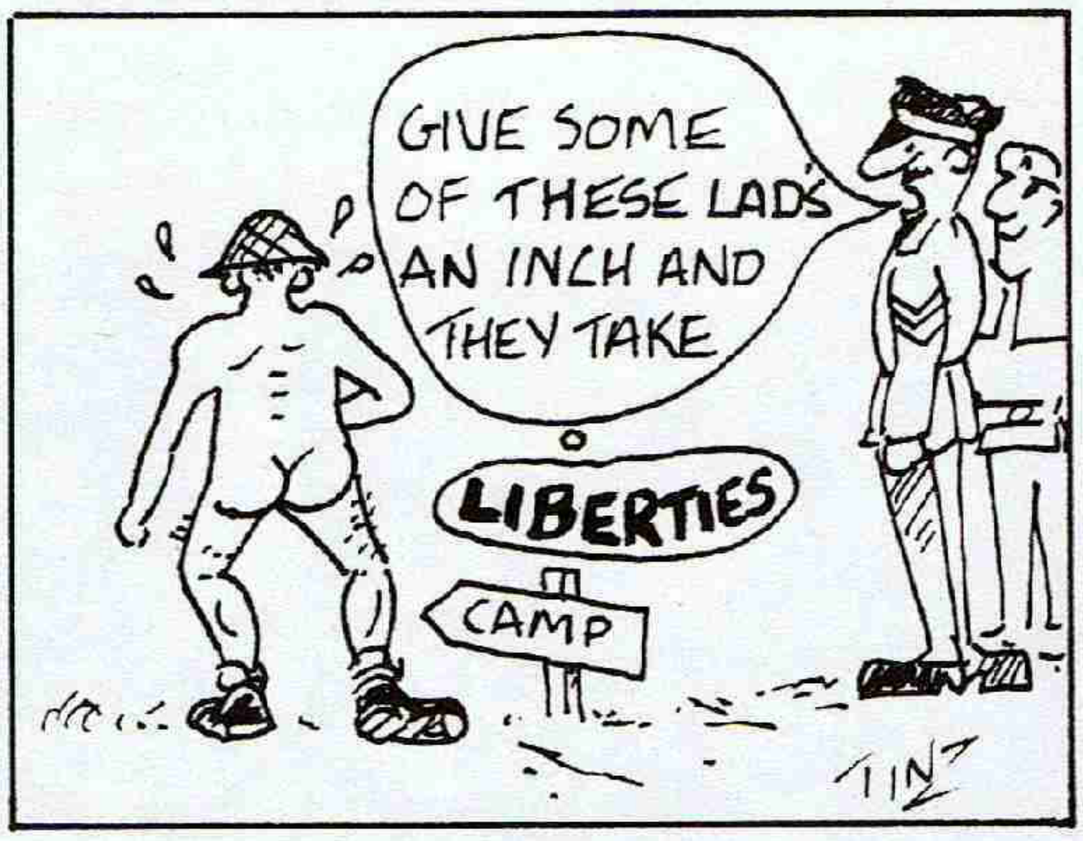
They all settled down to the first term of beasting and block inspections followed by more beasting, but only two left to find another life.

It was not until the first battle camp came around and the platoon received its first blood drawn in action. APte Kay cut his hand and had to be Medivacced for treatment, but he was soon back in the field to carry out his duties. They quickly learned to put into practice all the lessons taught in FMT and that the correct challenging procedure was not "halt I've got a gun" nor "stand and deliver".

They all returned to camp better for the experience of sleeping under the stars and cooking their own food and ready to face their next task. This proved to be the inter-platoon tug-of-war competition, in which, despite very little practice, the heavy-weight team managed to put up a very good fight in the final, only just losing.

The remainder of the College went away on Summer recess and the platoon was left to complete their first term's progress. This included their second battle camp, the first for 2Lt Douglas. Great fun was had by all, except the staff because it did not rain, but then it was the height of summer. They set up their first ambush and inevitably one group fell asleep and got more of a shock than the party being ambushed. The most enjoyable part of the exercise was the gentle stroll along the canal from Long Valley back to camp.

Well the DS enjoyed it. Harrison got a bit warm though but if he will wear a vest, shirt, HD pullover, combat liner and jacket on a forced march what more can he expect? He taught the platoon a valuable lesson that day.



Once the battle camp was over it was soon the end of term and a whole 10 days leave. I'm sure someone said something about long recess when I came to the College.

Winter Term 1983 - Term Two

The short leave over and we all returned to work, or most of us did; three members of the platoon went with Maj Ashcroft on a water jolly, whilst a further nine set off for the dizzy heights of Mont Blanc. Great fun was had by all and they learnt a lot of useful lessons, including how to walk on ice without slipping down the mountain.

When they all returned they joined the remainder of the platoon in their training for the second term, one of them remembers: "Life in the College has naturally got better since the first term. Once the basic training had finished and education had started things began to be enjoyable". Was this because of our two WRAC officers, Capt Chadwick and Lt Snow, I wonder?

The term passed quickly with very few highlights, although ALcpl Bennet managed to get lost whilst

on an education visit to London. Other points of interest included getting soaked whilst carrying out the White Lodge collection in which the platoon collected one of the largest amounts. The most enjoyable part of the term was the weekend trip to Guernsey, where we all learnt of the German occupation and enjoyed ourselves into the bargain. On the way back, HM Customs decided a few of the apprentices looked a bit shady, which resulted in a thorough hour-long search of us and our kit. Nothing was found of course.

Shortly after our return it was away on battle camp again, this time to Barrossa, and with Balaclava as enemy. It was bitterly cold, but unfortunately it still did not rain, perhaps it will for their fourth term battle camp. Jones and Wilson were a little upset by the CS attack at dusk and were seen running off into the distance to return some 20 minutes later. Attacks against Balaclava were highly successful and they managed to lose a man, but it was hard work skirmishing through the mud and swamp. The last night was spent relaxing around a camp fire and eating baked potatoes before venturing on to the Sandhurst Confidence Course the next day. Here the men were sorted out from the boys and even Worden climbed the tower.

This term also saw the Company boxing with Watson, O'Donnell and Harrison all winning their bouts, whilst Bennett - the platoon star (?) boxer was knocked out in the first 30 seconds of his fight, but well fought all of you. The term came to a close and we all went away for Christmas to return in 1984.

Spring Term 1984 - Term Three

It was not long after our return that we packed our bergens and walking breeches and went off to Capel Curig and the ELT camp. Here Harrison tried to hang glide off Snowdon without a hang glider. Chris (Watson) Bonnington had to be pulled back to stop him racing to the top of any peak in sight whilst Armitt was our only casualty due to the weather, suffering mild exposure. Fowler did not make it beyond the dangers of the cookhouse, he was excused Hill walking and Blake went down with glandular fever.

The inter platoon Rugby competition showed up some new talent from previously unknown sources. The platoon produced a good team which wss narrowly beaten in a hard-fought final by the curse of Ardennes - Balaclava Platoon - we'll beat you yet.

The whole Company then moved off to Fremington for the Company camp and they finally got wet. They went canoeing, the only bad day's weather and Ardennes were duty platoon, in camp. When it came to the competition we showed the way home winning all except the football and assault course, and winning the whole competition outright. There were, however, a few mishaps on the way to victory. Wilson slipped under the log on the water command task and despite being in the water already, he would not let go. Brown, Worden and Rix all managed to throw their bergens into the river, the latter bergen being rescued by the CO whilst Brown preferred to follow his in. A special mention must go to Armitt and Tyrrell who led the only two groups to complete the round robin exercise.

We were not long back in camp when we upped sticks again and went off with Aden and Arnhem Platoons to Nottingham. A fun weekend was had by all, the only thing missing was Newark Castle, which is only a wall. Thank you Sgt Dunne.

We are now rapidly approaching the end of term, some are looking forward to a week canoeing and hillwalking in Scotland, whilst others are content to go home. But all are filled with

anticipation of next term's trade training and the first taste of adult service.

The platoon have now taken over the College Corps of Drums from Alamein, or at least 18 of them have. A lot of hard work and practice is being put in ready for their first public appearance on 5 April at Alamein's Passing Out Parade.

They have also been asked to appear at Weymouth to help with the D-Day celebrations in June and look forward to many other engagements next term.

To conclude this resume, a few more choice quotes from the lads:

"Deepcut isn't exactly fun city of the south".

"I must say that life at the College does help to make you a better soldier."

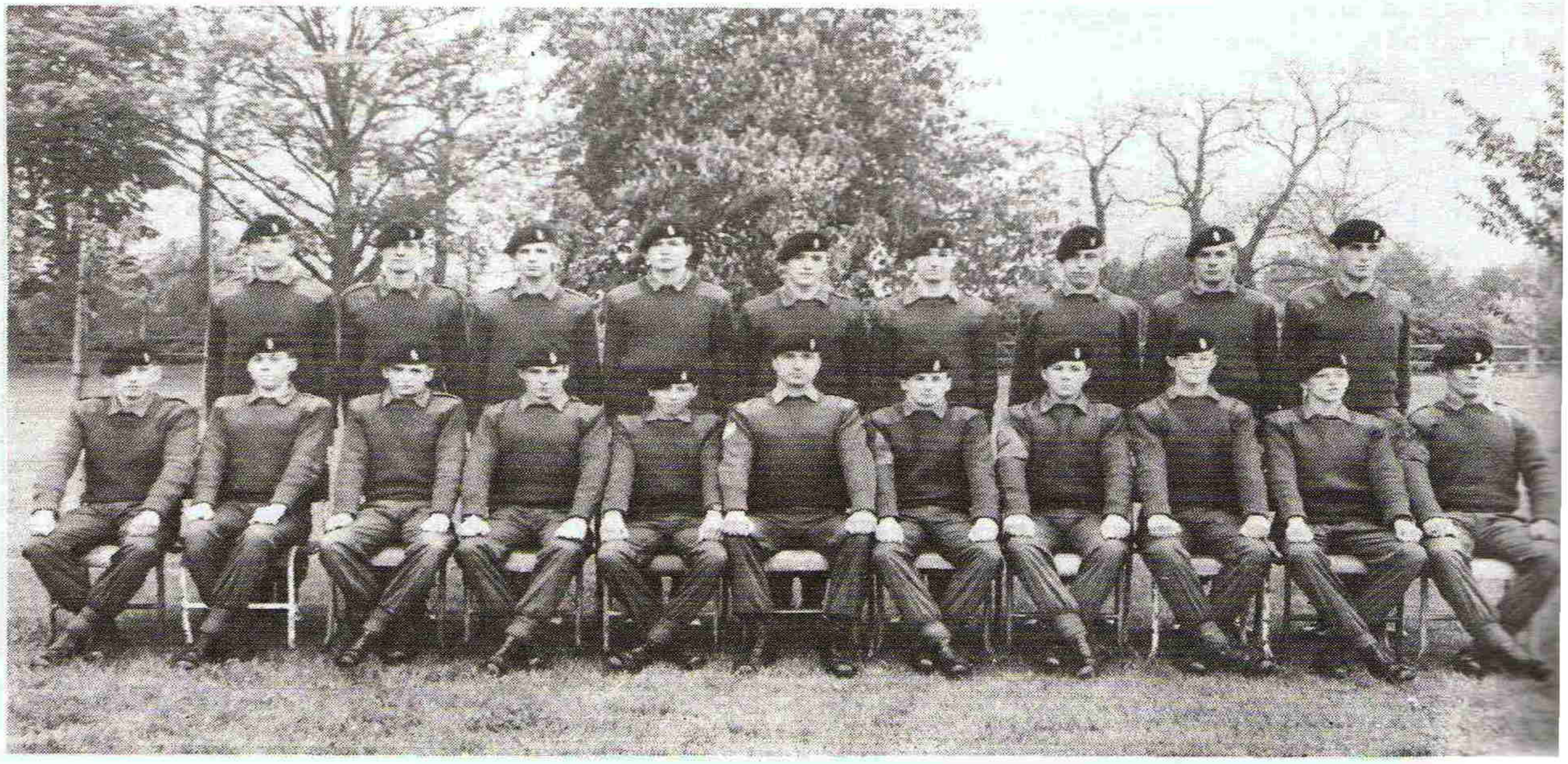
"The permanent staff are a bit strict in their lectures but they try to make it interesting, and a good laugh sometimes".



ARNHEM PLATOON

Platoon Commander 2Lt J M Douglas RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt J A Cook RAOC



Rear Rank: l to r *Shone Cockayne Ould Walden Crimin Williams Anderson Adams Desmond Desmond*

Front Rank: l to r *Jackson Chandler Purchase Brown Grant Sgt Cook Smith Kendell Dewhurst Travis McAuley*

Winter Term 1983 - Term 1

So in September 1983 it was a brand new platoon and a brand new Platoon Commander, the latter arriving only one week before the end of the Summer term, which joined with the 'old sweat' Sgt Cook to make Arnhem 24 fresh young faces arrived and at the time of writing we still possess 22 slightly more war-weary apprentices (is this a good or bad reflection on the platoon staff?) Once the lads had settled in (we very graciously allowed them about two hours for this difficult task) the work began in earnest. The platoon quickly developed its own character and characters and performed extremely well in the first term. The shooting camp at Hythe, despite atrocious weather, was a great success as most people overcame an initial amount of "gun-shyness" to achieve some impressive results, the reward for hard work. Next came the Recruit Drill competition in which Aden Platoon were decisively defeated, a tribute to the effort put in by Sgt Cook with the lads on the square.

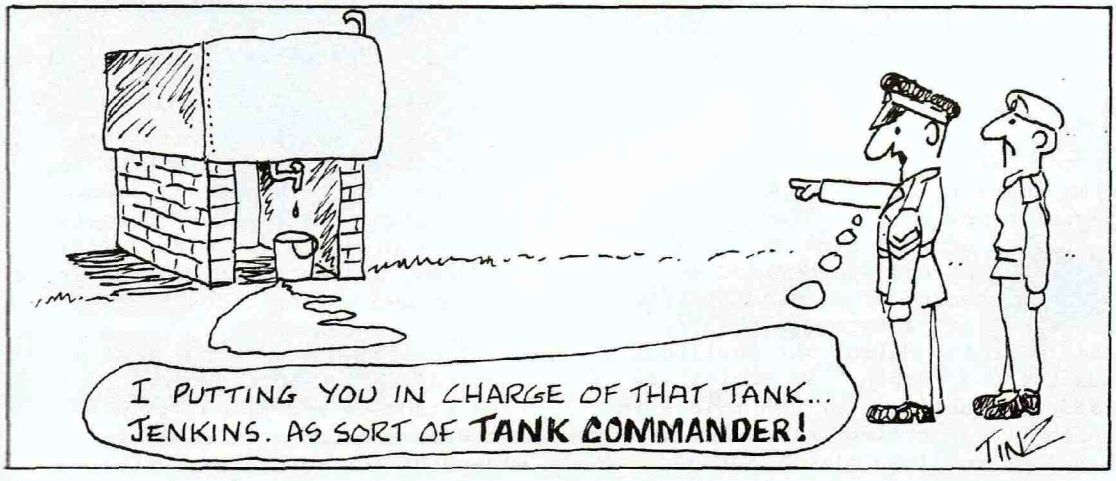
The first term Battle Camp also sharpened our keen rivalry with Aden Platoon as we battled for control of Long Valley before declaring a truce for the march back to camp. Immediately on return the platoon was thrown into the inter-company boxing, where special mention must go to APte Mumford for a display which could have graced Madison Square Gardens.

At the end of the term APtes Mumford, Berry and Kendall were selected for promotion and gained their first stripe in time to go home and impress the girl friend.

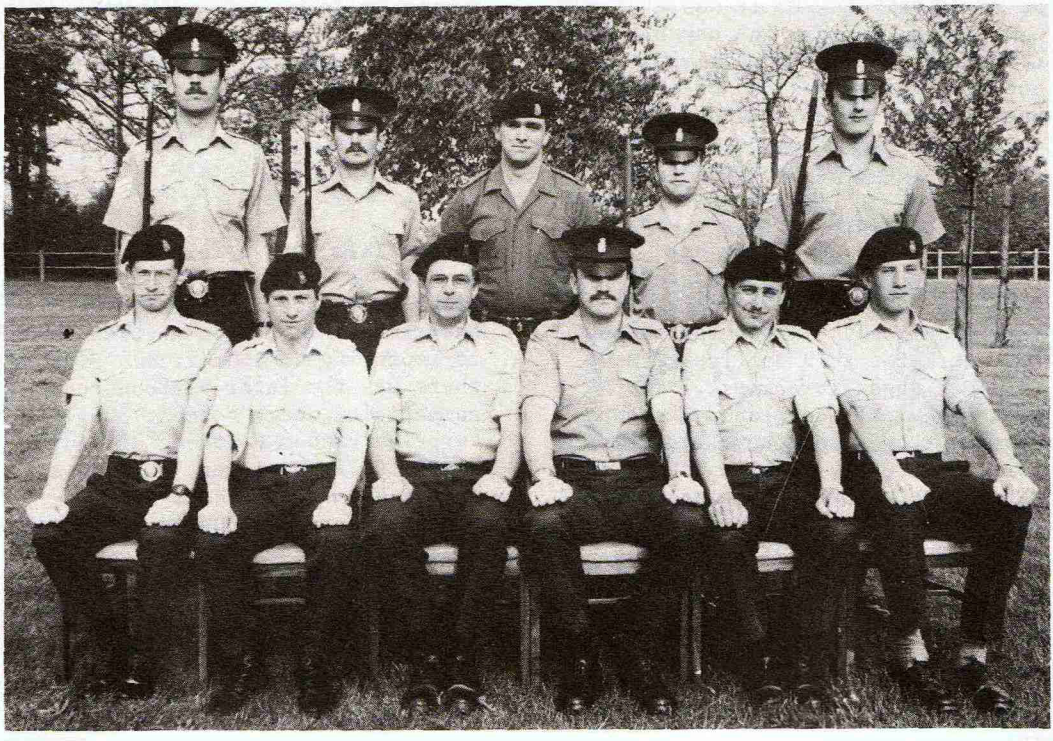
Spring Term 1984 - Term 2

After working off the excesses of Christmas the platoon settled down to improving on last term. Firstly there was the inter-platoon rugby competition where to most people's surprise Arnhem Platoon, without a single College player, carried all before them to the semi-finals where we were eventually defeated by a strong team from the other Company. Nevertheless it was a tribute to the character and team spirit of the platoon that we should get so far.

Next came the dogged defence of Minley Warren, against those enemies of democracy "The People's Army of Hawley", who had a distinct resemblance to Aden Platoon. Most people had the chance to occupy a command appointment and the exericse was a great success. Notable was APte Brown's recce of, and plan of, attack on an enemy position - a definite VC in the making.



'B' COMPANY



Rear Rank: Sgt M A Snelson Sgt C J Turpin 2Lt C P Dawson Sgt D Carlin
l to r Sgt P R Silcox

Front Rank: Lt L J Malin Capt R S Elwell Maj N N Wilde QGM WO2 T I Long
l to r Lt L H Watkins 2Lt N C B Wilkes

After a long period of turbulence and change within the Company we are now heading, hopefully, for a period of stability. However, this has not stopped us from winning the majority of shields and awards over the year and producing some excellent military and sporting achievements.

Summer 1983 saw the departure of the REME Apprentices from the Company and also the loss of Lt D J F P Haynesand Sgt M T Maguire. The departure of the apprentices meant a rearrangement of platoons and an influx of extra Permanent Staff, namely Lt L J Malin, 2Lt Challinor and Sgt C J Turpin. In September 1983 we practised our CGR role with apprentices getting a taste of the problems involved with sabateur, anti-war rent-a-crowds and guarding key points.

Later that term the Company spent a lucrative Saturday afternoon collecting for the White Lodge Spastics School.

The Company actively participated in the Blackdown Fives Youth Club Competition. The vehicle stand was a great attraction for the youngsters and apprentices alike with CVR(T) Scorpion, Stalwart and Moon Buggy on display and giving rides

The first 4th term battle camp got underway in Brecon after a lot of hard planning and preparation and was hailed as a great success. The blueprint for future exercises.

As Christmas drew near we were joined by Lt L H Watkins and we said farewell to Lt P R Saddleton and Lt A W Green for the ATO Course and an unscheduled departure for 2Lt M R Challinor to Bicester.

Remembrance Parade was held on the Blackdown Square and saw the Company present in the rank and file with the Company subalterns bearing wreaths.

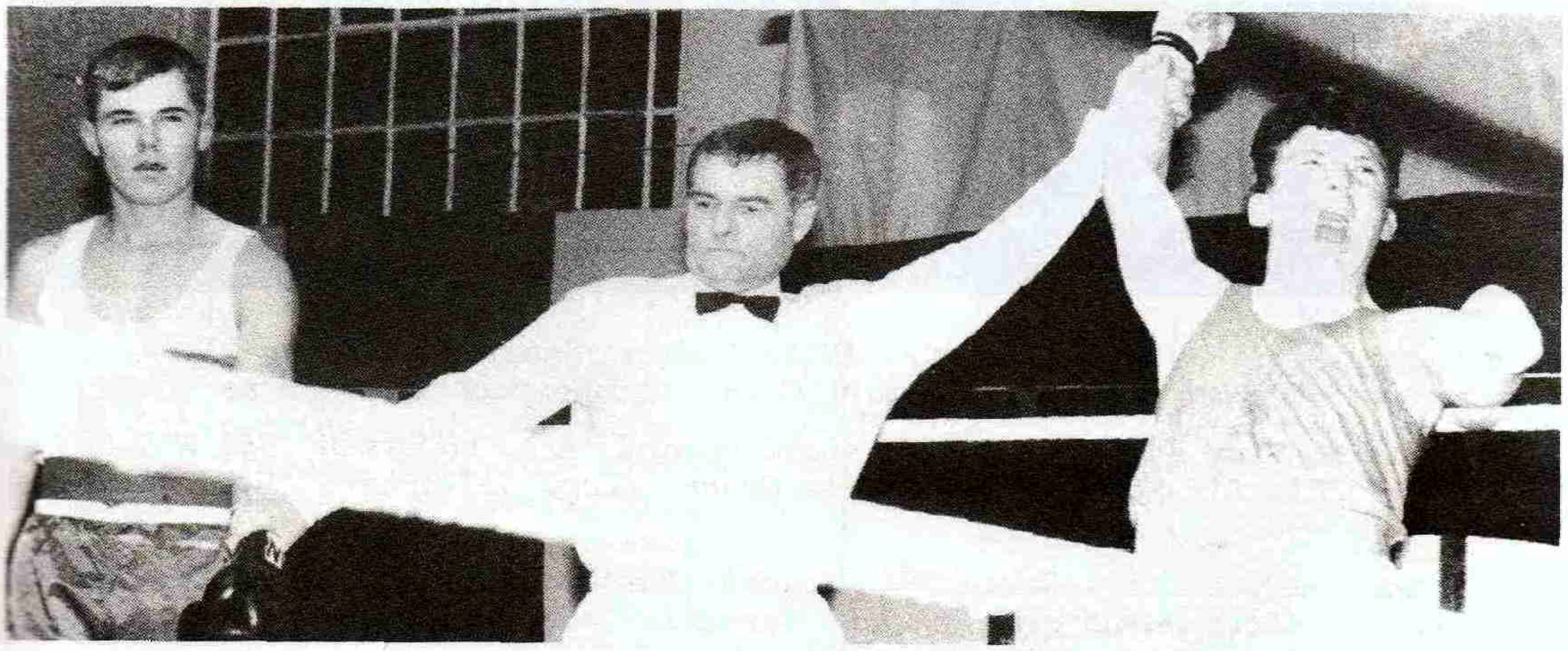
The Winter Company boxing competition was particularly gripping with a magnificent final bout in which ACpl Christie managed to ensure that the boxing cup made a safe return to the Company.



THE VICTORS - INTER COMPANY BOXING COMPETITION

Sgt Carlin Ludlam Whitten Christie Porter Sidebottom Sgt Robertson

McMurtrie Whiley Cooper Ellis



We can see what Cpl Christie's thinking. No prizes are awarded for the thoughts of Pte Fuller

The round of Christmas celebrations took its normal course. The only casualty being Lt Malin who went down in the Sergeants' Mess rugby match, but he managed to be out of hospital for Christmas.

The Company returned to greet the new year with the arrival of 2Lt N C B Wilkes, 2Lt A W Burton and 2Lt C P Dawson. Major R Lennox departed for Shrivenham and Capt Ball moved across to become College Training Officer. We welcomed Maj P Flanagan and Capt Elwell was promoted, left Berlin Platoon and took over as Company Second in Command.

The term also signalled in two new platoons led by 2Lt Wilkes and Lt Malin.

With the new line up we held our Spring Camp at Fremington and had good weather for our hill walking and adventure training. Maj Flanagan was posted to Andover in the middle of the exercise and we said a very quick farewell to him. Such is life!

We now await the arrival of the new OC, Maj N N Wylde in April 1984.

All in all it has been certainly eventful and, judging by the Platoons' achievements, successful.

BALACLAVA PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt D J F P Haynes REME

Lt L H Watkins RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D B Robertson RAOC



Rear Rank: l to r *ACpl Hart ALcpl Muir APtes Ludlam Anderson Whiley Dick Hillman Edwards Senter Owen ACpl Rhinds APte Evans*

Centre Rank: l to r *APtes Simpkin Broad ALcpl Howard APte Bowerman Sgt M A Snelson Lt L H Watkins RAOC APte Green ALcpl Gallagher APtes Nicholaou Bell*

Front Rank: *APtes Smith Davenport Sayers Patterson Virgo ACpl Cranmer APtes Hannaford Munden Vernalls ALcpl Balch*

(Absent: ALcpl Tasker APtes Jiggins Kilby Boyle Worrall)

Summer Term 1983 - Term 1

Balaclava Platoon formed up on 28 June 1983 under the command of Lt David Haynes REME and Sgt Don Robertson RAOC. Within two weeks the platoon had set its mark on the College by winning both weights in the College inter-platoon tug-of-war. The team made up from APtes Rhinds, Muir, Hart, Balch, Jones, Nicholaou and Ludlam.

The battle camps in the first term were spent on G1 and under a new Platoon Commander, 2Lt Mark Challinor in Long Valley. The return journey from Long Valley was conducted by LAB's (leather army boots) which certainly caused moments of fun for the permanent staff.

Towards the end of the first term Balaclava Platoon won the College inter-platoon swimming gala, APtes Hillman and Worral being prominent.

In the Passing Out Parade the platoon performed the gymnastic display with their usual aplomb and APte Jones won the Best Recruit PT prize.

Winter Term 1983 - Term 2

The second term saw yet another change in permanent staff: Lt Lloyd Watkins taking over command shortly before the College cross country competition. The platoon were not as successful in this event - only finishing second.

Not finishing second was the Company boxing team including APtes Whiley and Ludlam. The former won, whilst APte Ludlam was narrowly beaten into second place.

The second term battle camp was in a very interesting, and cold, part of Barossa training area; the Platoon Commander succeeded in gassing APte Whiley (couldn't find my respirator Sir!!!) and infiltrating APte Tasker's trench with seven members of marauding senior boys, name, rank and number only Tasker!! The greatest benefit of the camp was the Arctic Radio Pack Menu C (but not four days running please CQ).

Spring Term 1984 - Term 3

After a well earned (for the platoon staff) Christmas break the platoon threw themselves into a term of ELT camp, Company camp and Education (the first two being the more popular). Although no one managed to scale Snowdon in our week of blizzards two groups did conquer Tryfan.

The highlight of the terms was certainly Company camp in Fremington. Balaclava were second or third in most events except the ones Berlin had trained for, in the two events (shooting and tug-of-war) Balaclava slipped into the extra gear for which they are renowned and thanked all comers - hard lines Berlin.

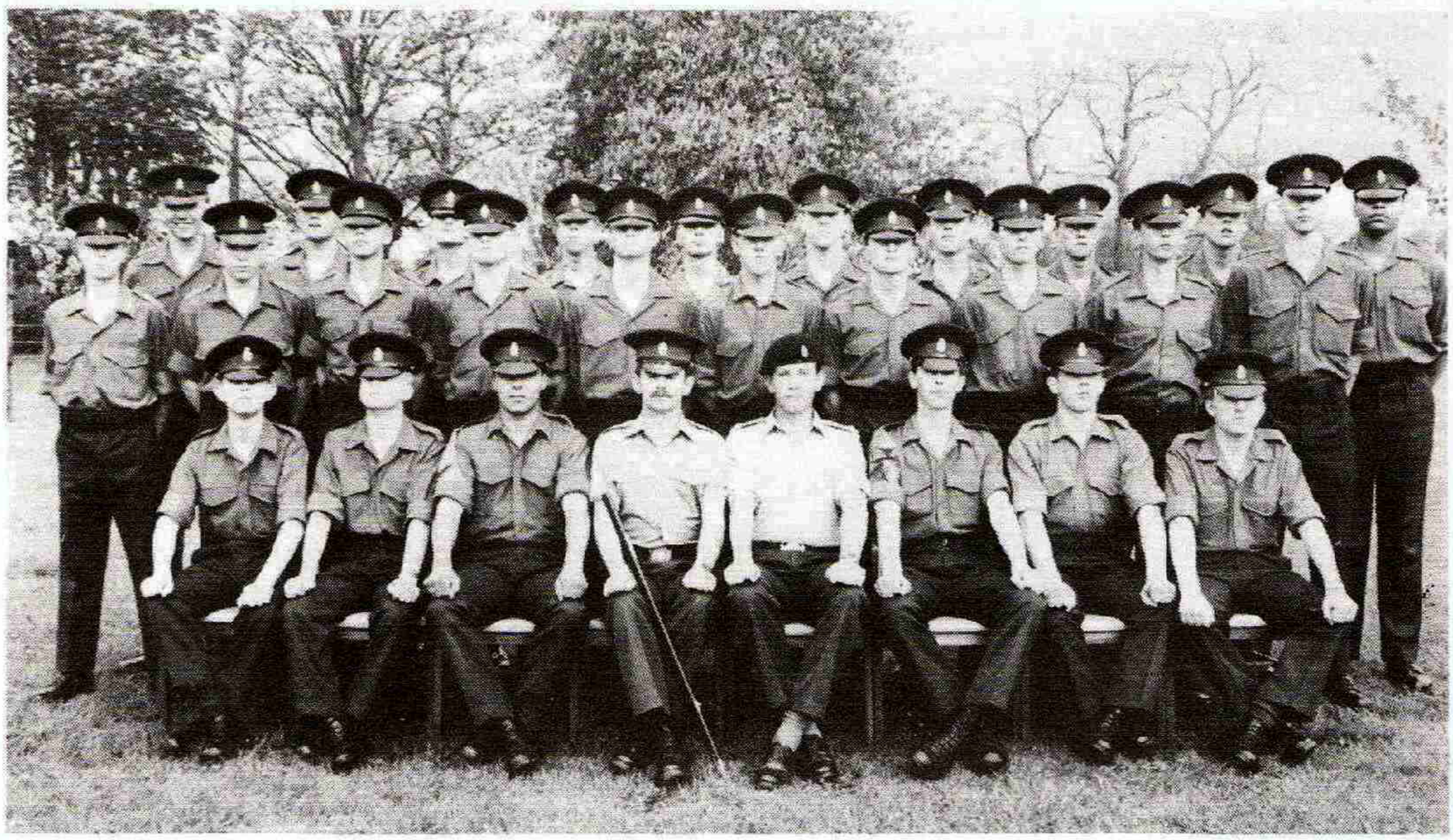
The term draws to a close with EPC exams and posting preference proformas and the right positive attitude for Term 4.



BENGHAZI PLATOON

Platoon Commander — 2Lt N C B Wilkes RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt C J Turpin RAOC



Rear Rank: l to r — *APtes Wilson Butcher Flannery Hickey Glaysher Healey Chalmers Turrell Kellett Bellman*

Centre rank: l to r — *Aptes Morgan Johnson Witty Phipps Malone Robbins Smith Cordes Bain Thompson*

Front rank: l to r' — *APtes Burt Keenan ALcpl Newnes Sgt Turpin 2Lt Wilkes ALcpl Foster APtes Davis Webb*

Spring Term 1984 - Term 1

The beginning of the College year resulted in the old Benghazi Platoon being moved over to A Company and taking the name of Alamein. This meant a new Benghazi Platoon with new Platoon Commander arrived on 4 January ready to continue the good name of Benghazi Platoon.

After three hesitant weeks during which we only lost one to the perils of homesickness, the 26 recruits of Benghazi went off on their first Battle Camp - which for a couple was their first night under canvas. By the end they had been instructed in not only fieldcraft but also the fine art of "tabbing" (back to camp with a couple of logs to keep them company). Next came the recruits drill competition which we know who really won, don't we Burma?!! Well done by the way to APte Chalmers for holding the squad together in those tense moments.

In March the Company departed for a week's adventure training at Fremington in North Devon, where the lads tried their hands at canoeing, pony trekking, ice skating (or rather rollerball), swimming, climbing and also went for a short stroll along the North Devon coastal path. At

the end of the camp an inter-platoon sports festival brought Benghazi Platoon against the mighty Berlin in the football competition. The result a draw and Benghazi took the football on goal difference. (Two of our star players APte Newnes and APte Robbins have already represented the College at football and congratulations go to them).

We have now just returned from an eventful battle camp over at Long Valley and yes ... funny how it always happens ... no transport for homeward journey. So "get tabbing!" And they did! Congratulations to APtes Davis, Glaysher, Healey, Johnson, Smith, Thomson and Witty who got home in 2 hours 36 minutes - approximately 20 minutes ahead of the next group.

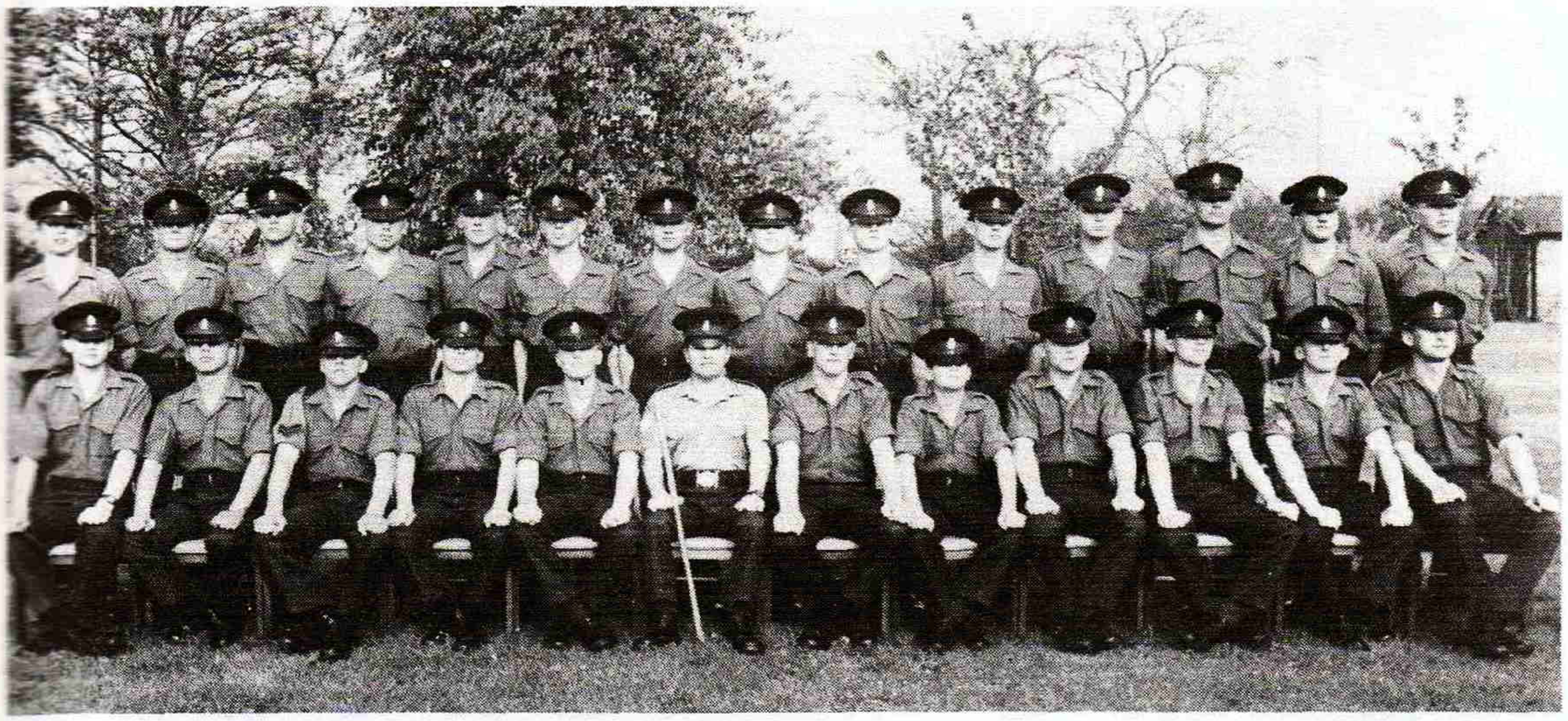
We are now all looking forward to the Pass Off Parade and even more so to leave and returning to the College as second termers.

BERLIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt R S Elwell RAOC

2Lt C P Dawson RAOC

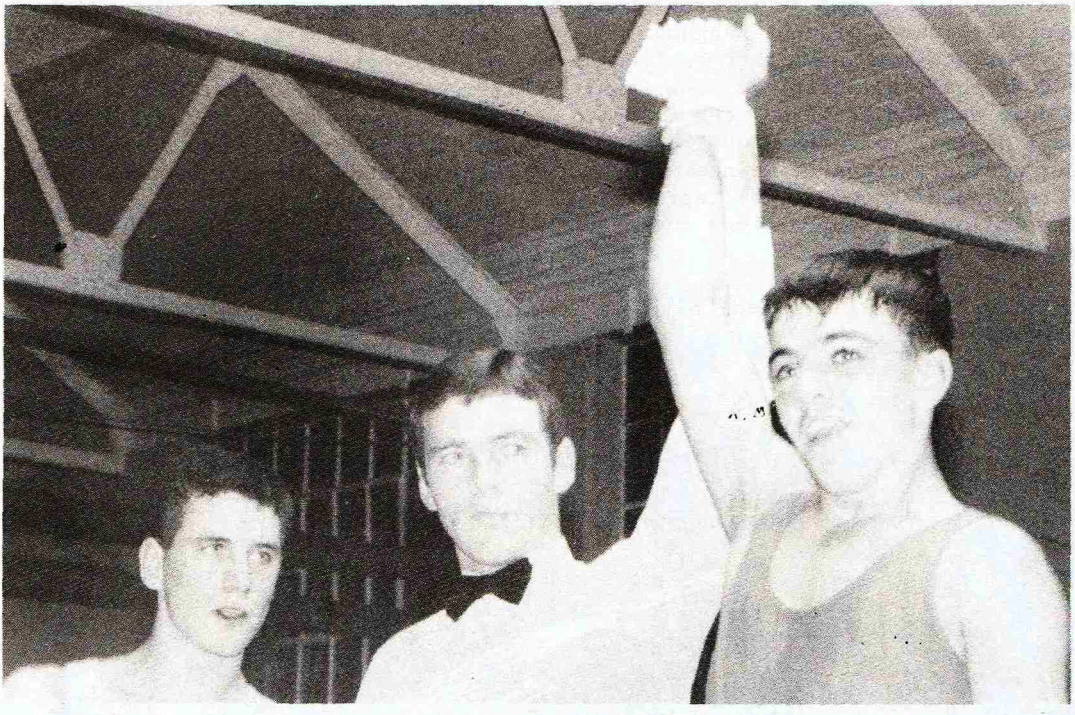
Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D Carlin RAOC



Rear Rank: *APtes Oldham Cooke Zygmant Porter Welburn Wileman Wattam*
l to r *ALcpl Bland APtes Wright Surgeon Linley Adams Salter Daniels*
Front Rank: *APte Johnson ALcpl Copeland Acpl Ellis APtes Sidebottom Hind*
Sgt Carlin ASgt Pettener APtes Nixon Finch ALcpl Parker
ACpl Anderson APte Petrie

During the first term Berlin Platoon won the Drill competition, beating their close rivals, Balaclava Platoon.

As recruits in the second term, we entered the inter-platoon/Company cross country, and won. APtes Ellis and Surgeon being in the first 10.



A proud moment for ACpl Ellis

We were represented in the boxing competition by Sidebottom, Ellis and Porter. All three won and B Company won overall. The inter-platoon rugby competition final was between Berlin and Balaclava. Berlin had a marvellous game and APte Salter scored the most tries in Berlin's 38 point score. APte Bland received the trophy from Lt Col D M Putt.

At the third term Company Camp, Berlin won the inter-platoon competition overall. The competition consisted of a 7-a-side rugby competition which we won. Our rugby players were Bland, Hughes, Daniels Salter, Wattam, Clayton and Bulmer. All these players represent the College. Other events in the competition were the cross country, won by Ellis of Berlin Platoon, the assault course, won by Wright, Welburn, Johnson, Wileman, Linley and Pettener, inter-platoon shooting where we came second and the tug-of-war in which we were third. The last event was a 7-a-side soccer competition where we came second.

Two and a half days of the exercise were devoted to hill-walking across Exmoor, finishing off on the second day with a series of six command tasks, ranging from first aid to erecting a 160-lb tent. The three sections of Berlin Platoon came first, third and fifth. The platoon also won the football competition and ALcpl Anderson and APte Porter went on to represent the College. In the RAOC badminton championships, APtes Adams and Nickson got through to the final. Adams beat Nickson and both apprentices received their tropies from Brigadier D S Parker.

Visits

During the first term the platoon visited Madame Tussaud's waxworks and watched a display in the Planetarium. In the third term the platoon visited the Vehicle Depot at Ludgershall and were lucky enough to see the new Challenger MBT. In the late afternoon the platoon was taken round the test track

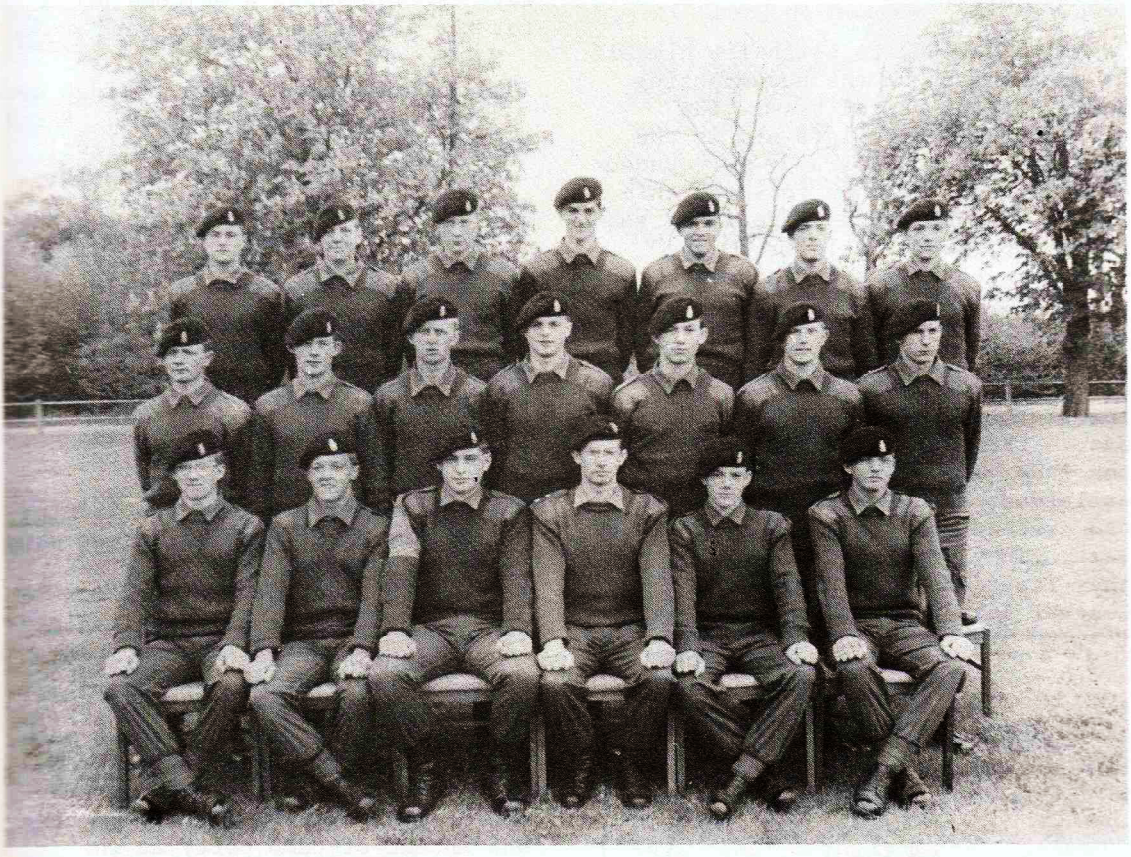
There were various visits arranged during the Company camp at Fremington. These included RAF Chivenor, where all members of the platoon had a quick flight in a Wessex Air/Sea rescue helicopter and the Amphibious Trials and Training Unit Royal Marines where the platoon were fortunate enough to get a trip in a DUKW.

Berlin Platoon have done well during their three terms. In mid-February their Platoon Commander, Capt R S Elwell, became Company 2IC, his place being taken by 2Lt C P Dawson.

BURMA PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt L J Malin RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt H C Jones RAOC



Rear Rank: Bonner Howarth Collect Braham Davies Paul Martin
Centre Rank: Burton McGowan Conyer Cross Coates Needham Aldridge
Front Rank: Berry Lee Lt L J Malin Senior Ripley

Summer Term 1983 - Term 3

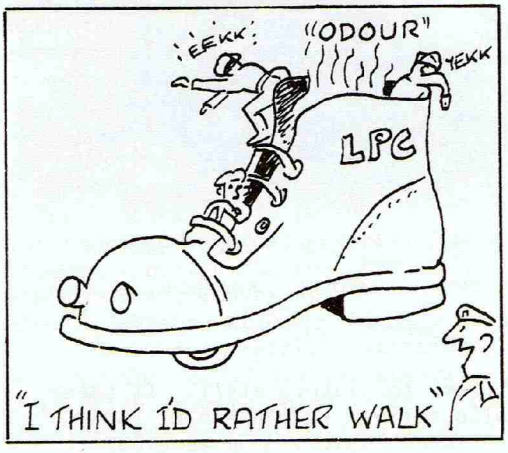
The Summer term started with a few changes in platoon staff. Lt Lance Malin arrived to replace Lt Paul Saddleton who moved on to greater

things; Sgt Charlie Jones aiding and abetting the new boy. Whilst the new blood became acquainted with the Platoon, Paul kept a watchful eye and size 10 boot firmly in control.

The first real introduction to the lads was on a battle camp in conjunction with Bruneval Platoon. The infamous Long Valley accommodated them for a week. It started as a defence exercise but rapidly developed into a test of survival. The rain came - and stayed. The 'moles' of Burma and Bruneval carried on digging regardless, imagining they were at Goose Green instead of Jubilee Hill.

Lt Malin decided to establish himself by sneaking up on the unsuspecting Burma Platoon patrol base. The ensuing gas attack left him as the only one minus respirator surrounded by CS smoke. He then followed this with a display of the effects of gas on an unprotected soldiers. The lads enjoyed this entertainment especially laid on to boost morale - so he said!!

After a quick debrief on the camp the platoons began the tab back to base. LPCs were arranged to convey the lads back. "Wow", they exclaimed, thinking the new blood had cracked the transport problem at last. They were not amused when they realised that LPC stood for Leather Personnel Carrier - boots!



10½ miles and many blisters later most arrived back at the College. APtes Owen and Murphy had convinced themselves that they had died on the way! As there was no-one qualified to certify them as dead they carried on.

Following the battle camp both platoons managed to form one large platoon of Burma.

The next major event for the mega-platoon, now named (unofficially), the Wolf-Cub Commandos, was Summer Camp in Penally, Tenby. All enjoyed the main activity - Liberty transport to the night spots, the day time providing a welcome break for the lads from all the hard work.

The official duty summer holiday over it was back to sunny Deepcut, RPC 3 loomed up but first the spiritual side of the Army had to be dealt with. A day visit to the Royal Army Chaplain's Department at Bagshot Park. The added attraction turned out to be a concurrent visit by a party of nurses. The lads tried all the lines in the book, but nurses are battle hardened veterans in these sort of things and gave them equally effective replies. Egos bruised we set sail back to camp.

The next major event in the life of an apprentice is External Leadership Training in Capel Curig. We set forth on a cold Saturday morning in July. The camp is as they imagined it, very old and basic, but just what you want to see when you're cold, wet and tired. A right home from home. The weather became very hot and dry, conditions were ideal with a very enjoyable week in Snowdonia. The culmination of the camp was an end-of-camp party at the Cobbden's Hotel Climbers Bar. Nicholson decided to show everyone he didn't have a weak stomach and could throw up as far as the next man. After that it was back to 'the ranch'.

Once back at Deepcut it was back to

important things; the tug-of-war. In the inter-platoon practice the so-called invincible Benghazi was beaten by a scratch team from Burma. Duncan and Dallaire did very well in various athletic events for the South East District Junior Army event - well done! Alps, Hay and Hunter coming joint second in the inter-platoon Wingeing Championships.

The Passing Out Parade rehearsals began, the platoon proving to the ever-patient Sgt Jones that you can be equipped with two left feet and still walk. After the parade they all departed for a well-earned rest - the platoon staff that is!!

Winter Term 1983 - Term 4

Trade and Driver training saw the beginning of the final term for Burma Platoon. Driver training dates being published well in advance to give Permanent Staff and innocent motorists time to plan walking trips well away from roads.

Having completed the training most have departed to various units for trade related job familiarisation. Thanks to 81 Ordnance Company at Tidworth, 43 Command Workshop in Aldershot and the Ammunition Depot at Kineton for putting up with the lads for a while. (I would have had a nervous breakdown but I was too busy).

One of the most interesting and one which left the most lasting impression was the visit to the Royal Marines, in particular the Commando Logistic Regiment. Thanks lads for all your help!

The culmination of the fourth term was a new style battle camp in Sennybridge. Burma was the pioneer of the new scheme so could feel safe in assuming something would go wrong. We arrived at our camp site in -21° of frost. It then warmed up and rained. The second night the temperature dropped to -35°. The problem of what to do with the spare clothing did not arise - we wore it all! CSM Long's advice regarding putting on a clean pair of socks each day was heeded. After four days we could'nt get our boots on, but we were warm! Capt Peter Ball busied himself as self-appointed OIC HPP lamps, looking like Al Jolson each time we returned.

The long march of some 20 miles across the Black Mountains culminated at a check point where Major ("They're fooling you Lance") Lennox was. He decided to cancel the final 'digging-in' in favour of a walk back to the 4-tonners. APte 'Pathfinder' Lomax was appointed as guide. "Follow me", and back the way we had just come, we headed. After a few miles, about 8, it was decided to 'put them right' by Lt Malin and Sgt Mark Snelson. After a quick conference the lads decided the best plan of action was to fill Lomax in and ask for help. Sgt Snelson, an ex-Para, quickly thought of his early days in 'P' Company.

"I know, chaps, we'll run back fairly quickly", or words to that effect, were said. "By the right, double march", and away we went.

Soon the miles were eaten up and we were nearing civilisation. Sgt Snelson then did a strange thing, or so thought Lt Malin.

"Quick lads, he's jumped into the river". It was then discovered that he had, in fact, jumped onto the road - they all look the same at night!

On return to civilisation the Passing Out Parade took over in everyone's mind. As the Senior Platoon passing out we entered the 'Big Time'. The final parade went well and a sad farewell was said to the old Burma.

Spring Term 1984 - Term 1

Burma has gone, long live Burma! The new platoon arrived in early

January. "Where do I go Corporal"? was the favourite question posed to Lt Malin. After the initial homesickness and lads realising they had made a mistake we began to form a body of lads which looked like a Platoon.

The first battle camp proved to be a mixture of all weathers and the lads fared it well.

The Drill competition was a hard fought battle but the judges got it right and awarded Burma the Drill competition Recruits Cup for Spring 1984. APte Davies could still not march at this stage. A few more left before we all departed for Fremington in Devon. All seemed to enjoy this. APte 'Rodeo Joe' Conyer demonstrating the dismount, whilst galloping on a horse. Several stunt moves left him with a very sore leg.

The orienteering went well, no-one finding any markers at all. Well done lads! The end-of-camp party went down well, APte Senior doing a marvellous impression of the Platoon Commander, or is it the other way round?

The first major battle camp exercise 'Second Attempt' took place at Long Valley in Aldershot. The new Wolf-Cub Commandos outwitting Benghazi twice. APte Berry managed to stay awake for some of this camp. The impromptu introduction to log racing being as popular as ever.

The Passing Out Parade looms up again.

BURMA PLATOON'S VISIT TO COMMANDO LOGISTIC REGIMENT

Our timetable:

0635 Despite minor transport problems, we departed.

0855 Stopped at Bristol services to stretch legs

1035 Arrived at CTC RM Lympstone. Met by Capt Wilson RAOC and WO2 (SSM) Brown RM
As soon as we debussed at the gymnasium it was jerseys off and rugby shirts on.

We were introduced to Cpl Bright and Cpl Bateman RM, PTIs who introduced us to Tarzan Course Confidence Area. We started with the Death Slide and finished with Leap into Space on to Scramble Net via various aerial walkways. This was quickly followed by CTC Assault Course. The PTIs talked everyone through and then finished off with a race and a visit to the confidence building area where everyone was literally shown the ropes.

The morning was rounded off with a visit to the excellent training facilities at CTC (Commando Training Centre).

1230 Time for a quick cup of coffee and debrief by WO2 Brown.

1430 Arrived Plymouth. Dropped kit of at Gymnasium and Sgts' Mess.

1445 Arrived Coypool. Brief visit to Ord Sqn shed to draw camp beds .

1450 Lecture on role and organisation of 3 Cdo Bde

1545 Discussion

1600 Talk by WO2 Brown on Role of Cdo Ord Sqn and question and answer session on Commando Course.

1645 Returned to Seaton Barracks for shower and evening meal in the 'galley'

A very useful, constructive and informative day. Some apprentices were baffled by Role and Organisation, a very new and complex subject to most of them.

Thursday 27 October 1983

0830 hrs. Arrived early at Commando Forces swimming pool. The staff allowed us a free swim until SSM Brown arrived. Under the watchful eyes of the SSM and Sgt Phil Warden the apprentices attempted the Commando battle swimming test. Jacket, trousers, skeleton order and rifle were the order of the day. The test, two lengths followed by removal of rifle and webbing and then treading water for three minutes. Only five completed the test and a few others almost made it. Young apprentice minds were beginning to realise the requirement for physical stamina and flexibility in Commando forces.

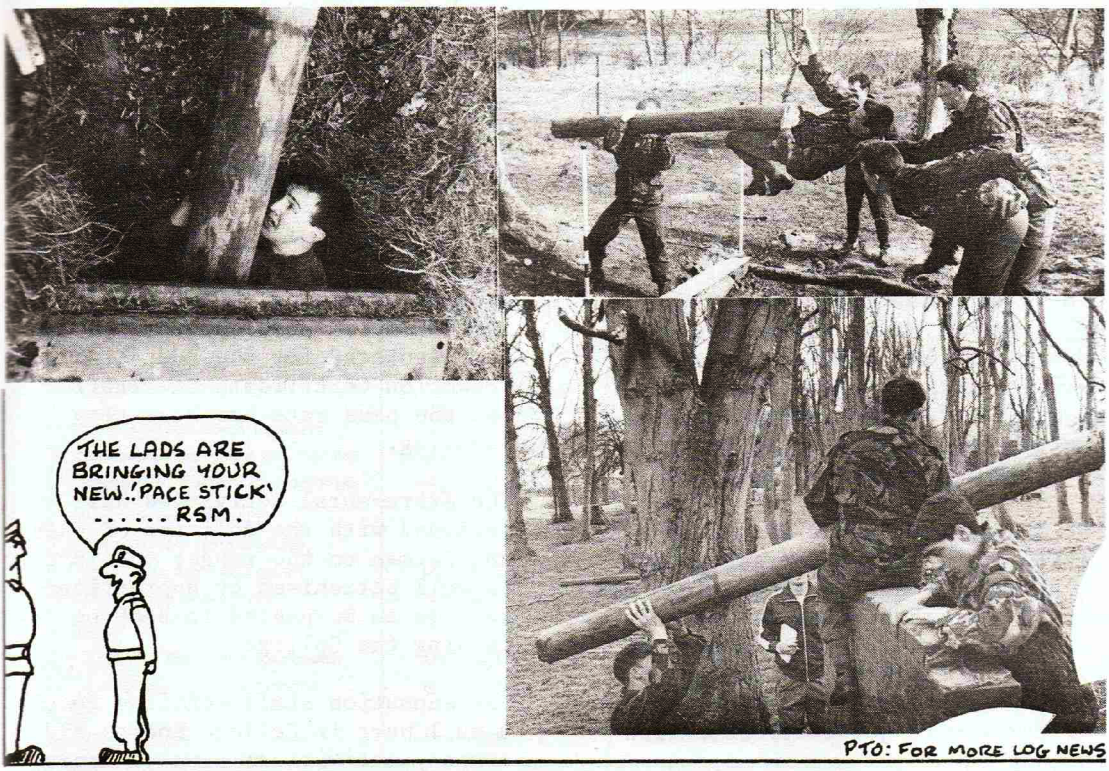
The morning finished off with a visit and lecture of Cdo Med Sqn manned by Cdo trained Royal Navy personnel, including work in Northern Ireland and Falklands. We were given insight into dressing stations and surgical teams.

PM - 1400 hrs. Talk on role and organisation 29 Cdo Regt RA followed by the highlight of the visit, 29 Cdo Regt RA assault course at the Royal Citadel Plymouth. Under the guidance of Sgt Phil Warden and his team from Cdo Ord Sqn the apprentices were talked over each obstacle and then had a run through by themselves. Not satisfied with this dry run the Ord Sqn team decided to do a timed run but this run started with the water tunnel ably demonstrated by the lads from Cdo Ord.

The apprentices, on successful completion of this, decided that Sgt Jones was altogether too dry and promptly dumped him in the water tunnel tank!

B COMPANY AT FREMINGTON CAMP

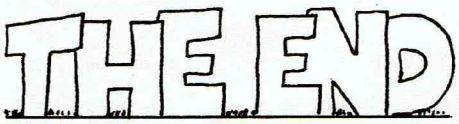
The Log's progress











EDUCATION WING

Senior Education Officer — Major M J McManus MA MLitt RAEC

Second in Command — Captain J M Chadwick BA WRAC RAEC

This year has been marked by several changes of members of staff. Major Abnett departed in September to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment and was replaced by Major McManus who arrived in the College from a tour in Officers' Education in Scotland. Captain Hanlan left us in December for a tour in Northern Ireland.

The end of the Summer Term sees two retirements: Major Forrest leaves us after 18 years in the College and we wish Geoff and Cath a long and happy retirement. Lieutenant Snow is leaving the Army at the end of her 3 year Short Service Commission and takes with her every best wish for the future.

The apprentices' education programme continues with much hard work being done by both apprentices and instructors. More apprentices are being entered for the Education for Promotion Certificate Examination and the pass rate has been very pleasing.

The extra-mural activities have expanded with the addition of Chess and German to the range; the latter is well patronised by apprentices who are to be posted to BAOR on leaving the College.

The education staff continue to play a full part in College sports and company activities: several appren-

tices have found it hard to come to terms with the fact that SEO is a cricket fanatic, but a Scotsman - who remembers Mike Denness?



EDUCATION WING

Mr D Moody Mr W McShea Maj (Retd) G Forrest Lt J L Newton Mr M Johnson
Mrs M Thistlethwaite Mrs D Smart Capt J Chadwick Maj M McManus Lt A Snow
Mr J Watson
"Golda"

COLLEGE PRIZEWINNERS 1983 - 84

	SUMMER 1983	WINTER 1983	SPRING 1983
RECRUITS			
Recruit PT Cup		APte Bradbury M A	APte Cross S E
Best Recruit		APte Gregory S A	ALcpl Gregory S A
EDUCATION			
Toc H Cup (Best Scholar)	ALcpl Cockburn K J	APte Frost R A	APte Jones R
MILITARY TRAINING			
Crawford Tankard (Best all round Shot)		APte Galliers D J	
Maule Cup (Most Proficient Soldier)	ASgt Earle R S	ACpl Hawthorne N J	APte Henry A L
Sergeants Cup (Best all rounder)	ASsgt King L J	ASgt Crawford P J	ASgt Ridler A R
Hayes Cup (External Leadership)	ACpl Holland M A	ASgt Ridler A R	ALcpl Bulmer N S
CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY			
West Shield (Citizenship)			APte Shaw M L
St Albans Cup (Endeavour)	ACpl Spokes N	APte Bulmer N S	APte Tasker J D
Pedlar Cup (Leadership)	ACpl Gould S M	ASgt Ridler A R	ASgt Fleming J A
SPORT			
Progress Cup (Best Sportsman)	APte Fuller K S	ALcpl Shaw T	ACpl Whitten A E
Scotts Award (Parascending)	ASgt Hannon G B		
Timms Trophy (Best Drummer)	APte Pratt D R	ALcpl Doherty J P	APte Harper R V

BASKETBALL

Winter & Spring Term

Building on the last year's team proved impossible for us as the key members of the senior boys had all passed out of the College. We did, however, have a few promising newcomers with which to start afresh. In the Winter term this did not bear much fruit with no major victories but a good grounding for all the squad.

The new year brought a great change in fortunes. Under dynamic new leadership matches were won in a convincing manner.

The Depot Queen's Division being our first scalp followed soon after by our best performance of the season against the RMAS students' team. In view of the age and experience of the Sandhurst team and the fact that it was a friendly, two members of the Permament Staff played, partially to add age to the team. This proved a devastating combination and the well respected RMAS team took a savage battering to lose 51-35 in their own gym.

Particularly pleasing in this match was the number of newcomers in the team. Strong warning for next season to all in the South East District League.

CROSS COUNTRY

Officer in Charge 2Lt J M Gilbert RAOC

Assistants WOII (CSM) D J Franklin RAOC

Sgt J Self RAOC

This season the College cross country squad has unfortunately not been able to notch up the successes that were reported in the last issue of Thunderbolt. Due to the new fourth term programme and the large number of camps which have taken apprentices away from barracks we have been unable to produce a strong team for any of the important fixtures since September. Not all the news is bad, however, and in the South East District Junior Cross Country League some very good performances were put in by the College team.

The fixture on 1 March at the RAPC Apprentices College saw good performances by Cranmer, Gregory and Fleming and the team coming a good overall third. However, the best result of the season was when the College hosted a fixture on 23 February. The College team came equal first with the Junior Parachute Company in a very hard-fought race with excellent performances by Gregory, who was fourth, and a newcomer to the squad. Dunne coming fifth. Dunne's performance was especially creditable since he is only in his first term at the College. Ripley, Short, Cranmer, Gallagher, Broad, Smith-Davenport, Shackleton and Hardman all ran well to come in the first 20 places.

The College team eventually finished 6th in the league and APte Dunne was awarded the Most Promising Runner trophy and I have high hopes for him in the future. The following apprentices were awarded College Cross Country colours:

McLeod	Cranmer
Balch	Gallagher
Broad	Smith-Davenport

The College Cross Country championships took place last and was convincingly won by B Company, who also provided the winning platoon team, Berlin. ACpl Dallaire was the winning runner with APte Ellis second and ALcpl Cranmer third.

The permanent staff have also been doing their bit for the College with Capt Johnson, Sgt Self and Cpl James all running for the Training Centre team which was the runner up in the Southern Area Services League.

FOOTBALL

Officer in Charge Lt M C Simpson RAOC

Assistants Sgt J A Cook RAOC

Sgt C J Turpin RAOC

Sgt P A Wells RAOC

The 1983-84 season got off to a good start with several impressive wins including a devastating victory over the RAMC with a score of 17-0, 10 of the goals being scored by ASgt McMurtrie of Benghazi. The performance of the College A team was enough to place the College top of the league by 1 point after a 4-3 victory over the ACC B team.

The College put forward Cunningham, Porter, McKinney, Cooper, Hollands, Denton, McMurtrie and Anderson for the Army Junior trials and Hollands, McMurtrie and Porter have played in Army games. Hollands has secured a place in the Aldershot Services team and, with McKinney, has represented the Training Battalion and Depot.

The College B team were runners up in the league and got to the quarter trials of the Cup with Fuller as B team top scorer, having scored 9 goals.

Unfortunately the Spring term saw most of the fourth terms of the team involved in trade training, detachments and skiing trips resulting in games lost to Paras and Guards, and any hopes of winning the Cup dashed. The loss of so many players, however, gave some of the newer apprentices a change for a game and despite the defeats much talent and effort was displayed.

Some of the 'friendlies' played include A Company apprentices v Training Centre ACC resulting in a 3-3 draw, this was quickly followed by the College Permanent Staff thrashing the ACC team 3-1. That will teach them to try and use Gym staff on their team. The College was narrowly beaten 3-1 by the Training Battalion and Depot and A Coy beat B Coy 2-1.

As the term draws to a close we look forward to next season and further successes.



JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS



SEDIST Noves Judo Champions 1984 and
Army Novices Judo Championships 1984 Bronze Medallists

On Sunday 22 January 1984 two teams entered the SEDIST Junior Novices Team Championships. ALcpl Rhinds, APte Rose and APte Howard were members of the A Team who did very well, reaching the finals without losing a fight. Rhinds' first fight was short and sweet after breaking his opponent's collar bone (oops).

In the Final vs IJLB A Team, Rhinds won the first contest, Rose lost to a very good player, leaving it all for Howard to do. With job in hand he set about his task and after a hard fought contest won his fight to bring home a team Gold and the SEDIST Trophy. Now they were through to the Army Finals on 17 February 1984.

The team coach, Cpl Tony Franklin (who is now of "Top of the Pops" fame) also had his bit to do. Wednesday 25 January 1984 saw him fighting his way to Gold in the Army Judo Championships.

17 February 1984 and the Army Novices finals at Bulford. With the A team (minus ALcpl Rhinds) they did very well, coming second in the Pool competition, which put them into the semi-finals. In their semi-final contest they tried hard, but it was not to be. Losing only their second contest in both competitions they collected a Bronze for third place. Well done to all, especially APte Patterson for standing in for Rhinds, also to APtes Rose and Howard on being selected for the Army Junior Judo squad.



HOCKEY

Officer in Charge 2Lt Douglas RAOC

Second in Command Lt Lancaster RAOC

The 1983/84 season is a story of what might have been. The players were there, but never all at the same time until far too late in the season when the damage had been done. We opened well enough with a narrow loss to the ACC and a draw against the Guards, but a heavy defeat against a strong Mess team and the enforced absence of players knocked the team back in the first half of the season.

After Christmas a strong team travelled to Nuneaton to do battle with Junior Leaders Regiment RA in the Army Junior Cup. The College gave of their best but lost 4-3. Once again players became unavailable and the team never really recovered from this disappointment.

Of the players: ASgt Narraine adapted well to the role of goalkeeper and always dominated the 'D'. In his absence APte Simpkin deputised bravely. ALcpl Muir showed fire, determination and no little skill at the back while ALcpls Adams and Berry were a sound basis in mid-field. Up front our main striker was ALcpl Petrie who scored some fine goals. Of the best: APtes Crawford and Harper always gave of their best and APte Twells improved with every game. ACpl Doherty showed occasional flashes of inspiration and APte Talbot was as dependable as anyone in the team when available. APtes Shaw, Smith, Penman, Hannaford, Bell, Brand and Sayers along with ALcpl Hart made up the rest of the team that promised so much but never quite realised its potential.

HORSE RIDING

Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

Riding in the College reached its highest level during the Summer Term 1983, thanks mainly to the efforts of Major Bunyard REME, who put in a lot of hard work to make the sport succeed. The Apprentices were able to ride at Sandhurst on Thursday afternoons and at Burdons Farm stables, run by Mrs Bunyard, on Tuesdays.

All of the apprentices progressed sufficiently to enable them to successfully complete a simple course of jumps.

Also during the Summer Term, the club helped out as course builders and jump judges at a small riding competition organized by Major and Mrs Bunyard. The WRAC driver that day, Pte McKenna, now the Apprentice College Commanding Officer's driver, won a rosette for jumping the course without any faults.

Unfortunately for the club, Major Bunyard was posted in September and his wife decided to give up running the stables. This meant that the club was only able to ride once a week at the RMAS Saddle Club.

On Tuesday afternoons a course in stable management has been started to give confidence in handling horses and some basic instruction in looking after them. The apprentices can now clean out the boxes and make new beds, feed and water, groom, rug

up and clean and look after saddlery.

Naturally the apprentices prefer the riding lessons in the indoor school where they are beginning to master the horses and show who is the boss. (At first this was usually the horse). Some have already managed small jumps without falling off and most have managed some basic dressage movement.

All in all the sport is still popular and unfortunately numbers have to be restricted to the number of horses available.

OFFSHORE SAILING

Officer in Charge Mr M F Johnson

Second in Command Mr J F Watson

The College offshore yacht, "Thunderbolt" was again active in Solent waters this summer. No major voyages were undertaken, but there were many enjoyable day sails during the course of which Bembridge, Cowes, Yarmouth IOW, Lymington, Beaulieu, Hamble and Poole were visited. The Stuart Turner engine which was fitted early in the year proved a great success and has made such trips safer and more enjoyable.

Perhaps the most interesting time afloat this year was when overtaken by a stupendous thunderstorm during the period of summer camp. Thunderbolt was returning from Lymington towards Cowes on a pleasant day, the wind was SE force 3. We watched in amazement as a very large area of cloud moved towards us from the SW, against the wind. The sky yellowed and darkened dramatically, lightning struck Lymington and we were pleased we had left it behind. Suddenly the wind dropped completely, yachts all over the Solent nodded uneasily; their navigation lights came on and twinkled eerily - it was midday! Huge hailstones began to fall and bounced off the surface of the sea and clattered noisily on the decks. The visibility became nil with a complete wall of hail - it was impossible to open unprotected eyes in any case. The wind got up suddenly from the West force 5/6. We were driven before it blindly, with the lightning flashing down around us. It was half an hour before the storm passed over us leaving us exhausted and with faces cut by the hail. We were then able to see that we had been driven close into the shore at Newtown Creek and were thankfully able to complete our trip to Cowes.

This storm was widely reported and several yachts foundered during its passage along the South Coast

PARASCENDING

Officer in Charge Lt L J Malin RAOC

Second in Command Sgt M A Snelson RAOC

Again I have the dubious pleasure of putting pen to paper on behalf of the Parascending Club. It has been another busy period for the permanent staff and apprentices alike who partake in this rapidly growing sport.

Lt Lance Malin who has become our new officer in charge has taken to the sport like the proverbial duck

to water and has shown the apprentices a thing or two when it comes to flying with a bit of rip stop nylon above your head.

We have also had a new influx of club members who are rapidly showing what they are made of, APte (Pogo) Patterson being one of the aforementioned persons has finally perfected the PLB (Parachute Landing Bounce) which supersedes the PLF (Parachute Landing Fall).

Apprentices Gallagher, Muir, Sidebottom, Hart, Parker and Lewis all deserve a mention for the good work and time they have put into the club room and equipment as well as progressing through the training in the limited amount of time they have had for flying.

We have finally managed to get a short video made (10 runs) of some of the apprentices and staff flying in a parachute that can carry 1, 2 or even 3 people at any one time which we hope to be flying at Tenby, which brings me on to mention that the club is looking forward to the fortnight at Templeton and hopefully flying all the college personnel.

Finally we are all looking forward to the coming season when we hope we will be sending a team to the Junior UK Nationals and World Championships as well as a senior team, but this all takes place after the Army Nationals and our Cyprus trip.

Watch out for line breaks!



"We've hooked a big one today!"

QMSI MARTIN WRITES ABOUT THE PARASCENDERS TRIP TO CYPRUS SUMMER 1983

During the recent summer holiday recess from the RAOC Apprentices College in Deepcut a party of 11, including myself, flew to the Island of Venus, known globally as Cyprus, for a 12 day adventure training exercise to include para-scending.

The evolution of para-ascending, as far as my enquiries inform me, is a rather slow, deliberate and somewhat funny (peculiar) one.

Within the Services now we can certainly boast equality with our civilian counterparts and the Army PA Association is indeed a sub-committee of the British Para-ascending Association. The sport was pioneered by Major Clive Lee, RE and Colonel Alton-Ryan, late R Signals, closely assisted by Mr Walter Newmark. Major Lee, upon the establishing of the Army Association, carried out the duties of Secretary for a few months prior to handing over to Major George Beaumont, RAEC who administered the sport for over 7 years and it is he who is more than responsible for the sport being adopted so strongly by the College. I should point out now though that the earlier military participants who thrived on the sport were the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters.

The sport was developed by a German inventor, Herr Seehasse and was used extensively in World War One by German U-boats. When the U-boat was on the surface they would tow a "volunteer" up on a short line whose job would be to act as look-out for any enemy ships. Should he spot one he would cut his line and release, "plop" into the water and erect a dinghy that he would have had with him, and then start paddling back to Deutschland. The U-boat by now would have, of course, dived.

In World War Two a Gyrocopter was used much to the relief of the would-be parascending volunteer! After the Second World War a Belgian inventor, Msr Lemoigne, pursued the development of parascending chutes. He altered the shape of the chute from that of being round to a "square-ish" canopy, with pouches to receive air, thus enabling it to "fly" forward. He also added steering toggles and made it steerable for targeting purposes - great!



"Sgt Snelson assures me the moths haven't been at it!"

Mr Walter Newmark then developed further the "Lemoigne" chute similar to that used today and the test pilot for his trials was his wife, Annette!

Now, whilst I know that in some circles para-ascending is looked upon as a poor relation to parachuting and free-fall in particular, we should look to the advantages of the sport and what it has to offer.

Firstly it has the tremendous advantage of being one of the cheapest



THE CYPRUS TEAM

WMSI Martin Lt Green Sgt Snelson
Hollands McKinney Hawthorne Shaw
Lorraine Cooper Wilson Whitten

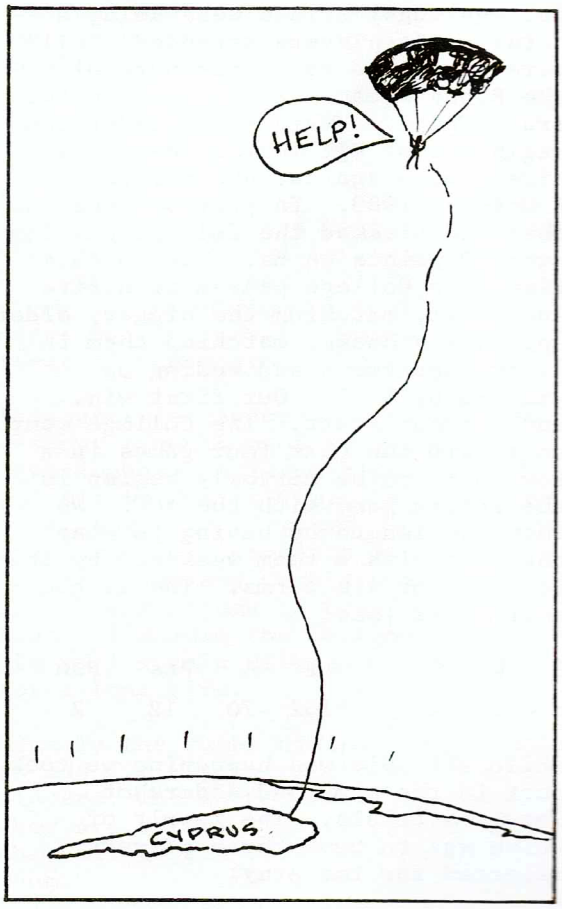
ways of getting a person in the sky to fly - something the Greek God Icarus gave his life for in the end - but he did go too close to the sun! It is also, by design, a relatively safe sport with strict pre-flight checks to be carried out by the launch marshal and a qualified/ experienced driver at the wheel of the open-cabbed Land Rover essential for the towing. The thrill and exhilaration a boy experiences in going up and coming down is nothing short of what we experienced on completion of our first climbing lead or getting over "7" on a 1st class PT test. For character training, this sport must score highly!

The boys we took to Cyprus had a very limited knowledge of parascending and of the eight boys only five had made an ascent on a short line, lasting perhaps 4-5 minutes on a round canopy. By the end of training they had two ascents each on the advanced "square" canopy, went on to self-release at heights of over 300 metres and steered back on to a ground target, landing in most cases within 20 metres, and one boy was particularly impressive by getting to within 3 metres on both flights.

Parascending is a relatively cheap



"Is it a bird?
"Is it a plane?
It's a parascender ...
ACpl COOPER



sport, after buying the equipment for the club, expenditure is minimal. On our exercise in Cyprus we spent approximately £40 on petrol for the towing Land Rover for about 130 tows.

Competitions in the sport are very popular and National Championships are held. The RAOC boys did compete against 3 members of the Cyprus Club (servicemen from Dhekelia Garrison) and it is pleasing to note that nationally 2nd Parachute Battalion are the 1983 National Champions with one of their Privates being the under-18 National Champion. Congratulations 2 Para.

RUGBY

Officer in Charge Capt B J Johnson RAOC

Second in Command Sgt C D Christopher RAOC

The 1983/84 Rugby season has been a huge success but this was only achieved through a great deal of hard work by the players and the coaching staff. It all began way back in September 1873 when the College rugby trials were held, a total of 35 players attended. All were persuaded to become part of the Rugby squad. Many hours on the training pitch were spent under the eagle eye of Sgt Christopher. The first match against ACC was to be on 6 October 1983. In previous seasons they had crushed the College putting over 50 points on us. Not so this time, the College played with fire and skill, matching the bigger, older apprentice cooks, matching them in every department and ending up winning by 11-7. Our first win, and a great start. The College went on to win the next four games in a row, only to be narrowly beaten in the return game with the ACC. We lost the league by having to play the RAMC with a team weakened by the loss of our 4th terms. The league ended like this:

P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	Psn
8	6	2	-	162	70	12	2

While all this was happening we took part in the Army and Aldershot Services trials. The result of which was to have three players selected for the Army:

Mason, Duncan Shaw T

and six selected for Aldershot Services: Nicholau, Whitten, Mason, Duncan, Shaw T, Copeland. A fine honour and we were proud of them all.

After Christmas our high standard dropped slightly, this was mainly due to the departure into man service of Duncan, Mason, Gordon, Crawford and Patterson. Consequently we lost in the first round of the SEDIST Cup, a closely fought match against the Infantry Junior Leaders Bn at Shorncliffe.

The early rounds of the Army Cup (Minor Units) were soon upon us and we soundly beat both the RAPC and Junior Guards. The final, played in Aldershot was a thrilling affair, with the College being down 9-6 at half time. The situation changed dramatically in the second half when the College went into over drive, winning by 16-9. The College had won its first ever Rugby cup.

The inter platoon competition produced some excellent rugby. The semi final of Ardennes and Berlin was a real cliff hanger, with Berlin just taking it by 18-14. Berlin went on to beat Balaclava in the final 34-0.

During the Festival of Sport both Companies were asked to field two

teams. The honours finished even with B Coy winning the 1st XV game and A Coy the 2nd XV game. All that remains of the season is a game against Esher Colts and the District 7-a-side competition.

The following apprentices played for the College during the 1983/84 season:

Copeland	Lewis	Steele
Shaw A K	Nicholau	Shaw T
Whitten	Harrison	Rhinds
Hughes	Bland	Galliers
Slater	Patterson	Hawthorne
Watham	Daniels	Noonan
Gregory	Mason	Newton
Evans	Duncan	McAulay
Bulmer	Clayton	

All the players in the squad gave 100% effort during the 21 games played. Some require special mention:





Hawthorne: Club skipper and No 8. The real driving force behind a pack that was always much smaller than their opponents. His contribution to all games was magnificent.

Shaw T. A rugged aggresive front row player who fully deserved his Army colours.

Lewis. Fly half and best player that the College has had for three years. Not only is he fast, skilful and tough but he possesses real talent often putting several moves in front of those around him.

This article cannot come to a close without a mention of Sgt 'Chris' Christopher. A large slice of our success is due to him. He has spent many hours coaching and cajoling the side, the mere presence of the Corps, County, Army and Combined Services player was enough to inspire the team. I'm sure the lessons taught by him will remain with all the squad for a long time.

Finally the rugby officer would like to add his thanks to a fine squad of players, who worked hard and honestly. They are worthy Army champions and the College and Corps are proud of them.

SUB AQUA CLUB

'DEEPCUT DIVERS' - BSAC SPECIAL BRANCH No534

Officer in Charge Lt H A C Snow WRAC RAEC

Second in Command | Lt J R A Lancaster RAOC

Assistant Lt C DawsonRAOC

Diving Supervisor Lt H A C Snow WRAC RAEC

1983 members:

ACpl Moore	ALcpl Hollands
APte Chesnaye	APte Elkin
APte Davies	APte Steel

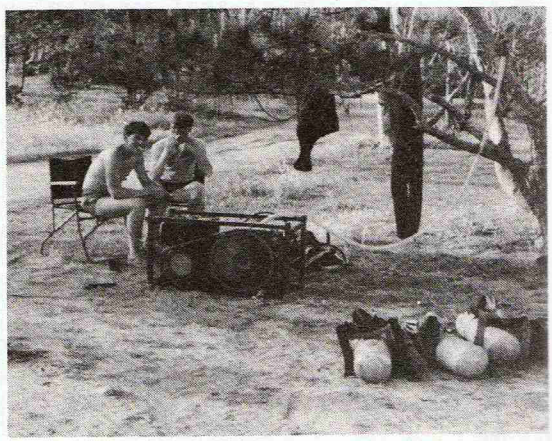
The Summer Term of 1983 started with great excitement in the Diving Club as, on the evening of 1 May we departed for the Gateway House at RAF Brize Norton to await our flight to RAF Decimomannu at 0600 hrs the following morning. Thus began Exercise 'Deo Volente' - a highly successful expedition on the south coast of Sardinia in the warm and sunny climes of the Mediterranean Sea.

We set up our base camp in a small east facing bay, on the south west tip of the islands SE peninsular - just outside the village of Villasimius. Three 160-lb tents provided most of the accommodation and storage facilities and a camp fire and some tables GS and canvas chairs added a further degree of comfort to the surroundings. A large, derelict house at one end of the bay had an underground fresh-water cistern which provided us with water for washing, etc.

Having settled in a sorted out equipment, diving began on 5 May with drills, buoyancy checks and 'G' tests which were completed with great enthusiasm by everyone. The visibility was superb, sometimes 25m or more and the colours of the flora and fauna left us chatting about all that we had seen for hours.

Diving continued over the next few days with a variety of different sites being chosen and of gradually increasing depth.

Paddy, alias ACpl Moore grew very attached to the compressor and could be seen sitting beside it from dawn 'til dusk (including meal times). Chesnaye, Elkin and Davies formed a veritable washing-up team and Lt Snow APtes Holland and Steel became professional sun-soakers! Mention should also be given to Lcpl East ACC (alias Mick the Spick) who, between meals was left to guard the camp



ACpl Moore with 'his' compressor - and accompanied by APte Elkin

while we were out diving - and generally did it very well, gaining an excellent tan en route! Cpl Austin 1WG, our coxswain, could be found guarding the boat and OBM in much the same way as Windsor Castle and Lt Lancaster kept Capt Barnes (not to mention the rest of the camp) awake on most nights with the



Another excellent meal by Lcpl East wearing the white "chef's" hat.

grumbling tones of deep sleep - not unlike a BMW motor bike!

Halfway through the expedition we decided to mount a mini expedition to the west coast of the island and stay overnight at RAF Decimomannu. The weather was clear and promised a good day's diving. Our aim was to head for Tharros - the remains of a Roman and Phoenician town, part of which was reputedly submerged on the eastern coast of the peninsular.

We arrived at Tharros and found the archeological remains on land and the boys kitted up to do a snorkel recce. The water was warm and shallow with a long shelving bottom and so there was plenty to see - weed, rocks, fish, octopus, sea urchins, ... but little in the way of ruins! From the hill above the water we could see where the foundations of the sub-merged buildings lay by following the lie of the weed growth, but time and wave action had eroded them all away and buried what was left under the sand, so what started as an archeological dive ended as a Marine biological study.

Undaunted, we turned our attentions to the other delights that the west coast had to offer. Nearby, we were reliably informed, was the home of the famed "spaghetti western" - A Fistful of Dollars, and so we headed for the village of San Salvatore where we were able to see the old style saloon, stables and large artificial well in the centre of the village square. Finally, we ended the day in Oristano in true Italian style - leisurely working our way through large (16") quatro staggione pizzas.

The highlight of the expedition for everyone was the deep dive off the eastern coast of Serpentara Island, where the sea bed shelves sharply from 5 or 6 metres downwards. Consequently this was an excellent site for the 30m dive close to the shore and well sheltered from the wind. We dived in two groups, each for a duration of 18 minutes and found a wealth of new shells and plant life that we had not found at shallower depths. Unfortunately we could not go deep enough to see any of the fire-red Sardinian coral and so the dive was completed by practising air sharing at 30m.

Overall it was an excellent and thoroughly enjoyable expedition and I am pleased to say that we are able to return in August this year with our new 1984 members.

We returned from Sardinia on 17 May and rapidly prepared for our second major expedition - this time to the Outer Hebrides from 2-17 June. This expedition is of long standing - known as EXERCISE 'FLIP FLOP' and 1983 saw the advent of 'FLIP FLOP V' the RAOC Apprentices College Summer Camp satellite for members of the College diving club.

Conditions in Scotland were not as clement as usual and on several occasions we were unable to dive due to a hard south easterly wind and swell. These provided excellent opportunities for cockle and mussel collecting - to supplement our annual sea-food party at the end of the expedition. As usual a competition soon developed to see who could find the largest mussel, known by the locals as a 'Clabby Doo'.

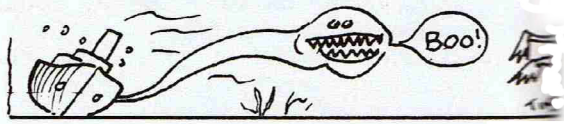
The bad weather, however, did not last too long and soon we were working our way through our favourite

dive sites. Bayble Bay, an open, sandy bay with a submerged rock outcrop leading to an island is where we dived first, but we were very disappointed to find that the fishermen were now trawling the bay with their dredging nets - and the whole sea bed was swept clear. This is becoming an increasing problem at the islands - as they are gradually 'fishing clean' virtually everything on the sea bed - regardless of size. We then moved on to Lock Erisort where some of the boys did their first '20m assisted ascent' and 'simulated stage decompression' dives. These were reasonably successful but need more practice, before they count as qualifying drills. As the weather improved we were able to dive off Holme Point on the wreck of the Iolaire. This wreck has a tragic history, as it sank on New Year's Eve 1919. It carried all the soldiers and sailors returning from the war to the Islands and as they celebrated the New Year, and their return home, a storm blew up and before she could reach Stornoway harbour, she struck the rocks - known as the Beasts of Holme, and most of the men were lost. Until recently it was a sea grave but we are now allowed to dive there even though there is little to see but the ship's boiler - in which lives a large, friendly pouting.

Down at Rodel, on the Isle of Harris, we hired a fishing boat and spent the day diving around the islands under the guidance of one of the local fishermen. There was plenty to see - fish, shell fish and a large colony of inquisitive grey seals who kept popping up to see what was going on.

Finally we dived on one of the best wrecks in British waters - the SS Stassa - still in Loch Rodel and beautifully intact. The visibility was excellent and you could see the size of this large cargo ship much more clearly than usual. Inside the hold you can still see part of the wood cargo that she was carrying but as she is lying on one side, we don't enter the hold in case the cargo slips. Actually a more likely excuse is that none of us are very keen to meet a large conger eel that is likely to have made a home there by now.

So ended the 1983 expeditions. This year we are hoping to dive on two inland water sites, mount an expedition to the West Coast of Scotland (EXERCISE 'GOLDEN GIFT') in Oban and return to Sardinia for EXERCISE 'DEI VOLENTE II' in August. Good luck and good diving.



SWIMMING & WATER POLO

Officer in Charge WO2 (QMSI) E Martin APTC

Assistant Cpl A Franklin RAOC

After our successful resurrection from dry dock last year in winning the Army Junior title I am delighted to report that the College retained the Championship by winning again in the fine form of:

A Coy - APtes Fuller Shaw AK & ML Fleming Chesnaye Swinney Cunningham

B Coy - ACpl Earle, APtes Galliers Shaw Hawthorne Brown Steel Davis

To these boys who have now passed out of the College and into man's service, we say "Many thanks" and would hope to see them spearheading their way with their units in the Army and Corps Swimming Championships

In the Army Finals we competed against the RAMC Apprentices College and the Junior Parachute Company in what was a comfortable win for us, made so by the fine swimming of APte Fuller.

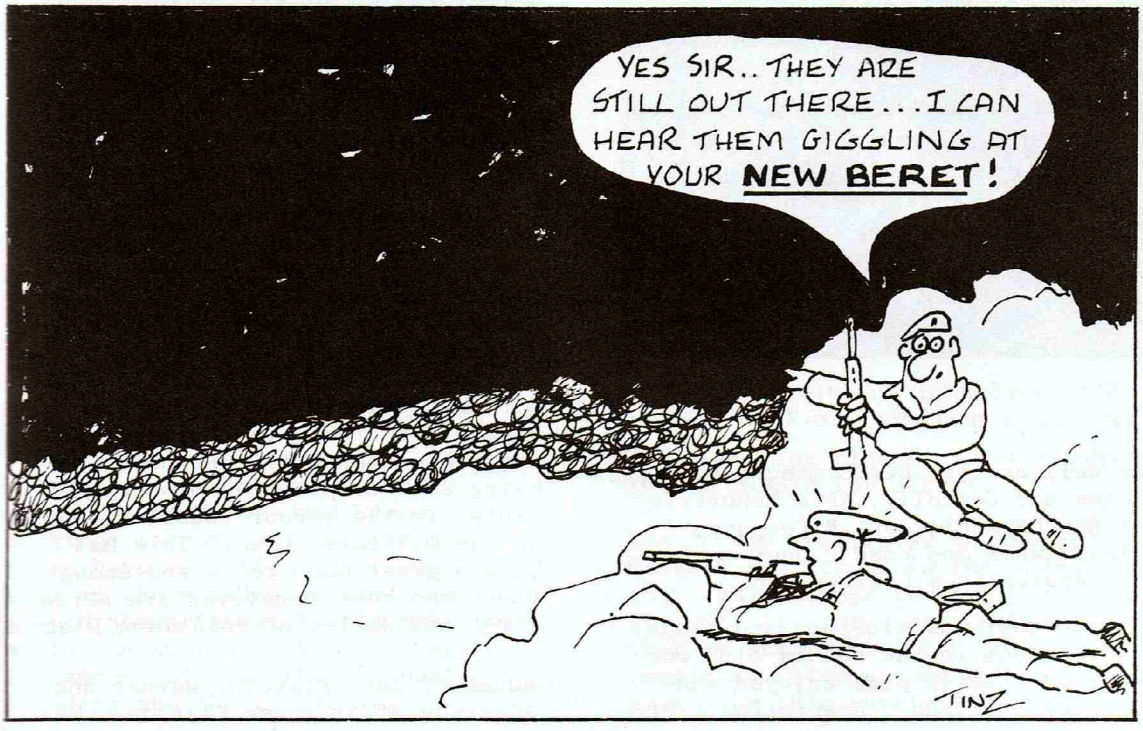
I single out APte Fuller for special mention because he went on to win four titles in the individual championships, was selected to represent the Army Juniors at swimming and water polo against the Navy and was in fact selected for the Army Senior squads also - A VERY FINE ACHIEVEMENT, and one would hope the Corps cap badge will be represented at this level for many more years to come. Very well done indeed APte Fuller.

The Championships, fast approaching for this coming year, will be my last with the College and with the same high calibre of boy to work with, one is hopeful of "3 in a row".

We are no closer to having our own swimming pool yet, but I would like to thank the Bursar for the splendid "swimming pool blue" gymnasium floor cover he has got me which when fully laid out looks very similar to a swimming pool. This, coupled with the very heavy rain showers we've had recently lends itself to ideal training conditions!

On the Water Polo scene we can boast of a couple of "Staff team" victories over local units and it would be invidious of me to mention any one person of the staff team I 'con' into turning up - one officer turned up to take photographs and found himself frantically treading water up to his eye balls, defending the deep end (didn't you Mister Watkins, Sir!!)

In the Corps Championships we came a very close second to the Training Centre team. In the chain of command race we broke the previous record and still came second to them! The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Putt, an avid supporter of the Water Sports was anchor man in the chain of command race - "Well done on a fine swim Sir! (I said all the early morning training in Tenby would do you good!)



TENNIS

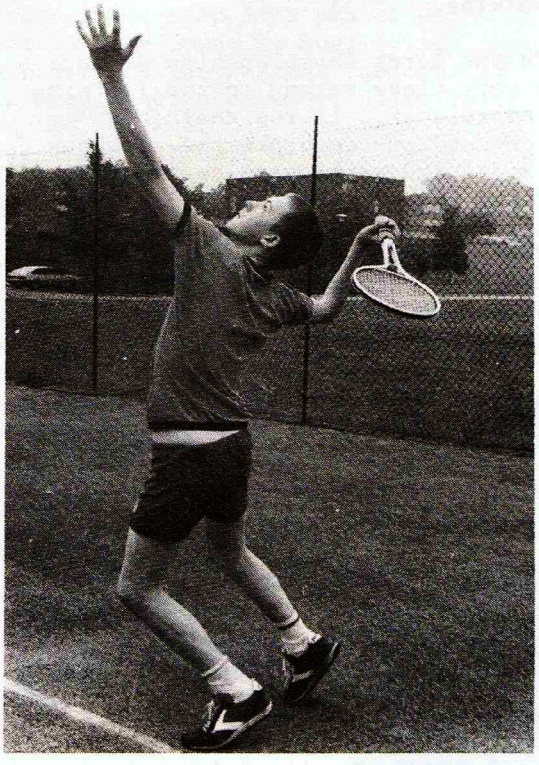
Officer in Charge Captain J M Chadwick WRAC RAEC

Second in Command Lt H A C Snow WRAC RAEC

Assistants 2Lt N Wilkes RAOC

Sgt P A Wells RAOC

During the summer term last year A Company carried off both the Singles and Doubles cups in the Apprentices competition of the RAOC Tennis Tournament.



APte WHiley of Balaclava Platoon serves a mean shot to APte Virgo

As well as fine performances by ACpls Adams and Connolly, APte McMurtrie of Benghazi Platoon, B Company, played well and came runner-up in the Apprentices College Cup.

The weather was glorious and those apprentices in the tennis club who were not taking part enjoyed sun-bathing - I mean - spectating. Pte

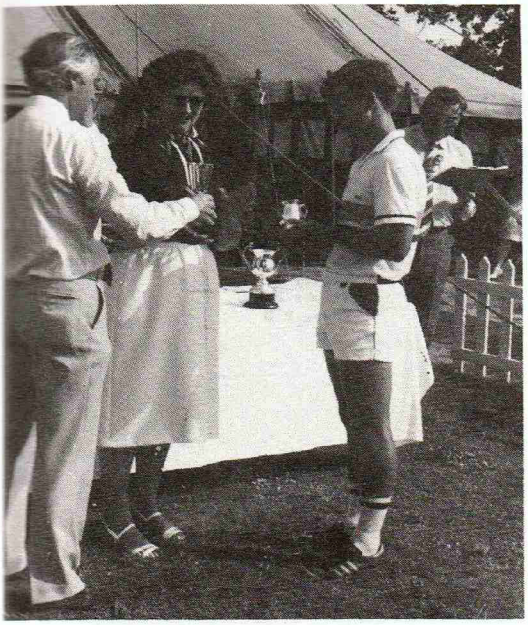


APte McMurtrie, runner up in the Apprentices College competition

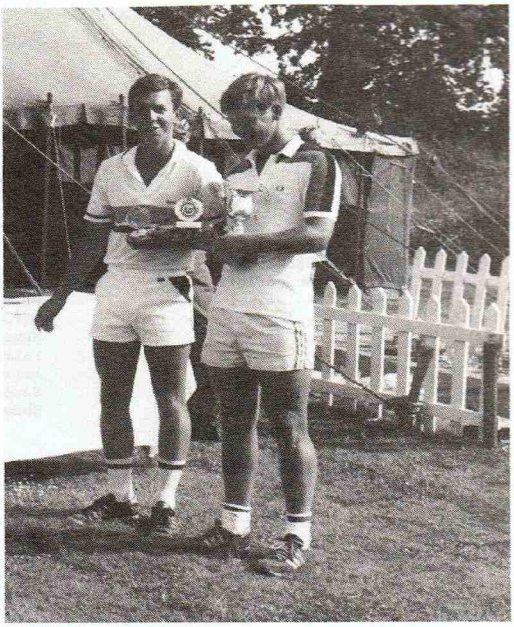
Bobbett who left the College as ASgt Bobbett the year before, was playing in the Men's Singles competition. We all enjoyed hearing his news - he is certainly enjoying life in BAOR.

Autumn term came and the tennis season was over. The College, however, has been very fortunate in being able to play throughout the winter in the Indoor "Bubble" courts at the Officers' Club. This has been a great boon to us and among those who have benefited are APtes Virgo and Whiley of Balaclava Platoon

Adams of Aden Platoon, Warner and Anderson of Ardennès Platoon. We



Mrs Whalley presents Adams (A Coy) with the Singles Cup (Apprentices)



Connolly and Adams the victors for A Coy in the Apprentice College Doubles competition

continued playing indoors throughout the Spring term and then saldly said goodbye to such characters as Hickman and Swinney of Alamein Platoon who thoroughly enjoyed their tennis.

Summer Term 84 and we now have fresh talent from both Companies in the College Tennis Club. In particular APte Robbins of Benghazi Platoon and APte Adams of Aden are strong, promising players. Ellis of Berlin Platoon is a steady player, Colemere has improved greatly, as have Crimin and Campkin also of Arnhem Platoon.

Sgt Wells now assists and Lt Wilkes, who now plays of the RAOC, coaches and demonstrates.

We are hoping to enter the Army Junior Cup this year as well as, of course, the RAOC Tennis Tournament in July. We expect keen competition between A and B Companies!

WEIGHT TRAINING

Officer in Charge 2Lt J M Gilbert

Assistants Sgt Wells Sgt Dunne

A small but active group of apprentices have been regularly appearing on Monday and Wednesday evenings to pump iron in the gun - there have been high hopes amongst some of the developing arms like Arnold Schwartznegger, but unfortunately the apprentices cannot spend the amount of time that he does training and their arms still remember pipe cleaners with knots in the middle for elbows.

Due to the restricted number of weights and stands in the multi-gym only small groups can train and the activity is always over subscribed. This is encouraging though, becuase continued interest can be anticipated for this particular hobby.

TERM LEAVERS

SUMMER 1983

RAOC

Staff Clerks

Adams P J
Andrews J D
Burns R S
Cockburn K J
Edmonds M A
Fray PT
Powell A S
Spokes N
Standaloft S L
Volwerk L W
Wilkinson A N

Supply Specialists

Blaber M O
Bulleyment M I
Connolly F
Floyd S P
Frost R P
George D R
Green P E
Hamilton K J
Henry G
McDougall J A
McPherson D E
Newman S F
Patron A
Rattray K J
Saxton P D
Shaw K A

Supply Controllers

Cox D C
Dickson I W A
Hannon G P
King L J
McLauchlan S A
Mepham A C
Nunn A K J
Sturrock D A
Wigley A
Wright R M
Young P D

REME

Electricians

Alps M A
Law R D
Lumsden J
Murphy R L
Rawlins L J

Clerks

Earle R S
Glover C P
Moore J R
Naylor J
Nicholson A K
Owen P M
Taylor N S

Storemen

Andrews R C
Atkins P E
Bostock M J
Davies R A
Duncan I
Holland M A

WINTER 1983

Supply Controllers

Baird D W
Birtle I
Budd A S
Chesnaye R C
Gordon D R M
Holland M A
Lancett C R
Mason M E

Supply Specialists

Christie C
Clark S A
Dallaire S G
Earle R S
Elkin T
Gracie B
Gray D N
Hartley A R
Holmes M J
Hunter M
Johns C C
Lomax M
Marshall D A
Norgate R E
Patternson S G
Rose N J
Scott D W
Vickers W W

Staff Clerks

Benson M
Berry S M
Crawford P J
Duncan S
Evans D E
Frost R A
Gould S M
Hay M
Irving K W I

SPRING 1984

Supply Controllers

Brown M J
Cunningham T
Fleming J A
Hawthorne M J
Shaw A K
Shaw M L
Shaw T
Swinney K S
Whitten A E

Supply Specialists

Cork P
Crawford N D
Doherty J P
Edwards W
Friel N
Fuller K S
Galliers D J
Gleghorn C J
Gregory A D
Hopkins N O
Hickman P
Hollands D
McKinney R
McMurtrie K
Naraine P M
Pratt D R
Ridler A R
Talbot J A
Vint O E
Wilson R I
Wildman M
Woodward L

Staff Clerks

Cooper D A
Jones R
Lawie W M
Penman A
Steel D R