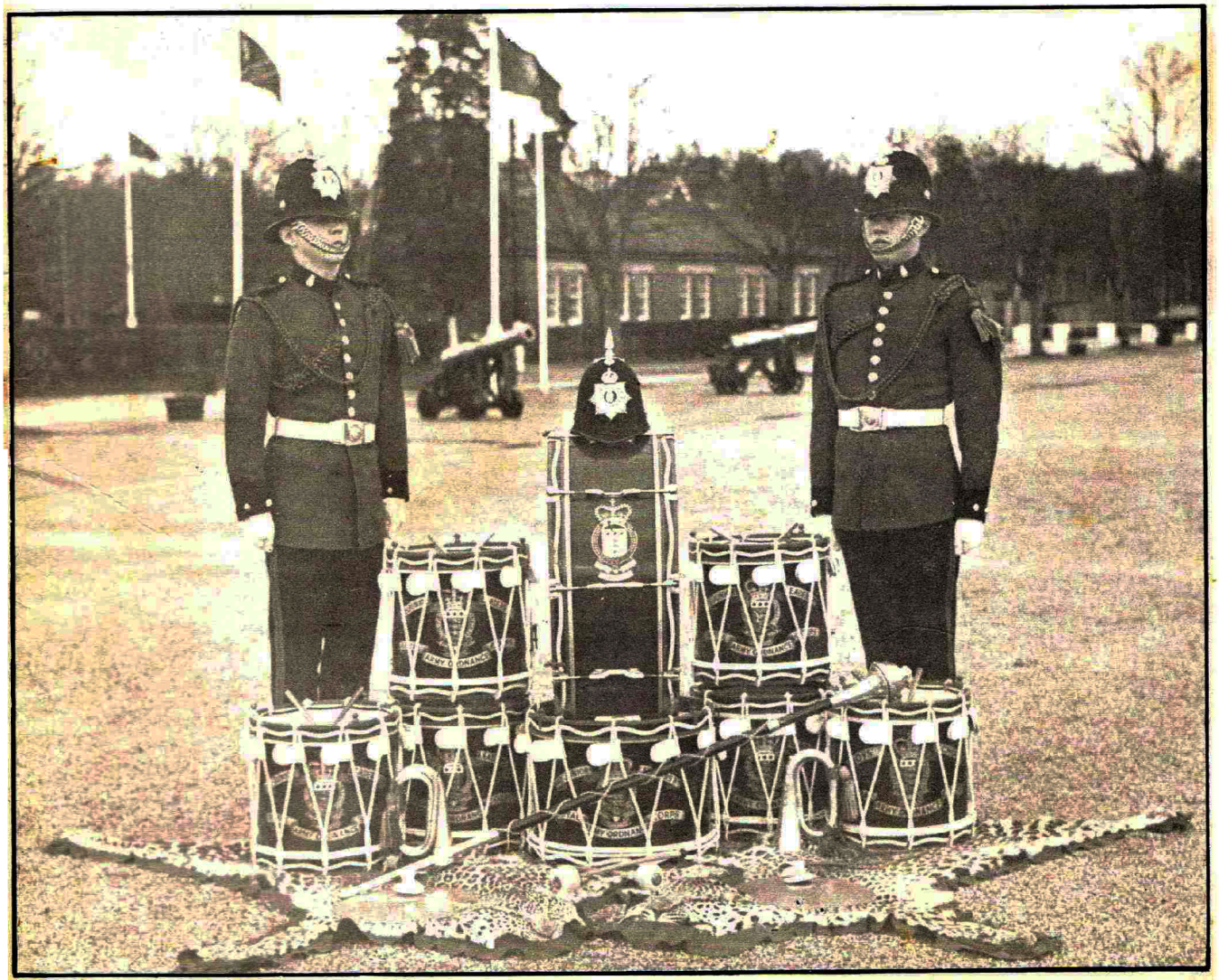
The Thunderbolt

The Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College



Summer 1974 Issue No 5

The Thunderbolt

THE JOURNAL OF THE
RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

Front Cover:

Apprentice L/ Cpl G Hamilton and Apprentice Pte S J Carter, both RAOC, with a display of Drums

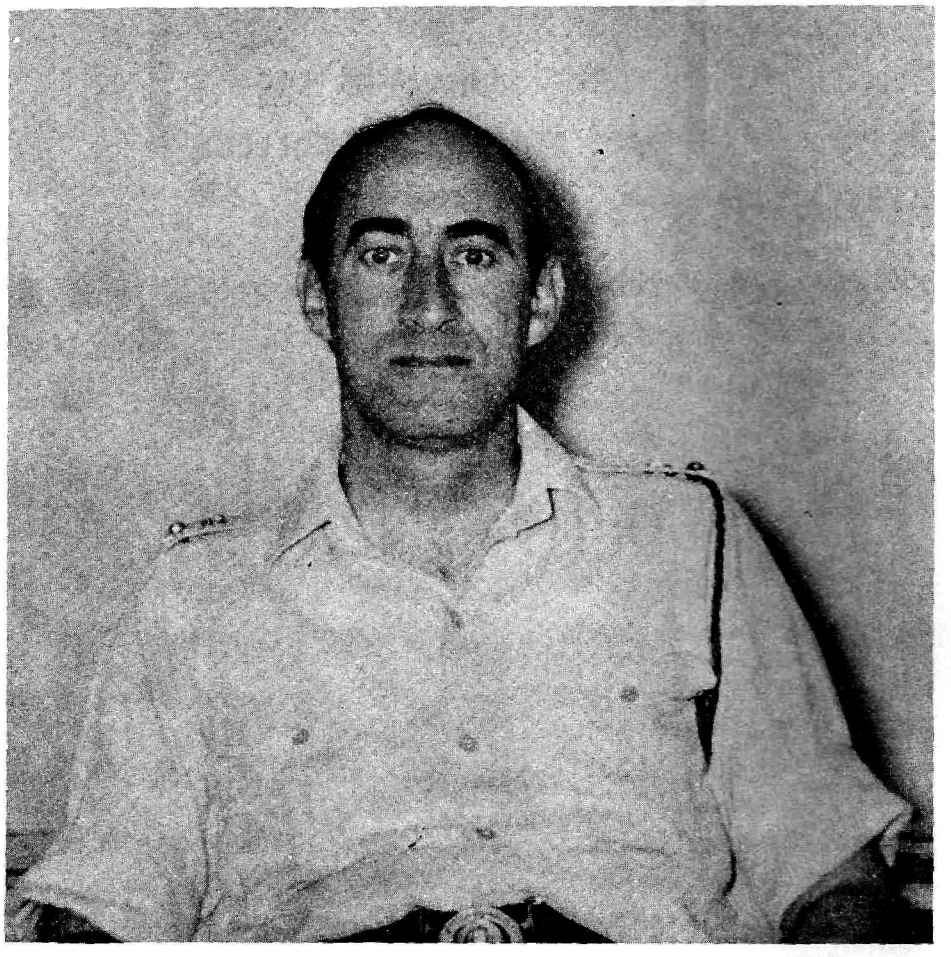
FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since I sat down to write my first foreword to the College Magazine. Much has happened during that time and these pages set out to tell the story.

As I write the number of boys in the College is the lowest for a number of years and this is an inevitable result of the raising of the school leaving age. However, by September we will again be over 400 strong and there is every reason to hope that a good level of recruiting for the Junior Army can be maintained.

I have been particularly pleased by the response that there has been from Old Boys for news of their progress and I thank them for their contribution. Keep it up

Finally my thanks to all those who have contributed to the publication of this Magazine and the consistently high standard that they manage to achieve.



Lieutenant Colonel PHJ Vickery RAOC
Commanding Officer RAOC Apprentices College

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STAFF LIST APR 73 - MAR 74

College Headquarters	Summer Term 1973	Winter Term 1973	Spring Term 1974
Commanding Officer	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC
Second-in-Command	Major R W Rush RAOC		
Adjutant	Lt C N Dyer RAOC	Capt A H Wilson-Ing RAOC	Capt A H Wilson-Ing RAOC
Admin Officer	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)		
Bursar		Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)
WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS		
Chaplain	Rev J C Vernon CF		
HQ Company			
Officer Commanding	Major C Brogden RAOC	Major D W Hancock RAOC	
Second-in-Command	Capt I F Sharp RAOC		
OIC External Leadership	Capt J N Gunson RAOC		
OIC Senior Apprentices	Lt J K Hardcastle RAOC		
Chaplain		Rev J C Vernon CF	
WRVS		Miss E Jones WRVS	
Training Wing			
Chief Instructor		Major C Brogden RAOC	Major C Brogden RAOC
Training Officer		Capt I F Sharp RAOC	
OIC External Leadership		Capt J T Keating RAOC	Capt J N Gunson GM RAOC
OIC Senior Apprentices		Lt C N Dyer RAOC	
Admin Wing			
Officer Commanding			Capt J N Gunson GM RAOC
Chaplain			Rev J C Vernon CF
WRVS			Miss E Jones WRVS
A Company			
Officer Commanding	Major F L M Foy RAOC	Major J H Rose RAOC	Major J H Rose RAOC
Second-in-Command	Capt M J Duff RAOC		
Training Captain		Capt M J Duff RAOC	Capt I F Sharp RAOC
OC Valon Platoon	Lt G Cox RAOC	Lt C Cox RAOC	Lt G Cox RAOC
OC Baker Platoon	Lt G Cox RAOC		
OC Gordon Platoon	Lt R G Bowman REME	Lt R G Bowman REME	Lt M Sullivan REME
OC Mulcahy Platoon	Lt R A C Eccles RAOC	Lt R A C Eccles RAOC	Lt M Sullivan REME
OC Steevens Platoon		Lt J R Hughes RAOC	Capt I F Sharp RAOC
OC Swiney Platoon		Lt L M Wood RAOC	Lt L M Wood RAOC

B Company

Officer Commanding	Major J M C Kimmins RAOC	Major J M C Kimmins RAOC	Major H D Lucas RAOC
Second-in-Command	Capt M R Beer REME	Capt M R Beer REME	Capt M R Beer REME
OC Richards Platoon	Lt S M Hicks RAOC		
OC Parsons Platoon	Lt R Rook RAOC		
OC Watts Platoon	Lt N C Smith RAOC	Lt N C Smith RAOC	Lt R A C Eccles RAOC
OC Mathew Platoon	Lt C C Burrow RAOC	Lt C C Burrow RAOC	
OC Horne Platoon		Lt R J Jordan RAOC	Lt R J Jordan RAOC
OC Rowcroft Platoon		Lt M Blatherwick RAOC	
OC Cutforth Platoon		Lt R Rook RAOC	Lt M Blatherwick RAOC
OC Senior Apprentices Platoon			Lt C N Dyer RAOC

C Company

Officer Commanding	Major H C Heap RAOC		
Second-in-Command	Capt C J O'Leary RAOC		
OC Rowcroft Platoon	2Lt M Blatherwick RAOC		
OC Steevens Platoon	Lt J R Hughes RAOC		
OC Swiney Platoon	Lt L M Wood RAOC		
OC Horne Platoon	Lt H G Denton RAOC		

Education Department

Senior Education Officer	Major H W Richmond MA RAEC	Major H W Richard MA RAEC	Major H W Richmond MA RAEC
Military Lecturers	Major G H W Neal RAEC	Major G H W Neal RAEC	
	Capt E J Childs RAEC	Capt E J Childs RAEC	
	Capt M W Barton RAEC	Lt C J Martindill BA RAEC	
	Lt C A Norcross RAEC	Lt A G Thomas RAEC	
	Lt A G Thomas RAEC	Lt G A Page RAEC	
	Lt G A Page RAEC	Lt R R Stuart RAEC	
	Lt C J Martindill BA RAEC		
Civilian Lecturers	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd)	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd)	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd)
	Wg Cdr P W Hope BA RAF (Retd)	Wg Cdr P W Hope BA RAF (Retd)	Wg Cdr P W Hope BA RAF (Retd)
	Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)	Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)	Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)
	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith
	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson
	Mr M F Johnson BA	Mr M F Johnson BA	Mr M F Johnson BA
	Mr W J Waddington	Mr W J Waddington	Mr W J Waddington
	Mr A C F Legg	Mr A C F Legg	Mr A C F Legg
	Mr P Heap BA	Mr P Heap BA	Mr P Heap BA

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief Maj H W Richmond M A RAEC

Editor Lt Col S Schofield M A (Oxon) Royal Signals (Retd)

Photographic Editor Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)

This editorial is being written on 16 May and is the last part of this year's copy to be fitted into the pre-printing format. At this stage it would seem that we have had plenty of good copy and a fair sprinkling of good photographs. Unfortunately there has been a lack of balance in the kind of contributions received from the same sort of sources and in the amount of photographic cover given to comparable events. Even more unfortunately some events have not been reported on at all, through postings and other casualties, and much interesting material has therefore been denied the magazine. One result has been overmuch editing (always most undesirable) and another the introduction of a new feature at the end of the magazine called 'Miscellany' where a few odds and ends have been put together by the editor, without specialised knowledge, in the hope that they may be of interest.

The article on 'Canoeing' by SSgt Hewitt draws attention to what might be something of a shortcoming in this magazine. We do not blow our collective trumpet quite enough! We should be as proud in acknowledging our Commonwealth Champion as he is in being one. So let us then try to make the record straight and salute:

A/Sgt Davidson	Army Junior Small Bore Champion
A/Pte Draper	Army Junior Rifle Champion
A/Sgt O'Rourke	Army Junior Boxing Champion at 51 Kgs
A/Pte Moffatt	Army Junior Boxing Champion at 75 Kgs
Cpl Nonis	1st String Army Badminton Team

Last, but by no means least, we would like to salute, and congratulate, Captain J N Gunson on the award of the George Medal.

Last year, in this editorial, we said farewell to Colonel 'Bob' Mathews who had the idea of resurrecting 'Thunderbolt' way back in 1970. This time we have to do the same to Major Harry Richmond who, as Editor-in-Chief, had to put the idea of 'Thunderbolt' into practice, and who has had to continue to do so ever since. He has been seconded to supervise the setting-up of the Education Department of an Apprentices College in Iran. We wish him well in what must be a most fascinating job and commiserate with him in his failure to secure the appointment of Mr Brian Clough as a civilian lecturer!

Tomorrow this edition is to be put to bed, as the professionals would have it. From then on its fate is in the hands of our friends of the Printing and Reproduction Branch, Central Ordnance Depot Donnington. As always, we are most grateful to them for the time, trouble and effort they spend on our behalf. We also greatly appreciate their skill and expertise and the good advise with which they guide our faltering steps. As usual, therefore, we take this opportunity to express our sincerest thanks to WO II Jones and all his staff for their very hard, but voluntary, work on behalf of the College.

VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS

VIP Visits

During the year since publication of the last 'Thunderbolt' magazine, the College has been visited by the following senior officers who were then holding the appointments shown:

November 1973
Brigadier P A M Tighe MBE
Inspector Intelligence Corps

January 1974
Brigadier A D Burley
Designate Commander HQ RAOC Training Centre

January 1974
Brigadier Sir Ian Jardine Bt OBE MC
Brigadier (GS) Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces

The above senior officers were given conducted tours of the College and visited the Apprentices accommodation blocks, the Amenities building including the Kon-Tiki and judo club rooms, the NAAFI Canteen and the College Restaurant.

Many Apprentices were introduced to the senior officers who all remarked on the smart bearing and self-confidence of the boys to whom they spoke. During their visits we made a point of showing our Apprentices undergoing the various types of training and it never ceases to amaze our visitors how quickly the boys can absorb knowledge when they are interested.

Inspections

Routine inspections by specialist officers continue more or less throughout the year and it is on these accumulated inspection reports that the efficiency of our College is judged, but in November 1973 we had our first visit by an Establishment Inspection Team for five years.

Providing them with an office, a telephone, and a detailed brief on the College, we turned them loose on an apprehensive staff. During the three weeks they were with us they examined every function and every post filled by permanent staff, both military and civilian. Much to our relief they presented us at the final briefing their recommendations which with one or two minor exceptions was identical to our original proposal.

Schoolboy Visits

The usual visits by parties of schoolboys and their Career Masters from civilian schools located throughout the South of England have continued throughout the year. These schoolboys, normally about 15 years old and selected from those who have expressed an interest in the Services whilst at school, spent a complete working day in the College as our guests. They are given an opening talk by the Chief Instructor describing the life and training of an Apprentice in the College which is then followed by a conducted tour of the premises. They join our apprentices at PT and on the sports field and after a free lunch are taken onto our 30 metre range. They end their day almost as apprentices (by donning College track suits emblazoned "RAOC Apprentices College") and 'have a go' over the Assault Course and Confidence Area.

During the year we have had visits from the following schools:

Mill Chase Secondary, Bordon
Alderman Blaxhill Secondary, Colchester
Great Marlow School, Bucks
Altwood School, Maidenhead
Southsea Modern
Eastney Modern
Andover County Secondary
Churchmead School, Datchet, Bucks
Boundstone School, Sompting, Lancing
The Littlehampton School, Littlehampton

In addition to the above visits the College has been 'Open House' to several boys in their mid-teens who have expressed an interest in joining the Army. All such visits are arranged by local Schools' Liaison Officers and needless to say we give each visitor a thorough insight into life in the modern Army without bias or favour. We believe that such visits have an extremely good publicity and recruiting value.

ACF/CCF Visits

We are also happy to report that over the last year we have been able to continue are support to our affiliated Cadet Battalion of the Cadet Force, namely the 1st Cadet Battalion of the Queen's Regiment based at Redhill, Surrey.

Passing Out Parades

Over the past year many hundreds of parents, relatives and friends have enjoyed visits to the College to see one or more of the three Passing Out Parades. Really splendid ceremonies have been held on these occasions despite the weather which has never quite caused a cancellation of the Ceremonial Parade.

Each parade has, as usual, been commanded by the Apprentice RSM and has lasted for approximately 30 minutes. Some idea of the weight of responsibility on the shoulders of the young men will be appreciated when it is remembered they have had up to 450 boys on parade under their command.

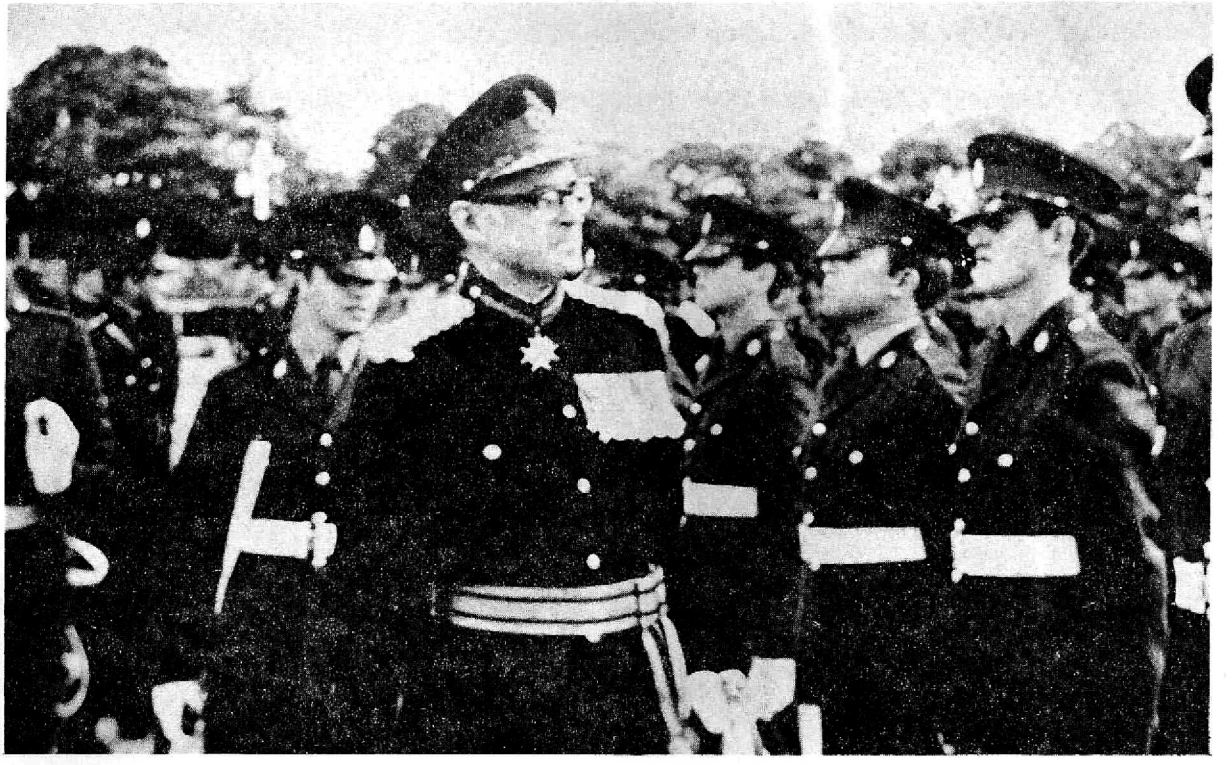
All of our Inspecting Officers paid tribute in their speeches to the extreme steadiness and precision of the apprentices on parade and to the exemplary and masterly control of these large parades by the Apprentice RSM.

Our Inspecting Officers during the last year with their appointments at the time were:

August 1973 - Major General L T H Phelps CB OBE
Director of Ordnance Services

December 1973 - Lieutenant General Sir Terence McMeekin KCB OBE
General Officer Commanding South East District

April 1974 - Major General H R S Pain MC
Director of Army Training



Major General L T H Phelps CB OBE inspecting the Senior Platoon on the Passing Out Parade August 1973



Major General L T H Phelps being instructed in the art of canoeing by A/Pte Hale. The Exhibition Controller, Lt Martindill, is in attendance



Lieutenant General Sir Terence McMeekin KCB OBE congratulating A/RSM S C Turner after the Passing Out Parade in December 1973. Turner's mentor, WOI (RSM) N Dorning is framed between the two



Major General Pain inspecting the Senior Platoon during the Spring 1974 Passing Out Parade



Lady McMeekin presenting the RSM's Tankard to A/RSM Turner at the prize-giving



Major General H R S Pain MC on the Saluting Base for the Spring 1974 Passing Out Parade



Mrs Burley, wife of the Training Centre Commander, presents Drum Major Sutcliffe with the CO's Special Award, March 1974. WO 2 Garner is in charge of the prizes.

'A' COMPANY

OC Major JH Rose RAOC

Training Officer Captain IF Sharp RAOC

CSM WOII W Godwin RAOC

Since the last edition of the College magazine there has been a complete changeover of the Permanent Staff in both Company HQ and platoons.

Major Rose came from BAOR to take over from Major Foy and shortly afterwards Captain Sharp moved over from Headquarters Company to take over from Captain Duff. CSM Godwin joined us on the closure of 'C' Company bringing with him Lts Wood and Hughes (or was it vice versa!) It is best to summarise the situation as follows:

Departures

Major E M Foy	1(BR) Corps Tps East
Capt M Duff	CVHQ
Lt J Hughes	ATO Course
Lt G Bowman	70 (Ac) Wksps
Lt R Eccles	'B' Company
Lt A Leger	To civilian life
WO 2 Black W	7 OFP
Ssgt McGregor R	Ord Depot Hong Kong
Sgt Michael P	'B' Company
Sgt Kesson B	'B' Company
Sgt Thompson H	15 BOD
Sgt Green F	COD Bicester

Arrivals

Major J H Rose	Sgt Parsons R
Capt I Sharp	Sgt Rowlands A
Lt L M Wood	Sgt Anderson R
Lt M Sullivan	Sgt Knight M
CSM Godwin W	Sgt Watson D
Sgt Lee J	

During the year Baker and Mulcahy Platoons have moved across to 'B' Company and Swiney and Steevens Platoons joined us from 'C' Company. We have retained the Mulcahy 'title' however for our Spring Term 1974 recruits - a grand total of 6 Apprentices who have been administered by Gordon Platoon. We also now have all Intelligence Corps Apprentices who enter the College to facilitate administration and training by Sgt Parsons, our Intelligence Corps representative.

Despite all the upheavals, inherent in changes of Permanent Staff, the Company has had a successful year. It is very satisfactory to see the Apprentices as they develop and mature coping with situations new to them. This aspect of character training was particularly brought out on our Company Camp at Fremington in March when during the exercise Apprentices found themselves directing the tactics in the unaccustomed positions of Platoon Commander and Platoon Sgts. To their credit those who had the chance found that it was within their capabilities although obviously more practice in the art of leadership is needed. It is felt that far more is gained if Apprentices are given responsible tasks so that, when they make mistakes, correction by guidance is of great value. But woe betide an Apprentice who commits the same fault twice, having been corrected the first time!

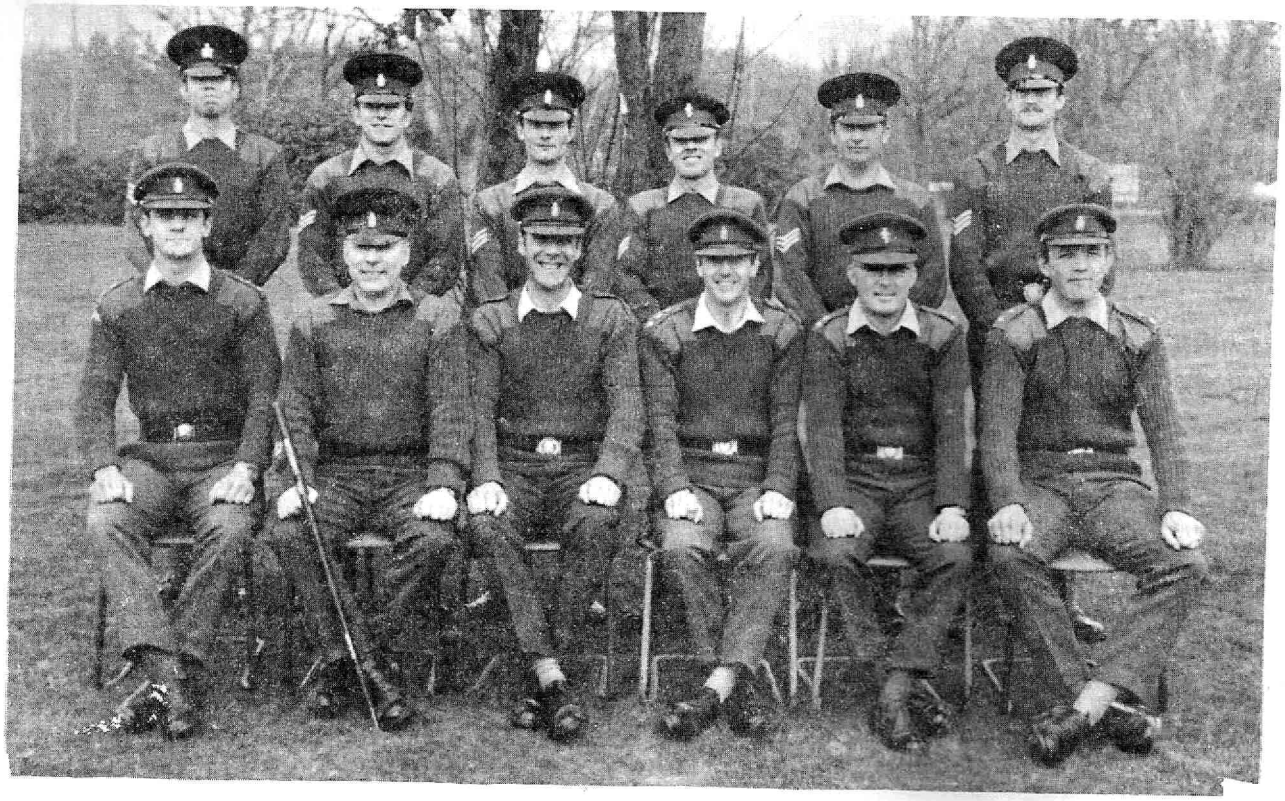
The advent of the fuel crisis nipped in the bud our ideas to get out of barracks at weekends far more than in the past. It is felt that much more is gained by visiting places of interest or doing training away from Blackdown. The Apprentices enjoy the change of air and as a result are far more interested in what they are doing and what is going on around them. It is hoped that with the fuel situation easing we can get out and about more in the Summer Term. To offset our inability to travel during the Spring Term our Platoon camps have taken place only a mile from Barracks but the groundwork of tactics has been well and truly laid. This means that during our Summer camps we can concentrate on adventurous training pursuits such as canoeing, Exmoor and cliff walking and pony trekking.

On the sporting side we have managed to win some honours particularly in the Inter Platoon competitions (the platoon reports will undoubtedly

ensure you know who won what!).

The College Skill at Arms Meeting enabled us to show our prowess with the SMG where we swept the board, winning all the individual and team awards. We also provided the SLR winner in A/Pte Draper who fired under the constant pressure of interested observers and anxious supporters.

Summer term will find us with a term leavers' platoon, the first for a long time, so Valon Platoon will disappear in August until the recruits come in September. As we are gradually losing our six and seven term Apprentices there will be a tremendous change next September when the majority will be four term boys for the first time. Nothing stands will in 'A' Company!



A COMPANY PERMANENT STAFF

Sgt Parsons Sgt Watson Sgt Anderson Sgt Lee Sgt Rowlands Sgt Knight
Lt Cox WO2 (CSM) Goodwin Major Rose Capt Sharp Lt Sullivan Lt Wood

GORDON PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt M Sullivan REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt MJ Knight RAOC

The highlight of the Autumn Term 1973 was a trip for a two week camp at Cultybraggen, Scotland. The time spent was divided between military, adventurous and recreational training. The arduous trip up to the summit of Ben Lewes (3984 feet) will be remembered for years (and maybe with tears). At the end of the Camp, the whole Platoon were awarded RPC 3.

Gordon Platoon won the inter-platoon potted sports competition, were runners-up in the soccer, (and also ran in the cross country).

The term drew to a close with a visit to Ford's of Dagenham, which proved most enjoyable; we will all buy British cars henceforth.

The beginning of the new term in January 1974 saw some changes; the Platoon Commander, Capt R G Bowman was posted to Middle Wallop and Sgt Kesson, the Platoon Sgt, went off to 'B' Company. They were replaced by Lt M Sullivan REME and Sgt Knight.

We were plunged into the new term very rapidly, and we are also hosts to all six of the recruit Platoon. They have settled in quite well and are enjoying themselves.

To vary the routine, we spent a wet weekend in mid-February on our platoon camp. We took the recruits with us and spent quite a while carrying out various tactical drills. The platoon cooked their own food and still survived! Pte Johnson wrote such a lucid account of this Camp that it is to be published separately at the end of this report.

Our success in sport this term has been out of all proportion to our numbers. Although the smallest platoon we managed to win the inter-platoon soccer shield, beating Steevens Platoon in the final. A/Sgt Turner and A/Lcpl Bates have continued to maintain their success in cross-country running. At the Surrey Association of Boys Clubs Cross Country Championships held on 10 March, A/Sgt Turner came first and A/Lcpl Bates third. Congratulations to them both.

Representing the College at the various sports were:

Soccer: A/Lcpl Jones, A/Ptes Smith, Low and Cotton

Hockey: A/Ptes Johnson and Maingard

Rugger: A/Lcpl Jones and A/Pte Griffiths (who also represented the SE District Youth Team).

We went to Fremington Camp, bear Barnstaple, from 2-10 March. An enjoyable week was spent by all, in spite of a few blisters obtained when we walked from Saunton to Combe Martin. Further training on the sand dunes enlivened our camp, but the most popular events were easily horse riding and canoeing in that order.

THE THREE DAY WAR

A/Pte Johnson (Gordon Platoon)

In this enthralling, dramatic, but true, story, the author, himself an apprentice private, tells of his personal experiences and the other events of his platoon's weekend camp.

Introduction. This story was not written in order to offend the people involved or to offend the person for whom it was initially written. Any embarrassment possibly caused by the contents of the following is completely unintended and absolutely regretted

The 'Sullivan Saga' began one cold, wet Friday morning in February, as gallant Gordon Platoon prepared themselves for the dreaded three day camp. Some travelled to the far out glades of the "G1" training area in the luxury of the Landrover, but the less fortunate trekked the vast distance weighed down by the almost unbearable weight of the full '58' pattern webbing and slung self loading rifles.

After the last weary man had reached the vicinity of the camp site the remaining daylight was spent in pitching tents, cooking, eating and entrenching in the muddy earth. Apparently the petrol and coal shortage had spread to the armoury, as the ammunition situation was desperate. Ten blank rounds per person is little enough for one attack, but for three days of constant defence, attack and patrol it is ridiculous. The expressions on the faces of the men during the ammunition rationing was a mixture of disbelief, fury and dismay. The words that were used have been censored.

It was during the darker hours that the Mulcahy Murderers appeared on the scene. Having spent all day, with the aid of their infallible Platoon Sergeant, surveying our defensive positions, they strived to attack us. Their vigilant activities did not go unnoticed as Sgt Rowlands was to find ut. At the direction of the Platoon Commander, myself and two others outflanked the spies and captured their leader. Fortunately for Sgt Rowlands we had an understanding 'man in charge' who decided on returning the POW to his Platoon.

The attack itself was, if anything, unusual as the recruits themselves had no weapons whatsoever; so their Sergeant was kept busy with the thunderflashes. Taking into consideration that they had had no previous experience of this sort of thing, the recruits fought very well. As must be expected in a mock battle of course, it ended in the usual affair of "I shot you first!" "Rubbish! I killed you long before you even saw me!" The night then remained quiet for some people, but others had to remain on guard all night.

With Friday behind us and Saturday's breakfast inside us the platoon split up into two sections and set about ambushing each other. This turned out, in fact, to be just as pointless as it sounds with each section knowing exactly where the other was dug in. In my opinion it was a complete washout. The afternoon, however, was a complete reversal of the morning as Gordon Platoon this time triumphed over the optimistic, even boastful, recruits.

The object of the afternoon was to camouflage the whole platoon in one area near the Camp so the recruits could search for us. As you have no doubt guessed they did not find us; not until, that is, Cpl McCreesh rescued them by waving them over in our direction, and then retiring to his camouflaged position. Even then it took them a further hour to find the whole platoon, who were, incidentally, all within one hundred square yards. Eventually the Mulcahy Misfits had wormed everybody out except yours truly. I was in a four foot trench completely covered over with bracken. They had given up hope altogether when suddenly Howat and I broke the monotonous silence by screaming the place down. He had accidently stepped into my expertly camouflaged trench.

The eventful day closed with a camp bonfire and yet another sleepless night for the guard.

Breakfast had no sooner finished on Sunday morning when we eagerly pulled down the tents and packed our belongings ready to depart.

I think it is the first time that I can truthfully say I was glad to see Dettingen Barracks again.

MULCAHY PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt R A C Eccles RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt MJ Knight RAOC

During the Winter Term 1973 there were many unavoidable changes in personnel in the platoon. Ssgt McGregor was posted and was replaced by Sgt Thompson. Before long he departed and was replaced by Sgt Knight. Later, Sgt Knight went on a Guards Drill Course and Sgt Lee took over. Throughout this time Lt Eccles manned the helm.

The highlight of the Autumn term was our training visit to Scotland during which we hill-walked, pony-trekked and soldiered. We also visited Edinburgh. At the end of term the platoon was split; most went to Watts Platoon under Lt Eccles and others, namely A/Cpl White and A/Lcpl Bates, formed the nucleus of the 'new' Mulcahy Platoon.

Indeed, 'the few' of Mulcahy Platoon have done exceedingly well in their first term here.

The 'new' Mulcahy, formed in January 1974, consisted of six raw recruits. Lt Sullivan (Gordon Platoon Commander) took on the responsibilities of OIC Mulcahy. Highlights of the term were the platoon camps and the Company Camp at Fremington, which all enjoyed.

The new recruits have settled down well, and each one has already acquired some 'notoriety'. A/Pte Crighton is a very good shot with the SMG. A/Pte Howatt is on the fringes of the College soccer team. A/Ptes MacDonald and Wedlock are proving to be very good shots with the SLR. A/Ptes Palmer and Alexander are competent map readers.

STEEVENS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Capt IF Sharp RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt JD Lee REME

There have been many changes in the Command structure of the platoon since the last issue of Thunderbolt The Platoon has lost its previous Platoon Commander and Sergeant and this term gained Capt I F Sharp and Sergeant J D Lee with A/Pte Baker and A/Cpl Roe transferred from Mulcahy and Swiney respectively.

I am sure that the reader will sympathise with the author in that it is difficult to write a platoon report after a change of command with all previous events shrouded in the clouds of history. However with the aid of written contributions from members of the Platoon I can only highlight the major events of the Summer and Winter Term.

The Summer term saw Steevens Platoon in their third term in 'C' Company and it would appear in retrospect that the summer was spent nostalgically relaxing in the heather at Leek or striding up the golden mile at Blackpool.

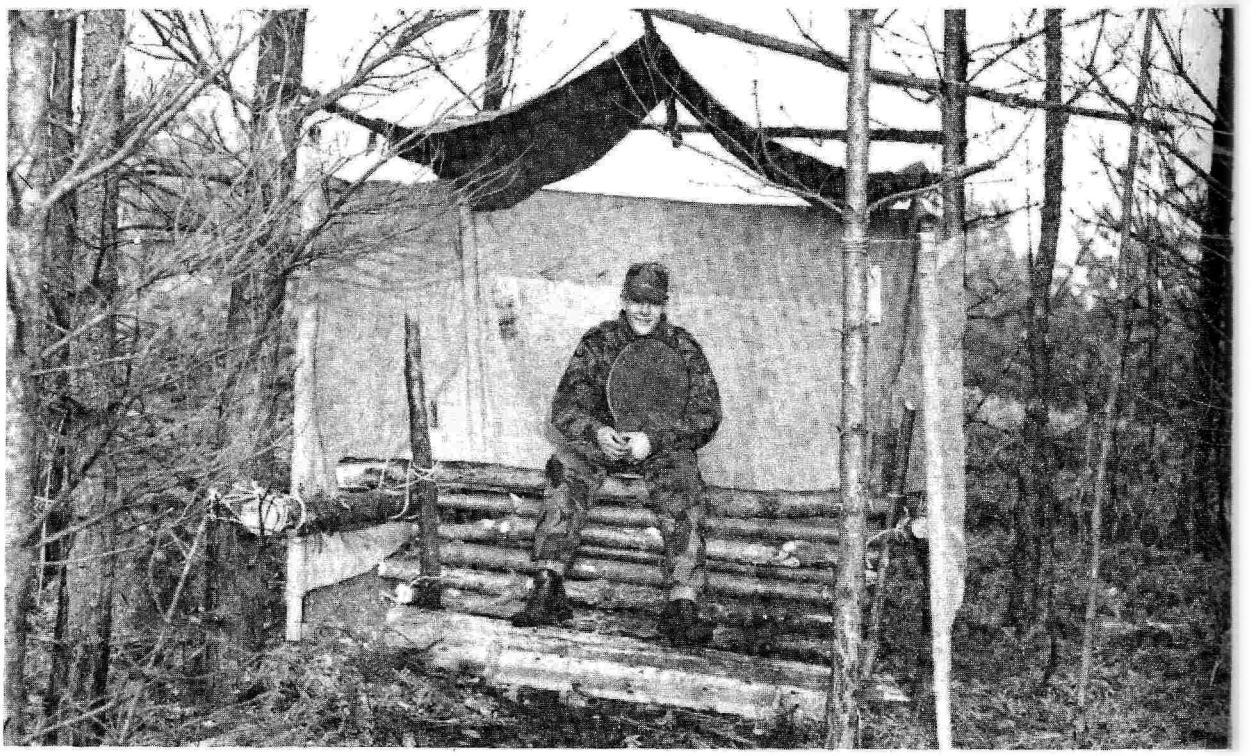
The Winter term saw the College Camp at Cultybraggen which I am sure is described in greater detail elsewhere in this issue. Steevens main claim to fame was coming third in the College March and Shoot competition. "Those hills" or words to that effect is the cry which seems to echo still among the ranks of Steevens.

The Spring term started with a bang straight

into RPC 2 Testing, followed very quickly by the Platoon camp on the training area behind the camp. This was as a result of the fuel crisis. A good weekend was had by all and at least all of Steevens will now know how to construct a bog Mk I. The Company Camp took us to Fremington for a week of luxury in centrally heated, four to a room accommodation, but unfortunately for us our second night there, which was spent on the Burrows, was recorded as the coldest night of the year followed by possibly the warmest day of the year; shades of desert campaigning for those who recognise the symptoms.

The main task this term has been RPC 2 training and most of us are well on the way to completing this and will finish it off early next term. Our sporting achievements have been on a par with a well known West Country football team but we did however manage to get into the finals of the Inter Platoon Football Trophy.

This term is drawing to a close with noisy movements from the drill square which can be heard with great ease from the new 'A' Company offices. A/Cpl Roe is leaving at the end of this term and next term will see the arrival of Lt Henwood to take over the reins from Capt I F Sharp who has been caretaker Platoon Commander.



THUNDERBOLT salutes THUNDERBOX

A/Pte McDougal experimenting!

SWINEY PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt L M Wood RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt RG Anderson RAOC

In April 74 half of Swiney Platoon pass on to the term leavers platoon and half remain for one more term before they also become term leavers. For all of us this is a rather sad time as we have been together now not for forty years but for 18 months. In that time there have been many changes in the College not only of personalities but of companies, policies and locations.

We have now lived in three blocks and had five different platoon sergeants, but have been stuck with the same platoon commander, despite all our efforts.

Looking back over our time together it is encouraging to note the number of times we have been involved in winning competitions, or at least coming second.

Basketball continues to be our main platoon activity on the sports scene. As well as having 11 members of the college team of 12, we have also won the Inter Platoon shield last year and are through to the finals this term with a good chance of winning again. Most of our success is due to A/Pte Potter, our main scorer, who has been ably supported by Pritchard, Weissgerber Holmes and A/Lcpl Rennie.

After a tense few days waiting for other teams to play off their last matches we became winners of the Inter Platoon Football league shield in the winter term. Our chances of retaining this position, by winning the Spring term knock-out, were marred by injuries and courses, and we were eventually beaten by Watts Platoon.

Our most exciting win was in the College March and Shoot competition held during college camp at Cultybraggen. We started off expecting to come second to Valor Platoon but due to maximum effort by all those in the team and the invaluable help of Sgt Knight we were the clear winners Everyone, except the team leader, scored full marks on the shooting (Lt Wood only scored three, but he was concentrating on the rest of us). We were well ahead on the march time, and our inspection scores were above average.

In the college shoot this term A/Pte Draper was the top shot of the college with the SLR, bearing out his position as Junior Army Champion. The SMG team were fifth and tenth and the SLR team were second in the moving targets match and in the team match. We were consistent if nothing else.

We were top of the 'C' Company platoons both at athletics standards and at the swimming gala.

Military training has also gone well, especially after we finally all managed to pass the Map Reading test at the umptheenth attempt. We are all now proud possessors of RPC 3 and most of RPC 2, which we hope to complete by the end of this term.

Other attainments are A/Pte Moore to A/Cpl and A/Pte Littlewood to A/Lcpl. A/Pte Cureton has been selected for the RAOC Judo team and A/Pte Hall has grown one inch in height.

Since our last notes we have attended camps at all levels. One College camp, two company camps and one platoon camp. The company camps took place at Leek with 'C' Company, and Fremington with 'A' Company. Leek was the usual 'C' Company mixture of tactics and relaxation. The tactics side was a two day exercise under canvas when we practised Advance to contact, Ambush drills and a Company attack. The advance was rather pathetic, as every time we started our attack the enemy got up and walked off to the next position. This was demoralising to say the least. The ambush came as a surprise to most of our platoon, as well as the enemy, but once we were all awake the enemy did not stand a chance.

On the Company attack we had to charge through a wood in the half light of dawn. The

enemy were wiped out. We lost half the platoon and the platoon commander lost his watch. Eventually the rest of the platoon were found, but the watch evaded capture.

The relaxation part of the camp included a visit to Crewe railway yards and a trip down the Manchester Ship Canal. Crewe railway yards were the lowlight of an interesting week. We walked miles around the works but as we reached each new department they stopped for their tea break and therefore they saw more of us than we saw of their work.

Fremington was our first 'A' Company camp and was somewhat more organised. We arrived on the Sunday, marched 16 miles to the training area on the Monday morning and went straight into a 36 hour exercise against our arch enemies Steevens Platoon. A new aspect of this exercise was that various people took over as Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant. A/Pte Hall was in charge on the march out but had to hand over to A/Sgt Clements as he was tending to lead from the back the further we marched. We really were rather tired by the time we reached the training area and started to dig in. After getting settled and digging A/Pte Potter out of his collapsed trench we prepared for the night. At dusk three patrols were sent out to locate the enemy and three hours later A/Lcpl Littlewood led his successful patrol back in to our position There was no sign however, of the other two patrols until suddenly on the distant horizon (behind us), there was the sound of rifle fire and after much firing of Very pistols and flashing of torches A/Cpl Moore and A/Pte Reeby led in their patrols. All three patrols had located the enemy and we therefore sent out a snatch patrol under A/Lcpl Wooldridge. We successfully reached the enemy position and managed to take a prisoner (we won't name you), and made our getaway. At this point there is a certain amount of dispute over the facts, as someone set off a trip flare and Lt Wood blamed A/Lcpl Wooldridge and vice versa. Next morning saw us creeping up to the enemy position for the attack. It was highly successful (or would have been if we had had smoke cover, artillery support and a few more men).

The rest of our camp included canoeing, horse riding (A/Pte Douglas managed to mount his horse at the tenth attempt and is claiming the platoon record, so you can imagine what the rest were like) and a nice gentle cliff walk from Saunton Sands to Ilfracombe.

Platoon camp was held on Hankley Common in mainly sub zero temperatures. Sgt Lee helped out during Sgt Anderson's absence and a good time was had by all. We covered all forms of tactical training including patrolling, ambushes, defending our camp area against the OC and Lt Hughes, and other equally demanding activities. On the Sunday we marched to the Devil's Punchbowl at Hindhead turned round and walked back. It's that kind of training that has made Swiney Platoon great. We've all learnt to switch off and ignore everything around us.

College camp at Cultybraggen will long remain in our memories (despite efforts to forget). We marched uphill and we marched downhill and we marched around hills. We were meant to be training in section battle drills but keeping up became the prime concern of most of us. The views were incredible whenever the fog lifted and the rain stopped, and during the second week we were given the opportunity to see the view from the second highest mountain in Scotland. It amazed us all how little can be seen from the top of the second highest mountain in Scotland when the mist is down.

Just before we left camp we filled in the escape tunnels and as we drove out of the gate on our way home our thoughts turned to Deepcut and home.

Apart from the camps we have also been on various visits, one to Fords of Dagenham where we were shown why we should never buy a Ford car, and the other to the Houses of Parliament. The highlight of that visit was spotting a dead body floating down the Thames. Weissgerber spotted the body first and rushed to tell Lt Wood, who refused to be caught out by that old trick, until the rest of the platoon also confirmed that his story was true. There was much excitement and running about and eventually the body was removed by the river police. The Houses of Parliament were also quite interesting, although one day is not long enough to see everything there.

All that is left to do is to wish those members of Swiney platoon who are moving on next term the best of luck in their future training and to remind them that they have a reputation to maintain wherever they go.

VALON PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt G Cox RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt RG Parsons RAOC

Winter Term started with a flurry of activity as on 15 September we were off on the Annual College Camp held this year at Cultybraggan in Scotland. We were conveyed to this far flung outpost of the British Empire on a BR train specially equipped for aclimatization (it had no heating!!). Despite mumbles of discontent from from A/Ptes Casey and Tumilson we all survived the trip. We now embarked on two weeks of tactics, map reading and adventure training finishing up with a company exercise. It was not all work though as we also visited Edinburgh Castle, after first buying up every copy of "Men Only" on Edinburgh station. The high spot of the camp was when the platoon came second in the College March and Shoot competition. (Eee-zee!). Anyway good times could not last for ever and on 30 September we arrived back in Deepcut to continue education and study for RPC 3. Before we knew what had happened we were off on three weeks Christmas leave.

It is now Spring in Deepcut. Sgt Parsons departed until half term to have his feet educated at the Guards Depot, and Sgt Watson took over. The platoon camp took place from 25-29 January and this time we were somewhat nearer home - G1 Training Area 200 yards from the College. Despite the early morning runs led by Lt Cox the majority of the platoon really enjoyed themselves.

With feet fairly bouncing Sgt Parsons returned to the platoon and it was time for company camp. This time we were off to Fremington, in North Devon, for one week. Here we enjoyed the delight of pony trekking, canoeing, cliff walking, and the inevitable 36 hour exercise. A/Pte Tumilson was once again in good form on the exercise when he lost the leading section and proceeded to lead two thirds of the platoon on his own (mis)guided tour of Braunton Burrows. A/Sgt Marson, a key man in community relations, preyed with devastating effect upon the local female population, left the scars of his encounter for days afterwards. A Part 2 Order has since been published stating that the whole of Valon Platoon are qualified mole catchers! With the knowledge that we would be returning to Fremington in the summer we all left with neat lists of telephone numbers and names.

Next on the agenda was the College Skill at Arms meeting. Here we had a fair amount of success by coming second in the SMG team match and third overall in the Champion Platoon competition. A/Pte Milner did extremely well when placed second in the Individual SMG. A/Lcpl King and A/Pte Heddon also showed that incentive makes good shots by winning shares in the SMG/SLR Pool Bull.

On 26 March the College Swimming Gala was held. Although we finished fourth overall A/Lcpl King, A/Lcpl Thomas and A/Ptes Knight and Kelly showed the College how to swim by winning the freestyle relay. A/Lcpl King also won the 100m Individual freestyle event.

On 30 March the Platoon came a very close second in the Inter Platoon Assault Course Competition; despite A/Pte Tumilson's antics on the stepping stone water jump, which he successfully completed on the fourth attempt - pure perseverance!!

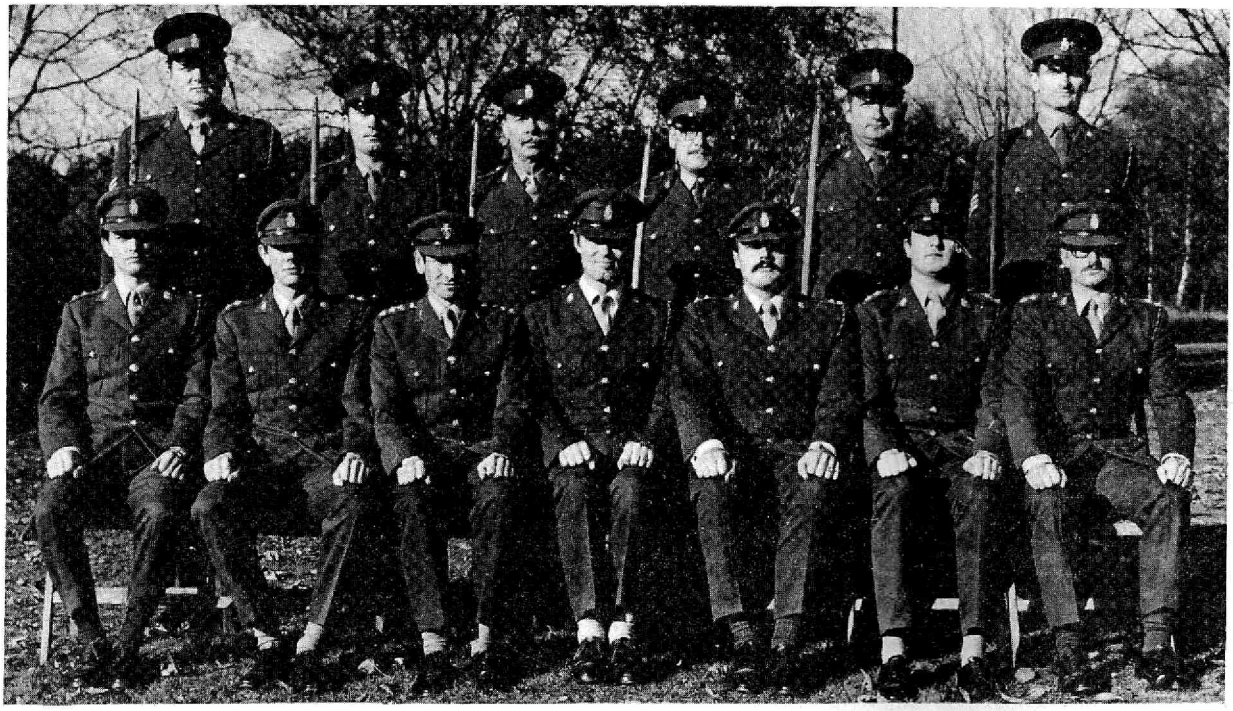
As the end of term draws near the platoon is already wondering about next term when we split up. Half will be the Senior Boys and the other half are amalgamating with Gordon Platoon. We all bid a fond farewell to the Valon Platoon of yesterday. We all wish A/Cpl (Daddy) Bennett all the best as he is off into man's service at the end of this term.

'B' COMPANY

OC Major HD Lucas RAOC

Training Officer Captain MR Beer REME

CSM WOII G K Maule MSM RAOC



B COMPANY PERMANENT STAFF WINTER TERM 1973

Sgt R Douglas Sgt A H Rowlands CSM G K Maule Sgt A D McIntyre Sgt W Gardner Sgt S C Bonta
Lt C Burrow Lt R Rook Capt M R Beer Major J M C Kimmins Lt R J Jordan Lt M Blatherwick Lt N C Smith

During the course of the current year the Company had a large turnover of Permanent Staff.

In August Lt Hicks left the College to attend a Russian Language Course at Beaconsfield. In September Lt Blatherwick and Sgt Bonta joined us from the recently disbanded 'C' Company, as did Lt Barrow. Lt Jordan also joined us at the beginning of the Autumn term after 18 months in the Hong Kong Police. Sgt Jones left the Company on promotion to Ssgt and was posted to Regimental Depot less than half a mile away; hence we still see quite a bit of him. After the College Camp Sgt Rowlands joined us on promotion from HQ Company.

At the end of the Autumn term our Company Commander, Major J M C Kimmins, left us after two years in the hot seat. The whole Company congratulates him on his promotion to Lieutenant

Colonel and wishes him, and his wife Anne, every success in what is likely to be an even hotter seat in command of 1 BR Corps Combat Supplies Battalion in Germany. At the same time we welcomed Major H D Lucas, fresh from the depths of Wiltshire where he was a member of the Regular Commission Board at Westbury, a public-spirited establishment which, we understand, introduced the four-day week many years before the recent power crisis. Four other permanent staff also left us in December; Sgt Rowlands left us for 'A' Company, Lt Rook moved to Shrivenham to start his Ammunition Technical Officers Course, Lt Burrow started his Petroleum Course and Sgt Gardner was promoted on posting to 10 Ordnance Support Battalion at Devizes. It should be noted that Lts Rook and Burrow put what little spare time they had at the College to good use as both have since got married. We wish them well and would remind them that they will have even less spare time now.

In January Lt Dyer joined us from Training Wing, while remaining as Platoon Commander of the Term Leavers Platoon, while Sgts Michael, Kesson and Preece joined us from elsewhere in the College. Sgt MacIntyre went off to Aberdeen on a Recruiting posting, while Sgt O'Malley joined us from a similar recruiting appointment in the Midlands. In March Sgt Kesson left us for the Regimental Depot, to be replaced by Sgt Flowers, hot from HQ ANZAC in Singapore.

As regards civilian staff, our typist, Mrs Peggy Austin left us in the summer to take up a part time job in Training Battalion and was replaced for the Autumn term by Mrs Serena Finch, who, alas, decorated the Company Office for only a few months and has since moved to Deal in Kent. Mrs Audrey Jenkins is now in the chair, bashing out prolific quantities of typescript, as have all of our typists in the past year. Mrs Titmuss continues to organise the Company Office in her efficient and inimitable manner and Mrs Esther Redman keeps the establishment spotless and all concerned supplied with numerous cups of coffee.

Captain Beer in his turn keeps both Mrs Titmuss and Mrs Jenkins supplied with acres of paper on Hockey and Cricket matters interposed with copious and commendably accurate training directives.

No notes from 'B' Company would ever be complete without mention of CSM Maule who continues in his exemplary and unique style to extract the very best out of the Company in all aspects of their military training and conduct in and out of the Barracks.

In the space available it is impossible to record our best wishes to every Apprentice who leaves us but A/Sgt Wickham must be singled out for winning the Spring Term Award for the St Albans Cup for Initiative. He has just left us to join his parents in their move to South Africa! We wish him well for the future and trust he will keep us informed of his exploits.

Now to matters competitive and sporting. The College Annual Skill at Arms Meeting 1974 found a number of prizes being won by the Company. The senior platoon won the inter-platoon team match (SLR and SMG) and now hold the Full Bore Cup. Mathew Platoon won both the ETR SLR Match and the Moving Targets Match and Cutforth Platoon came third in the SMG Team Match. Fifteen of the top SLR XX headed by A/Pte Hughes and A/Pte Fox-Russell (who came second and third respectively) were members of the Company indicating the depth of musketry skills achieved during the year.

The Company Inter Platoon Assault Course competition proved a great success and it was rewarding to see the determination and spirit shown by all the Platoon teams. Senior A won the team event but the overall platoon competition was won by Watts.

The Company has also been well to the fore in sporting activities. A/Sgt O'Rourke is to be congratulated on winning the Army Junior Boxing 51 kg class and A/Pte Moffatt likewise deserves praise for being runner up in the 75 kg class.

The Swimming Gala for the Inter Platoon Championships provided 'B' Company with a clean sweep since Mathew Platoon were the winners and were chased home by Watts and Cutforth Platoons respectively. A/Pte Wootley was runner up in the Freestyle, A/Pte Saunders won the Breaststroke and A/Cpl Wake both the Butterfly and Medley events.

Success eluded us on the football field where we lost the Inter Company Cup to 'A' Company. The team manager CSM Maule can hardly wait to get his hands on the recruits of next term to find the talent for the future when we hope to restore the trophy to its rightful place.

Two successes were seen on the cricket field where the Company won the Inter Company competition and Parsons Platoon the Inter Platoon competition.

Special mention must be made of A/Cpls Hulse and Jones whose excellent tennis won the Inter Platoon competition for Mathew Platoon.

A notable success was also recorded in the more academic and cultured field of chess when A/Pte Lampert won the College chess competition.

The past year has seen a lot of changes in the Company not least the contraction caused by the change in the school leaving age coupled with the fall-off in recruiting. The next year will prophetically increase the number of recruits which in turn will boost tne size of the Company. The next few months will be a testing time for us all but I am confident the Company will respond to the challenge.

COLLEGE SUMMER CAMP SEPTEMBER 1973

'B' COMPANY VERSION

Prelude

There was, many years ago, an enchanted land, where butterflies fluttered, bees quietly hummed and the sun dappled the soft fallen leaves through whispering trees. Mildly spoken people gently skipped among fawns and rabbits, all loving subjects of an old and wise king. For hundreds of years all was peace and contentment, silence reigned supreme over the beautiful countryside.

UNTIL.... one day, blackest in the memory of the poor inhabitants, a nasty witch flew into their lives. She screamed and ranted and changed their land. All was horrible. Rolling hills became sharp rocky precipices, warm shallow pools became deep, cold and treacherous stretches of grey water. The mild and sweet people became...Scots

Cultybraggan Camp (where the story really starts) is somewhere in this disenchanted land. The place is a memorial to the change of fortunes in the country - physical reminder of just how bad things had become.

To bring some sunshine into the lives of these sorry people 'B' Company were part of an expedition mounted, in the face of massive opposition, to probe deep into forbidden territory.

Here ye the sad tale, and be warned . . . . . .

Narrative

The journey was harrowing and we all felt a terrible empty feeling as we left our womb-like home to venture northwards into the unknown.

Vast tracts of land, the last vestiges of civilisation, rumbled past in the gloom of the night. In the damp grey morning we looked our first look at "the place". Vast amounts of time and effort were expended catching and shoehorning apprentices into double decker prisons for their journey from the train, which had become their only tenuous link with the life they knew and loved. Replete though they were, having partaken of a superb BR feast around Crewe, the Company consumed a massive breakfast when confronted with "the Camp".

It glistened, nay, shone, in the weak rays of what was laughingly called the SUN. A home of hutted hovels, a town of wiggly tin. Set in a hole encircled by foreboding mountains, it had collected, during the night, a thick layer of dew.

The first week was spent on adventure training canoeing, climbing, abseiling, hill-walking, et al.

We climbed the fifth highest mountain in Britain, and canoed and swam in the second coldest loch in Scotland.

Then came the crunch; the second week's military training.

Your scribe being exhausted, the story is now taken up by the participants.

Watts Platoon

A/Lcpl Nicholson was the most active rock climber and A/Pte Ovens was a close second. After initial fear all rock climbers attempted abseiling, some more than once.

Those who canoed on Loch Earn braved cold water in the test swim.

In the tactical phase of the Company exercise the platoon was divided between Horne, Mathew and Rowcroft. Thus they saw the best or the worst of the other platoons.

Rowcroft Platoon

The main point that sticks in one's mind about the 1973 College camp is that it was at Cultybraggen, where it rains a lot, is rather soggy, and the water is extremely cold.

Our first week was spent on adventure training which proved to be very enjoyable. The canoeing and rock climbing went down very well although a swim in the second coldest loch in Scotland at eight in the morning will not be remembered as most peoples' favourite pastime! The boys took to canoeing like ducks to water, the majority spending more time in the water under a canoe than actually in one.

The hill walk up Ben Lawyers was enjoyable but very exhausting. It is windy at the top - especially when a Force 8 gale is blowing.

The trip to Edinburgh went off smoothly - the shopkeepers of the city being very pleased at the way the boys bought presents.

The second week we went off on military training, culminating in a 36 hour tactical exercise. We ran the gauntlet of section and platoon attacks and battle drills with fortunately good weather throughout. Again very exhausting but slightly less enjoyable.

Mention ought to be made of our third place on the March and Shoot competition, but our finishing position on the 'It's a Knockout' tournament is best forgotten.

An enjoyable two weeks on the whole, from which we all returned fitter, more tired but most of all very pleased to be home!

Horne Platoon

Travelling up to Scotland, some lads were talking about catching Haggi, but the rest of us were hoping to catch a little more than that.

We started the first day with a football match against our old rivals, Rowcroft. Of course we had a convincing win of 15-2 (A/Sgt Moffatt asleep for those two). That evening we took Sgt Bonta (Billy) to a river we had found, but, like all sergeants, he was reluctant to go in first.

The next day we were off to Edinburgh, unfortunately on a Bank Holiday, but I'm sure A/Ptes Newnham, Parsons and Warner won't forget the trip for a while.

Lt Jordan was by this time having fun and starting to get into the swing of things as the Platoon Commander of three weeks standing.

That night we all prepared, brilliantly, for the March and Shoot - in which a certain officer showed us around 9 miles of unexplored countryside. May he burrow his head in shame! A/Sgt Moffatt didn't seem too keen to go as he was recovering from the night before. Being the man he is, we met him half a mile from the finish, looking pleased with himself. He later said it was because he was the only bloke who knew where he was going, which was a relief because the officer didn't.

We later visited Perth and Stirling. Not bad! But someone had forgotten to turn the heater on in our (4 ton) Rolls Royce.

Soon it was time to return to Deepcut, which Lt Jordan was all for, but who can blame him as he had only been married for six weeks! We all congratulate him.

'B' COMPANY FREMINGTON CAMP

EX DEVON DUMPLING JULY 73

The Company Summer Camp took place at Fremington near Barnstaple from 30 June-8 July.

The period was blessed with superb weather (apart from the day which the 2IC had off, when it poured non-stop from dawn to dusk).

The advance party travelled on 29 June in the charge of CSM Maule who, believe it or not, had never been to this camp before. Preparation for the reception of the rest of the Company was well advanced when the road party under the 2IC, Capt Beer, arrived at 1000 hours, having left Deepcut at 0400 hours on the Saturday morning.

The main party arrived by rail in good order on the Saturday evening, With the OC, Major Kimmins. The camp was on the whole well appointed, and our programme was carried through smoothly.

The laughter-maker-in-chief for the camp was our CQMS Sgt Pendleton who kept the stomach muscles of the visiting population of Ilfracombe pumping with mirth on each of the several occasions on which he visited that town with parties of apprentices and other permanent staff on off-duty excursions.

L/Cpl Long was mercifully underworked in the Camp cinema due to the fine weather, though he did a grand job showing training and feature films when the occasion demanded.

The Company attended a wading demonstration of the Fording Trials Branch in which a number of Army vehicles including Bedford 4 tonners and Landrovers showed their paces in driving through 4-ft of water.

Contact was made with 14 Signal Regt from Worcester, who were co-occupants of the camp, on the sports field, where the Company acquitted itself well in any inter-unit competition involving football, volleyball, basketball and other games.

The map reading exercise on Exmoor is worthy of note. Watts, Mathew and Richards platoons covered the 10 mile course in steady fashion on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and it was planned for Parsons Platoon to be met half way through their course on the Thursday by the CO and OC. However groups from the platoon covered the course in record time, moving so fast that they had finished by early afternoon. This showed little consideration for the OC and CO, who, having climbed to a checkpoint on one of the highest hills in the area, were informed that there was nothing to see, as the groups had already passed. Various comments were passed, few of them complimentary to Parsons platoon's ace map readers and hill walkers.

The platoon exercises on Braunton Burrows provided nights of horror for the majority of apprentices. They never knew when the next thunderflash would enter their position from the hands of the permanent staff and A/NCOs who provided the enemy.

Several apprentices were introduced to surf canoeing on Saunton Sands while others had their first close liaison with the equine world when they went pony trekking on the edge of Exmoor.

The Camp's success was heightened by the fact that the apprentices found that the 'natives' were friendly; especially those of the opposite sex.

CUTFORTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt M Blatherwick RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt R Douglas RAOC

Winter Term 1973

11 September

This is one day that should stand out among the memories of our stay at the College as it was the day when Cutforth Platoon apprentices joined the Army.

At first, the place favourably impressed me as our landrover drove past the parade square, but by the time I had reached the Reception Centre it seemed rather a dismal place to live in, and from what I have heard from other apprentices since, my first day's impressions were not very different from theirs. Two days afterwards, when we had drawn our kit, our first six weeks basic training began.

Acceptance Parade

When these six weeks were completed, we marched onto the parade square, supported by the Corps of Drums and wearing our No 2s for the first time. We must have proved our ability for we were not rejected! Afterwards we went off on our half-term leave.

Platoon Camp

The platoon camp was at Tregantle Fort and lasted one week. The castle, in its own way, was very impressive, and surprisingly, the barrack rooms were warm. Our first engagement was a muster parade on the morning of the first day, with sport in the afternoon.

Our main tactical exercise was at Scraesdon Fort. The object of the exercise was for our sections to capture the fort and hold it while the defending enemy (Lt Rook and Sgt Michael) bombarded us with thunderflashes and anything else they could lay their hands upon. Somehow a landrover get into the act driven by Sgt Michael.

Our other exercise was on Dartmoor. We had to arrive at check-points by certain times and the best known villages that we passed through were Martmeet and Widecombe-on-the-Moor.

All-in-all it was a very enjoyable camp and we all learnt a lot from it.

Passing out Parade

The junior NCOs who passed out in December 1973 from Cutforth Platoon were A/Sgt Jones, A/Cpl Crawford and A/Lcpl Barraclough (not recruits obviously . A great deal of work on our part went into the passing out parade and with the benefit of all the rehearsals looked, I believe, very impressive. On the following day our Christmas leave began - a very welcome and enjoyable leave at that!

Spring Term 1974

Our second term began in Block 6, but after six weeks the platoon had to move out of this block while it was redecorated, back to Block 11. Without central heating Block 11 was very cold and cheerless but we have settled in well and are now used to it again.

SMG Shoot

On Wednesday 9 January, we went on the range with Lt Eccles and Sgt Douglas.

The actual shoot was rather complicated, but all those who did shoot classified.

Church

The Sunday afterwards was College Church Sunday in the Gym, which featured "Hear and Now" a local folk group, and a few members from the RAOC Staff Band.

Bagshot Park

On Friday 18 January the platoon visited the Chaplains Department at Bagshot Park.

Soon after we arrived we had an introductory talk by the Rev R Johnson about Church houses

in the army, and the courses that are run at the Centre. We had a short tour around the house including the RAChD Museum and were conducted by Lt Col G C E Crew (Retd) who is Secretary of the RAChD Association.

Then we saw the film "Singapore Story" which concerned the fate of a Minister in Singapore when the Japanese took over.

Overall it was a very enjoyable visit and the platoon would like to thank Padre Vernon and others concerned for organising it.

Arborfield

On Friday 8 February the REME personnel of our platoon and Mulcahy platoon went on a visit to see a passing out parade by adult recruits and a film explaining the REME and the jobs that the Corps does. We also visited the Corps Museum.

Company Camp

"Very good accommodation" was the main phrase used on our arrival. On Sunday 24 February we had Muster Parade in the morning followed by lectures on fire and security.

In the afternoon we had company sports including football, softball and the assault course.

On Monday evening at about 1700 hrs we boarded the DUKWs and set off for our landing point on our platoon tactical exercise.

We had to move tactically up to the hill where the enemy (Watts Platoon) were entrenched. After capturing the hill we had to dig in and to repel frequent counter-attacks. Our main assault was reserved for the Brigadier Commanding RAOC Training on the Tuesday afternoon. After this we returned to our hill and waited for any more attacks while the trenches were filled in.

We also went to visit the REME Amphibious Test and Research Centre (officially known as the Fording Trials Branch) a little way down the road from Fremington. At this Centre we saw methods of waterproofing vehicles and we watched a Royal Marine landrover go through 'the dip', which is used to test the waterproofed vehicles. However something went wrong and it had to be towed out at the other side! We road on a DUKW (an amphibious wheeled 4 tonner) and were also shown a film about the assault ship, HMS Fearless, and its departments.

On our other visit we went to RAF Chivenor. First, we had a lecture about the roles of the various aircraft at the base. Then we were shown around three departments - the tyre bay, where the tyres of the aircraft are replaced, the mechanical bay, where the engines are repaired and the Rescue Equipment Bay, where the life-saving equipment is packed.

Shortly after this visit the camp ended, and on the Sunday we were put in charge of baggage on the return journey to Deepcut. All went smoothly but at the cost of a great deal of sweat.

Platoon Weekend

Our platoon camp was split up into two parts, one - the exercise, and the other - Welfare work in Camberley. The exercise was on the G 1 training area. The object was to teach us personnel admin in the field.

On the Friday morning we were issued with sleeping bags and bivouacs and split up into two groups, one taken by A/Cpl Keating and the other by A/Lcpl Atkin. Cpl Rosales then took the platoon on a very fast march to the G1 exercise area. There the two groups parted and went their own ways.

Once camp was set up, sentries were posted and at 1835 hrs the first recce patrols went out to locate the other (enemy) section's camp. A fighting patrol went out at 0015 hrs followed by another after first light. There was then a short but enjoyable march back to barracks to end the tactical exercise.

The second part of the weekend involved work in Camberley. It was the first project of a Camberley Welfare group. We volunteered to help in the work on Sunday 17 and Monday 18 March, and our task was to renovate a large garden. The state of the garden was unmentionable before we started work, but afterwards the ground was levelled and a path laid. The welfare organisers were very pleased with the work done.

College Shoot

Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 March were the days for the College Shoot. The SLR team did not do as well as the SMG team, who finished third. The SLR team, however, produced a very good shot in A/Pte Fox-Russell who finished third in the Individual Electric Target Range competition.

Assault Course Competition

Only one team of ten apprentices could be raised for this competition due to the number on

other duties from our platoon, but the team, led by A/Lcpl Atkin acquitted itself well and maintained the high standard normally associated with the platoon in this event.

HORNE PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt R J Jordan RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt S C Bonta RAOC

Autumn Term 1973

In September the platoon had a change of platoon commander from Lt Denton to Lt Jordan (hot from the Hong Kong Police) and went almost immediately to Cultybraggan Camp in Scotland.

During the term every member of the platoon was successful (due to Sgt Bonta's sweat and tears) at RPC 3, and we were then into the phase of non-stop Passing Out Parade rehearsals. A/Sgt Moffatt gained College colours for both boxing and rugby and moved on to the senior platoon at the end of the term. A/Lcpl Artlett is also congratulated on gaining his soccer colours.

The Platoon Christmas Party

As this was the first party we had had together we thought it would be a flop, but Christmas spirit was here, goodwill and all that. (Even from the CSM, although he approached the block in a somewhat devious manner!) We had invited the ladies of the OC, 2IC, Platoon Commanders and Sergeants and the CSM and they all came. There was the sound of sweet soul music and the smell of freshly pulled pints (of shandy). Mrs Jordan was dancing with the lads (those who plucked up the courage) and we even got the CSM dancing. The darts started flying and Lt Jordan embarrassingly won the competition. It was the early hours of the morning when we finally collapsed into our beds. A swinging party, thanks to Cpl George who ran the bar, and of course to Sgt Bonta for the help in organising. We hope to hold another soon.

"Carry on London"

It took a while to come to an agreed decision about our Christmas visit. Cries of 'Soho' and 'Au Pairs in Panties' finally receded and we were in the coaches bound for the big city. Barbara Windsor and Sid James were amusing, but the dollies on the stage raised the biggest cheer and the most ribald comment. A walk about afterwards 'window shopping' ended, surprisingly, in the whole platoon actually being there for the coach back. Our return to Deepcut was even more vocal than the outward journey.

Spring Term 1974

Congratulations to A/Lcpls Brown, Brogan and McDonald on their promotions and welcome A/Sgt Sanders and A/Ptes Mason and Ladley; but farewell A/Lcpl McGrath on promotion to A/Sgt and A/Pte Hamilton on promotion to A/Lcpl.

Fremington Camp by A/Pte Porter

When the final arrangements had been made for Fremington Camp after a busy morning's preparation, we boarded the train and left "sunny Deepcut, the playboys' rest home" behind us. Our platoon travelled in the company of civilians for part of the journey. When we at last arrived at Fremington and after settling in, all went well. We did many things we really enjoyed and a few we didn't. Cliff walking wouldn't have been so bad if it had been all down hill, and pony trekking left a few aches and pains. Free time was spent visiting neighbouring towns, at the camp cinema, or in the NAAFI.

On exercise we were exposed to living in sand for the first time, which made digging sand trenches easy, but sand got into all our kit, and it didn't taste all that good either. With the tactical exercise in full swing the only 'enemy' we saw was a foxhunt going past our hill.

We had a few transport problems though. A landrover and then a 4 tonner were bogged down. Guess who had to dig them out? We visited RAF Chivenor and were shown round the camp, but when it came to the helicopters, an emergency call came in and up they went before we could inspect them. During the visit we were often deafened by the roar of the jet engines and my ears are ringing still.

Then came the night of the talent contest. The platoons all put on a show, which Horne platoon won without any real competition. We had a silhouette, mime and two sketches. The traditional impersonations of the permanent staff were made, but the stage was stolen by A/Pte Scarlett with his impression of CSM Maule. A/Pte Fitzpatrick did a good impression too, with

Rocchi and Porter in the background holding the catch lines.

The rest of the cast with A/Lcpl Brogan in the lead deserve a mention. And our prize? A cash ticket over the NAAFI counter.

Soon we had to return to 'sunny Deepcut' to continue our lives baskirg in luxury - well, all good stories have to have a happy ending, don't they?

GET ALONG LITTLE DOGGIE

by A/Pte Helsby (Horne Platoon)

While on camp at Fremington some of our platoon, Horne, went pony trekking. We went down in a 4 tonner. When we got to the riding stables we saw that the horses were waiting for us. I had my eyes on a white horse that looked quiet and tired but I was soon proved wrong.

As soon as I got my foot in one of the stirrups the horse came to life and shied away but one of the stable assistants helped me get on. Once on I felt great until my horse decided that it wanted to walk. Whilst I was trying to get my horse under control the stable owner was giving us some useful information about riding.

Finally we were trotting or walking down the lane. One of the boys looked round and slid off his horse. When he stood up he had one stirrup in his hand and his horse had shot off. After the horse was caught and the stirrup fixed we carried on down the lane.

On reaching a field my quiet and tired horse broke from a trot to a gallop after another horse. It took me by surprise and I nearly fell off but somehow I managed to stay aboard.

Then we came to a small mound on the ground and my horse jumped it. I went flying up in the air and landed on the poor horse's shoulders. We next came to a gate and were waiting for the others to join us when my horse starting pawing the ground. The next thing I knew was that is was rolling over on its back. I was off that horse in two seconds flat. In the lane again and everything was going well; then we came to the road. I was going up and down on that horse like a jack-in-a-box. I wouldn't have minded but every time I came down I landed with a thump. Then I got a stitch in my side. If I had had my way I would have got off and walked but the horse wouldn't let me. Anyway I remembered how I had seen other people ride so I tried to imitate them. It helped a bit but when I lost the timing it was hard to pick it up again. Finally we got back to the stables and I was very relieved but when I look back on it now. I wish I could do it again.

PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT (PAD)

by A/Cpl Stansfield (Horne Platoon)

The PAD Group this term has been quite busy with canoeing and a weekend camp in Capel Curig, North Wales.

The canoeing (which is run by Sgts Devlin and Phelps) took place at Henley-on-Thames. The first time we went it was raining and cold so we were all very reluctant to go in. The day started off with a 50 yard swim then we got in to the canoes and paddled back and forth across the river, except for A/Pte Scarlett who paddled furiously enough but drifted further and further downstream until he capsized. In the afternoon we paddled upstream for about 40 minutes and covered something like half a mile to the next weir.

Capel Curig

We left camp by 4 tonner at about 0800 hrs on



More PAD fell-walkers

7 March. On arrival in Bangor we were met by Lt Page and Cpl Hall who took us by landrover to the training camp, which was clean and warm with a very good bath house.

On the Friday we went climbing to Chris King's house just outside Harlech. It was very windy and we were soon cold so we sheltered behind some rocks at the foot of the climbs. We



PAD fell-walking party

did three easy climbs and then went back to the house for 'lunch' - gravy with carrots in it and coffee. Sgt Phelps couldn't understand why we didn't want any 'seconds'. After lunch Mr King took us back to the rocks and we did some abseiling and finished off on a different rock face. Lt Page found it almost too much for him but shame made him reach the top. We then packed up and went back to camp, washed, had tea and went out to Capel Curig.

Saturday started with the news that Mr King's house had been burnt down, but it really had nothing to do with us, or with our reaction to yesterday's lunch! After breakfast we set off in the landrovers for Snowdon. When we reached the youth hostel at the foot of Snowdon we got out, put on our equipment and set out for the summit. About half way up the weather turned bad and we changed our route so that we by-passed Crib Gough (if that is how it is spelt) and went to the summit by a different route. Not far from the top we ran into cloud but managed to struggle through it and eventually reached the top where we had a brew and sandwiches. On the way down we had to use our ice axes as the snow was too hard and slippery to walk on. The walk back to the transport was an easy downhill stroll and in no time at all we were on our way back to camp. That evening I felt ill and next morning I stayed in bed whilst the rest of the group walked up the Glyders.

On Monday we handed in our kit, cleaned up the room and returned to Deepcut footsore and tired, but having enjoyed the experience immensely.

MATHEW PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt N C Smith RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt FM Preece RAOC

Summer Term 1973

Mathew Platoon joined 'B' Company at the beginning of the summer term. They have had many successes.

A/Cpls Hulse and Jones won the inter platoon tennis competition. The platoon were in the semi-finals of the football and hockey knock out competitions. A/Cpl Keating took part in the Welsh 3000 and A/Pte Oliver went cruising on the sail training ketch "Dodo". Due to his outstanding performance Oliver was asked to sail in the Tall Ships race in July - a very big honour. A/Ptes Mason and Pattison have represented the College in Full Bore shooting and Mason has shot for his Corps (REME) at Bisley.

A/Ptes Cowman and Robinson represented the Company in boxing.

A/Ptes Ward, Stray and Allan are keen gymnasts and have represented the College throughout the term. They have all received their College colours.

A/Pte Craig, recently promoted to A/Lcpl, was awarded a prize for Education and A/CSM McCallion won the Sergeants Cup for being the best 'all rounder'.

At the end of term A/Sgt O'Keefe and A/CSM McCallion leave the College for Man's Service. Promotions are A/Cpl Hulse to A/Sgt, while A/Cpl Jones leaves the platoon on promotion. A/Pte Craig is to join Cutforth Platoon, the recruit platoon, as A/Lcpl. A/Lcpl McMillan is to be promoted to A/Cpl and A/Pte Mason to A/Lcpl.

One of the highlights of the term was Fremington Camp, a location which the platoon had visited before with 'C' Company.

A defence exercise which was held on Braunton Burrows and the map reading walk across Exmoor were good value.

The platoon camp was given entirely to extra military training and a tactical exercise involving the use of section hides and fighting patrols was a great success.

Autumn Term 1973

The platoon has done well in inter platoon competitions reaching the semi-final in football.

Outings during the term included a day visit to Portsmouth where we went around a guided missile destroyer and HMS Victory We also went to the Tower of London for a very interesting guided tour.

The platoon camp lasted four days and tested our map reading to the limit. It was hard going but a very enjoyable exercise.

The platoon party at the end of term was a great success and enjoyed by all. Lt Burrows was presented with a tankard on his departure. Tankards were also presented to A/CSM Wall and A/Sgt Hulse. Sgt Rowlands was presented with a pace stick.

Militarily the term was a success with everyone passing RPC 3. The same results are hoped for in RPC 2.

Sporting stars of the platoon include Daniels, who represented the college on numerous occasions at football, McMillan who before turning to football represented the college at hockey, and Oliver who gained his rugger colours before deserting to football.

Cultybraggan Camp September 1973

The College camp was held in Cultybraggan, Scotland. We set off from Deepcut after dark on the Friday and arrived at Stirling at first light. We had food laid on - in typical Army fashion we were all woken at 0200 hrs in the morning to be fed!

The camp itself consisted of rows of nissen huts, the cookhouse was a large damp tent, which we all expected to fall over at any time.

We started training on the Monday and during the first week visited Edinburgh, spent a day in camp as duty platoon manning the guard and doing cookhouse fatigues and had two days hill-walking, climbing and canoeing. We camped beside Loch Earn in a field with two horses who tried to be over-friendly.

The second week we spent on a tactical exercise. This was very hard work, but looking back on it, well worthwhile.

Finally, very tired, we set off by night for Deepcut and arrived at Brookwood Station early on Saturday morning.

Spring Term 1974

Although the platoon has not progressed well in the many platoon competitions (having been narrowly defeated in basketball and football and rather more easily in .22 shooting) we feel we will fare better in the swimming and skill-at-arms competitions.

Company camp at Fremington provided some moments notably during the pony-trekking. More serious work took place in the military training on Braunton Burrows. The platoon soon realised how rusty it was when it came to battlecraft in the advance to contact. The platoon visit was a morning at Bude where a few braved the cold to do some surf canoeing and the remainder went shopping.

The platoon is now looking forward to going to Normandy to visit the historic battlefields and landing beaches of the second world war. Also on the itinerary are the Bayeaux Tapestry and the historic Cathedral at Bayeaux. Finally there is a visit to the chateau at Balleroy.

In the College shoot the platoon did well in the SLR but badly in the SMG. We won the moving targets competition and the ETR. In the gallery we did not do so well. We missed A/Ptes Duncan and Drew, both in the College shooting squad, and we would certainly have fared better had they been fit on both the days.

PARSONS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt R Rook RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt R Douglas RAOC

Weekend Camp (Winter 73)

The platoon took part in a weekend camp at Hawley Lake which involved arduous training carrying heavy loads over long distances. However, fine weather made for good training which benefitted all concerned.

Disbandment Dinner

The vast majority of the platoon moved to HQ Company at the end of the term to undergo trade training prior to pass-out in December 1973. The platoon as "Parsons" had disbanded by this time but a very enjoyable time was had by members and their guests at a dinner in the Kon-Tiki Club just before the end of term.

The OC, 2IC, CSM and the College CQMS Sgt Pendleton were guests at the dinner. In his speech the OC paid tribute to the exceptionally high standard attained by the platoon in almost all fields of training and sports within the College.

Inter Platoon Football (Winter 73)

This was won after beating Gordon Platoon in the final 2-1, chiefly due to particularly good play by Crawford in midfield and by Low in defence. Budd showed great determination by attacking all the larger players in the other team and beating them, despite being half their size.

Inter Platoon Cricket (6-a-side) (Summer 73)

We won this after beating Valon Platoon in the final due to a good start of 77 by our openers Low and Barraclough. Good bowling by Cole and Edmunds was followed by Low clean-bowling the last three of the Valon batsmen, with the last three balls of the match.

Final Score:	Parsons	77 for no wicket (after 10 overs)
	Valon	36 for 6 (after 6 overs)

RICHARDS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt S M Hicks RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt JE Jones RAOC

The highlight of the Summer Term for Richards Platoon was the company camp. The company moved down to Barnstaple by train on Saturday 30 July. The platoon was in high spirits at the thought of a week down in sunny Devon. The weather lived up to expectations and the platoon outing was spent in the morning at Ilfracombe and in the afternoon canoeing on the beach at Saunton Sands.

A day was spent walking over Exmoor on a walkabout exercise which passed through a central control point manned by A/Sgt Henderson. An overnight exercise was spent on Braunton Burrows where the platoon was split into two independent groups under A/Ptes Young and Brock respectively and attacked by the enemy (the platoon NCOs taking revenge).

The Company returned on Sunday 8 July, browner in complexion, after a thoroughly enjoyable week.

Several apprentices enjoyed short attachments to outside units. A number of RAOC apprentices in Term Six went to join the Commando Ordnance Squadron at Plymouth for a fortnight while three REME apprentices sampled life in a REME

Workshop at 9 Field Workshop at Bordon, Hants.

The platoon disbanded at the end of Summer term, most of its members leaving to join HQ Company for their final phase with the College.

ROWCROFT PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt M Blatherwick RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt J E Jones RAOC



ROWCROFT PLATOON AT CULTYBRAGGEN

A/Cpl Foster A/Ptes McLung Mortimer Foulds Farrow Greenfield Harris Morgan A/Sgt Wicken A/Lcpl Kennedy A/Ptes Gardner Banwell A/CSM Walls A/Ptes Henshall Baker A/Pte Cowley

We came back from the Easter break in April 1973 refreshed and ready for the summer term. Very soon after, nine boys in the platoon went for training for the Welsh '3000'. A/Ptes Banwell and Farrow managed to get in the 1st team and A/Pte Silcock in the 2nd team.

Then the athletics competition was held. We remained level with Watts until the last event but managed to come out on top, beating Watts into second place.

Our company camp came, and we were off to Leek in Staffordshire. There we did a variety of things including map reading, weapontraining, hill walking and a tactical exercise. To round off the camp the company went to Blackpool for the day, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

The platoon was soon settling into RPC 3 exams which we all passed. Our last camp of the term, at Shorncliffe, was a farewell to 'C' Company. This camp was more of a holiday in that we stayed at Dover and also saw motor racing at Lydd circuit. At the end of term we said goodbye to our Platoon Sgt, Sgt Green and to A/Sgt Wallis. One apprentice was promoted, A/Lcpl Foster. And so we said goodbye to 'C' Company and went into 'B' Company.

Coming back from our four week summer leave we went on a two week College Camp in Cultybraggan, Scotland, in which we did hill walking, mountain climbing, abseiling, canoeing and a

48 hour exercise. We also visited Edinburgh. Sgt McIntyre joined us and we soon learnt the new ways of 'B' Company and the old ways of CSM Maule. We won the cross-country and all took RPC 2 exams.

The end of Winter term came up fast and College Christmas Day was upon us. We were given early morning Gunfire (tea and rum) by Lt Blatherwick and Sgt McIntyre during which a great battle started with flour bombs, buckets of water and eggs. In the afternoon we went off to see "Carry on London" which we all enjoyed. We then said goodbye to Lt Blatherwick who had been with us since we joined and to Sgt McIntyre, and looked forward to being 'term leavers' with Lt Dyer and Sgt Michael.

SENIOR PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt CN Dyer RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt P Michael RAOC

Winter Term 1973

With over 70 apprentices in the two senior platoons Winter term was a busy time for everybody. A most unusual sight was to be seen in the platoon barrack blocks in the evening. Gone were the Playboy's and Penthouse-type magazines, to be replaced by the more mentally satisfying "Duties of a Storeman" precis, desperately being learned by heart for frequent trade tests. With such a hard-working bunch of trade trainees one could nothelp but have some notable success in the final reports from the Training Battalion.

Winter term also saw the start of the Driver Training programme for junior soldiers. It produced quite a high number of passes (above the national average) and gives those passing out a better start than many of their predecessors.

The final camp at Warcop proved to be a definitely chilly affair; in true exercise fashion it snowed. The sight of apprentices chasing across the Fell was really quite warming for the Permanent Staff running the exercise. All good things must come to an end however, and all too soon everyone was back in camp caught up in the hectic rush to 'finish everything off' before the end of term. Because of, or in spite of, Sergeants Preece's and Tyerman's high blood pressure, kit and drill was of a high standard and on **the** day everybody in the senior platoons excelled themselves and made it a passing out parade to remember.

Spring Term 1974

After the initial rush of back-to-work routine the Senior Platoon split up to start on Trade Training and Driver Training. Hard at it for the first eight weeks of term the rest of the College sees very little of us; an arrangement apparently enjoyed by both!

By the time the whole platoon has gone through the Trade and Driver Training mill everyone is a little pressed to fit in a 48 hour - and a 72 hour - weekend pass. Needless to say there is no shortage of effort from the apprentices to try and squeeze them in.

With the half-term behind us it was not long before the majority of the platoon dug out their exercise kit from the murky depths of lockers to set off for the wild and woolly wastes of Warcop Training Centre; about the only time in the term the platoon gets together for any length of time. Warcop Camp - bearing a remarkable resemblance to a holiday camp - even produced dry sunny weather for the week, and apart from one uncivilised night spent out in the cold the week was generally considered as a good break from Dettingen Barracks.

Back at Deepcut in the closing weeks of the term the pace gets faster and faster in order to fit everything in before the last day of term. Posting Orders are awaited nervously by the remainder of the platoon in the last few days; all of course hope to join their friends in Cyprus and Hong Kong.

NORMANDY BATTLEFIELD TOUR

On the 28 March 1974 two officers and 51 apprentices left Deepcut for a battlefield tour of Normandy. The night ferry arrived at Le Havre at 0730 hours and with surprisingly little trouble we were allowed to enter France by the immigration authorities.

After leaving Le Havre we went through Caen to Pegasus Bridge which still stands today as it was in June 1944. From there we continued west to Arromanches via the gun batteries of Merville, where we arrived at about 1500 hours. We pitched camp and settled in after which we visited the town.

Arromanches is a small seaside town which is quiet during the winter months. It is well known for its D-Day museum. This we visited on Saturday morning. As well as being able to see the displays, models and photographs we saw a film of D-Day and a very good diorama of the landings.

That afternoon we went to Bayeaux, some five miles from Arromanches. This is known throughout the world for its tapestry describing the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. The rest of the afternoon was spent in a brief look at the cathedral and more time shopping.

The following morning we went to Omaha Beach with its impressive military cemetery and Pointe du Hoc, the scene of an American Rangers cliff climbing operation. In the afternoon we drove along the coast road to the east, ending at Ouistreham where the river Orne meets the sea. Gold, Sword and Juno beaches were seen.

On Monday 31 March we struck camp early and made for Utah Beach. Here we saw Sherman tanks artillery and landing craft. From there we moved to Ste-Mere-Eglise where the United States 82nd Airborne Division museum stands. We reached Cherbourg at 1300 hours giving time for last minute shopping before leaving at 1630 hours.

This was the first time that many of the apprentices had been to France and it has proved a worthwhile experience. It is hoped that this type of venture will be repeated.

WATTS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt RAC Eccles RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt TJT Flowers RAOC

Summer Term 1973

On the Summer Camp at Fremington the platoon won the assault course competition, the football competition and came second in the other sports. The night exercise proved to be more exciting than usual; two fires started by Very cartridges had to be put out including one which disturbed a couple in their car.

On the excursion the platoon went to Ilfracombe and also went pony trekking, which proved amusing as some apprentices were meeting the equine world for the first time. About 20 apprentices were introduced to surf canoeing for the first time. Good weather and warm sea made this exhilarating sport even more enjoyable.

Back at Deepcut the platoon has scarcely shone on the sports field, being knocked out of the football in the first round and not getting much further in the cricket or hockey. However every member of the platoon has passed LMG tests and classification at the first attempt.

Autumn Term 1973

The main feature of the term was the College Camp at Cultybraggen in Scotland. The first week was spent with visits to such places as Edinburgh and Stirling Castles, a day's rock climbing and rather cold canoeing; a day's inter-company sports and of course that rather onerous

day at spud-bashing and duty.

The holiday-like atmosphere was shattered in the second week with some hard graft at tactics and other war-like activities, culminating in a 36 hour exercise at the end of the week. Using radios, it consisted of an advance to contact, digging a defensive position and spending a rather chilly night on a hill top and then in the morning moving up and storming an enemy hill.

The climax of the camp was the March and Shoot competition, in which Watts slogged away and managed to come in an excellent third.

The rest of the term was spent working hard for the RPC II exams which went well for most of the platoon. On the sports field, although cups did not line Watts Platoon shelves, each team gave of its best and representatives could be found from Watts in the College football team and the College boxing team.

The end of term saw he departure of Lt Smith to take over Mathew Platoon and of Sgt Gardner to Devizes.

Spring Term 1974

The beginning of term saw the arrival of Lt Eccles, Sgt Kesson and the remainder of Mulcahy Platoon from 'A' Company to form a large Watts Platoon. During the first three weeks the platoon worked hard to unite itself into one body, finding new friends and new sports teams.

Lt Eccles left for three weeks skiing in Norway, leaving Sgt Kesson at the helm until his return in time to depart with the Company to Fremington for the Spring camp. The weather was kind and the camp was enjoyed by all. Activities included pony trekking, canoeing, a visit to Dartington Glass, two Company sports days (in which Watts claim considerable successes), evenings out in Bideford and Barnstaple and of course a 36 hour exercise.

Each platoon in the Company except Watts did a 36 hour exercise and for each platoon Watts provided a section of enemy. Braughton Burrows rang with the cries of "Hello Johnnie" as the Watts section delivered incessant attacks on the unfortunate platoon of the day.

The return to Deepcut has seen activities directed to the sports field and the range. Watts are working hard to raise good teams for the College Shoot, the Swimming Gala and the Company Assault Course competition. The basketball team is through to the semi-finals with every hope of meeting Swiney Platoon in the finals.

At the end of March most of the platoon are looking forward to a four day trip to France to visit the Normandy battlefields. On their return they will be gripped smartly by the RSM for the Passing Out Parade on 10 April.

TRAINING WING

Chief Instructor - Major C Brogden RAOC

WO IC Training - WOII (CSM) PD Pheasant RAOC

We have had many changes during the last year, not the least of which has been the dispersal of the old Headquarters Company to two separate divisions. The Chief Instructor now commands the Training Wing while the responsibility for all other permanent staff, except those with Companies, now lies with the Admin Wing.

The Training Staff are located in College Headquarters and are concerned solely with the organisation and planning of training. The weapon specialists have been incorporated within Companies as platoon sergeants except for a small nucleus of assistant instructors. Responsibility for the armoury and magazine remains with the Training Wing.

In the re-shuffle we have lost Sgts Rowlands and Preece to 'B' Company where they appear to be settling well and Sgt Tyerman on posting to Singapore. They take with them our thanks for all the hard work and our best wishes for the future.

A considerable saving in staff has been achieved which is just as well since in November we had the Establishment Team descend upon us. With their co-operation we have been

able to build up our External Leadership Training Platoon and now have our own specialist instructors to cover canoeing, sailing, rock climbing, fell walking and mountaineering.

Sgt Michael has joined 'B' Company from ELT as a short term measure pending what is expected to be a reduction in our overall strength as the new school leaving age takes full effect in the College.

Our PT staff, under CSMI Bridges, continue to keep things moving and at the time of writing are putting all permanent staff through physical efficiency tests. We have been fortunate in having SSI Hewett (an international canoeist) posted to the College. SSI Hewett is at the time of writing representing Britain in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand.

Capt I F Sharp who did such a sterling job of organising our military training during our annual college camp at Cultybraggan has now been transferred to 'A' Company as Company Training Officer.

CSM Pheasant, our Warrant Officer in charge of the Training Validation Section, is now busily organising the College Shoot which takes place in March and a full account of it should be available for inclusion elsewhere in the magazine.

Ssgt Ward, our precis writer, is extremely busy organising driver training which is now given to senior apprentices by the British School of Motoring under contract. We appear to be achieving a much higher pass rate than the national average and so far our accident rate is negligible.

Sgt Graham and Cpl Richardson, our 'G' clerks, continue booking ranges and training areas, while keeping their fingers crossed and hoping that the petrol crisis does not prevent our schemes getting off the ground.

Cpls George, Clark, Long and Earl are loaned to platoons of both Companies as required and continue to gain all round experience. In due course, they will move on to the Companies as Platoon Sergeants and their places taken by new staff.

Our Chief Instructor, Major C Brogden, is at present putting in a lot of hours repairing his yacht "Adelie" which was badly damaged last year in an attempt at a single handed Atlantic crossing. He is due for posting to CVD Ashchurch at the end of the present term and his replacement is Major M J H Connolly, recently returned from an exchange appointment in Canada.

Our photograph shows the Training Wing Staff as at time of going to press.

THE FOUR TERM CONCEPT

Introduction of the scheme for raising the school leaving age (ROSLA) created many problems for us. Since we previously accepted boys as apprentices from the age of fifteen, it became obvious that for a complete year our intake would almost cease and we would only receive late entries, ie those boys who did not join us immediately after leaving school. Consequently, we accepted a huge intake of 248 boys in September 1972 and the total number of apprentices soared to over 600. An extra Company was created to accept the intake but our training and administration departments were hard pressed to cope with the increase. Throughout 1973 and up to now in 1974 our strength has been falling so that by the end of the summer we expect to be down to a planned total of 248.

Prior to the introduction of ROSLA, boys entered the College at various ages and the number of terms they completed could be as many as eight or nine depending on the age at entry. This created training problems for us and was unsettling for the boys. A boy of 15 who joined together with a boy of 16 trained together but the older boy passed out to man service earlier. We could not pass the younger boy out because of the minimum age limit laid down for the adult army.

Under the ROSLA scheme we were for the first time able to decide on a set course of four terms. Boys are able to join us immediately after leaving school, complete their four terms and then be old enough to join man service. Boys may join us up to the age of 17 years and so could be up to 18 and four months by the time they pass out. Over 17 but under 17½ they will join directly into the adult army under the 'Young Soldiers Scheme' but obviously they will not attain nearly as early in their careers the training and experience which an apprentice does who has spent four terms at the College. Clearly then it pays to join as soon as possible after leaving school and this the Corps encourages because it is from

the apprentices that its future senior ranks and warrant officers will mostly come.

With the idea of a fixed four term concept we were able to get down to revising our syllabus to ensure that boys receive the maximum training in the time available. Each term apprentices receive 615 periods of instruction and broadly speaking these are divided into three. One third is spent on military training, one third is spent on education including compulsory hobby periods from a wide range of subjects and one third is spent on sports, physical and external leadership training.

Our External Leadership branch has been expanded to include specialised instruction in such activities such as sailing, canoeing, rock climbing, fell walking and mountaineering. It is now getting into full swing and each apprentice goes on at least three adventure schemes which are aimed at improving confidence, building character and developing leadership qualities.

The aim of our Education Branch is to give the apprentice a relevant foundation for his military career and service trade so as to enable him to achieve his full potential during his adult service. In particular the scheme is designed to provide each boy with a sound educational foundation, the essential buttresses of which are:

a. Education in support of training

b. Education for service in the Army

c. Development education

d. Individual education

It is considered that the fourth butress - individual education - while not essential to the apprentices short-term training objectives, will tend to broaden his outlook, encourage him towards self reliant habits of study and provide a grounding in subjects which will have value in preparing him for future promotion and ultimately for return to civilian life.

All apprentices leave the College with a Regimental Proficiency Certificate Class 3. Some manage to attain Class 2 standard but in fact the military experience gained at the College is much higher than would be expected of a soldier of that standard because everything they are taught is actually practised under field conditions at our many camps and exercises. Consequently the services of ex-apprentices are much appreciated in units which operate in field conditions. They really are noticed and so considered for promotion earlier than the average adult soldier of the same age.

The fourth and final term is something rather special. It is during this term that the boys are called Senior Apprentices and given special privileges, less detailed control and more freedom to make their own choices; and mistakes. The term is a hectic one for them and includes trade training, driver training, battle camp and an ELT exercise. In addition they have numerous passing out parade rehearsals. We are proud of our passing out parades and the salute is always taken by a senior officer, usually a General.

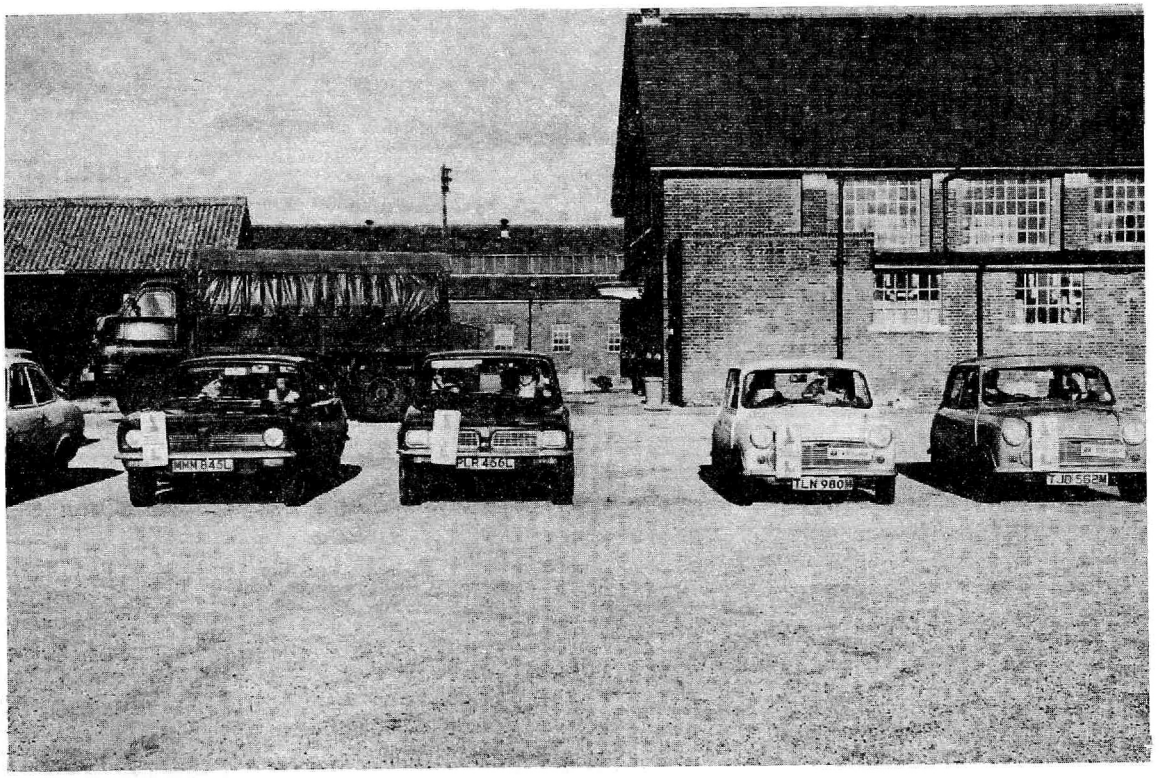
I would like to conclude this article with the aim of the College because it is around this that all training within the tour term concept is based.

> "The aim of the College is to give Apprentices that training which will bring them to an efficient standard as tradesmen and soldiers and so to develop their character and leadership potential, that in due course, when formally qualified, they will be fully equipped for promotion to non-commissioned and warrant ranks".

DRIVER TRAINING

Driver Training on a full time basis was incorporated into the College curriculum at the start of the Winter Term 1973 under the watchful eye of Capt I F Sharp. This added, in varying degrees, to the already compact programme that apprentices had to cope with in their final term at the College. Under the guidance and control of the British School of Motoring each senior apprentice received forty hours basic driving instruction at the end of which he takes the MOT Driving Test and, if successful, is awarded a full driving licence.

I would imagine it was quite a fright for the local population to see approximately ten BSM cars leaving Alma Square daily, containing two apprentices in each car, converging on all the busy roads in the Aldershot/Farnborough area. The population I am sure soon grew accustomed to this and accepted it as an additional hazard



The new routine scene each morning as the brave BSM Instructors set off on yet another day into the unknown

in life. (Not to be taken literally.)

It is very hard to pick out personalities as all apprentices deserve credit for their efforts. So far of the final term apprentices, 89 have been through the mill and only five were not recommended to take the Driving Test. Our pass figures are a credit to the College and the instruction received because the figure of 50% which we have achieved is apparently significantly higher than the national average. We hope this standard will be maintained during the subsequent terms ahead.

It is hoped that those senior apprentices who failed their test, continue to strive for further instruction once in adult service, whilst the knowledge and experience already gained is still fresh in their minds. To this end follow-up action is taken by OIC Driver Training and the facts made known to the apprentice's adult unit on posting from the College.

INTELLIGENCE CORPS SECTION

Tutor Lt RR Stuart RAEC

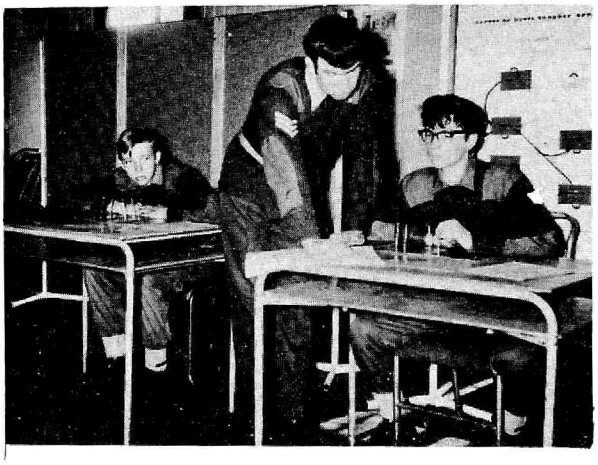
When Sgt R G Parsons stepped into the RAOC Apprentices College in September 1973, many people thought he must have been sent to check the security of the College. Gradually however, over the following two months, the truth dawned; his prime aim is not to count classified documents, but to show the Intelligence Corps apprentices that there is indeed a body of men wearing their cap badge.

His other aim of course, is to introduce the apprentices to the specialised training they will need to become effective members of their chosen Corps. He has not yet taught them to crack a safe, or to reduce the unit armoury to a micro-dot. I understand this takes place next term.

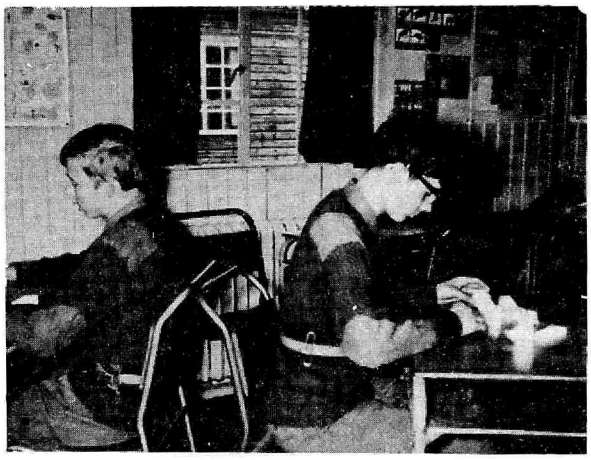
During the winter terms however, the apprentices have been taught basic photography, and introduced to other facets of Intelligence Corps work, including report writing, military symbols, map marking, photographic interpretation, etc.

Additionally, there have been sessions when the apprentices were urged to "describe objectively the picture shown". This was often rather difficult, since the subject of the picture had been lovingly culled by Lt Stuart from page 2 of the 'Sun'. In spite of this the written descriptions were extremely well produced and would certainly have pleased the medical profession. Other sessions designed to increase verbal ability included the use of polystyrene bricks. Two apprentices were seated back to back and one apprentice was required to make any pattern and explain his pattern to the other apprentice who must copy it. A/Pte Ballentine and A/Pte Whiteoak were both heard to exclaim "If this is not impossible, it's the next best thing".

During the Summer term we hope to visit some of the specialist Intelligence Corps units to give the apprentices an effective introduction to the work of their new Corps. At least three apprentices, A/Lcpl Thomas and A/Ptes Ingrem and and Baker will be keenly interested, since they leave to begin their 20 week course at Ashford at the end of term.



A/Ptes Ingrem and Alexander take a lesson from Sgt Parsons in Photographic Interpretation



"Take the largest wedge-shaped piece and place it edgeways against..." Ingrem and Alexander again

WELSH 3000 (1973)

by GA Page RAEC

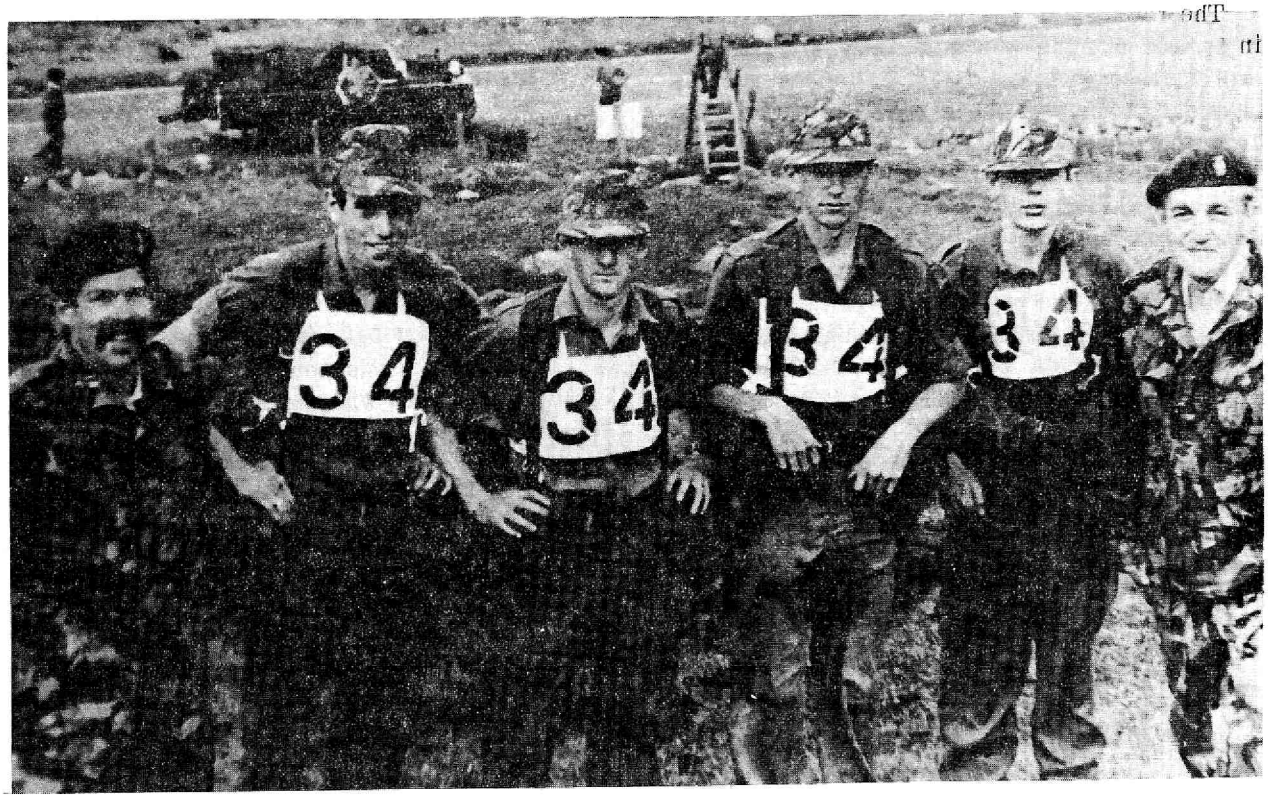
The Welsh 3000 race is the hardest competition available to junior soldiers. It consists of a race over the following peaks in Snowdonia all of which are over 3000 feet.

Llyn Caseg Ffraith	Pen-y-rolawen
Carnedd Daffidd	Yr-Elen
Carnedd Llewellyn	Foel Grach
Foel Gras	Drum

The length of the race is about 14 miles and demands the utmost fitness and determination from all participants. The College entered two teams for the second year in succession. We initially took 25 apprentices to Snowdonia and selected a squad of 12 who would continue further training both at Deepcut and Wales. All the squad worked extremely well and gave of their best in training which because of the nature of the event was long and arduous. During this training the PT staff gave much time to the task of the fitness of the squad. Cpl Nonis must be mentioned here as the high level of fitness was due mainly to his efforts.

The final build up to the race took place in Snowdonia and much hill pounding was undertaken. The result of this was the final selection of our two teams for the race:

Team A:	A/Sgt Turner	Team B:	Tregidga
	Farrow		Burgin
	Banwell		Keating
	Jack		Jones 165



COLLEGE 'A' TEAM

Lt Page (Team Manager) *A/Ptes Banwell Jack* *A/Sgt Turner* *A/Pte Farrow* *Capt Douglas-Hill (OIC ELT)*



COLLEGE 'B' TEAM AND SUPPORTERS

Lt Col Vickery Major Rush Capt Douglas Hill Mrs Vickery McGarry Capt Gunson Keating Silcock Tregidga Sgt Phelps

The race itself was held on Sunday 17 June in typical mountain weather, misty and cold and the exercise was one of navigation as well as physical endurance. The A team set off first and came through the check point at Ogwen East in a very good time and all looked well. The B team also came through quite quickly. Those watching then had to make the drive to the summit of Drum in a landrover, this in itself is quite an exercise for both driver and passengers. Having made the journey those involved think that to have survived the drive deserves a medal and that the landrovers should be placed in the motor museum.

We all waited for a long time at the cold misty windy summit of drum as teams came in. Eventually our B team came in and told us the bad news that the A team were having to carry a man who was exhausted and possibly exposed. The A team did finish and all credit must go to them for doing so in appalling conditions and for carrying a man for nearly two miles. Everybody completed the course and qualified for a certificate, the B team in fact came 9th.

Personally I was honoured to be associated with apprentices who gave so much for the College over long and hard weeks training.

ABOARD THE 'DO DO'

by A/Pte J Oliver (Matthew Platoon)

I think that perhaps one of the most exciting things that happened to me as a member of the RAOC Apprentices College was when I was selected to attend Adventure Training Course sponsored by the London Sailing Project and organised by Commander Scott. I was really delighted when I set off to become a member of the crew of the sailing ship "Dodo".

I shall always remember my feelings when I got on board for the first time. All the do's and don'ts were carefully explained to me and the other crew members who had arrived with me. Afterwards we were all kitted out with the ship's uniform called No 8s which were blue in colour. Later on we were treated to our first taste of seamanship - a three hour voyage to the Isle of Wight During this time we were taught how to rig sails, haul the sheets up and down and helm the boat. It was all jolly hard work but well worth while.

Our next excursion was to cross the sea to Cherbourg. This meant even more hard work, sore hands and elbows and a very tired body. However we finally made the harbour and had a chance to look at the town. Cherbourg is an old fishing port really, but today of course, it handles some of the world's largest passenger liners. We did not have long to visit many places, but what we did see was quite interesting. After this short stay we weighed anchor and set sail for Honfleur. Because of lack of wind we were held up for quite some time, even the ship's auxiliary motor was tried but all to no avail. Round about evening time the wind arrived with the change of tide and we were on our way at about 10 knots. We had our moments of excitement too - like trying to feel our way outside Honfleur in fog. All this was mixed up with duty watches, more hardwork and the inevitable sail changing. The spirits of the crew despite all this, were really high and many a real guffaw could be heard, especially at the slight misfortunes of others.

It was extremely hot when we arrived in Honfleur and we had to stand off until early evening when the high tide made it possible for the ship to enter the harbour. We had been unfortunate to miss the early tide by about two hours. The harbour itself was crowded with every type of craft you could think of. Eventually we tied up alongside a boat similar to ours. A welcome cup of tea and an excellent meal was waiting for us.

It didn't take me long to scramble out of my No 8s and dress myself up in my Sunday best, ready to set foot on the shores of France. Honfleur itself is a quaint old town full of interesting and exciting places. We all managed to have a good look round during the evening, but we got back to the ship in good time so as to enjoy a real night's sleep. After all, we were all rather worn out after the arduous duties necessary during the night's voyage across the Channel.

The next morning dawned brightly and there seemed every chance that it was going to be a

real scorcher. After breakfast, my friend Pepi and I, decided to continue our sight-seeing tour of Honfleur. Naturally we had difficulty with the language but we made a gallant effort to put that right when we had the good fortune to meet up with two rather charming young ladies. One was named Silvie and the other Collette and both could manage a phrase or two of English. They say that love overcomes all barriers - I'm not so sure, but at any rate the language barrier was no great problem.

We thoroughly enjoyed the company of the girls but finally we had to leave them in order to report back to the ship. We were due to leave Honfleur that same night as soon as the lock opened. We were going to sail through the night and dock in England next morning. Sailing overnight is no fun I can assure you. The work of pulling in the sheets by hand in order to change course is as hard a job as anyone can be called upon to do. The cross-channel trip took in all about 17 hours and then we were some two hours more trying to find a berth. We tied up eventually to a Royal Navy minesweeper.

There is always a bright spot. Our skipper took us all out into Southampton and we even went to a 'disco'. It was all great fun and a fitting end to a great experience. We travelled on the boat to Gosport where Commander Scott was waiting to meet us and chat about the voyage. But finally we had to take our leave of the skipper and his two mates, Vernon and Chris and so we boarded the ferry to Portsmouth and began the journey back to Blackdown.

Looking back now it was an experience I shall never ever forget. I am sure I learnt a lot and my confidence, agility and ability increased with every hour I spent aboard.

OUR PENNINE WAY

Cpl I N Nonis RAOC

On 22 June a party of apprentices and Permanent staff left Deepcut for Leek to take up the challenge of the longest footpath in the UK, known as the Pennine Way, a distance of 250 miles. The Way begins at Edale in Derbyshire and ends at Kirk Yetholm in Rosburghshire. Leading the party was Capt T Douglas-Hill, a keen hill walker himself.

On the clear sunny day 23 June, at 0815 hrs, the party set off from Edale. Going over Kinder Scout we made our way to Kinder Downfall to find that all the streams were dry. Stopping for a 40 minute lunch at Snake Road we made our way towards Crowden Youth Hostel where a camp site was erected.

With a slight drizzle the following day we set off for Blackstone Edge Reservoir, where our second day's camp site was selected. So far the going was rough but with high spirits and good weather we took on the third day for Wuthering Heights, a place well known in English literature, to camp by Haworth.

Since the fourth day was a rest day, a visit to Keighley was arranged for showers. On 27 June we made our way to Gargrave stopping along the Liverpool and Leeds canal to take photographs. Our sixth day gave us a lovely view of the country as we approached Malham Cove and we ended the day at Tennant Gill. Boarding our vehicle we were taken to Helwith Bridge where our campsite for the next three days was to be, as it was on the route of our next day's walk, before the rest day which was due after every three days walking.

On the seventh day in bad weather we made our way to Pen-y-ghent. 2273 feet high and covered in mist. As we were about to descend we met two walkers and since one of them had hurt his foot our party took his rucksack and stayed with them until we got off the mountain. At Horton-in-Ribblesdale 20 minutes was spent in an inn with a hot drink before we set off for Cam End, leaving behind the two walkers.

The next day was a rest day so to Settle we went shopping. By now we had done over a 100 miles and were quite fit hill walkers.

On 1 July we made for Keld, six hours away on foot, to camp close to East Gill Falls. Our first stop the next day was Tan Hill Inn, known as the highest inn in England and our half way

mark. At Middleton-in-Teesdale our vehicle took us to Barnard Castle where we would stay for the next three days and have a decent bed to sleep in instead of our tents. Such luxury we had forgotten

Leaving at 0930 hours the following morning we headed west for Dufton, stopping at High Force and Cauldron Snout, two of the most beautiful falls we had seen so far on our route. At 1730 hours we were back at Barnard Castle.

For our rest day Barnard Castle town was our objective and so was the laundrette. On 5 July we said farewell to Barnard Castle for Dufton and once again we took the trail of the Pennine Way. Alston was now 7½ hours away and Cross Fell the highest peak of the Way lay in our path but now the long climbs made no difference to us as our fitness was of a high standard. So at 1806 hours we were at Alston to be visited by Major Brogden and the Rev Vernon of the Apprentices College.

Our 14th day took us to Greenhead, wet and cold, as the weather changed at Slaggyford and kept on during the night, so that the following day since most of our clothing was wet, we only walked for two hours before paying Haltwhistle a visit in the afternoon to dry our clothes at the laundrette. Bellingham town was our target on 8 July, so with a slight drizzle we made our way along the famous Roman rampart known as Hadrian's Wall and by 1600 hours we were in Bellingham.

With two days to go and beginning to feel the strain we set off for In-Byrness. On this day we had two guests in our party - a couple we met along the route on our first day, and from them we were told that news was spreading of the Army doing a route march over the Pennine Way. At In-Byrness we left the couple to return to camp.

At 0648 hours on 10 July we set off on our last stage, with a distance of 22 miles to cover and seven peaks to cross. We made our way to Russells Cairn with a quick lunch and on a pile of stones we lettered out the words RAOC APP COLL and walked on. At 1640 hours a happy and tired group of walkers with big grins on their faces marched into Kirk Yetholm.

After camping at Kirk Yetholm for the night the party were taken to Berwick-on-Tweed, where we dispersed for our half term break happy and contented that we walked the Pennine Way and wondering if we would ever do it again.

THE COLLEGE ANNUAL RIFLE MEETING 1974

The suspense was felt by everybody as the finalists came to the firing point of the Electric Target Range at Ash for the final match to decide the College Individual Rifle Champion of 1974.

The "Roupell Match" was shot as stage one of the individual rifle and leading by a short neck was A/Pte Hughes (the Junior South East District Champion) from the odds-on favourite A/Pte Draper (the Junior Army Rifle Champion). The final match was the "Roberts", a 100 m run, followed by a series of rapid and snap shoots all demanding the highest standard of fitness, alertness and weapon accuracy up to 300 m. With the CO and the Chief Instructor safely locked in the control console the match began and after the 100 m dash Draper had drawn level with Hughes on points and both fought it out shot for shot, until at the final practice Draper drew away to win the match by 50 points. Both riflemen are to be congratulated on a fine standard of shooting.

The SMG Cup, after two stages, was a tie between A/Ptes Whitley and Milner and a reshoot had to be called for. Whitley continued his steady form and eventually won by 93 points to 83.

The drama of the rifle final and the SMG tie made a fitting climax to a very successful meeting organised by the College Training Wing who with the wisdom of Solomon, so calculated the results that the honours fell evenly between 'A' and 'B' Companies, with 'A' Company winning all the individual events and 'B' Company all the team events. Detailed results were as follows:

INDIVIDUAL RIFLE MATCH - "THE RIFLEMAN'S CUP"

	Name	Platoon	Stage 1	Stage 2	Total Score
1st	Draper	Swiney	64	114	178
2nd	Hughes	Senior	66	64	130
3rd	Fox-Russell	Cutforth	56	64	120

INDIVIDUAL SMG MATCH - "THE SMG CUP"

	Name	Platoon	Stage 1	Stage 2	Total Score	Re-shoot
1st	Whitley	Steevens	83	93	176	93
2nd	Milner	Valon	92	84	176	83
3rd	Watkins	Steevens	84	87	171	

SLR TEAM POSITIONS (ETR and GALLERY MATCHES)

		ETR	Gallery	Total Score
1st	Senior Platoon	330	579	909
2nd	Mathew	352	526	878
3rd	Swiney	298	567	865
4th	Horne	316	528	844
5th	Watts	284	510	794
6th	Valon	274	518	792
7th	Cutforth	244	435	679
8th	Steevens	224	333	557
9th	Gordon	202	354	556

SMG TEAM MATCH (STAGES 1 and 2) - "THE RAOC SHIELD"

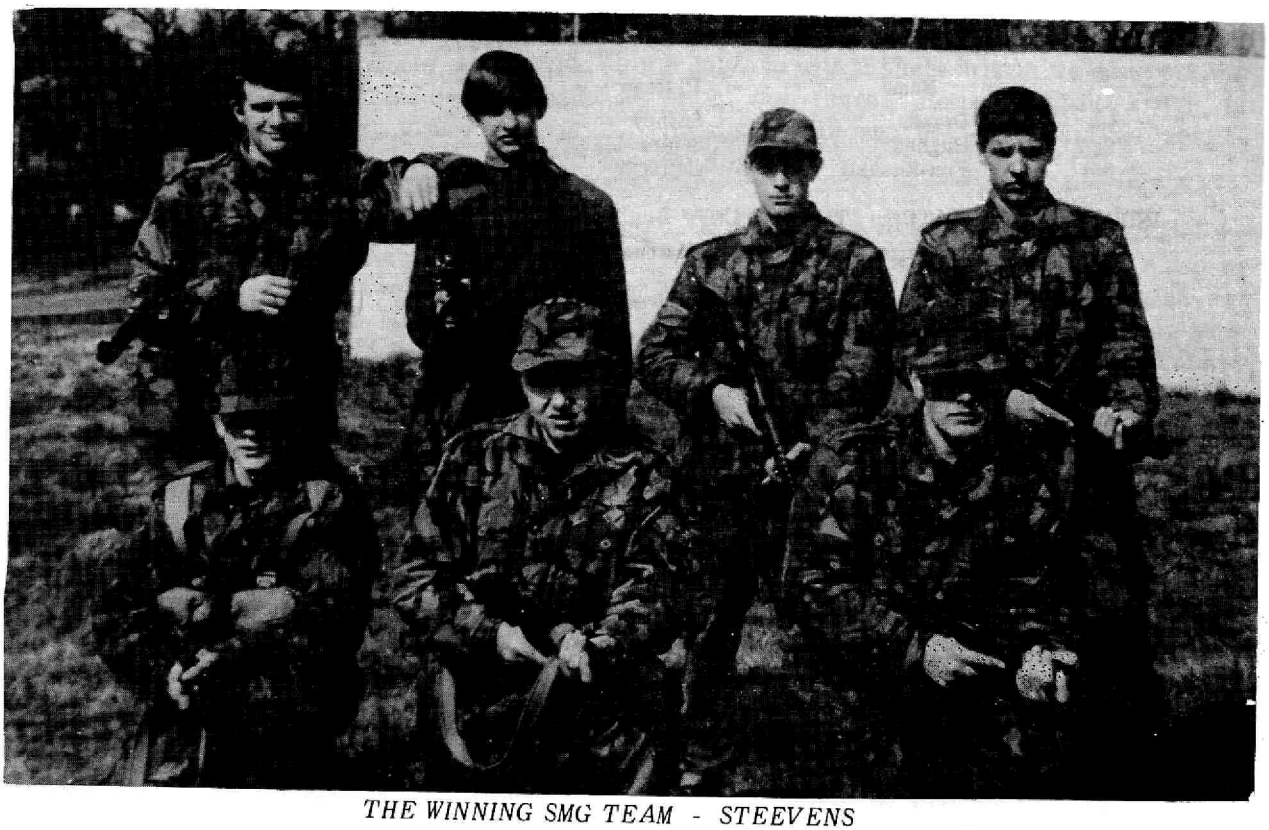
		A or B Team	Stage 1	Stage 2	Total Score
1st	Steevens	B	316	320	636
2nd	Valon	A	312	291	603
3rd	Cuthforth	A	276	316	592
4th	Senior Platoon	B	273	296	569
5th	Swiney	A	254	304	558
6th	Valon	B	274	263	537
7th	Watts	B	241	289	530
8th	Horne	A	233	291	524
9th	Steevens	A	277	231	508
10th	Swiney	B	214	290	504
-	Horne	B	244	260	504
12th	Senior Platoon	A	215	286	501
13th	Watts	A	189	294	483
14th	Gordon	B	221	240	461
15th	Gordon	A	252	198	450
16th	Mathew	B	131	301	432
17th	Cutforth	B	188	236	424
18th	Mathew	A	196	205	401

INTER PLATOON TEAM MATCH (SLR and SMG) - "THE FULL-BORE CUP"

	Platoon	SLR Team	SMG Team	Total Scores
1st	Senior Platoon	909	569	1478
2nd	Swiney	865	558	1423
3rd	Valon	792	603	1395
4th	Horne	844	524	1368
5th	Watts	794	530	1324
6th	Mathew	878	432	1310
7th	Cutforth	679	592	1271
8th	Steevens	557	636	1193
9th	Gordon	556	461	1017

INTER PLATOON MOVING TARGETS MATCH (SLR) - "THE SKILL AT ARMS TROPHY"

	Platoon	Score		Platoon	Score
1st	Mathew	238	6th	Gordon	180
2nd	Swiney	231	7th	Cutforth	164
3rd	Senior Platoon	229	8th	Valon	158
4th	Horne	217	9th	Steevens	137
5th	Watts	216			



THE WINNING SMG TEAM - STEEVENS

The SMG Individual Champion, A/Pte Whitley, shows how not to handle a weapon, even if unloaded



The Electric Target Range at Ash
A/Pte Reex (Steevens) in the 'Roupell' Match

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Education Officer Major PA Easton RAEC

The education scheme for the apprentices, although it continues to prepare them educationally for their military and trade training and for their future service in the Army, has developed considerably during the year under review. Under the 'old' scheme the subjects studied included English (Communication Skills), Mathematics (Military Calculations), World Affairs, General Science, woodwork, geography, social studies and German. The additional subjects which have now been introduced are Computer Studies and Office Management which have an obvious relevance to those whose future careers will include office work or stores accounting.

The apprentices continue to produce impressive educational examination results. During the year under review 604 pass grades were obtained in the Certificate of Secondary Education and 47 apprentices gained qualifications at the ordinary level of the General Certificate of Education.

The three most recent winners of the Education Cup as Best Scholars of their term were:

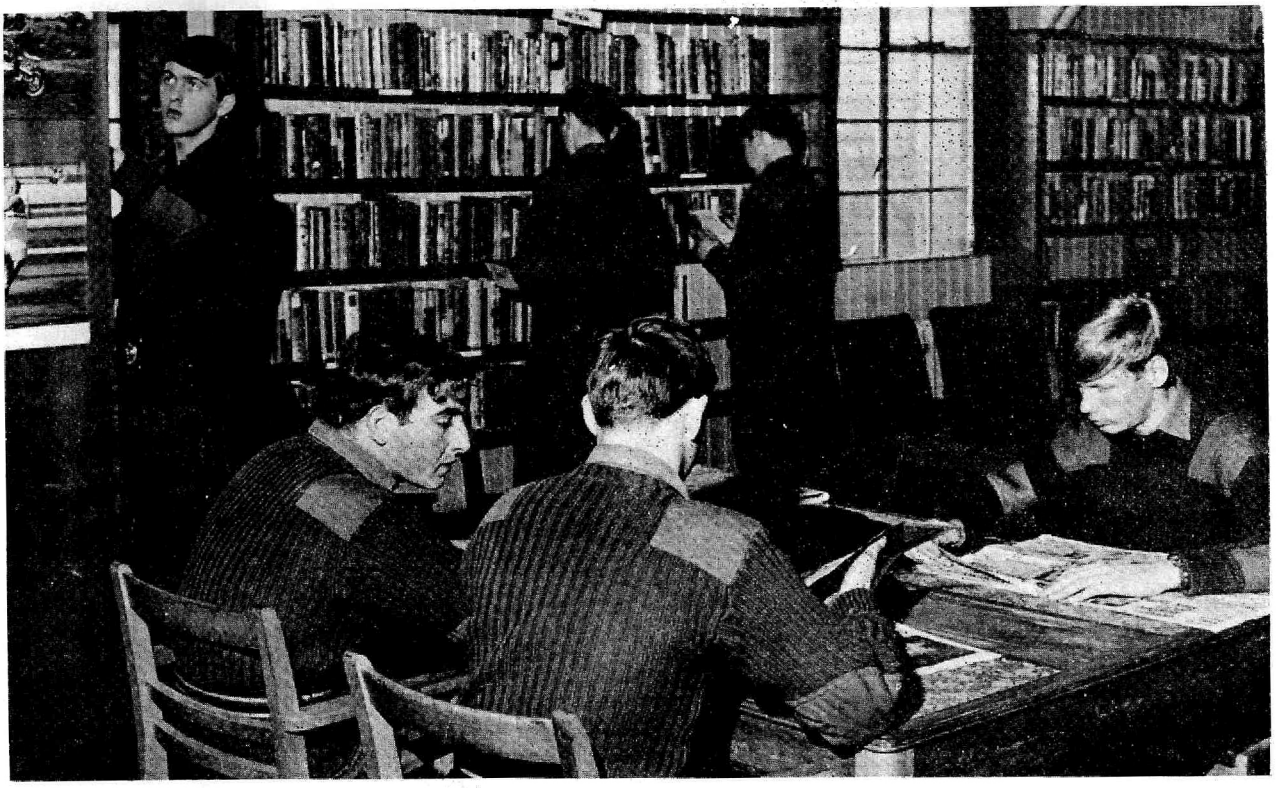
August 1973	A/Sgt Johnson
December 1973	A/Cpl Clarke
April 1974	A/Sgt Sanders

A wide range of hobby activities are followed by the apprentices - normally over 20 activities are offered and the list varies from term to term. Obviously in the Winter period most activities are indoors but in the summer months the majority of the evening activities are the outdoor, sporting type.

The educational staff has lost the following officers during the period:

Capt M W Barton posted in April 1973 to BAOR

Lt C A Norcross posted in July 1973 to BAOR



A fairly quiet corner of the library

Capt E J Childs returned to civilian life in March 1974

Major H W Richmond posted in April 1974 to Iran

In replacement we have welcomed:

Major P A Easton who took over as Senior Education Officer in April 1974, Lt R Stuart and Capt G Beaumont.

The educational staff, both civilian and military, continue to play a very full part in the life of the unit. Mr Watson has organised one major and many minor sailing expeditions (they are usually referred to in the unit as "sailing camps" but this really is something of a contradiction in terms!). Lt Martindill who has gained some distinction - and a place in the Army team - as a rifle shot has successfully organised the apprentices small-bore shooting club. Major Neal organised the highly successful hockey team from the RAOC Training Centre which won the South East District Cup, the Bari Cup (competed for by all the major RAOC units) and who were finalists in the Army Cup. Finally our Editor, Lt Col Schofield has been heard expressing relief that his year of Captaincy of Wentworth Golf Club is ended!

ATHLETICS

Officer in Charge Lt M Blatherwick

In order not to overcrowd the College summer programme for 1973 the College Athletics Meeting was held early in May. The weather for the meeting was very good and after some very hard work and equally close finishes Rowcroft Platoon were declared the winners, with 'Shiny B' leading the list in the inter-company competition.

During the course of the afternoon two new records were set and one old record equalled. These feats were accomplished by A/Lcpl Moffat in the discus, A/Lcpl Wright in the shot and A/Lcpl Singleton in the high jump.

The next event was the Junior Units Zone Athletics Competition where we faced the might of the Junior Guardsmen's Wing, Junior Royal Armoured Corps Centre and Army Apprentices College, Arborfield. All our team tried very hard and certainly put up a fight but the weight of numbers eventually told and we had to concede defeat. Special mention should be made of A/Sgt Brown who won the long jump on his last jump. His first two jumps did not count and the Athletics Officer was seen to kneel and pray before he started his last run up!

For our next competition the team changed into civilian clothes to compete as the 'Kon Tiki' club in the Surrey Association of Boys Clubs meeting. We were defending senior champions and had great hopes of retaining our position. Unfortunately this was not to be though we produced some excellent results all the same. A/Cpl Turner walked away with the 3000 metres making all the other competitors and the record look silly indeed! We also made three seconds (Brown - Long Jump, Hancock - 400 & 800 metres) and two thirds (Wickham - Long Jump, Wright - Shot Putt). The Surrey hierarchy must have been quite pleased though because five of our team were chosen to represent Surrey in the National Association of Boys Clubs competition.

A/Cpl Turner was really on form this year and in our next competition - the Army Junior Individual Athletics Championships - he took a well earned third place. This result gained him a place in the Army Junior Athletics squad that competed against Wales in September 1973. Another apprentice who did well in the Army Individuals was A/Cpl Wickham who gained a third place in the long jump.

Thus we came to the end of a relatively successful year as far as athletics was concerned, a season which was culminated by the trouncing of all other teams by the College Permanent Staff in the Training Centre Athletics Meeting.



"The favourite is down"
A/Pte Hancock fails to collect the baton from A/CSM McCallion



Yet Hancock very nearly makes it!



"Watch my toes!" A/Cpl Wake looks apprehensive as A/Lcpl Leigh stamps down in the tug-of-war



A/Cpl Turner out in front on his own . as usual!

CRICKET

Officer in Charge Major G H W Neal RAEC

Assistant Wing Commander (Retd) P W Hope

CRICKET AT COLLEGE CAMP

Remarkably for a Scottish village, Comrie boasts no regular soccer or rugby ground, but the cricket arena is much in evidence on the right of the road just before one enters the main street from the direction of Crieff.

Captain Beer was not slow to recognise this fact when he took part in the recce in June and a suitably replete cricket bag was accordingly loaded on the stores truck when the advance-party convoy lumbered northward in mid-September.

One week later the chosen gladiators, hand picked from the cream of the cricketing might of the apprentices and permanent staff, 4-tonned it to the lush green colloseum, hell-bent on thrashing the Perthshire Clans on their own ground if not at their own game. We had hoped for a rich haul of runs acquired from loose deliveries occasioned by the entanglement of the bowling arms of our adversaries in their sporrans as they attempted to propel, with hideous Highland war cries, balls of alarming velocity in the direction of the stumps of us Sassenachs. We were surprised to see therefore, that most of our opponents arrived in white attire not unlike our own, although we were reminded that the winter-time sports seasons were well under way by the fact that two of the other side appeared in soccer shorts and another in a rugby jersey. In fact, we later learnt that the local cricket season had ended some three weeks previously, a fact borne out by the length of the outfield which had been hastily mowed, in honour of the suddenly revived season, to the length of a mere six inches. The reason for this apparently cursory gesture to ground preparation was that the club was under contract to a local farmer to provide winter grazing for his sheep from the beginning of September, and the committee was reluctant to deprive him of too much of the agreed consignment of fodder. This made run-scoring difficult, as our opponents found out when they batted first. Sgt Old acquired five wickets for 13 rur and Comrie were all out for 64.

The College lost 4 wickets for only 12 runs. Lt Bowman, however, refused to be intimidated and held up one end for a solid 20 while Capt Beer at the other, realising the futility of trying to score runs along the ground on a green carpet with a six inch pile, succeeded in lifting two or three deliveries over the boundary line before holing out for 30. Two more quick wickets fell but the College was able to scramble home by three wickets.

Our opponents, invited to the Officers' Mess after the match, showed their skill in other directions to an extent that was felt four days later when a drought set in which left the Mess beerless for the last two days of Camp.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Officer in Charge Lt G A Page RAEC

This has been a rather quiet year for Cross-Country. The start of the season was marked as usual by the inter platoon race which was won, as expected, by A/Sgt Turner. The race was used to select the teams which were to race in the South East District league. We did not have great strength in depth this season and consequently were only able to finish 4th out of the six teams entered in the league.

Despite much hard training we were unable to qualify as a team for the finals of the Army Youth Cross-Country Championships, however A/Sgt Turner qualified for the race by virtue of finishing second in the zone race. The final, held at Bramcote, was a disaster for our sole representative who had the misfortune to fall rather heavily while in a very challenging position. The fall caused Turner to withdraw from the race.

As we have done for the past two years, our College team won the SABC race held at Epsom racecourse with A/Sgt Turner winning individually and A/Cpls Bates and Curtis coming second and third respectively.

HOCKEY

Officer in Charge Captain M R Beer REME

Summer 1973

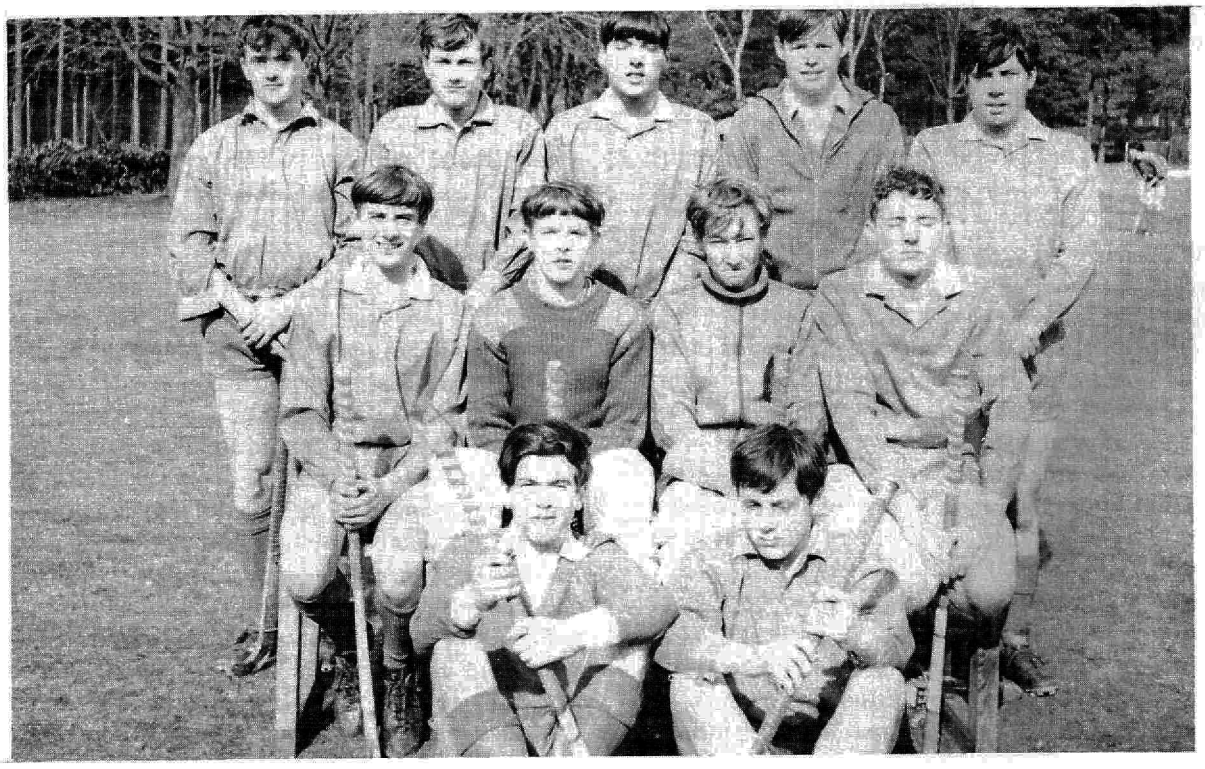
In order to maintain interest in hockey through the summer term, two evening matches and an inter platoon six-a-side competition were organised. The evening games were versus the ACC Apprentices College. The first was played at St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, on a hard pitch and resulted in a 4-3 defeat for the College in an excellent match in which the College XI adapted well to hard-pitch conditions. Due to a misunderstanding over the venue for the return match, however, both teams assembled on their home pitches and the clash of hockey sticks was never heard.

In the inter-platoon contest Baker Platoon beat Senior B in the final to take the competition shield.

A/Lcpl Clark (A Coy) and A/Pte Edwards (HQ Coy) were awarded College colours at the end-of-term presentation.

Autumn 1973

With less than half the team having previous 1st XI experience, the College faced an up-hill task in the SE District Junior Hockey League



COLLEGE HOCKEY SQUAD SPRING TERM 1974

A/Pte Goodwin A/Lcpl Wooldridge* A/ Pte Robinson* A/Pte Howson* A/Pte Helsby* A/Pte Roe A/ Pte Start A/Pte Gloster A/Pte Postlethwaite* A/Pte Mann A/Pte Johnson**

Absent: A/Ptes Wootley Weston* Stowe* Smith**

**College Colours*

programme which occupied the major share of the fixture list during this term. Although the team failed to secure any wins, seven players developed their talents enough to deserve College colours, namely A/Cpl Wooldridge, A/Cpl MacMillan, A/Ptes Wootley, Weston, Robinson, Stowe and Palmer.

In the inter-company league, 'A' Company beat Trg Wing 2-0 and 'B' Company 2-1 to take the inter-company Cup.

The apprentices played a competent game against the permanent staff but the latter's experience told, especially in the forward line and permanent staff won 4-1.

Spring 1974

The work of the autumn term showed dividends in the steadily improving results in the remaining three league fixtures. Lacking match practice in the first game of the term the College lost 8-2, but improved in the second game to fall by only 3-2. On an asphalt pitch the team came through to win 6-3 in the final game at AAC REME, Arborfield.

In the Army Junior Cup competition the College received a bye into Round 2 and went to Bovington to meet the Junior Leader Regiment RAC in the knowledge that our opponents had beaten ACC Apprentices College in Round 1 by 13-0 (ACC had beaten us by 2-0 in a league match earlier in the season). The match was played in pouring rain with every square foot of the pitch supplied with cold running water. The College scored first but after losing a goalkeeper and a left wing with incapacitating injuries the game was abandoned halfway through the second half with the College trailing 5-1.

In the inter company competition 'B' Company won the first leg 2-1 and the second was drawn 0-0. Thus 'B' Company won the inter company Cup by 2-1 on aggregate.

As a suitable end to the season, apprentices formed an XI to play in the Bari Cup competition at Deepcut at the end of March, winning one match versus 10 OSB but losing to Kineton and Tidworth.

RUGBY

Officer in Charge Lt G Cox RAOC

The outstanding feature of College rugby this term has been the spirit of the rugby squad. Because of the complexities of College life the players have found themselves, at times, out of position and playing with a total absence of experience in the team. In short there are times when we have been pushed to raise a team but the enthusiasm of the squad, at least to play, has seen us through.

It has been more than gratifying therefore to be complimented by more than one referee on the sporting spirit shown by the team on the field of play. Although our total wins may not seem impressive the other junior teams in the area hold us in respect as a team capable of producing a good, hard, 80 minutes of Rugby.

From 18-20 March we once again had the England schoolboys team down to train on our ground and a number of our squad were able to gain valuable experience by training with them. Quite a week for some of the boys who had spent the previous Saturday afternoon watching the England v Wales match at Twickenham.

On 30 March we had four players and one reserve selected to play for the Aldershot Services Colts side against Winchester College at Winchester. The players were King (Centre), Rees (Hooker), Haynes (Prop), Jones (2nd Row) and although Moffat travelled as reserve he eventually played both as centre and flank forward because of injuries in the proposed team.

For a squad that started as beginners in the sport all progressed beyond recognition by the final stages of the season. At the time of writing a number of the squad are preparing to return from leave in order to play in the Middlesex Sevens, a competition in which we all hope to do well.



RAOC APPRENTICE COLLEGE IN WHITE

A/Ptes Toms and Hayes A/Cpls Leigh and Walker

SOCCER

Officer in Charge Lt M Sullivan REME

The teams were run by Capt R G Bowman up to the end of winter term 1973. Both first and second teams had mixed fortunes but the 2nd XI eventually ran out winners of the "B" League Cup. Colours were awarded to A/Cpls White and McCreesh, Drum Major Sutcliffe, A/Lcpl Arlett, Ptes Naylor and Russell.

In January 1974, Lt Sullivan took over, and helped by Ssgt (Shankly) Grimes, successfully guided the second team to yet another victory in the League Cup.

The inter-platoon soccer knock-out shield was won by Gordon Platoon after token resistance from Steevens Platoon in the final.

The following have been recommended for Soccer colours: A/Cpl Milner, Ptes Scarlett, Kay, Wells, Baker and Oliver.

In the inter company match played on 2 April 1974, 'A' Company beat 'B' Company 6-3.

The footballers had a successful term overall, but better results are hoped for from the first XI next season. During the past two terms the second XI have been the more successful side.

SUNSET

by A/Pte Weller

I sit and watch the sun go down,
The horizon crimson wears a crown.
I see the swallows flying high,
To reach their nests ere light should die.

A fox is scurrying o'er the hill,
Intent on prey around the mill.
A badger lies beneath my feet,
And all about the air is sweet.

As night draws nigh,
And bats fly high,
An owl sends forth his call,
I sit alone, away from home,
And peace descends on all.

ANGLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr W J Waddington

We welcome Sgt Watson, who joined us at the beginning of the year. Sgt Watson is a very keen angler and his enthusiasm has been transmitted to many of the members.

The rules of the Tight-Lines Trophy were altered slightly last year. Instead of only match fishing counting towards the trophy, all fish caught were weighed in. This gave members the opportunity to experiment in the various pits. For the newcomer, the five gravel pits used by the Club are each stocked with a different variety of fish. Hence No 3 Pit is stocked with, amongst other varieties, pike, and a number of our members have now been introduced to pike fishing.

The Trophy was won by A/Pte Arden whose ability to catch small roach in large numbers won him the competition.

One of our greatest problems in the Club is transport. Members find considerable difficulty in getting to the fishing grounds at North Camp. Bus fares, already high, are getting higher, and many members find that these costs are getting beyond them. Angling is an expensive sport and although the College pays up to half of the cost of the permits a member pays approximately £15 per year without his equipment expenses. We are hoping, in the future, to be able to use a mini-bus and so reduce the costs.

Looking forward to the future we are hoping to introduce sea-fishing to members. A fishing boat will soon be available and members may be able to spend some time at sea.

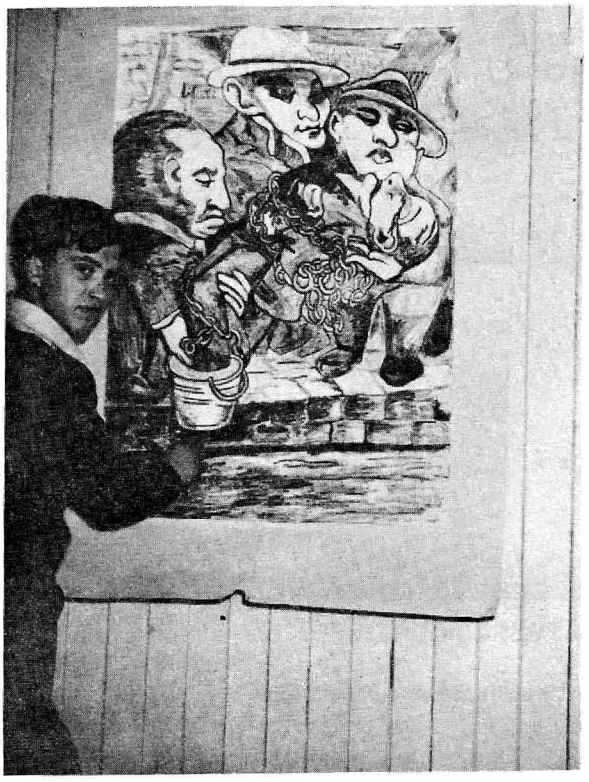
ART CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr A C F Legg

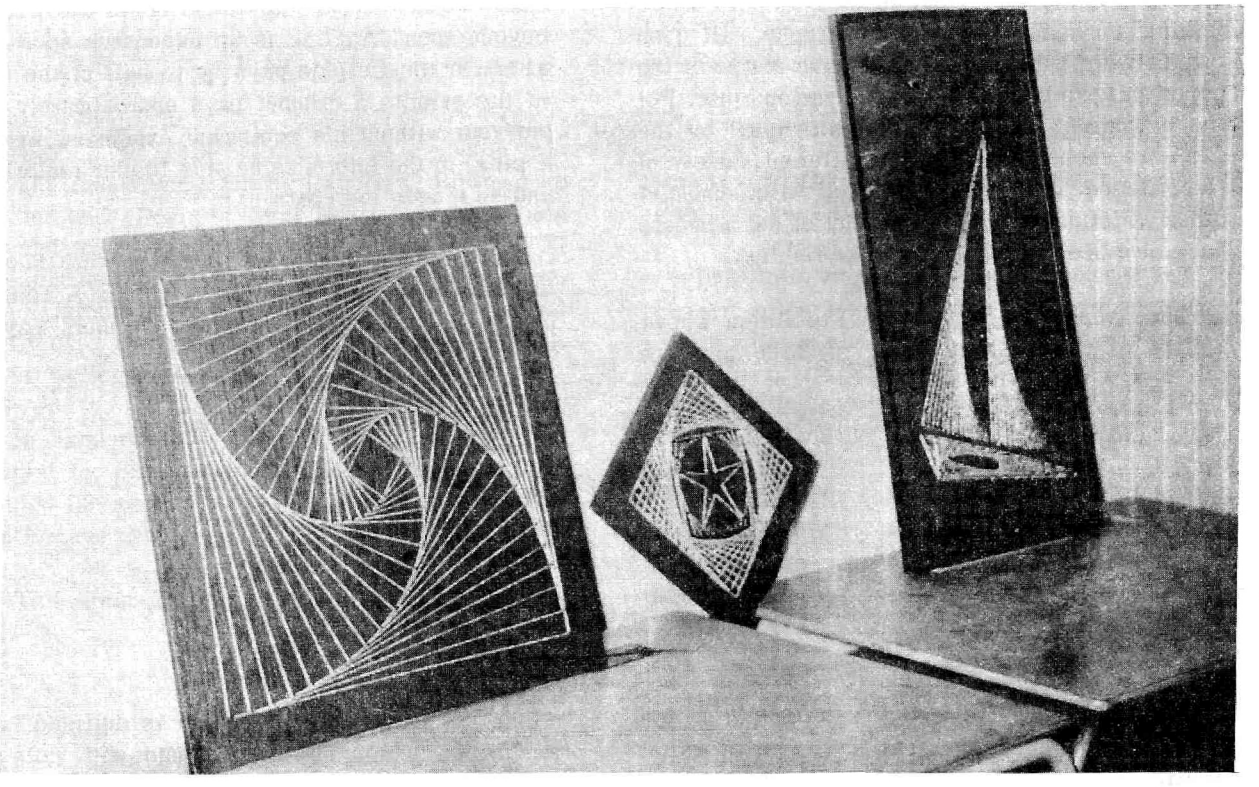
This year we welcomed back Mrs Souter whose expertise and encouragement has been of value to all.

A recent innovation was the Oilograph, a rough sketch used as a base by our oil painters, which resulted in some fine paintings. Currently "top of the pops" are pin pictures, examples of which are illustrated. A design is outlined with panel-pins which are then wound with gold or silver thread. We shall be entering some in the Surrey Boys' Clubs' Art Festival in May, together with other examples of our work.

We gained four 'O' level passes in Art during the year and two candidates enter in June.



A/Pte Lampert putting the finishing touches to his very fine "Gangster" cartoon - part of the decor supplied by the Art Club for the Officers' Mess St Valentine's Day Ball



PIN PICTURES
by
A/Pte Porter *A/Pte Walls* *Mr A C F Legg*

BADMINTON

Officer in Charge Capt JN Gunson GM

Assistant Cpl GI Nonis

The College team had two matches in the first term, one against Parkside Badminton Club of Aldershot and the other against AAC REME Arborfield. The College won both matches and the return matches are still to be played. Cpl Nonis, a member of the permanent staff, has been quite busy and is a leading light of the RAOC Training Centre team. The Training Centre team are top of the South East District league with two matches still to be played. On 14 February Cpl Nonis played for the Army against Berkshire and won two of his three games. At the South East District Championships Sgt Linnane and Cpl Nonis were runners up in the Unit Doubles. On 4 March Cpl Nonis was in the Army squad (UK) which beat the BAOR team and won both of his singles matches. After the Army Championships Cpl Nonis was selected to play in the inter Services Tournament which was played on 11-12 March at HMS Sultan (Gosport). He played his first singles against the Navy and won but lost to the RAF. It is hoped that with his advice and coaching College badminton will become more popular and that those who take part will go from strength to strength, and be worthy successors.

BASKETBALL

Officer in Charge Lt L Wood RAOC

Although we entered the South East District Championships this year we are not going to disclose any scores. After a trip to Dover to play the Royal Engineers we realised that there was no future in the league for us. The fact that six of their team were wearing Army basketball team tracksuits, however, did not stop us trying. Everyone played hard and well until the final whistle and as their team were undoubtedly the winners after the first few minutes and went further into the lead every minute, this showed good spirit from our team.

We have played a few friendly games against the RAPC and the ACC and held our own against both these teams who also lost against the RE.

This term has also seen another inter platoon knock-out competition that ended in an 'A' Company versus 'B' Company final. The results were as follows:

First round:	Watts beat Mathew
	Steevens bye
Second round:	Watts beat Senior B
	Cutforth beat Horne
	Swiney beat Gordon
	Valon beat Steevens
Semi finals:	Watts beat Cutforth 13-12
	Swiney beat Valon 56-29

The final was played on Tuesday 2 April at 1700 hours. From the start it was a hard fought game. Both teams tried hard and the final was eventually won by Swiney Platoon by 35 points to 20. This is the second time in succession that Swiney Platoon have won the shield.

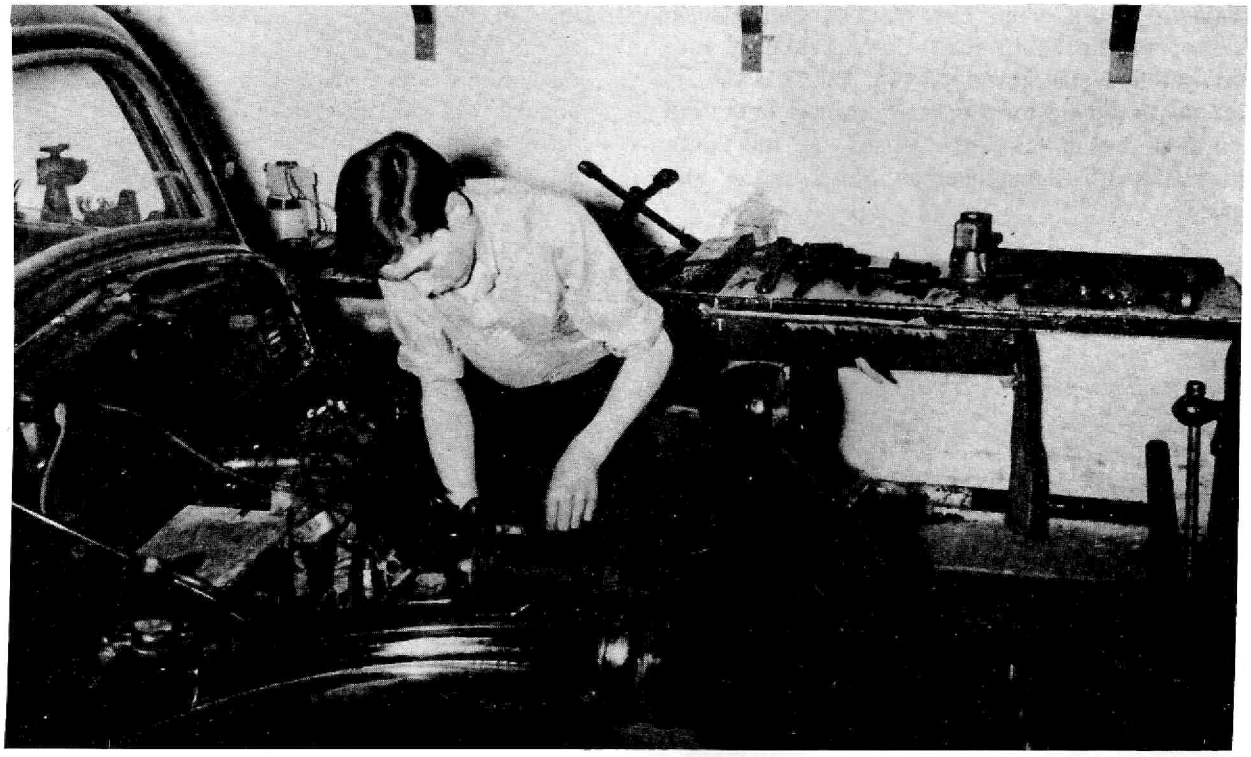
CAR CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr WJ Waddington

In spite of the troubles that have beset the industry we have maintained (with a little help from our friends) our production of one car per year. The Ford is on the road again.

Most of the year has been spent in repairing motor cycles, scooters and mopeds. We have attempted the rebuild of a Lambretta, using cast-off parts, but success evades us. Perhaps we shall have a little more luck in the future.

We are looking forward to returning to our old home in the drill shed, and, who knows, we may even get some heating for the winter.



Production maintained!

CANOEING

Officer in Charge Lt N C Smith RAOC

Assistant Sgt Michael RAOC

Instead of the usual club notes, we publish instead an article on canoeing by one of our PTI instructors SSI T R Hewett - a three time gold medallist at the recent Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. He tells in his article of his canoeing successes but claims he achieved little

in other sports. It should be known therefore that he has been successively Army lightweight and Army welterweight champion and is now a Judo second DAN black belt. His canoeing gold medals in New Zealand were gained in Slalom (C1) and Wild Water (C1 and C2).

As an ex-apprentice he serves as an excellent example for the young boys of the College.

CANOEING

People are always asking me what sort of canoeing do I take part in and usually when I tell them, they want to know what kind of canoeing that is. Well, my civilian partner and I compete at C2 Slalom Racing and C2 Wild Water Racing. The abbreviations stand for Canadian Doubles. Both types of canoes are paddled in in the kneeling position with a single bladed paddle (as opposed to the other category where you sit and paddle with a double blade). This last type, known as a Kayak, is the more common form of canoeing. There is just one more class in the canoe section and that is the Canadian single.

Canoes and Kayaks, whether they are sprint, long distance, slalom, wild water racing, touring or surfing types, all owe their origin to early history. The canoes were first used by the Polynesians, Red Indians and French Canadian Voyageurs and the kayaks by the Eskimos. However, the relationship from there on has ended, since modern materials (glassfibre, etc) in the last decade have altered the shapes to suit special purposes, dimensions, sporting activities, etc and now only the paddlers position relates the boat to either branch.

Why did I choose Canadian Canoeing and then slalom/white water racing as a sport and not one of the others? Quite simply because I had done all the others and to me Canadian Canoeing was the best challenge. It provided me with the most difficult skills to master, the most excitement on the rapids and with a genuine fear to overcome - running raging water - in a very precarious position (on my knees and with a one bladed paddle). I can only liken the feeling to a tight-rope walker who is having to walk the rope, while someone is violently shaking it. At least I can only drown whereas he can break his neck - what a choice!! But the most important reason of all (which incorporates all my reasons) is because there can be no finer challenge in my mind than to compete on the elements, man against man, against the clock. The sport also adapts one to appreciating the beauty of nature and scenery. The canoeing competitor not only has to camp at the different locations but must go far from civilisation to find the rapids, which are normally in very picturesque spots, eg in Wales, Scotland, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, etc.

Rapid River Racing (or White Water - or Wild Water River - Racing) is split into two sections Slalom and Down River Racing.

Slalom

Slalom canoeing is a course of slalom gates, 30 in all, comprising forward and reverse gates, set out in sequence on a natural Rapid River (except the new artificial courses as built at Augsburg for the Olympics and soon one to be built at Holme Pier Point in Nottingham). The courses are designed in such a way that the canoeist or kayakist must use all their acquired skill, knowledge and experience. Not only does he have to master and manoeuvre his boat on the rapids but also to clear each gate without hitting the hanging red and green poles. He has to go flat out from start to finish to make the fastest time to which all penalties on each gate are added. The paddler has 5 runs down the same course: 1 practise, 2 individuals and 2 team runs (a team comprises 3 boats). Unlike ski slalom only the best run out of the two counts and not the aggregate. Also each gate pole hit means a 10, 20 or 50 second penalty, added to the start/finish time. The following classes take part:

(K1)	Kayak Singles
(C1)	Canadian Singles
(C2)	Canadian Doubles

K1:	Ladies	Team &	Individual
K1:	Men	"	"
K1:	Youth	"	"
C1:	Men	"	"
C2:	Men	"	"
C2:	Mixed (Man & Lady)	"	"

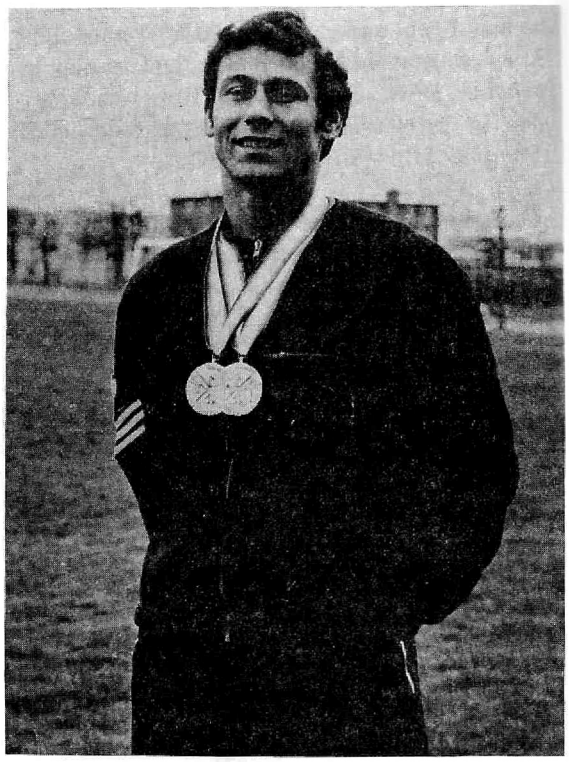
All in all at a World Championship there are 32 Gold medals to be won.

Wild Water Racing

The races are normally run in conjunction with a slalom but on the rougher part of the river, which allows continuous rapids for 6 miles. In organisation it is much easier to operate because of its simplicity - a start and finish line, spread out over six miles. Each boat, having a start number, is set off at one minute intervals and for a team there are three boats, starting also at one minute intervals. Once started, no canoeist is allowed help from the bank and must finish up-



SSgt Instructor T R Hewett



No caption needed!

right with all his equipment - no mean feat in itself on some rivers. As far as relationship between slalom and river racing is concerned, it can again be likened to skiing, where slaloms in both sports are roughly the same and where Down River racing is exactly like Down Hill racing. It takes more courage and determination to race down river, due to the fact that once you have committed yourself there is no going back or getting out until safety at the finishing bay is reached. The canoeists as well as the skiers, safety depend entirely on their skill, mental-strength and concentration. River racing and slalom World Championships are run at the same time and have just as many medals.

In order to get selected for one's country, one must go through a system of selection, which is based on time, promotion and experience, not just on technique and skills. The paddlers start in the Novice Division and work their way through four divisions in order to make the first or master division, out of which only the top four are selected for the Internationals. Before each International the competitors have to be again selected, so if anyone of them loses form, they could be out of the team before the season is through. The slalom season is from March to October and river racing from October to March. However all Internationals are from April to November for both categories. Major events for canoeists keep them training year after year without rest for:

World Championship every 2 years

Europa Cup every 2 years

Commonwealth Games every 4 years

Olympic Games every 4 years

World Class Open Internationals - 20 per year

It also keeps their savings low as there are no professionals in this game and sponsorship is very scarce, but still we are highly rated as a country and still produce results when we tackle state sponsored teams.

Up to now I have canoed for six years, four years competitively. I have many Army and Inter-service titles for Kayak, Canadian Singles and Doubles. In these four years I have competed for Great Britain and won two National Championships, 1 silver medal at an Open International, came 12th at the last World Championship and won 3 gold medals at the last Commonwealth Games in New Zealand.

My last paragraph, of course, is not to prove how vain I am or to draw attention to myself, but to show how I, **as having once been an apprentice myself,** have made the most I could

out of my military-cum-sporting life out of little. My skills as a sportsman were pretty limited as a boy but through applying myself and never saying die, I have made something of nothing. I therefore look forward to the next Olympics and World Championships, proud to wear the Union Jack.

CORPS OF DRUMS

Officer in Charge Captain A H Wilson - Ing RAOC

WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC

Sgt C J Taylor REME

The Corps of Drums, since the last edition of 'Thunderbolt', has seen a very important year. Because of the Passing Out of the majority of the Corps, and insufficient time to train new members, recruited since the raising of the school leaving age, it has been decided, after the Spring 74 Passing Out Parade to disband the Corps of Drums until further notice. It is hoped that with a forecast large intake in September 1974 there will be sufficient volunteers to train - so that by the Spring of 1975 perhaps the Corps of Drums will live again.

The second half of 1973 saw relatively few engagements for the Corps as it is the summer that produces most fetes and shows. However, the now traditional involvement in the Remembrance Day Parade at COD Bicester was carried out as normal in November. A highlight for a few members of the Corps was assisting at the Freedom of Nottingham which was bestowed upon COD Chilwell. The parade went well, in fine weather, and those boys representing the College had an interesting few days - not to mention attending the Celebration Ball after the parade.

Winter is normally the time that all our instruments and equipment are refurbished for the coming season, but Winter 1973 was spent in preparation for the Corps' final performance at the Spring Passing Out Parade. After the Drums are stacked and the apprentices of the Corps march off, a 21 year old activity of the Apprentices College will cease.

The following extract is taken from the Passing Out Parade programme dated 10 April 1974:

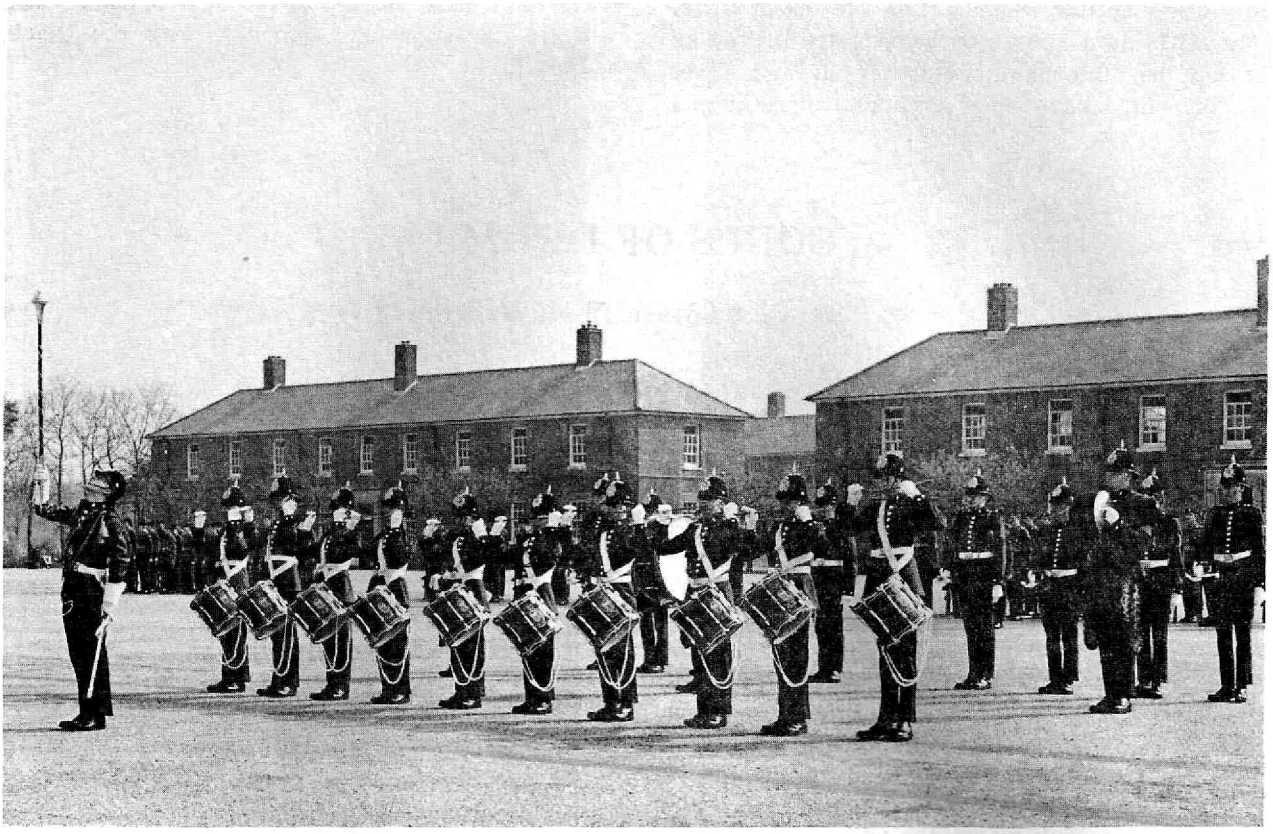
THE CORPS OF DRUMS OF
The Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices College

"Today the Corps of Drums plays for its last official performance and disbands in the latter part of this Passing Out Parade.

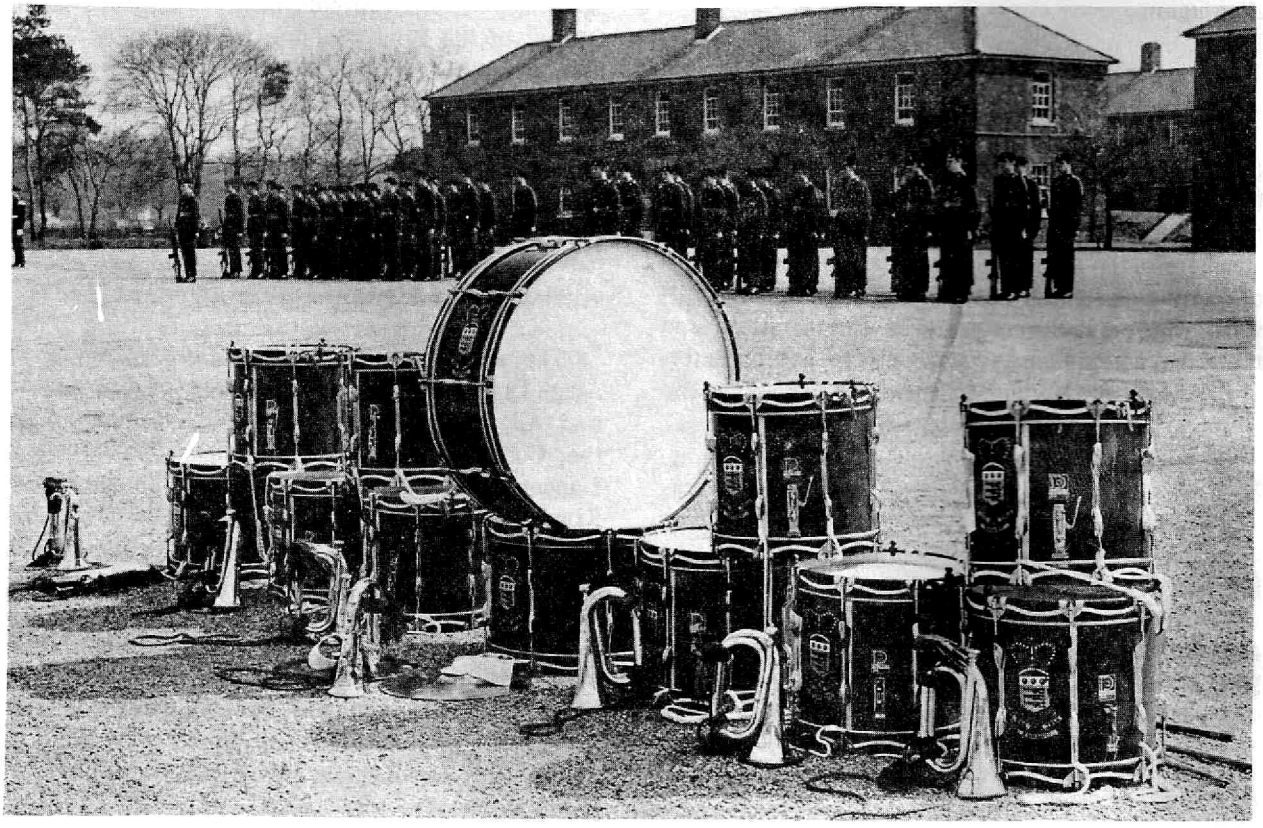
Corps of Drums was formed in 1957 from the "Toy Soldier Display" by the Commanding Officer of the Boys' School, Major Eccles RAOC, now Brigadier (Retd), whose son is a Platoon Commander in B Company today. It has played on all Passing Out Parades at the College, today being the 50th. In addition, the Corps of Drums has given many successful performances throughout the country, at schools, garden fetes, military parades and displays from Carisbrook Castle, Isle of Wight, to Edinburgh Castle in Scotland.

The uniforms are similar to those worn by the Army Ordnance Corps at the turn of the century and Apprentices in this dress have represented the Corps and College on formal occasions in London and most major RAOC units in the United Kingdom. The tiger skins were donated to the College by Major A Moto RAOC, the second Commanding Officer of the Boys' School.

The services to the Corps and College will be missed by all long after the strains of "Waltzing Bugle Boy" and "Georgia" have faded away."



The Corps of Drums prepare to play for the last time. March 1974.



The Drums stacked after the final march-off

FREEDOM OF NOTTINGHAM

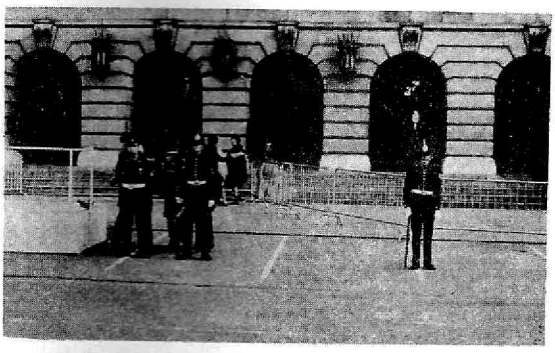
by A/Pte MP Parsons

As a member of the Corps of Drums it was no surprise to me to be told that certain members of the band would be away for yet another weekend. One gets used to performing at fetes, garden parties and shows. This particular outing, however, was to prove totally different from the rest. The Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell, was to receive the civic honours of Nottingham and some six members of our Corps of Drums would be required to take part and assist in the ceremony. I was fortunate enough to be chosen as one of the six.

The ceremony took place outside the Council House in the heart of the city and in what is known locally as 'Slab' square. This is the very place where the old Nottingham Goose fair was always held. There were two companies on parade and the Corps Staff Band led the way. The Saluting Base was positioned just outside the Council House which is the civic centre of Nottingham. There certainly was a distinguished company on the dais or around it that day. To me it was all a mixture of high ranking military officers and civic dignitaries. It certainly was a most colourful display. The parade itself was very much like our own passing out parade. The Lord Mayor of Nottingham was greeted with the General Salute and was then invited to inspect the parade. Then the inspector, the Lord Mayor, asked his Town Clerk to read out the resolution of the council granting civic honours to the RAOC Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell. Afterwards the Mayor said a few words and then handed the scroll to the representative Colonel Commandant, Major General C D Key. Soon afterwards, the parade marched past the saluting base where the Lord Mayor took the salute. That was about the end of it so far as we were concerned though we stayed on till late afternoon to see the Staff Band beating retreat at the City centre.

Of course we had other duties to perform ranging from acting as ushers at the Mayor's Ball to escort and guard duty to the Corps Silver in the Depot Officers' Mess. The real highlight was when we were actually invited to participate in the Ball. I had many dances with important ladies. It was all great fun.

Looking back now I am sure that I shall always remember the occasion and I shall always be jolly thankful that I was fortunate enough to be chosen to attend it. I am now looking forward to the next one, whenever that might be.



At the saluting base



"They mixed well at the Civic Ball in the evening" - A/Pte Arnold



Guarding the Corps Silver A/Pte Parsons with the Lord Mayor of Nottingham and Major Gen Kev

CYCLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Lt RR Stuart RAEC

Assistant Cpl Long Cpl Hazeldine

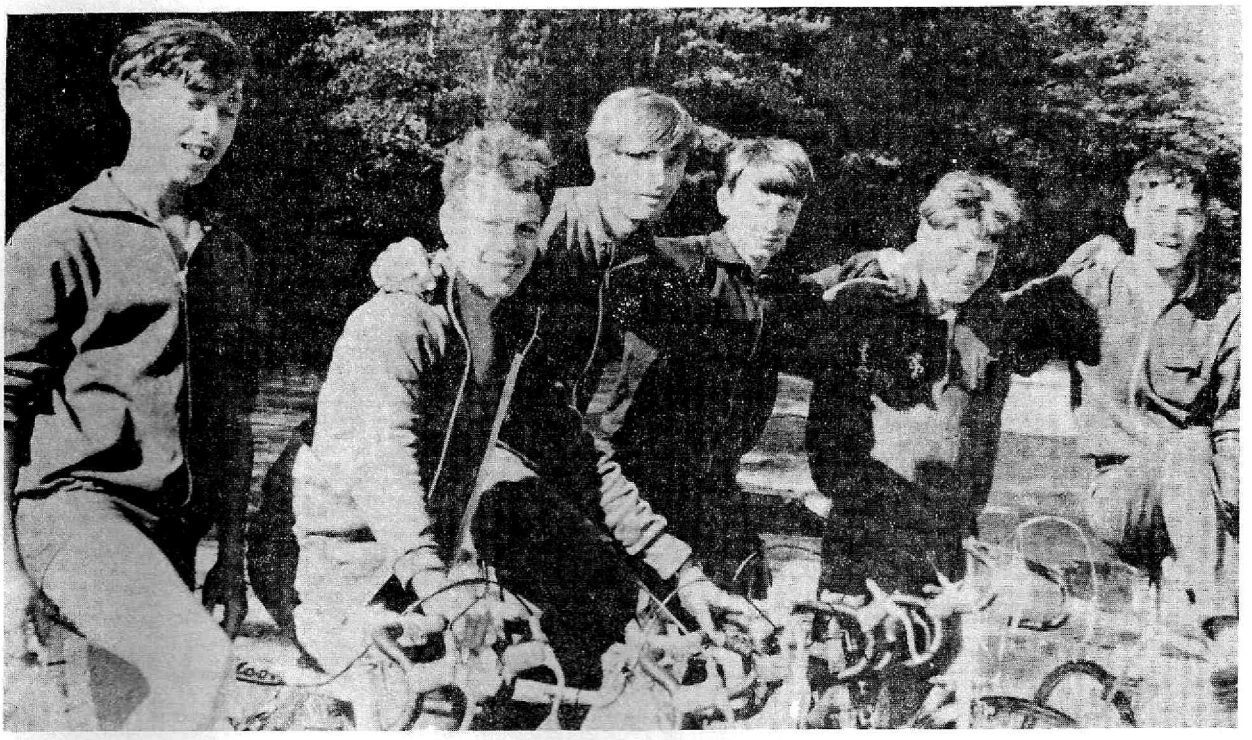
Since the last issue of the Thunderbolt went to press during the early part of 1973, most of the 'racing' activities of the club during summer term 1973 have not been published. However, during the term, the club took part in a number of weekend meetings, under Lt Norcross RAEC. These included trips to Bassingbourne, Dover and Taunton, for the various heats of the Army Junior Cycling events. Additionally, we were host to five other junior units in June for the 15 mile Road Time Trial. Although we did not figure highly in the prize lists, each of these events were very successful, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

Winter term 1973 saw many shadowy figures assembling and re-assembling cycles in the club. No matter how the permutations were fiddled, lack of spares meant some machines were off the road. Manufacturers gaily quoted 'six to eight' weeks for spares, then delivered in 14. We are still waiting for the return of two frames which went in for repair in November 1972. On the bright side, however, we were able to purchase three almost new Raleigh Europa cycles which will give us a good selection of machines for the summer racing season.

At the time of writing, Spring is almost here, and there has been a sudden upsurge of interest in 'riding the 12 mile circuit'. Perhaps this has something to do with the sap rising, or the local birds donning their summer plumage. Whatever the reason, intrepid riders, led by 'Paddy' Butler, are taking to the road in droves. Unfortunately, in some cases, enthusiasm outrides technical competence - and there is nothing quite like a five mile walk pushing a 'kaput' machine to cool the riders' ardour.

Looking to the summer, the club is now affiliated to the Road Time Trials Council and to the

Border Cycle Association. This will enable riders to enter for many of the Time Trial events locally, both as individuals and as part of a team. We also intend to spend some weekends on longer runs, during which time we hope to compete against other Apprentice Colleges and Junior Units.



A/Lcpl Brown and A/Ptes Butler, Newnham, Dixon, Jones and Barrett

THE KON TIKI CLUB

Officer in Charge Miss Eileen Jones WRVS

Our greatest source of happiness this term has been the super stereo record player that has been installed in my office. We have yet to get the loudspeakers fixed up on the wall, but in the meantime it is very pleasant to hear music anywhere in the clubroom without being deafened! It was quite expensive, but as the PJRC tells me that the portable record player that has been in use since I came, is now seven years old, I feel that we have not been extravagant. Much as the boys enjoy TV, nothing seems to take the place of their "pop" records!

We have had a slight falling off of attendance in the Kon Tiki recently, but as we have fewer numbers of boys in camp, plus lots of activities this term, which take up the earlier part of their evenings, it is not surprising that I have missed some of my regular customers. However, I have been compensated by visits from several old boys, some of whom are now stationed in Germany (and are proud fathers!), others who were in the area on exercise.

When another 60 (approx) seniors pass out soon, my 'family' will be smaller still for the summer term, but we are hoping for an increase in recruits during the autumn.

MODELLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

The most noticeable change in the club over the past year has been its drop in size from 80 in Spring Term 1973 to 25 at Easter this year. This has, however, made the club more compact and enabled more work to be done. The standard of modelling has, therefore, risen appreciably.

The club was sorry to lose the services of Cpls Long and Isaacs, who had assisted manfully for some time. Capt Childs, at short notice, stood in as OIC for most of the Autumn term due to the illness of Mr Heap and we owe him a great deal of thanks for enabling us to carry on.

The model made last year for the RAOC Recruiting Team proved to be popular with the public and has been retained for another year, with the promise of further orders for the club in the future. Other models made in the club have travelled as far afield as Germany and the School of Artillery, while two are currently on display in Aldershot.



Modellers busy modelling!

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Officer in Charge Major G J Forrest (Retd)

"Good evening, Sir." "Good evening, Ash, Baker. Where are Allsop and the others?" "Just coming now, Sir." "Well, come on in and let's get started. Get the developer, stop and fixer out. One to seven developer, remember." "Will you change the lens and condenser on this enlarger, please?" "What will you be printing?" "The pictures of the College shoot, Sir." "But we must do the College Hockey teams first, and the enlarger is all right for those - they are 120". "Good evening, Sir." "Good evening, Allsop. Will you and Knott go across to the Modelling Club and take some of those chaps at work? After that, call in at the Art Club. Mr Legg wants some pictures for the magazine." "Can I develop this film, Sir?" "If you'll leave it on the shelf Hysted I'll do it tomorrow morning for you. We must leave the main lights off now."

So begin the Club's activities on a typical hobbies evening. We are always pushed for time, but usually by shortly after 1830 hrs, taps are turned off, plugs are out of sockets, shelves are tidied up and the floor is swept, ready for the next session.

SAILING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr J F Watson

Assistants Mr M F Johnson

Lt A G Thomas

Undoubtedly the highlight of this year's sailing was the fortnight in September we spent at the ASA Centre at Netley on Southampton Water. Two full Force 8 gales and a series of big spring tides brought problems - and excitement! It was all very worthwhile and eight out of the 12 members gained their ASA C Helm Certificate.

After the excitement of the Camp - back to the inevitable repairs! We are still building our 'Longboat' and, as the photograph shows, her hull is now almost complete. One member has, in fact, already started to shape her mast. In September we were all very pleasantly surprised when we received, as the result of an Army Welfare grant, the hull of a fibreglass "Seamaster Sailor 23". We have begun to fit her out and hope to have her on the water by the end of June.

After much discussion and many suggestions a name has been chosen for her...."Thunderbolt".

In November we received more news - this time bad! We heard that our sloop "Neraida" had, during a force 8 gale, been badly damaged on her moorings at Southampton. The damage was too severe for our small Club to attempt to repair and she has spent the last four months in a professional boatyard at Southampton. I feel sure that all club members will be pleased to hear that she should be ready for collection at the beginning of April.

We look forward to the coming season because it promises many interesting events:

The launching of our longboat "Craftsman"

The launching of our Sailor 23.."Thunderbolt"

The re-commissioning of..."Neraida"

The Army Junior Regatta

SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION

by

A/Pte C Paton

If anyone had ever told me that one day I would be 'going to sea', I am quite certain that I would have accused them of speaking through his proverbial hat. Even now I find it hard to believe that I have actually done it. I have always known that one day I would travel on the sea - my job in the Army would arrange that for me - but to be a crew member working on the sea - never!

I suppose it all started when I began my career as an apprentice in the RAOC College at Deepcut. It was then that I first became acquainted with sailing. It was listed in the numerous hobby activities which anybody could follow as an integral part of his training and of course I chose it as being something 'different' more than anything else.

My baptism into the Sailing Club was anything but a happy one. The miserable winter term was upon us and no outside work was possible. I seemed to spend endless hours repairing and painting dinghies. However that soon passed and I found myself on Hawley Lake learning how to handle a small sailing craft. The afternoon spent 'tacking' across the lake was to prove one of the most satisfying of my life. I was keen and absorbed in this delightful sport and I must have proved to be a good student.

I was really taken aback when one day I was told I was to be one of four apprentices chosen to join the LSP Dodo. I was still in a daze about it all when I left the College to travel down to Gosport to join my new ship. When I first caught sight of her she appeared much smaller than I had imagined and seemed to be dwarfed by the naval ships which surrounded her. However, once aboard, all my musings came to an abrupt end. I was shown my bunk and ordered to change my army uniform for ship's rig as quickly as possible. I was then taken on a conducted tour of the ship and immediately afterwards set to work sewing mail bags!!!

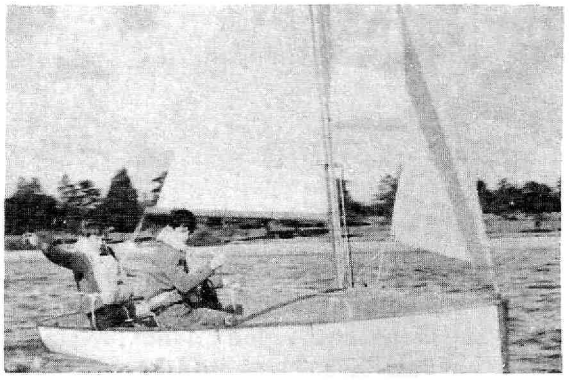
There are many memorable things to relate about that voyage but perhaps two left their mark on my memory. The first was when it was my turn to be ship's cook, my particular watch being on duty that day. We were all trying desperately to get our sea legs. We had just cleared the Needles to enter the English Channel when I went on deck to announce proudly that lunch was served! There was one mad headlong rush for the ship's rails. Sea sickness had really arrived! However it was soon all over and we began to make up for it. Six of us actually ate 8 lbs of stew between us.

Another amusing incident happened in Alderney in the Channel Islands. My job was to ferry the crew from ship to shore and back again. Brian McGoldrick, who was my opposite number in the other watch, thought he knew it all. The skipper had ordered us to inflate the rubber dinghy. Of course he had to be the man to do it so I left him to get on with the job. He blew it up alright, but of course he had to go one better - a trial run was necessary. He had some trouble with the outboard engine at first but he did manage to get it going and travelled some two hundred yards from the ship. It was then that the dinghy began to sink - he had forgotten to replace the safety valves - what a laugh! We managed to haul him aboard again but, my, oh my, was his face red!

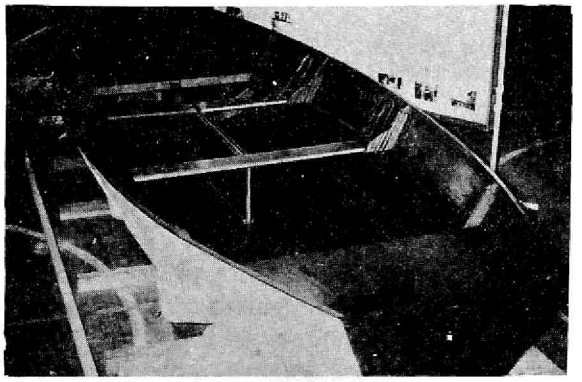
All in all I spent about a week on board the Dodo. During that time the ship sailed around the Channel Islands and finally back to Gosport, taking in the Isle of Wight and Poole Harbour. It proved to be the highlight of my life and I am sure I shall never forget my first experience of life on the ocean waves.

ADELIE LEAVES THE COLLEGE

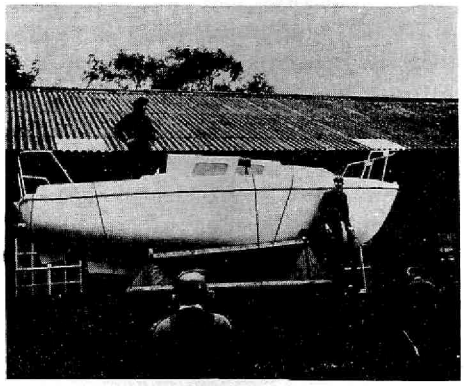
Many apprentices were surprised on Friday, 5 April as there emerged from the drill shed a 6-ton yacht named "Adelie". The new enamel



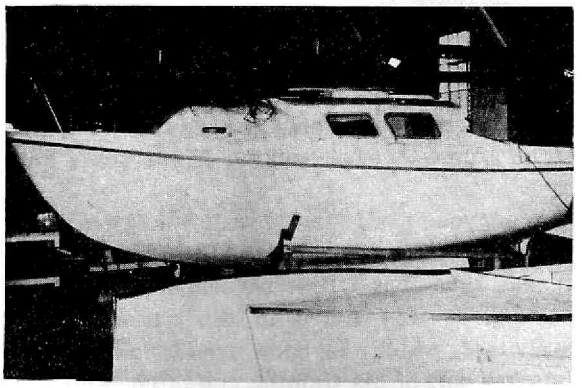
A/Ptes Parry and Brown on Southampton Water, off Netley



Now almost complete - our longboat 'Craftsman



"Thunderbolt" arrives at Deepcut. On deck, Mr M F Johnson. Foreground Lt A Thomas



"Thunderbolt" in her fitting-out bay

paint and varnish sparkling in the sun revealed her strong but graceful lines. Later she was hoisted onto a low loader and driven away to Burns Shipyard of Bosham from where shortly afterwards she entered her natural environment.

In April 1972 Major C Brogden, our Chief Instructor began sea trials of his newly purchased yacht "Adelie", a South Coast One Design yacht 27 feet overall, sailing from the Robin Knox-Johnstone yard on the Hamble. After trials in the Solent lasting two weeks he sailed "Adelie" to Cherbourg using his newly fitted self-steering gear. All went well on the voyage but having arrived he was storm bound for seven days while north east winds lashed the peninsula. Twice attempts to leave Cherbourg were frustrated by the size of the waves but on the seventh day a decision to leave and head direct to Plymouth was successful. Beating out to gain an offing was hectic to say the least, but after battling for an hour they were able to turn and head obliquely across the English Channel reaching across the wind and the huge wages that had built up. Their self-steering gear was smashed almost immediately but by staying at the helm they managed to make Plymouth in 15½ hours, almost a record for a yacht of her length.

After repair of the self-steering gear and further trials Major Brogden sailed single handed from Plymouth on the 7 May bound for Madeira as the first leg of an atlantic crossing. 48 hours later he arrived back in Plymouth bruised and battered after battling a SW gale. A frustrating week followed while he waited for the gale to abate On the 14 he set off again and within 24 hours was hit with gales again. However, as he had this time made sufficient 'offing' and was well in the Western Approaches he decided to continue and he battled on into head winds and high waves which slowed progress.

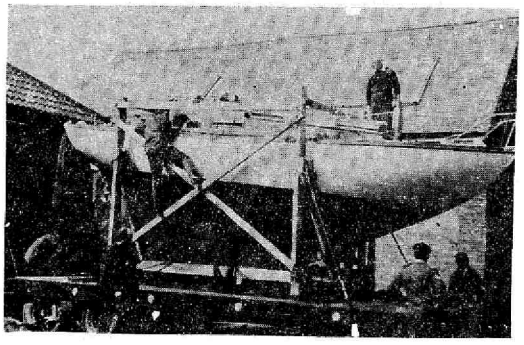
After seven days he finally succeeded in crossing the notorious Bay of Biscay and he looked forward to better weather. However, off Cape Finnistere, he ran into fog and visibility was reduced to 25 yards. Off the entrance of Vigo the large commercial port in Northern Spain, he was surrounded by large commercial ships blasting away on their fog horns and thundering past, their bow waves rocking 'Adelie'.

After two days the fog cleared only to be replaced by further SW gales. It was during these gales that 'Adelie's' main sail was badly damaged. Although Major Brogden has able to make temporary repairs he decided that it would be folly to continue without proper attention by a sail maker and so headed for Lisbon. After 15 days at sea he dropped anchor off Cascais in Lisbon Bay.

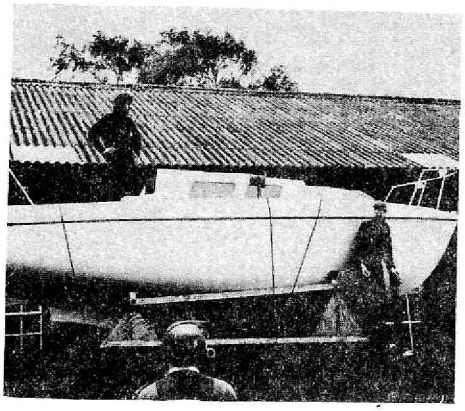
Two days later while anchored 'Adelie' was hit by a large sea trawler. Her port bow was smashed, her forestay parted, putting terrific strain on the main mast and cracking it. She was spun round and her rudder scraped and broke. The £10 sail repair had turned into estimated £1,300 repairs within seconds. Major Brogden flew home and joined the College leaving 'Adelie' in Lisbon.

After months of negotiating 'Adelie' eventually arrived back in the UK and one weekend in May was placed in the Drill Shed looking sad and badly battered, with paint and varnish peeling off exposing her bare mahogany. One wondered if she would ever be fit enough to return to her natural element.

During the long summer break Major Brogden spent long lonely hours working at the repair to the hull. The previous Commanding Officer, Lt Col R Mathews (now Colonel, OIC Manning and Records) sweated for two days tapering a 12' x 2' x 1½" slab of mahogany down to three quarters of an inch. In October Major B H Irwin and Cpl Parrotte of the Training Battalion RAOC offered their assistance and by working every evening and three nights per week completed all repairs including complete stripping, painting and varnishing by the end of March 1974. In early April 'Adelie' was properly examined by a naval surveyor and his report made all the work worth while 'Adelie' was fit to return to her natural element, indeed she was stronger than previously and in a better condition than she had ever been since she left the yard as a new yacht.



"Adelie", repaired and complete, ready to leave the College



Major Brogden, on deck, supervises the final loading details

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

Officer in Charge 2Lt C J Martindill RAEC

With many of the better marksmen in the College not available for the second half of the season the two teams in the RAOC leagues have slowly relinquished the high positions they held before Christmas. Although the absence of the top shots is to be regretted it has meant that others have had some competition experience they would otherwise have missed. It is hoped that some of these rapidly improving shots will form the nucleus of the teams for next season.

In the final analysis the College achieved the following positions:

Baker Cup Division 3

RAOC App College 'A'	3rd Place
RAOC App College 'B'	4th Place

Horne Cup Division 2

RAOC App College 'A'	2nd Place
RAOC App College 'B'	4th Place

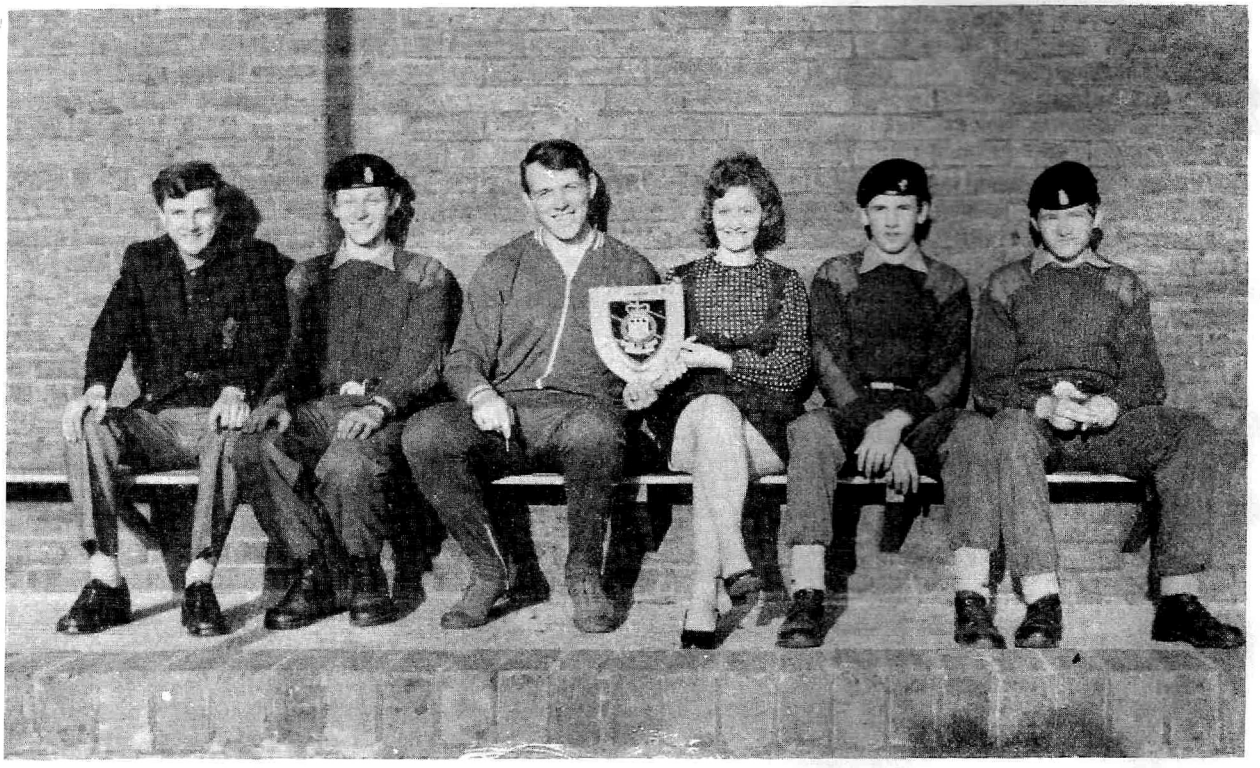
Thus RAOC Apprentices College 'A' have lost the Horne Cup Division Championship that they won last year.

During the Summer term when there was no competition shooting, we experimented with Three Positional shooting. This proved popular although success was rather limited.

Next season, with improved equipment, a squad of good shots, and without the problems of a power crisis (hopefully), should see the College once again taking the honours in Small-Bore Shooting.

The following are deserving of particular mention:

A/Pte Greenfield	RAOC Junior Champion
A/Sgt Davidson	RAOC Junior Champion
A/RSM Turner	Best Shot Winter 1973
A/Cpl Lonnen	Best Shot Spring 1974



1974 COLLEGE SMALL BORE CHAMPIONS - SWINEY PLATOON

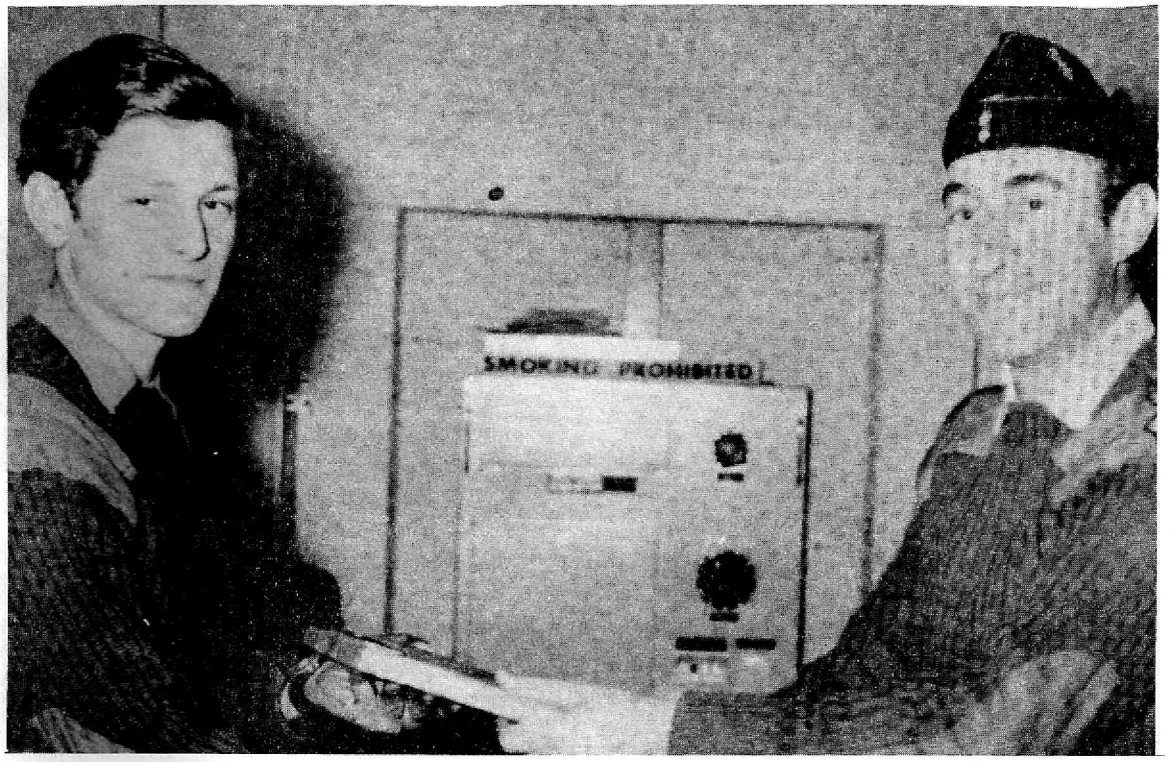
Wooldridge, Richardson, Lt Wood, Mrs Wood, Draper, Reeby
A/Pte Draper is Junior Army Rifle Champion

Inter Platoon Small-Bore Shooting Final

The Inter Platoon Small-Bore Shooting Final was held on 4 April 1974. Swiney Platoon started as favourites and gained a sizeable advantage after the first detail. With some more excellent shooting in the final detail Swiney clinched the Championship. The scores were as follows:

Swiney		Cutforth	
Wooldridge	142	Fox-Russell	141
Reeby	144	Lowry	99
Richardson	155	Harris	152
Draper	172	Craig	124
	613		516

The Inter Platoon Shield was presented to A/Pte Richardson by the Commanding Officer.



The Commanding Officer presents the Small Bore Trophy to A/Pte Richardson, captain of the Swiney Platoon team

SUB AQUA CLUB

Officer in Charge Lt G Cox RAOC

Over the period of the 1974 Spring Term the Sub Aqua Club has gone from strength to strength. The membership of the club has been extended to depot and service dependents and it is now truly a Training Centre Club. The new adult members are very keen and have passed on a a great deal of their enthusiasm. The result is that we are now going to extend to become both a sport and a hobby in the Summer Term.

We are receiving a great deal of support from the British Sub Aqua Club and the UKLF Diving Officer, Major Green. A liaison has also been started with some of the other Sub Aqua clubs in the area.

The club meets, at the moment, on Monday and Wednesday evenings, from 1900-2100. On Mondays members are concerned with servicing

and making equipment, and receiving lectures and film shows about the sport. Wednesday meetings are held in the Aldershot pool and the full equipment used to train members in the basic safety drills required before doing open water dives.

With the added time of the sports afternoons over the Summer term the aim of the Club will be to qualify members up to British Sub Aqua Club Diver class 3 standard. To help in this qualification it is hoped that some of the club members will be able to attend class 3 courses at the School of PT.

OPERATION WHITE LODGE

In the last issue an account was given of the raising, by boys of the College, of £1000 for the White Lodge Centre for spastically handicapped children at Chertsey. Our efforts did not end with this as the following letter shows.

"Dear Sir,

During the middle of summer 1973, Major Kerry Curtis, who was serving at the RAOC Apprentices College, Deepcut and who had a daughter, Miranda, receiving treatment at White Lodge Centre for Spastic Children, spoke to Lt Alan Thomas of the College Education Department and arranged for the apprentices to build some steps for the Physiotheraphy Department of White Lodge. These steps were to go up one side, traverse a small level area in the centre and descend by differently spaced steps on the other side. All the way along would be hand rails on each side. The steps were completed towards the end of the year and transported over to White Lodge at Chertsey in the middle of March 1974. They have been made to a very high standard and ideally meet the demands put upon them.

Mrs Barbara Gingell, the Senior Physiotherapist, has, at this time, been using the steps for some six weeks and finds them extremely valuable as both a theraputic aid and for adventurous play. Many of the White Lodge children do not automatically explore new environments such as playground material or even climb stairs at home without first learning stage by stage the complex processes involved. These learning processes are most difficult for many of these children and that is why an apparatus was needed which has been specifically designed for the purpose.

There are many valuable lessons to be learned from these activities by the Cerebral Palsied child other than the purely satisfactory one of moving from A to B. In learning to climb steps the child improves his balance and co-ordination at the same time strengthening the muscles of his body and especially his legs.

From the above observations it will be seen that the steps built by the boys of the Apprentice College are proving most beneficial and are much appreciated by both staff and children.

Pamela Ladd
Secretary
N Hants & W Surrey
Spastics Society

STOP PRESS

Since the above article was written, a further collection has been made by the boys of the College, resulting in a further cheque, this time for £700, being handed over to the White Lodge Centre for Spastics. The following account and photograph are published by kind permission of the Aldershot News.

"Doorstep collection nets £700

A cheque for more than £700 was handed over by Army apprentices from Deepcut to the White Lodge Centre for Spastic Children at Chertsey last week.

The money was raised in a massive door-to-door collection by the apprentices, from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps College, on 11 May, and was handed over by Apprentice Sergeant Brian White.

He had personally collected more than anyone else. Sgt White's total amounted to £12.85½p. "The odd ½p was given to me by a woman who said she was hard up herself," he said.

This year's total, £725, adds to the £1,000 collected by the apprentices last year, and will go towards the £34,000 needed by White Lodge each year to look after around 100 handicapped children.

The money was received by the centre's administrator, Mrs Carol Smith, and watching the handover were Mrs Pamela Ladd, secretary to the North Hampshire and West Surrey Group of the Spastics Society; the Rev John Vernon, the college's padre who helped organise the collection; and the college's Commanding Officer,

Lt Col Paul Vickery

After the presentation, the boys - all around 17 - toured the centre and met many of the children they have helped. They saw, among other items, a small flight of steps built at the college's carpentry shop and now used to help children learn how to bend their knees while climbing.



A/Sgt White hands the cheque to Mrs Smith of White Lodge Centre.
On the right are Mrs Ladd and Padre Vernon

A SATISFIED SOLDIER

by A/Pte A Rees

One Thursday afternoon in early January I went to see Capt Sharp about getting a chit signed for a pair of football boots from the PJRC. Instead Capt Sharp told me that I was to go on a Satisfied Soldier's Course from 22-24 January, at my old school.

The purpose of the visit was to get young boys interested in the Army and for them to hear about it from someone of their own age - not an officer or an NCO as often happens in schools.

I left camp at 0800 hours after collecting my travel warrants and arrived at my home at 1300 hours on 22 January. The next day I had to go to my old school, the Morriston Senior Comprehensive, Swansea, to give a lecture on the Army. I was picked up by a Major and a WRAC Captain.

When we arrived at the school we were met by the Headmaster, Mr Chandler. He took us to his office and we had a cup of tea and talked the army. We then went to the gym where I gave

the lecture. I talked about my pay and how much I save, military training and exercise, sports and hobbies, the daily routine, education, CSE, food and trades. Then someone asked me what I didn't like about the army. My answer was that I didn't like getting up at 0630 hours and having to have short hair.

Then they started asking questions from "What is the highest rank in the army?" to "How does a rifle work". While I was giving my lecture to the boys the WRAC Captain was giving one to the girls.

I think it was worthwhile because quite a few boys seemed interested especially one who was doing GCE 'O' levels. He wanted to get a commission. It was a very enjoyable two days and it was well worth while.

THE TRAMP

by A/Pte Weller

He walks the streets by day and night,
His eerie shape a fearful sight,
Mocked by young and scorned by old,
A living book of tales untold,

As seasons come and seasons go,
The trials of life begin to show,
He wanders on, a harmless foe,
An outcast he - who wants to know?

COLLEGE PRIZEWINNERS 1973 - 74

The boys who win prizes each term are the top twenty (or so) boys of a College some 300-400 strong. To be included in this select few is no mean feat and it has long been thought that more attention should be paid to their achievements. Admittedly their names are engraved on the trophies they win and they take home with them replicas and other prizes to remind them of their moments of triumph. But it is felt that a more widespread record is needed. Henceforward, therefore, in this magazine, will be published the names of all prize-winners during the year under review. The lists covering April 1973 to March 1974 are printing herewith.

Recruit Awards

McEwan Shield	Best Recruit	A/Pte Thomas
Recruit PT Cup	Best Recruit in PT	A/Pte King

Education Awards

Section A1	A/Lcpl Edmonds
Section A2	A/Lcpl Wooldridge
Section A3	A/Pte King
Section B1	A/Pte Jones
Section B2	A/Pte McClung
Section B2X	A/Pte Craig

Trade Training Awards

	Best Staff Clerk	A/Pte Clarke
	Best Tech Clerk	A/Pte Carter
	Best Clerk REME	A/Sgt Wallis
	Best Storeman RAOC	A/Pte Machado
	Best Storeman REME	A/Sgt Lince

College Individual Awards

Best Drummer Award	The Best Drummer	A/Pte Machado
SMG Cup	Best SMG Shot	A/Pte Gibb
Rifleman's Cup	Best Rifle Shot	A/Pte Draper
Crawford Tankard	Best All-round Shot	A/Pte Hughes
MacDonald Shield	For Perseverance	A/Pte Farrow
St Albans Cup	For Initiative	A/Pte West
Education Cup	Best Scholar	A/Sgt Johnson
Trade Training Cup	Best Tradesman	A/Pte Machado
Military Proficiency Shield	Most Proficient Soldier	A/Sgt Ommerod
Sergeants' Cup	Best All-rounder	A/CSM McCallion

College Team Awards

	Athletics Cup	B Company
	Boxing Cup	C Company
	Cricket Cup	B Company
	Tennis Cup	B Company
	Tug of War Cup	HQ Company

Special Awards

Officers'/Sergeants' Mess Tankard		A/RSM Tarr
Commanding Officer's Special Award		A/Cpl Turner
Army Junior Individual Rifle Champion		A/Pte Draper

PRIZEWINNERS - WINTER

Recruit Awards

McEwan Shield	Best Recruit	A/Pte Kamper
Recruit PT Cup	Best Recruit in PT	A/Pte Kamper

Education Awards

	Section 3	A/Pte Evans
		A/Pte Cox
	Section 2	A/Pte Allsopp
		A/Lcpl Wooldridge
	Section 1	A/Pte Craig
		A/Cpl Sanders

Trade Training Awards

	Best Storeman REME	A/Lcpl Buffin
	Best Storeman RAOC	A/Pte Cole
	Best Tech Clerk RAOC	A/Pte Henderson
	Best Clerk REME	A/Cpl Edmonds
	Best Staff Clerk	A/Cpl Peters

College Individual Awards

Small Bore Prize	Best Small Bore Shot	A/RSM Turner
Best Drummer Award	For the Best Drummer	A/Pte McDonald
Tight Lines Trophy	For the best Angler	A/Pte Arden
MacDonald Shield	For Perseverance	A/Cpl Sanders
Education Cup	Best Scholar	A/Cpl Clarke
St Albans Cup	For Initiative	A/Pte Cammack
Trade Training Cup	Best Tradesman	A/Pte Gordon
Military Proficiency Shield	Most Proficient Soldier	A/Sgt Gowers
Sergeants' Cup	Best All-rounder	A/Sgt McGarry

College Team Awards

Soccer Cup	Senior Apprentices
Hockey Cup	A Company

Special Awards

Officers'/Sergeants' Mess Tankard	A/RSM Turner
Commanding Officer's Special Prize	A/CSM Wall

PRIZEWINNERS - SPRING TERM

Recruit Awards

Best Recruit in PT	A/Pte Howat
Best Recruit	A/Pte Crighton

Education Awards

Section A1	A/Pte Drabble
Section A2	A/Pte Allsopp
Section A3	A/Pte Harris
Section B1	A/Pte Ellis
Section B2	A/Lcpl King

Trade Training Awards

Best Staff Clerk	A/Cpl Keating
Best Tech Clerk	A/Lcpl Jones
Best Storeman RAOC	A/Pte Atkinson
Best Clerk REME	A/Pte Banwell
Best Storeman REME	A/Pte Greenfield
Special Training Awards	A/Pte Raw
	A/Lcpl Kennedy
	A/ Pte Silcock
	A/Pte Mitchell

College Individual Awards

Small Bore Prize	Best Small Bore Shot	A/Cpl Lonnen
Best Drummer Award	For the Best Drummer	A/ Pte Reeby
SMG Cup	Best SMG Shot	A/Pte Whitley
Rifleman's Cup	Best Rifle Shot	A/Pte Draper
Crawford Tankard	Best All-round Shot	A/Pte Mason
St Albans Cup	For Initiative	A/ Sgt Wickham
MacDonald Shield	For Perseverance	A/Pte Borrett
Military Proficiency Shield	Most Proficient Soldier	A/Pte Ladley
Trade Training Cup	Best Tradesman	A/ Pte Atkinson
Education Cup	Best Scholar	A/Sgt Sanders
Sergeants' Cup	Best all rounder in military training, education, conduct sports	A/Sgt Turner

College Team Awards

Inter Company Swimming	B Company
Inter Company Basketball	A Company
Inter Company Football	A Company
Inter Company Hockey	B Company

Commanding Officer's Special Awards

Awarded to the apprentices who have contributed most to the College during the term, but who do not qualify for any other award	A/Drum Major Sutcliffe A/Pte Rees A/Lcpl King
Officers'/Sergeants' Mess Tankard	A/RSM Turner

VALETE

COLLEGE LEAVERS SPRING TERM 1974

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Baker G
A/Sgt Clements S
A/Pte Crowhurst S G
A/Pte Eggins C R
A/Pte Farrow S A
A/Pte Fulcher K E J
A/Pte Gardner W
A/Sgt Griffiths S
A/Cpl Keating P J
A/Pte Killeen P J
A/Pte Lynam M D
A/Pte Morgan B P
A/Pte Roe I M
A/RSM Turner S C
A/Pte West P J
A/Pte Wood D C
A/Cpl Wright M I

TECHNICAL CLERK RAOC

A/Cpl Foster S J
A/Lcpl Jones P R
A/Pte Olejnik J R

STOREMAN RAOC

A/Pte Atkinson S B
A/Pte Beard P E
A/Cpl Bennett I L
A/Pte Foulds A G
A/Pte Hughes S T
A/Pte Jupp S P
A/Lcpl Kennedy L M
A/Pte Mains J C
A/Pte Morton A
A/Lcpl Nicholson J
A/Pte Raw S
A/Pte Silcock T F
A/Pte Stewart R
A/D Maj Sutcliffe P K

CLERK REME

A/Pte Banwell J A
A/Lcpl Bates C L
A/Pte Henshall A
A/Pte McClung J
A/Pte Moffatt O P
A/Pte Sanders K P
A/Pte Smith J R
A/Pte Stowe M
A/Pte Tregidga C
A/Sgt Turner N
A/Sgt Wickham G D

STOREMAN REME

A/Pte Clayton D A H C
A/Pte Cowley P M
A/Pte Greenfield I D
A/Pte Harris M J
A/Pte Huff P M
A/Pte Madine P M
A/Pte Midgley P
A/Pte Mitchell D K
A/Pte Mortimore P R
A/Pte Nunn S J
A/Sgt O'Rourke W M
A/Cpl Riley M S
A/Pte Vance W S
A/Cpl Wake F
A/Cpl Walker W A

COLLEGE LEAVERS WINTER TERM 1973

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Bimson G A
A/Pte Blank D
A/Pte Burgin H
A/Pte Cammack K
A/Cpl Clark D
A/Pte Cole W D

A/Pte Crawford B L
A/Pte Day E
A/Pte Evans S D
A/Pte Gordon G
A/Sgt Gowers M C
A/Pte Jones H
A/Sgt Kilby J H
A/Pte Lane A
A/Sgt Lawrenson B
A/Pte Mays R A
A/Cpl Minshall K B
A/Pte Nicholson K M
A/Cpl Peters M G
A/Pte Rae D J
A/Sgt Roberts K E
A/Lcpl Smith K J
A/Pte Smith G K
A/Pte Young W J

TECHNICAL CLERK RAOC

A/Lcpl Barraclough S M
A/Pte Bowles C C
A/Cpl Crawford A
A/Pte Franklin T R
A/Pte Henderson M
A/Pte Jones S A
A/Pte Lovell J F
A/Pte Oakey H G
A/Pte Wing R W

STOREMAN RAOC

A/Pte Arden B
A/Pte Beck C
A/Cpl Beresford A
A/Pte Brock D R
A/Pte Budd P
A/Pte Burns K
A/Pte Caldwell J A
A/Pte Cole S
A/Pte Davis E W
A/Pte Ede P C
A/Pte Edmunds R H
A/Pte Hallam K G
A/Pte Harris C W
A/Sgt Henderson F J
A/Sgt Hulse I L
A/Pte Jack S D
A/Pte Jones P
A/Sgt Jones R A
A/Pte Kemble M A
A/Pte Knotts R S
A/Pte Leathley D P
A/Cpl Leigh M R
A/Pte Low B R
A/Pte Marshall J D
A/Pte McKie P G
A/Pte McMonagle R
A/Pte Miller J A
A/Pte Mosey I
A/Pte Palmer B D
A/Pte Peckover M E
A/Pte Sheffield A W
A/Pte Spragg N
A/Pte Tarwacki J E
A/Pte Tracy R
A/Lcpl Wilson J T

CLERK REME

A/Lcpl Banks C W
A/Pte Brown N A C
A/Cpl Edmonds A
A/Pte Holmes D A
A/Pte Howes I D
A/Pte Jones H D
A/Pte McLean W
A/Pte Moss P B
A/Pte Sim R N

STOREMAN REME

A/Pte Dickson J McI
A/Pte Gibb I M
A/Pte Glenn P D
A/Pte Hancock N J
A/Pte Goodwin G P
A/Pte Mullan I A
A/Pte Nicholls D R
A/Pte Taylor S
A/CSM Wall P F
A/Pte Watson M A

CLERK INTELLIGENCE CORPS

A/Sgt McGarry R

COLLEGE LEAVERS SUMMER TERM 1973

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Lcpl Briggs S
A/Sgt Brown M R
A/Pte Brown K G
A/Pte Clarke J W
A/Pte Donohoe S J
A/Sgt Flinn D
A/Pte Hartley A
A/Pte Humphreys C J
A/Pte James M T
A/Pte Jones C A
A/Pte Lane J
A/Pte MacDonald W E
A/CSM McCallion T L
A/Sgt Omerod J
A/Pte Pearce T
A/Pte Pendleton K
A/Pte Prince R
A/Lcpl Redgewell N A M
A/Pte Wallace J M
A/Pte Willis K J

TECHNICAL CLERK RAOC

A/Sgt Calder N D

A/Pte Carter P J
A/Pte Hallum R J
A/Sgt Johnson H T
A/Pte McKinnon C G
A/Sgt O'Keefe P J
A/RSM Tarr R P

STOREMAN RAOC

A/Pte Baker P C
A/Lcpl Basford E G
A/Sgt Bennett V
A/Pte Billson J L
A/Pte Bolton S P
A/Pte Bowhay D W
A/Lcpl Caddick G
A/Cpl Cannell R
A/Pte Carpenter D E
A/Pte Crouch I A
A/Pte Cullen J
A/Pte Edwards D J
A/Pte Fox A J
A/Pte Hay R F
A/Pte Hodson E
A/Pte Jones A R
A/Lcpl Jubbs D A
A/Pte Kennedy N
A/Pte Knight C V
A/Pte Langshaw P A
A/Pte Little C D
A/Pte Machado L P
A/Pte Pearce T
A/Pte Pettigrew D S
A/Cpl Stevens C C
A/Cpl Tait B
A/Pte Western R J

CLERK REME

A/Cpl Burkhill D
A/Sgt Wallis R
A/Cfn Wallis R

STOREMAN REME

A/Sgt Lince D G
A/Cfn McGuire M J
A/Cfm Nicholls S J
A/Lcpl Singleton G

CLERK INTELLIGENCE CORPS

A/Cpl Baxter R E
A/Sgt Voddon M

PERSONALITIES LEAVING THE COLLEGE

Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major R P Tarr

Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major Tarr joined the College on the 14 September 1971 at the age of 15½ years, having been educated at the Willow Town Secondary Modern School. He had a previous history of five years with the Army Cadet Force. He joined Parsons Platoon 'B' Company and was recognised as NCO material almost immediately, being promoted to Apprentice Lance Corporal on 21 April 1972 and Apprentice Corporal only two months later. With the introduction of 'C' Company in September 1972 he was transferred and promoted to Apprentice Sergeant. 'C' Company had a vacancy for a Company Sergeant Major and Tarr was selected on merit from the six Apprentice Sergeants of the Company and promoted on 20 October 1972. In January 1973 he was selected to be Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major.

Keen on rugby he has been a regular member of the College team since he first joined us, and captained the team on a number of occasions. His main hobby is pottery. Educationally he has passed College Junior and Intermediate and gained a good grade in CSE maths. His end of term reports show that he has been highly regarded by everyone with whom he has come in contact.

Apprentice Company Sergeant Major McCallion

Apprentice Company Sergeant Major McCallion joined Cutforth Platoon 'B' Company, in September 1971. He was promoted to Apprentice Lance Corporal in September 1972 and he rose through the Apprentice NCO ranks attaining the position of Apprentice Company Sergeant Major in May 1973.

During his time at the College he has proved himself to be an outstanding athlete gaining College colours for athletics and cross-country and Surrey County Association of Boys Clubs colours for Athletics. He was also awarded a plaque for gaining the most points in cross-country competitions in SE District in 1972. He has represented his Platoon in many sports including soccer and hockey.

He now moves on to be employed as a Staff Clerk in the RAOC

Apprentice Company Sergeant Major P F Wall REME

Apprentice Company Sergeant Major Wall joined Cutforth Platoon, 'B' Company, in September 1971 and together with five other Apprentices of this 'vintage platoon' rose to Apprentice Warrant Officer rank. He was in fact promoted to Apprentice Lance Corporal in September 1972 and he rose through the Apprentice NCO ranks attaining his present position of Apprentice Company Sergeant Major in September 1973.

In his fourth term he attended the civilian Outward Bound School at Ashburton and and did very well on the course.

He has done particularly well at sport during his time here. He swam for the College, gaining his colours in his second season. He has also been a regular member of the College Small Bore shooting team and he also plays football for the College 2nd XI.

On passing out he is to ply his trade as a Storeman in the REME.

Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major S C Turner

Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major Turner joined the College in September 1971 and was awarded the trophy as 'Best Recruit' at the end of his first term. His third term resulted in promotion to A/Cpl and a visit to his old school on a recruiting campaign.

In January 1973 Turner was promoted to A/Sgt and sent off to Towyn Outward Bound School where he received an excellent report. Promotion to A/CSM followed and with it an attachment to the Commando Logistic Regiment for an exercise in Cyprus.

In September 1973 he was promoted A/RSM of the College, taking his place as Commander of the Passing Out Parade. After the parade the Inspecting Officer congratulated Turner on the confident and efficient way with which he took the parade.

A/RSM Turner has also represented the College and the Training Centre at .22 and full bore shooting, being instrumental in the winning of half a dozen trophies last term.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Alford J	WO 1	Jul 59	Ord Depot Cyprus	Married. 1 daughter. Work Study Operator. Served Chilwell, Brunei, Borneo, BAOR, Bahrein, CVD Hilton. Promoted substantive WO I 30 Apr 73.
Allsopp M	Pte	Jul 72	Higher Education Centre. BAOR	Served in Hong Kong before BAOR. Has signed on for 22 years.
Anderson L	LCpl	Nov 71	280 Petroleum Filling Platoon 47 Coy 10 Ord Sp Bn, Devices, Wilts	Has served with UNICYP and has visited Jamaica on exercise
Barker A	Pte	Apr 73	HQ 7 Armd Bde BFPO 37	Staff clerk in Registry at HQ 7 Armd Bde
Beales P	Sgt	Dec 66	86 Supply Depot BFPO 20	Now Chief Clerk. Has served in Bahrein and with HQ UKLF.

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Bowey R O D	Pte	Dec 72	COD Hong Kong BFPO 1	Has spent 12 months in Hong Kong and is now due to move to HQ 2 Div BFPO 22. Has met Lcpl D Collier at HQ BAOR BFPO 40.
Brown S	Lcpl	Aug 71	HQ 48 Gurkha Inf Bde, BFPO 1	Has served with 24 Airportable OFP, been to the Carribean on exercise and is now serving with the famous Gurkhas in Hong Kong.
Coates A	Sgt	Dec 63	HQ RAOC HQ NEARELF BFPO 53	Married with 2 children. Has served in Aden, Bicester, Thailand, Singapore, SHAPE, Sharjah, BAOR and Cyprus. Well remembered as G Trg Clerk here in 1972/73. Has met Sgt M Mays at HQ Ord Depot, Cyprus.
Cook D	Cpl	Mar 67	Ord Depot Cyprus	Married. Tech Clerk B1. Has served in Benghazi, BAOR and Cyprus. Has completed two tours in Northern Ireland.
Coulter J	Cpl	Dec 67	4 Fd Wksp REME BFPO 41	Has served as a Tech clerk in BAOR and Bahrein. Has exercised in Norway (3 times), Greece (twice) and Denmark (once)
Davis G	Sgt	Mar 62	Stores Section 61 Sta Wksp	Tech Clerk B1. Married with 2 children. Has served in BAOR, Borneo, Singapore, Belgium, Bahrein and UK Strat Reserve. Met Sgt K Reed, 657 Army Avn Sqn, BFPO 37.
Day A	Pte	Dec 73	HQ NEARELF	First posting as Staff Clerk. Serving with Pte Lawrence and Sgt Coates.
Day E	Pte	Apr 68	Ammunition Sub Depot, Singapore	Stm B1. Married with 2 children. Served in Bramley and 3 Div. Due for posting to BAOR after tour in Northern Ireland. A guided missile specialist.
Dennett M	Cpl	Apr 65	ANZUK Ord Depot Singapore	Vehicle specialist. Married, one son. Service in Borneo, Singapore and Sharjah. Attended Outward bound course in Norway.
Fisk B J	Sgt	Sep 67	3 Div Airhead Ord Coy	Married, one child. Tech Clerk Service with UNICYP in Cyprus, in Bahrein and in BAOR. Served with the first RAOC unit to act as infantry in Belfast.
Hall J W	Cpl	Aug 68	HQ RAOC Corps Tps (Central) BFPO 39	Married, two children. Staff Clerk B1. Has served in BAOR, Bahrein and MOD. Just completed two years in Belfast. Due to take part in Ex Hardtop in April-May 74 in Bavaria.

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Hilborn D	Pte	Aug 72	Ord Branch HQ 1(BR) Corps BFPO 39	Staff Clerk. Has travelled all over Germany, both as a footballer and as a skier.
Hobbins M	Cpl	Aug 65	617 Tk Tpt Wksp MSO. BFPO 103	Married, one child. Tech Clerk. Service in BAOR and Persion Gulf. 2 years in Northern Ireland. MSO in unit title stands for "Mixed Service Organisation'. He thus works witn many nationalities.
Lane A	Pte	Dec 73	HQ Land Forces Hong Kong	Staff Clerk on first posting. Employed in G Branch.
Lawrence 'Tiny'	Pte	Apr 73	HQ NEARELF BFPO 53	Staff clerk on first posting. Due for HQ BAOR in June 74. Has met Pte D Flynn at HQ Dhekelia Area, BFPO 53.
Meak W	Pte	Dec 70	65 Corps Sp Sqn Wksp REME BFPO 31	Storeman B1. Married. Still on first posting. Has taken part in adventure training in the Hartz mountains.
Middleton G	Pte	Apr 73	HQ Land Forces	Staff Clerk B3 on first posting. Due for BAOR in May 74. Is in touch with Pte R Hughes, HQ 1 (BR) Corps, BFPO 39
Robertson J	Pte	Jan 73	HQ 7 Armd Bde BFPO 37	On first posting. "I am here with no regrets and am about to buy my first car."
Stannard J	Cpl	Dec 66	HQ 51 Inf Bde BFPO 1	Married, two children. Staff Clerk with service mostly in BAOR. now in Hong Kong. Was with Cpl R Pett and Pte P Sked in HQ BAOR.
Swainson P A	Cpl	Apr 66	45 Med Regt RA Wksp REME BFPO 16	Has served with 12 OFP, 6 OFP and in Hong Kong. Married, two children. Class I Army Hockey umpire.
Thompson R	Pte	Aug 64	94 Loc Regt RA	Married, two children. Six years in Germany. One year Cyprus. Three years Bicester.
Tippet M	SSgt	Apr 64	65 Corps Supp Sqn RE BFPO 31	Tech Clerk. Married. Served HQ 15 ABOD, HQ MEC, HQ BTS, MOD and in Berlin.
Toze G	Lcpl	Dec 71	11 Fd Wksp BFPO 29	Tech Clerk B1. Has served at Bramley and now in BAOR. With him now are Pte Brierly, Pte Oakey and Lcpl Norris.
Turner C	Lcpl	Aug 66	3 Div Airhead Ord Coy, Perham Down	Staff Clerk Married with two children. Has served in Aden, Plymouth,

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
			Andover, Hants	Northern Ireland and HQ 1(BR) Corps Was six months in Millbank Hospital.
Veazey S	Cpl	Mar 68	Ord Depot Cyprus BFPO 53	Staff Clerk Married. Has served in in Malaya, Singapore and Cyprus. Has exercised in Norway. Is in touch with Cpl Tonkins, 36 Eng Regt Wksp, Maidstone and Cpl Todd, 26 Regt Wksp BAOR.
Wallace D A	Pte	Mar 70	5 Fd Wksp Stores Section	Has served in BAOR with 20 OFP and in Northern Ireland with 3 Royal Anglians. Enjoying his career.
Wallace J	Pte	Aug 73	HQ Land Forces Hong Kong BFPO 1	Staff Clerk on first posting. Has exercised for six weeks in New Zealand and has visited Australia and Brunei. Is due for posting to HQ Regt 1 (BR) Corps, BFPO 39.
Bailey A	Pte	Dec 72	24 OFP	Married. One daughter. On first posting. Has exercised for one month in Cyprus. In touch with Pte A Barker, HQ 7 Armd Bde, BFPO 37
Bowhay D	Pte	Aug 73	6 OFP	Storeman on first posting. Has had two weeks ski-ing course in Bavaria and is due to visit Sardinia with Sub-Squa club in May 74.
Brennan J	Pte	Dec 67	73 Fd Wksp A/C (SS RAOC)	Married. Two children. Has served as storeman with 10 OFP and 3 Guided Missiles Coy.
Briggs S	Pte	Sep 73	19 OFP	Staff Clerk on first posting. Has exercised in Norway and is due to visit Cyprus. Has met Pte N Calder of 24 Airportable OFP.
Brown K	Pte	Sep 72	24 Airportable OFP Topcliffe, Thirsk	Has served with CVD Ashchurch and 24 OFP. Due to visit the Isle of Man on exercise.
Caldecott K	Lcpl	Jul 71	6 OFP BFPO 24	Tech Clerk RAOC. On first posting. Has visited many European countries.
Cammack K	Pte	Dec 73	6 OFP	Staff Clerk on first posting.
Clarke T	Pte	Apr 73	19 OFP	Tech Clerk on first posting.
Cooper R	Cpl	Dec 65	73 Fd Wksp (AC) REME, BFPO 23 (S/S RAOC)	Has served as Tech Clerk with HQ 1 Div, 7 OFP, COD Bicester and HQ British Honduras Garrison. While in Honduras visited Mexico City with Garrison football team. Has met Cpl Millward of 7 Flt AAC BFPO 45.

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Corless N	Lcpl	Apr 69	73 Fd Wksp (AC) REME BFPO 23	Has served as Tech Clerk with COD Chilwell and with United Nation's Forces in Cyprus. Married
Foster M	Pte	Feb 72	20 OFP	First posting as storeman. Has been attached to BOBC Norway and taken part in Ex Snow Queen.
Frew J	Pte	Aug 71	19 Airportable OFP	Tech Clerk. Has exercised in Cyprus and Malta. Is a free-fall parachutist and has taken part in a BBC film (TV) "Those who dare". Is taking part in Army free-fall championships in May 74.
Hales P T	Pte	Aug 66	21 Combat Supplies Platoon RAOC 4 Div Regt RCT BFPO 34	Staff Clerk. Has served continuously in BAOR since leaving the College, with 10 OFP, 263 Ground Liaison Section RAF Laarbruck and 6 OFP.
Hatter W	Pte	Dec 71	73 Fd Wksp (AC) REME, BFPO 23	Married. On first posting as Storeman but has spent 11 months on detachment in Canada (BATUS)
Heaton G	Lcpl	Dec 68	73 Fd Wksp (AC) REME. BFPO 23	Married with one son. Has served in Ludgershall and Tidworth. Now in BAOR and has exercised in Hartz mountains and in the Mosel valley. Has volunteered for an Air Gunner's Course.
Hogg J	Sgt	Mar 64	73 Fd Wksp (AC) REME. BFPO 23	Tech Clerk. Married with one child. Has served in BAOR, Malaya and Chilwell.
Hughes A	Pte	Aug 65	21 C Sups Pl RAOC 4 Div Regt RCT BFPO 34	Storeman. Married. First served with 16 Para Heavy Drop Coy RAOC. Very interested still in athletics.
Jones S A	Pte	Dec 73	27 Med Regt Wksp BFPO 107	Tech Clerk. First posting. Has had two weeks skiing in Bavaria on Ex Snow Queen.
Kendrick R	Pte	Aug 72	36 Hy AD Regt RA Wksp BFPO 20	Tech Clerk. Previous service (6 months) with 1 Combat Supplies Bn
Kilgour K	Cpl	Aug 67	24 Airportable OFP Thirsk	Tech Clerk. Married, one child. Has served in Belgium, BAOR and Sharjah. Due to return to BAOR in September.
King P	Pte	Jun 70	20 OFP BAOR	Storeman on first posting. Two weeks skiing in Bavaria on Ex Snow Queen and has visited many European countries. Due to go to CAD Kineton.

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Knights M J	Pte	Apr 72	35 Engr Regt Wksp REME, BFPO 31	Storeman. After course at 'Westmoors' served at COD Bicester. Has heard from Lcpl D Collier, 1 Ord Comp Depot, BFPO 1.
Langridge P	Pte	Apr 73	27 Med Regt Wksp REME, BFPO 107	First posting as storeman. Adventure training and skiing in Bavaria
Lowe M	Ssgt	Apr 62	27 Med Regt Wksp REME, BFPO 107	Married, one child. Tech Clerk. Has served in CVD Marchington, Hong Kong, BAOR and Persian Gulf, Was Recruiting ACIO Middlesborough 70-73. Has visited most European and Persion Gulf countries as well Cyprus, Lebanon and Singapore
McGowan C	Pte	Mar 72	36 Hy AD Regt RA Wksp BFPO 20	Tech Clerk. Has served four months in Northern Ireland and has been to practice camp in Wales. Is serving with Pte Glaves.
McKinnon C	Pte	Aug 73	36 Hy AD Regt RA Wksp BFPO 20	Tech Clerk on first posting. Has been to several missile firing practice camps. Has met Pte Townsend of 22 Lt AD Regt BFPO 20
Norbury P	Pte	Apr 71	19 Airportable OFP	Storeman on first posting. Married Free-fall parachutist
O'Shea K	Cpl	Jul 65	19 Airportable OFP	Tech Clerk. Married, two children. Has served in Aden, BAOR and Persion Gulf. Is due to go to HQ AFSOUTH, Naples
Parsons N A	Pte	Dec 71	20 OFP	Storeman. Has attended BOB Centre in Norway and has skied in Bavaria Served four months in Belfast with Royal Anglians.
Plumb T	Pte	Jul 66	19 OFP	Has served as Storeman with 6 OFP in BAOR and 10 Ord Sp Bn in UK. Has exercised in Norway, Turkey, Channel Islands and Cyprus. Has just returned from 3 month detachment in Canada. Due an adventure training exercise in Rome in June.
Parkins M	Pte	Dec 72	19 OFP	Tech Clerk. Sailing and skiing in Norway and Cyprus. On course at British Outward Bound Centre in Norway - langlauf skiing canoeing and mountain climbing
Smith P	Pte	Jun 72	20 OFP BFPO 41	Married. Storeman. Previous unit CAD Bramley. Has visited Denmark.
Sweeting R	Sgt	May 53	24 OFP	RD. Married with 3 daughters and a son. A well remembered member

You might like to mention this to RSM Dorning, as Capt Powell used to teach drumming at the College.

Finally I am on a dog handler's course while waiting for my tailor's course. I have never had so much to do in all my life. Apart from all this there are opportunities to go on free-fall parachuting, skiing, canoeing, mountain climbing and gliding courses. After remarks from my friends about Bicester, I was dumbfounded to find so many things to do. I hope this has put a new light on Bicester. I am enjoying my Army career even more than at Deepcut and, I assure you, that was excellent.

Yours faithfully,

R A Jones
(ex A/Sgt Jones, Cutforth Platoon)

From United Kingdom Support Unit
Headquarters
Allied Forces Central Europe
BFPO 28

I read the other day that you were producing a magazine/journal for the College and I thought you'd be interested in the progress of your ex-boy - RSM Dunn

Pte Dunn joined HQ Allied Forces Central Europe on posting from the Apprentice College RAOC on 11 May 1971. He quickly settled down and was promoted Lcpl seven months later. Throughout his tour here, Dunn has thrown himself whole-heattedly into all activities of the unit, 'having a go' at all sports, including baseball, softball, soccer, cricket and hockey; in the latter sport he plays regularly for a Dutch team in the Holland league.

It will probably interest the other boys to know that Dunn has managed, during his short tour here, to save for and buy (now fully paid for) a new car! I enclose a photograph of Dunn plus car!

As a separate thing entirely, it may interest you to know that Lcpl Dunn is becoming a very efficient NCO and clerk. As well as this he is a most popular member of the unit. He clearly is a good advertisement for the College..



Lcpl (late A/RSM) Dunn and car!

Date	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
				of the College permanent staff and contributor to this magazine. Has served in Chilwell, Canal Zone, Tripoli, BAOR. Has exercised in Denmark and Gibraltar.
Symonds R	Pte	Aug 72	19 Airportable OFP	Storeman on first posting. Has visited Cyprus, BAOR, Denmark, Norway and is due to go to USA on adventure training.
Thorne C	Lcpl	Jul 66	Stores Sect RAOC Fd Wksp BFPO 38	Storeman. Married with 2 children. Served at Larkhill and Devizes. Is now "canoeing in and around Germany". Has skied in Norway and Bavaria.
Thynne D	Pte	Dec 72	24 OFP RAOC	Tech Clerk. "I'm thinking of decorating my suitcase because I spend so much time living out of it". Highlight - 3 months in Canada with Rapier Cold Trials Unit. Has been to Cyprus and most exercise areas in UK.

LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

24204404 Pte Jones R
COD Bicester

Dear Sir,

After three weeks now at COD Bicester I feel compelled to write to yourself to tell you how I am settling down in the Regular Army. I am sure you will be interested to know how all of your off-spring from the College are managing. Well when I first arrived here I felt very nervous and out of place. I knew nobody except my two colleagues, Ptes Knotts and Roberts, who left the College at Christmas 1973 also. They were put into different companies so we had to find our own way about. The barrack room in which I was placed came as a complete surprise to me. I found three ex-apprentices from Deepcut whom I knew. One named Pennells was the Drum Major in 1971, the others were Pte Ramage, the well known footballer of the College and Pte Cullen who joined the College on the same day as myself. So from these acquaintances I made many friends in the following days.

After I was settled in the barracks room and in my job as storeman, I was on OC's interview before Capt P Nunn. He helped me a great deal by telling me, "Don't let activities and interests find you, go out and find them." So I did. I am now in the unarmed combat team, giving displays all over England. I have been asked to enter a course for the Army Individual Diving Championship. There is a civilian Pipe and Drum band in Oxford of which the Adjutant, Capt Powell, is a member. I have joined as a drummer after excellent tutorship from RSM Dorning.

A UNIQUE OCCASION

The publication of this issue coincides with two events which, though unconnected in themselves, nevertheless through the medium of this magazine are linked in a most striking way. On the one hand, the next few weeks (I write in May) sees the retirement of Brigadier Freddie Goodwin, Commander COD Donnington, the highest ranking and longest commissioned ex-boy in the Corps. On the other hand, at the School of Ordnance, on his OO's Course is 2Lt J Laird, the newest commssioned ex-boy. We think the opportunity is too good to miss and append a few relevant details of each, at the same time wishing them both the best of luck in their new spheres. They should serve as an inspiration to all apprentices for a long time to come.

Lt J Laird

23913962 J/Pte Laird J joined the Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC in September 1962 aged fifteen years. He writes as follows: "During the two years I spent in the Battalion I was introduced to the many and varied aspects of life in the Army but most important of all I learned to love the spirit, enthusiasm and comradeship which makes our Army second to none.

In the following nine years I served as a vehicle specialist in Germany, Bahrein, Cyprus, Sharjah and the United Kingdom and probably visited another ten countries along the way. I then married and decided to attempt to gain a commission. Having survived the rigours of the selection meatgrinder at Westbury I eventually arrived in April 1973 at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Life as a Cadet at Sandhurst held few surprises and in its way reminded me of my time in the Junior Leaders. The new Sandhurst Standard Military Course is now seven months of intensive training given to all Officers and six months of academic studies on what is known as the Regular Career Course.

After completing both of these Courses I was posted to the School of Ordnance to attend a Young Officers' Course before going out into the wide world of the Ordnance Corps. By the time this article is published I shall be holding my first appointment as a Platoon Commander in A Company Training Battalion RAOC.

Wherever my career may take me in the future I know that it is built on the solid foundations of the training I received as a young soldier. So stick in, work hard and good luck."

Brigadier F S GOODWIN, CBE

Thirty-nine long years ago - in 1935 for those poor at arithmetic - a young lad walked through the gates of Hilsea Barracks for the first time. In those days there were no boy soldier units under their own titles as we know them nowadays, and Hilsea was called 'The Regimental Training Depot and HQ RAOC Records'.

After distinguishing himself as a boy soldier and showing exceptional ability at cricket, soccer and shooting - sports he was destined to continue to do well at up to Corps level - he entered man's service on 3 December 1937.

1938 saw him serving abroad for the first time, on active service in Palestine and Trans Jordan. The outbreak of war in September 1939 found him still in the Middle East and it was in 1942 that he was taken prisoner at Tobruk. The life as a POW in Italy held no appeal and, as one would expect in such a determined character, he made his escape in 1943. He now joined up with, first the Italian,



Lt J Laird



Brigadier F S Goodwin CBE

and then the Yugoslav, partisans.

In 1944 he was back in England and over to Europe with 5 Para Bde Gp. He served with them in the Ardennes and on into Germany. For deeds with this force he was Mentioned in Despatches in March 1945. The end of the war in Europe came and Brigadier Freddie went, this time, to Malaya and Java.

Peace time soldiering started for him again and among the places he has served and appointments he has held with distinction are:

Commanding an Inf Div OFP in BAOR
DADOS War Office, 1948/51 and 1957/58
CPO Didcot, very much involved with 'Nettlerash'
CPO Donnington
Deputy Inspector 1966/68
Commandant, 3 BOD 1968/70
Commandant, Longtown 1970/71
DDOS Southco 1971/72
Commandant, Donnington from April 1972

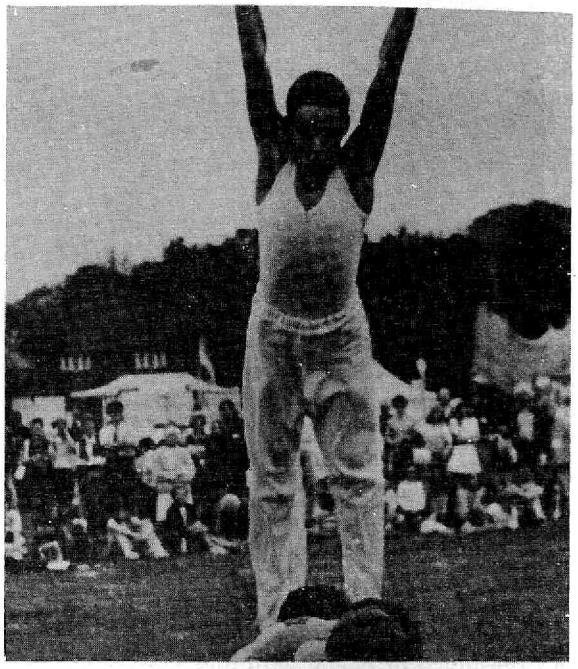
In June 1970 he was appointed as a Commander of the British Empire, for service in Singapore.

Born in Kildare of an English father and Irish mother, it was quite natural that in 1949 he chose as his bride a charming Irish nurse, Valentine.

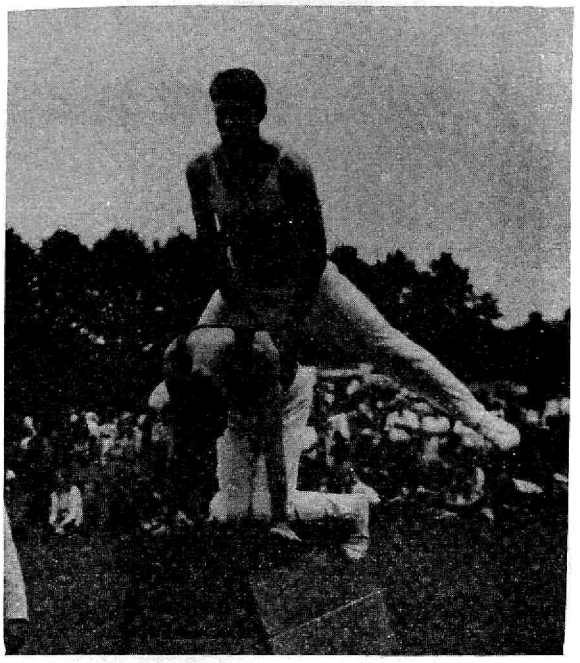
After his retirement at the end of June he will be living in his delightful home at Five Oak Green in Kent.

MISCELLANY

As an appendix to the magazine, or more truthfully, as an afterthought, we publish a number of photographs which show graphically some of the less publicised activities of the College and for which very little, if any, test exists. We hope the captions will be adequate explanation, and provide sufficient interest.



A/Cpl Woodall in full flight. Morden July 1973



A/Lcpl Smith assisted by Cpl Carter (APTI) Morden 1973

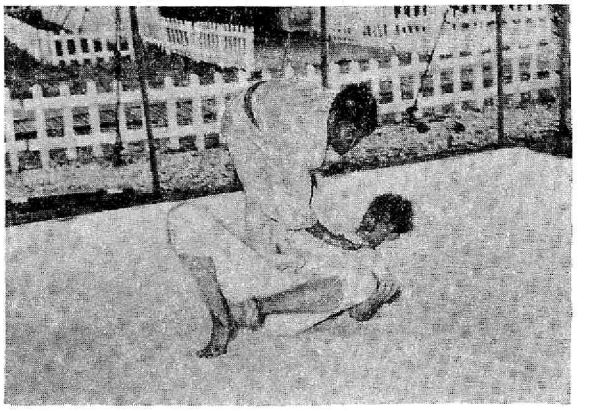


THE COLLEGE PT DISPLAY TEAM AT MORDEN JULY 1973

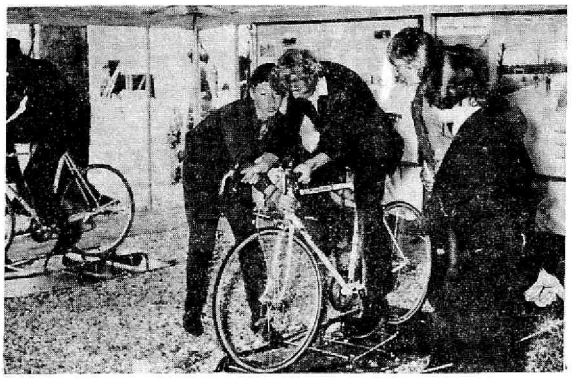
A/Sgt Kilby *A/Cpl Woodall* *A/Lcpl Smith*
A/Sgt Crawford *A/Pte Stray* *A/Pte Allen*



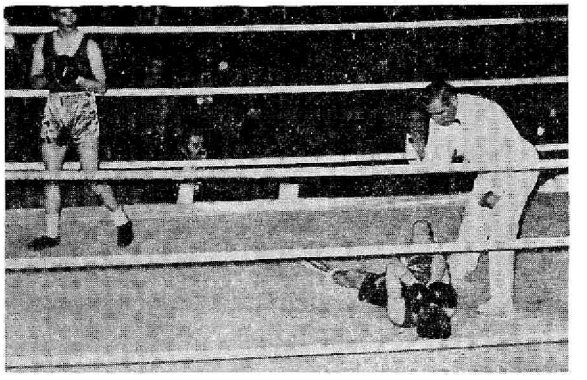
The College contribution to the "New Envoy" Army Show, Aldershot 1973



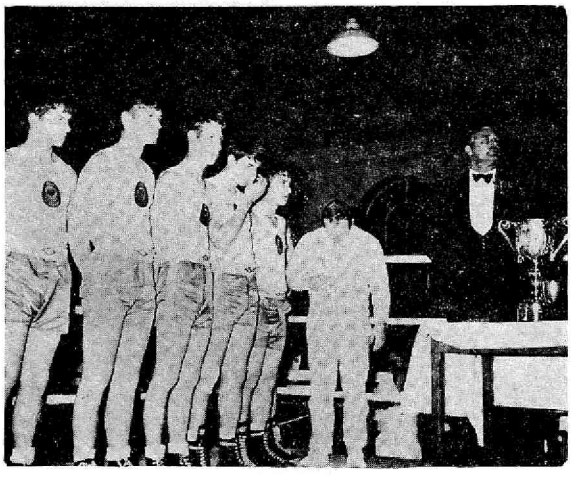
Inside the Display Tent, "New Envoy" Army Show A/Pte Cureton and A/Pte Richardson demonstrate their judo prowess



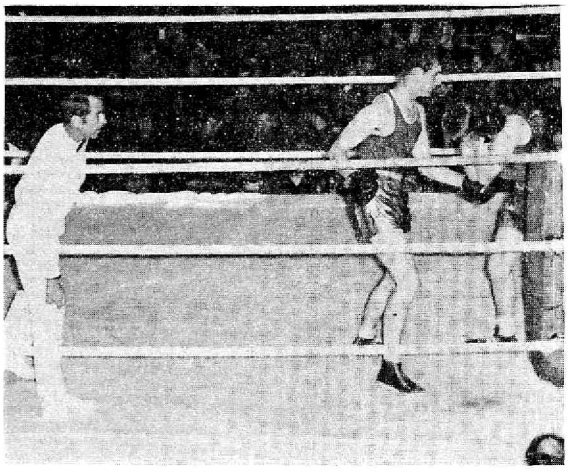
Inside the tent again. A/Pte Miller keeps the visitors interested



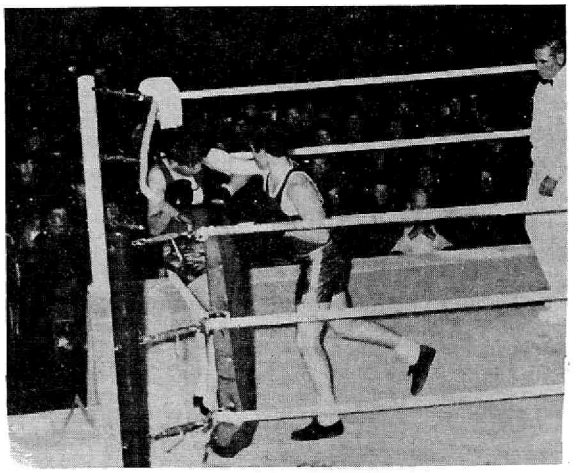
A/Pte Barratt in convincing mood against the Junior Leaders RA



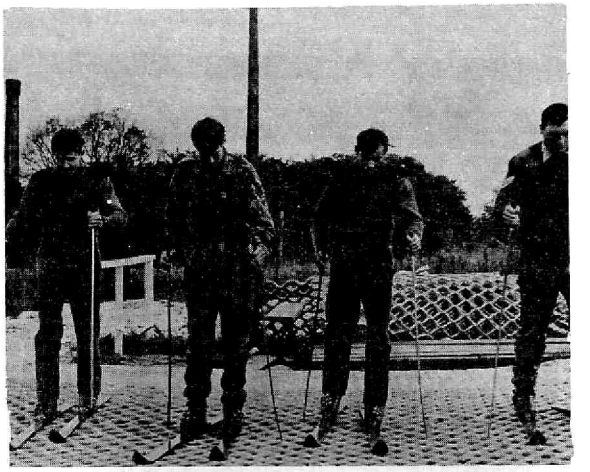
The College Boxing Team for the finals of the Army Junior Cup v Junior Guardsmen
A/Sgt Marson A/L cpl King A/Pte Reeby
A/Lcpl Russell A/CSM Holroyd A/Pte Jones M



A/Pte Moffatt, our current Army Junior Champion at 75 kg, in action against Junior Leaders RA



A/Lcpl Russell also in action against Junior Leaders RA



On the ski-training slope in Aldershot prior to adventures in Europe. A/Pte O'Lejnick A/Pte Eggins A/Pte Morton Sgt Michael



Brigadier Davies, the Training Centre Commander, visiting troops in the front line. Cultybraggen September 1973. Lt Wood Brigadier Davies A/Ptes Pritchard Gloster Mann Keast



Disbandment of C Company, December 1973 Officers fall out . . . . . .



Carry on potting! Major Charles Nockle's interest and enthusiasm shows little sign of abating



The rivals. Pupil and Mentor A/RSM Turner and WOI (RSM) Dorning