The Thunderbolt

Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College



March 1981

Issue No 11

The Thunderbolt

JOURNAL OF THE
RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

Front Cover:
The 1980 College cheque for the White Lodge Spastic Centre. Receiving the cheque is the Centre Administrator, Mrs Carol Myer. Attending her are APtes Campion, Jervis and ALcpl Ward of the Corps of Drums, and ASgt Harrison, APte Brown and ALcpl Haywood of the platoon which raised most money. Attending the children are the CO and Mrs Toni Short, wife of the Training Centre Commander. *(see page 82).*



Lieutenant Colonel K E Curtis RAOC

Commanding Officer RAOC Apprentices College

FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

In my first year as Commanding Officer of this College I wrote "There can be few occupations which give so much satisfaction, sense of achievement and reward like that of supervising and training young men".

It is with pleasure that after some two and a half years I still feel the same sense of achievement and pride. This magazine is about these young men and what they can achieve by enthusiasm, hard work and a sense of pride in their chosen profession. They all undergo a rigorous training which covers not only military skills, but education, character building and adventurous pursuits; many of these activities being recorded in the pages of this magazine.

Both the Corps represented at the College, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers can be justifiably proud of our Apprentices' achievements over the last year. Many major military and sporting competitions have been won and those apprentices who did not make the "First Teams", have participated in all activities and shown determination and a desire to improve and learn.

The whole training cycle leaves me in no doubt that the adult Army of the future will be well served by these young men. Another pleasing feature of the youth of today is the willingness with which they help members of the community less fortunate than themselves. This has been done by assisting local hospitals, old peoples' homes and schools for handicapped children. Not only have they given hundreds of hours of their free time, but they have raised nearly £4,000 for charities in the current year.

I am shortly to leave the College and my departure will be tinged with sadness; but I leave knowing that the College will continue to produce fine young soldiers. I will meet many of those who have passed through the College and are already on the promotion ladder.

May I then, on behalf of the apprentices and myself, thank publicly the civilian and military permanent staff who give so much during the training term, and also the parents, guardians and friends of our apprentices who through their support and help encourage us in our training tasks.

EDITORIAL

Literary Editor

Mr W E Smith

Publication Editor

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

To be a "first" in anything is truly memorable and such an achievement often finds its way into the record books. The very first School Magazine in Great Britain was published in 1786 - a fact of history for all to read about. It was called "The Microcosm - a Periodical" and was produced by Gregory Griffen at Eton College.

"Thunderbolt" can lay no claim to such a distinguished heritage. It has yet to reach its twenty-first birthday and come of age. But at least it does resemble "The Microcosm" in one respect - it does aim to publish a "miniature" representation of College life over the past year. At that point ambition is bound to take over and everything becomes a matter for the Editorial Board, the compositors, photographers, artists and reporters. All of us can only pray that our ambition is not misunderstood nor is it of the "puffed" up variety. It does not seek to vaunt itself but merely to be charitable in all things.

We should all be proud of our College and its achievements. It is both right and proper that we sing its praises in whatever vehicle of expression we are best at. Our magazine aims to do just that by the very fact of its production and to that end we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all who have played any part, large or small, in putting it all together. The Printing and Reproduction Branch, Central Ordnance Depot Donnington, by courtesy of the Depot Commander, Brigadier B A Barratt OBE, probably play the "star" role in our small show and for their expert performance we shall ever be both grateful and indebted.

To revert to the mundane, however, perhaps some explanation is needed as to why this magazine failed to appear on schedule last December. The truth is that in the past we have taken advantage of some ambient generosity in MOD finances. Last October, as a result of stringent economies imposed by the Government, this generosity ceased suddenly and sickeningly. Everything became a matter of priority and this magazine, unfortunately, had little. So we were left to publish when we could and March 81 had to be the earliest. At the time of writing one can only hope that this forecast will hold.

The enforced postponement of our date of publication caused us to think and we now believe that not only is a magazine in December difficult, being so out-ranked, but a magazine in March is equally off-key, After all, most apprentices arrive in September each year and leave either in August the following year (REME) or in December (RAOC). Now since it takes a whole term to convert copy into print it follows that a publication in December only reports on events up to the previous August. So, REME apprentices leaving in August never are given a copy of the magazine which mainly records their activities, nor is it really intelligible to the new recruits who arrive in September although they form the bulk of the recipients. On the other hand a publication in March, like this, is not really much better, for it records only one term's activities of those who receive it, and those

whose activities it mostly reports upon (both RAOC and REME) have long gone.

Next year, therefore, (1982) it is planned to publish in August so that the previous September intake, RAOC and REME, will receive before they leave a copy of Thunderbolt that is relevant to them and their time here. It will contain at least two terms' news and photographs of the Apprentices to whom it is given.

Finally a word to our contributors who, we hope, will be cast in a different mould. The quality and standard of this magazine is directly proportionate to the quality and standard of its copy. Without good copy (literary and visual) this magazine, no matter how clever and skilful the editorial expertise, cannot succeed. Yet succeed we must - for we are your publicists! However average, above average, or outstanding your professional gradings may be, they can only but be bettered by good publicity. A striking submission even to this relatively unknown bit of the media could have a profound effect careerwise. Moreover, it would be on your own terms and on your own say-so. Don't forget it worked for Montgomery in the Western Desert and for Templer in the Malayan jungle. So when you, as company or platoon commanders, or as officers in charge of a sport or hobby, take part with your charges in some interesting and newsworthy event, make sure it is properly recorded both in writing and in pictures either as it occurs or immediately afterwards while recall is still sharp and vital. In the long run it amounts to enlightened self-interest. For our part this advice is almost entirely selfless. The more you contribute the more work we have to endure. Luckily, your editors after this will only have one more issue to put to bed!

STAFF LISTS SEPTEMBER 1979 - DECEMBER 1980

	Winter Term 1979	Spring Term 1980	Summer Term 1980	Winter Term 1980
COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS				
Commanding Officer	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC
Second in Command	Capt C P T Powrie RAOC	Maj E Champion RAOC	Maj E Champion RAOC	Major C R Coote RAOC
Adjutant	Capt P J Taylorson RAOC	Capt P J Taylorson RAOC	Capt P J Taylorson RAOC	Capt P J Taylorson RAOC
Padre	Rev M R Ryall RAChD	Rev M R Ryall RAChD	Rev M R Ryall RAChD	Rev M R Ryall RAChD
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO1(RSM) P Mackey RAOC	WO1(RSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO1(RSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO1(RSM) B A Hosband RAOC
Chief Clerk	WO2(SQMS) A Purvis RAOC	WO2(SQMS) A Purvis RAOC	WO2(SQMS) A Purvis RAOC	WO2(SQMS) A Purvis RAOC
G Clerk	Cpl C J Ward RAOC			Cpl K M Nicholson RAOC
HQ COMPANY				
College Training Officer	Capt E G Walcroft RAOC	Capt E G Walcroft RAOC	Capt E G Walcroft RAOC	Capt E G Walcroft RAOC
Assistant College Training Officer	WO2(CSM) T J Miller RAOC	WO2(CSM) T J Miller RAOC	WO2(CSM) T J Miller RAOC	WO2(CSM) T J Miller RAOC
Training Clerk	Cpl G L B Simpson RAOC	Sgt C J Ward RAOC	Sgt C J Ward RAOC	Sgt C J Ward RAOC
TRAINING WING				
Skill at Arms	SSgt M A Bloomfield RAOC Sgt I L Cook RAOC	SSgt M A Bloomfield RAOC	Ssgt M A Bloomfield RAOC	SSgt M A Bloomfield RAOC
External Leadership Training	Ssgt H J Green RAOC Sgt J Edwards RAOC Sgt L C Thwaites RAOC	Ssgt H J Green RAOC Sgt L C Thwaites RAOC Sgt J Edwards RAOC	Ssgt H J Green RAOC Sgt L C Thwaites RAOC Sgt J Edwards RAOC	Ssgt L C Thwaites RAOC Sgt J Edwards RAOC
Physical Training	SSI C J Tofield APTC Sgt P Ritchie RAOC Cpl N R Langton RAOC Cpl T J Ruscoe RAOC Lcpl S Hawkins REME Lcpl D Woollaston RAOC	SSI R Mather APTC Cpl N R Langton RAOC Cpl S Hawkins REME Cpl T J Ruscoe RAOC Lcpl D Woollaston RAOC	QMSI R Mather APTC Cpl N R Langton RAOC Cpl S Hawkins REME Cpl T J Ruscoe RAOC Cpl D Woollaston RAOC	QMSI R Mather APTC Cpl N R Langton RAOC Cpl S Hawkins REME Cpl T J Ruscoe RAOC Cpl D Woollaston RAOC
Military Training	Sgt D J Fox RAOC Sgt A W Inder REME Sgt P W Wilkie RAOC	Sgt R G Howell REME Sgt D J Fox RAOC Sgt A W Inder REME	Sgt T J Hladkij RAOC Sgt R G Howell REME Sgt D J Fox RAOC	Sgt R G Howell REME Sgt D J Fox RAOC Sgt A W Inder REME

	Winter Term 1979	Spring Term 1980	Summer Term 1980	Winter Term 1980
Military Training - contd	Cpl R Bullon REME	Cpl R Bullon REME	Sgt A W Inder REME	Sgt T J Hladkij RAOC
	Cpl T J Hladkij RAOC	Cpl S G Jenkins REME	Cpl R Bullon REME	Cpl R Bullon REME
	Cpl S G Jenkins REME	Cpl T J Watson REME	Cpl S G Jenkins REME	Cpl S G Jenkins REME
	Cpl T J Watson REME	Cpl R Clarke RAOC	Cpl T J Watson REME	Cpl T J Watson REME
	Lcpl D C Constable RAOC	Cpl T J Hladkij RAOC	Cpl R Clarke RAOC	Cpl R Clarke RAOC
		Cpl W Gibson RAOC	Cpl W Gibson RAOC	Cpl W Gibson RAOC
		Lcpl D Constable RAOC	Cpl D Constable RAOC	Cpl D Constable RAOC
Projectionist & Aids Store	Lcpl T I Evans RAOC	Lcpl T I Evans RAOC	Lcpl T I Evans RAOC	
BURSAR'S DEPARTMENT				
Bursar	Maj (Retd) G H W Neal	Maj (Retd) G H W Neal	Maj (Retd) G H W Neal	Maj (Retd) G H W Neal
WRVS	Miss P Riddell	Miss P Riddell	Miss P Riddell	Miss P Riddell
SRN		Sister P Walker	Sister P Walker	Sister P Walker
ADMIN WING				
Admin WO	WO2(SQMS) D Nolan RAOC	WO2(SQMS) D Nolan RAOC	WO2(SQMS) D Nolan RAOC	WO2(SQMS) E W Patterson RAOC
Admin Corporal	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC	Cpl P Coney RAOC	Cpl P Coney RAOC	Cpl P Coney RAOC
Armoury		Cpl S Harper RAOC	Cpl S Harper RAOC	Cpl T I Evans RAOC
Provost	Sgt J H Thomas RAOC	Sgt J M Clarke RAOC	Sgt J M Clarke RAOC	Sgt T Kelly RTR
	Cpl J G Dixon RAOC	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC
	Lcpl M A Holt RAOC	Lcpl M Holt RAOC	Cpl J G Dixon RAOC	Cpl D A James RAOC
			Lcpl M A Holt RAOC	
CATERING				
Kitchen Manager	Ssgt R A Connor ACC	Ssgt D Hale ACC	Ssgt D Hale ACC	Ssgt D Hale ACC
	Sgt S T Larkin ACC	Sgt S T Larkin ACC	Sgt S T Larkin ACC	Sgt S T Larkin ACC
A COMPANY				
Officer Commanding	Maj I F Mills REME	Maj I F Mills REME	Maj I F Mills REME	Maj I F Mills REME
Second in Command	Capt J K Hardcastle RAOC	Capt J K Hardcastle RAOC	Capt J K Hardcastle RAOC	Capt T I Bunyard REME

	Winter Term 1979	Spring Term 1980	Summer Term 1980	Winter Term 1980
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) J Finch RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J Finch RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J Finch RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J Finch RAOC
Arnhem Platoon	Capt M D Wood RAOC Sgt F J Keogh RAOC	Capt J K Hardcastle RAOC Sgt F J Keogh RAOC	Capt R A C Eccles RAOC Sgt F J Keogh RAOC	Capt R A C Eccles RAOC Sgt F J Keogh RAOC
Arakan Platoon	Lt D C Inshaw RAOC Sgt N P Botfield RAOC	Lt D C Inshaw RAOC Sgt N P Botfield RAOC	Lt D C Inshaw RAOC Sgt D F Hampton RAOC	Lt D C Inshaw RAOC Sgt D F Hampton RAOC
Anguilla Platoon	Lt K G Marshall RAOC Sgt P W Daniel REME	Lt W D Oldham RAOC Sgt R S Gatley RAOC	Sgt R S Gatley RAOC	Lt P L Freegard RAOC Sgt R S Gatley RAOC
Aden Platoon	Lt C F Nisbet RAOC Sgt B Reynolds REME	Lt C F Nisbet RAOC Sgt B Reynolds REME	Lt W D Oldham RAOC Sgt B Reynolds REME	Capt W D Oldham RAOC Sgt R P Tarr RAOC
Alamein Platoon	Capt A R L Jaggers REME Sgt S P Bradley REME	Lt G P Moore REME Sgt S P Bradley REME	Lt G P Moore REME Sgt S P Bradley REME	Lt G P Moore REME Sgt S P Bradley REME
Ardennes Platoon	Capt D D Matheson REME Sgt J M Clarke RAOC	Capt D D Matheson REME Sgt E C Leach RAOC	Lt K G Marshall RAOC Sgt E C Leach RAOC	Capt A Rigby RAOC Sgt E C Leach RAOC
B COMPANY				
Officer Commanding	Maj E Champion RAOC	Maj T A Glen RAOC	Maj T A Glen RAOC	Maj T A Glen RAOC
Second in Command	Capt A N B Jelly RAOC	Capt A N B Jelly RAOC	Capt A N B Jelly RAOC	Capt A N B Jelly RAOC
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J N Robertson RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J N Robertson RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J N Robertson RAOC
Bruneval Platoon	Lt A Shepherd REME Sgt J W Starkey RAOC	Lt A Shepherd REME Sgt J W Starkey RAOC	Lt A Shepherd REME Sgt J W Starkey RAOC	Lt I B Biddle REME Sgt D A Hogan REME
Brunei Platoon	2Lt J E S Redwood RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC	2Lt J E S Redwood RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC	2Lt J E S Redwood RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC	Lt J E S Redwood RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC
Benghazi Platoon	Capt T I Bunyard REME Sgt G H Mack RAOC		Lt S Parry RAOC Sgt J H Woodcock RAOC	Lt S Parry RAOC Sgt J H Woodcock RAOC
Burma Platoon	Lt B N Groves RAOC Sgt S J Squires REME	Lt B N Groves RAOC Sgt P Ritchie RAOC	Lt A S J Booth REME Sgt S Squires REME	Lt W L Hutton REME Sgt S Squires REME

	Winter Term 1979	Spring Term 1980	Summer Term 1980	Winter Term 1980
Balaclava Platoon	Lt I S J Cassidy REME	Lt I B Biddle REME	Lt I B Biddle REME	Lt M J Knight RAOC
	Sgt C J Taylor REME	Sgt C J Taylor REME		Sgt J W Starkey RAOC
Berlin Platoon	Lt I B Biddle REME	Capt T I Bunyard REME	Lt M J Knight RAOC	Lt A Shepherd REME
	Sgt D M Bevan REME	Sgt D M Bevan REME	Sgt D M J Rooke RAOC	Sgt D M J Rooke RAOC
EDUCATION WING				
Senior Education Officer	Maj D G Edwards RAEC	Maj D G Edwards RAEC	Maj D G Edwards RAEC	Maj D G Edwards RAEC
Instructors	Capt B F Kane RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC	Maj D G Beaumont RAEC
	Capt P Scott RAEC	Capt P Scott RAEC	Capt P Scott RAEC	Capt P Scott RAEC
	Lt A D Barnes RAEC	Lt A D Barnes RAEC	Lt A D Barnes RAEC	Lt A D Barnes RAEC
	Lt R M Manuel RAEC	Lt R M Manuel RAEC	Lt R M Manuel RAEC	Lt M L Bott RAEC
		Lt M Bott RAEC	Lt M Bott RAEC	Lt R M Manuel RAEC
	Lt B Flaherty WRAC	Lt B Flaherty WRAC	Lt B Flaherty WRAC	Lt B Flaherty WRAC
Civilian Lecturers	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith
	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield
	Wng Cdr (Retd) P W Hope	Wng Cdr (Retd) P W Hope	Wng Cdr (Retd) P W Hope	Wng Cdr (Retd) P W Hope
	Maj (Retd) G Forrest	Maj (Retd) G Forrest	Maj (Retd) G Forrest	Maj (Retd) G Forrest
	Maj (Retd) G B Lane	Maj (Retd) G B Lane	Maj (Retd) G B Lane	Mr M F Johnson
	Mr M F Johnson	Mr M F Johnson	Mr M F Johnson	Mr J F Watson
	Mr W Waddington	Mr W Waddington	Mr W Waddington	Mr P Heap
	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson	
	Mr P Heap	Mr P Heap	Mr P Heap	

PASSING OUT PARADES 1979 - 1980

Our parades over the period 1979-1980 have continued to live up to the demanding standards set by all our instructors. The apprentices' turnout, bearing and precision of drill earned well deserved praise not only from all our Inspecting Officers, whose names appear below, but from the many parents, guardians and visitors who continue to attend our Passing Out Parades.

Our Inspecting Officers over the past year were as follows:

Winter Term 1979

Lt General Sir George Cooper KCB MC
GOC SE District

Spring Term 1980

Major General P H Lee MBE
DGEME

Summer Term 1980

Major General J Brown
DGOS

Winter Term 1980

General Sir Richard Worsley KCB OBE
QMG

VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS

In the past year the College has been privileged to receive a number of distinguished visitors, namely:

General Sir Edwin Bramall GCB OBE MC
ADC (Gen)
Chief of the General Staff

Major General J T Stanyer CBE
Colonel Commandant

Colonel S B Rogers
Inspector RAOC

Maj General M J H Walsh DSO
DAT

Colonel Joseph L Van Camp US Army
Assistant Comdt US QM School

Although their visits were unfortunately, by necessity, somewhat brief, we managed in their tour of the College to present as many pursuits as possible, the standard of which was always highly commended.



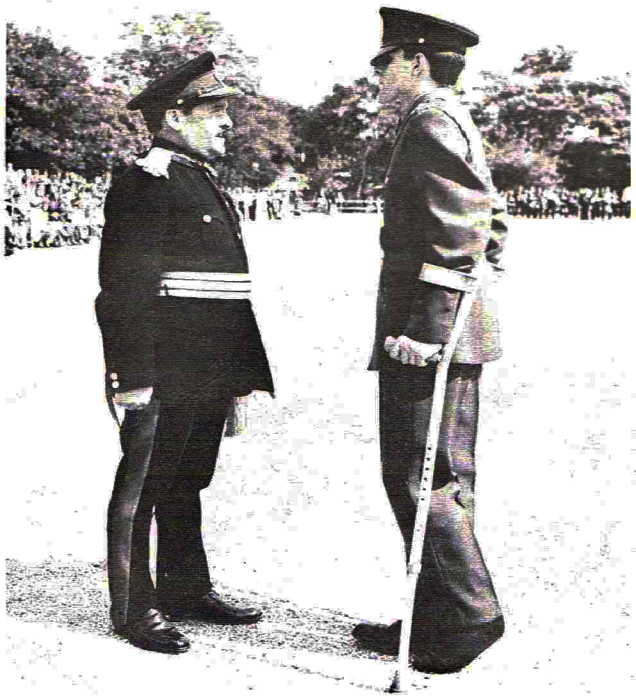
Major General P H Lee MBE DGEME inspecting term leavers on Passing Out Parade Spring Term 1980



Passing Out Parade December 1979. The Inspecting Officer Lt Gen Sir George Cooper KCB MC has a word with ACpl George of Balaclava Platoon.



The same. This time General Cooper is talking to APte Sutherland of Benghazi Platoon



Passing Out Parade August 1980. The Inspecting Officer Major General J Brown about to present the Radley Cup for Orienteering to APte Rigby of B Company



Passing Out Parade August 1980. The College RSM, WOI B A Hosband, being congratulated by General Brown after receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal



Passing Out Parade December 1980. The Inspecting Officer, General Sir Richard Worsley KCB, OBE, taking a close look at ACpl Taylor, APte Cranney, ACpl Otter and ALcpl Williams of Bruneval Platoon



The same. ASgt Hammond of Berlin Platoon receives the Toc H Cup, awarded to the Best Scholar from the Inspecting Officer, General Worsley



Passing Out Parade December 1980. Stick Orderlies are ACpls Mackay and Nelson
Identifiable faces in the front rank:
L to R. ACpl Haggart, APte Coyle, APte Murray, APte Maxwell, ACpl Bartzsch, ALcpl Barratt and APte Davy
Rear Rank: APtes Turner Bryden Taylor and Cranney

HQ COMPANY

College Training Officer Capt E G Walcroft RAOC

Assistant Training Officer WOII (CSM) T J Miller RAOC

Admin WO WOII (SQMS) E W Patterson RAOC



Rear: Cpl T Watson Cpl N Langdon LCpl P Robbins Cpl B J Shevels Pte S Goodman Sgt D Fox Pte G R Matley Cpl S Woolaston Cpl R Bullen

Centre: Sgt C J Ward SSgt L C Thwaites Sgt W Gibson LCpl A J Belford Cpl S G Jenkins Cpl B McNicholls Cpl G F Clarke Sgt J Hladkij LCpl I Johns Sgt T Kelly

Front: Mrs M Foster Mrs E Binyon Sgts S Larkin WO2 D Hale WO2 E W Patterson Capt E G Walcroft WO2(CSM) M A Bloomfield WO2 (QSMI) R Mather Ssgt D Russel Mrs A Robertson Ssgt D M J Rooke

It is difficult to write about the activities of Headquarter Company without covering ground already aptly described by the 'sufferers', those in A and B Companies who have undergone the training organised and run by HQ Coy. However, this article will attempt to look at training and exercises from the instructors point of view, taking a look at each department within HQ Company and what they have done throughout the year.

The External Leadership Training (ELT) Wing started the Winter Term 1979 in fine fashion. The leader of the Wing, SSgt Jim Green and SSI Chris Tofield APTC were in Chamonix with the purpose of completing some of the harder snow and ice routes. This training was intended as a lead-in to an attempt the climb Mount Huntingdon, Alaska, in the summer of 1980. They were joined in Chamonix by Sgts Jeff Edwards and Les Thwaites, six apprentices and myself. This newly arrived group were intending to introduce apprentices to Alpine mountaineering, and did so by climbing Mont Blanc, at over 15,600 ft, the highest mountain in Europe. A very fit (and suntanned) group arrived back in Deepcut.

Once the ELT Wing had arrived back in

Deepcut Sgt Thwaites took a party of apprentices to canoe from Warwick to Henley, spending a week on the water and covering 100 miles. Fortunately the weather was fine for most of the journey, and although many of the apprentices were not competent in the use of canoes at the start of the exercise, all finished without too many 'duckings'.

Members of the Permanent Staff were offered the opportunity of joining the ELT on Exercise Cold Comfort during the Spring term. Exercise Cold Comfort was based in Aviemore during the first two weeks of March and covered snow and ice climbing, hill walking and navigation in winter conditions. (One navigation exercise was held in a blizzard on the top of the Cairngorms. On the same day, not more than two miles from one part of the course, a lone mountaineer died through not obeying the Mountain Code ...). The climax of the exercise was a two day expedition with an overnight stay in a snow hole. It was after two members of the party had sealed themselves in their hole for the night that 6-ft 3-ins Lt Barny Groves had to be instructed in the performance of certain human functions in extremely cramped conditions.

During the same term members of the ELT Wing helped A and B Companies on their Company camps in Fremington, Devon. Sgt Edwards and Sgt John Hladkij ran the climbing and abseiling, the climbing being done at Chudleigh rocks and the abseiling at Fremington. SSgt Thwaites and Cpl 'Russ' Ruscoe spent most of their time either in or on the water teaching canoeing. When they stand in the sea, in March, for almost six hours a day, it is a wonder they do not shrink!

The summer term was exceptionally busy for the ELT Wing, with two weeks being spent on summer camp followed immediately by six weeks on Platoon ELT camps in Capel Curig in North Wales. As if this was not enough individual members of the Wing either helped other units as instructors, or went away on courses to improve their own individual skills. The high point of the term was Ssgt Green and his team of Army climbers who attempte to climb Mount Huntington in Alaska. The team struggled valiantly against atrocious weather, but decided to give up the attempt after two members had been caught in an avalanche and two members had fallen into crevasses - fortunately all without injury.

The largest training contingent to be found in HQ Company is Training Wing. Their main expertise is in the subject of: Skill-at-Arms (which includes instruction in the 7.62-mm self loading rifle, 9-mm sub machine gun, 7.62-mm light machine gun, 9-mm pistol and 66-mm anti-tank rocket, and the organisation and safety of range firing for those weapons); Nuclear Biological and Chemical defence and its equipment and First Aid).

Winter term 1979 saw the College Annua Firing Camp where the brunt of the wor fell, naturally, upon the shoulders of Training Wing. Not only did they arrange the firing of all weapons already mentioned, but also organised ranges designed to improve snap shooting at opportunity targets. The best range for snap shooting was a .22 rifle indoor range where the firers fired at a cinema screen which showed films of 'real' enemy, as opposed to dummy targets. The weather for the Firing Camp was abyssmal and required firing point NCOs to stand in the rain for eight hours a day, and then for a further two hours on night fighting. It was noticed by the Junior NCOs that CSM Dusty Miller and SSgt Taff Bloom-field were always heatedly discussing who should work in the warm console of the Electrical Target Range.

The Training Wing always seem to book bad weather for their main range days In the Spring term during the three day College Skill-at-Arms competition they managed to arrange not only rain but snow and sleet as well. Cpls Constable and Jenkins were probably the happiest of the snowmen, and it

must be said that is was through the resilience of the range organizers that the competition was such a success.

Summer term proved to be very eventful for the Training Wing. Early in the term the whole of the Company moved to Tenby in South Wales to set up and run the College summer camp. Cpl Watson, who did stirling work last year helping with watermanship, unfortunately missed this year's camp so that he could have another operation on his feet. He has spent more time under 'the knife' and had more tax payers money spent on him than the six-million dollar man. It was during summer camp that CSM Miller managed to fracture an ankle whilst running - a case of having your summer break a little early. Cpl Gibson helped to organise (or should it be disorganize?) the Great Rosebush Nautical Disaster in the Precilly Hills, but his absence was noted on the final 'disaster' of the sinking of the permanent staff raft in Rosebush Quarry. Cpl Cooney helped the MTO to organise transportation and much of the servicing was completed by his fair hand. Both he and Cpl Clarke were instrumental in the recovery of vehicles, boats and trailers which failed to reach Deepcut on the return journey.

The Summer term's slightly better weather has aided the Skill-at-Arms instructors and members of the College shooting team to spend fruitful hours on the ranges. The College shooting team under the able direction of the CSM and Sgt Fox came back from their various shoots with an armful of 'pots' and medals - which mean that Sgt Kelly and the Provo staff will have more trophies to keep clean in the College display cabinet!

The Gym has seen some changes in the last year. SSgt Tofield APTC has left for the Army Outward Bound Centre in Norway and Sgt Ritchie has departed for Germany and we have received Cpl Ruscoe and WO2 Mather as replacements. The Gym staff, beside their normal training and coaching duties, have spent many 'off duty' hours coaching individuals to various levels of excellence. Cpl Hawkins not only helped to coach boxers for the inter-Company boxing match but also entered the Army Intermediate Boxing championship, where, after elimination in the semi-final, he was invited to box an exhibition bout on the evening of the Finals. Cpl Woolaston and WO2 Mather trained the College Gymnastics team, which appeared at local school fetes in the area. Cpl Langton went to the Army School of PT to take his Advanced PT course, but after falling down a mountain had to withdrawn from the course.

The institution of the CTOs Exercise on the Fieldcraft and Minor Tactics training for platoons has almost been as much of a test for HQ Company as the platoons. To provide sufficient 'enemy' for platoons on the exercises HQ Company has often sought the services of the cooks and the CQMS staff for night attacks and ambushes,which has allowed them to practice their role as soldiers and to get out from the normal camp routine.

The year has been a hectic one, but one which I believe every person in HQ Company has enjoyed.

EX PYRENNEAN POLKA 6 - 20 October 80

Unofficial Report

This Basic Mountaineering Exercise took place in October 1980 as part of the College Adventure Training programme.

The team consisted of 2 members of the Permanent Staff and 6 Apprentices.

The aim was to introduce the Apprentices to Basic Alphine Mountaineering in all types of conditions.

After a very hectic start in England the team travelled in the College mini-bus for 2 days through France their objective being the State of Andorra in the heart of the Pyrenees.

Once there the group quickly became acclimatised and settled down to the serious business of climbing a few mountains. Several high peaks were reached, the highest being Poe Monturull at 2761 metres which, to put it into some sort of perspective, is nearly three times as high as Snowdon. This may all sound very rosy but with quite a lot of snow around conditions were often arduous as well as hazardous but under the watchful eye of the instructors the Apprentices finished every day safely but tired.

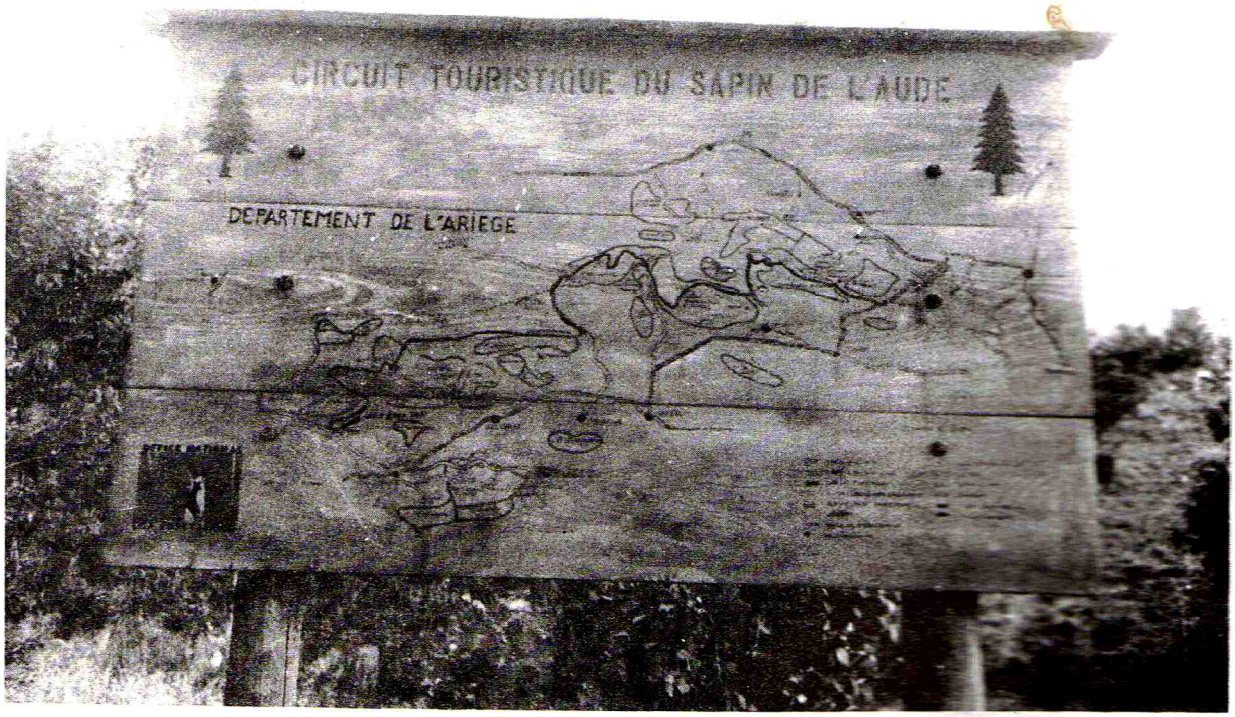
After 8 very enjoyable days in the Pyrenees we once again set off through France only this time we were heading for sunny Deepcut.

The Instructors and Staff who took part in the Exercise were:

Ssgt Thwaites

Sgt Hladkij

ACpl Hetherington
APte Brookes
APte Unsworth
APte Evans
APte Campbell
APte Douglas



The general area of our expedition. Map reading made easy!



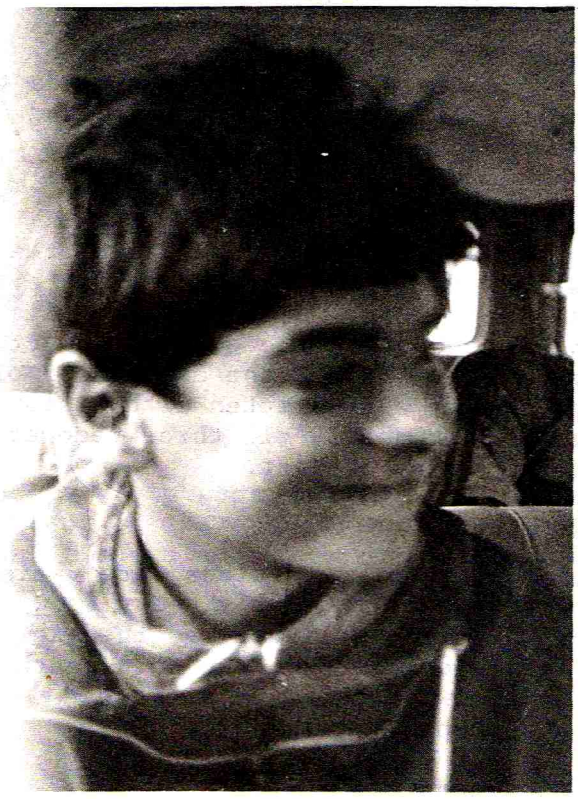
Outside the mini bus. Leader Sgt Hladkij and APte Douglas (Alamein)



The chalet at Camurac. APte Douglas (Alamein) APtes Evans (Alamein) and ACpl Hetherington (Arnhem)



"The top at last". APtes Douglas, Brookes, ACpl Hetherington and APte Evans



Just APte Unsworth



ALcpl Brookes finding conditions somewhat difficult.

EX PYRENNEAN POLKA 6 - 20 October 80

Official Report

General

1. The exercise aim was to introduce 6 apprentices to Basic Alpine Mountaineering.

Transport

2. The college mini-bus was taken as it has seating for 8 plus storage space in the rear. This was adequate the only drawback being the green card insurance which cost £100 for 14 days for one driver only.

Rations

3. CILOR was granted for the exercise and this proved to be adequate although some shopping around was required as food tends to cost a little more in Andorra and France.

Medical

4. Medical packs were taken, these were made up by the Nursing Sister of the Apprentices College. The main item used being the Codeine tablets as midway through the exercise 3 of the party were smitten with a stomach bug, fortunately all three recovered after a day of rest.

Weather

5. Weather conditions were variable with one particularly heavy snow fall in Andorra and later, as the exercise neared completion, the cold weather and snow began to be a regular occurrence.

Accommodation

6. Vango force 10 tents were used along with one tunnel tent. These were found to be more than adequate despite the inclement weather. Our last main base camp was the village of Camurac in France and here we were accommodated in a kind of bunk-house comprising of two rooms (a kitchen and a bedroom). This was ideal and for a stay of 5 days the cost was a mere 129 francs which was very cheap compared to previous camp sites.

Equipment

7. The equipment used was drawn from the College adventure training store and although this proved to be adequate some additional clothing should be drawn from Thatcham in future in case of freek weather, ie duvet jackets and crampons.

Training

8. Due to inclement weather in Andorra, the programme had to be altered and much of the exercise had to be carried out on the French side of the Pyrenees. The main reason for this being that the pass into and out of Andorra (at a height of 9,000 ft) was in danger of closing. On advice from the local police we moved to France while the going was still reasonable good.

Once in France training continued to be hard and many local peaks were climbed by the party. A list of these peaks and their heights is detailed below:

PDE la Rabassa	2168 mts
PDE Cabarreu	2289 "
PDE Claror	2602 "
PDE la Peguera	2603 "
PDE Calm Ramonet	2603 "
PDE Negre	2701 "
PDE Monturell (highest peak climbed)	2761 "
PDE Bescaran	2490 "
Pic de Soularac	2368 "
Col de la Pevre	1714 "
Pic Fourcal	1927 "
Pic de Tarbesou	2364 "
Coste Rouge	1800 "
Pic Pemedis	1816 "
Pic de Pic Aussel	1701 "
unnamed peak	1950 "
unnamed peak	2592 "

With light snow on most peaks walking conditions were good, but on one or two occasions adverse weather conditions made training a real slog and the rougher the conditions, the more the Apprentices seemed to enjoy it!

Recommendations

9. All members enjoyed the exercise and felt that valuable experience had been gained. However, the following points should be taken into consideration in any future expedition of this nature:

a. October is the month between summer trekking and winter skiing, therefore camp sites do not expect campers and are often closed. A little earlier would probably be better.

b. A full-time driver and general administrator would be a great help as often after a hard day of climbing the party had to start working on routine administration tasks such as: cooking, drying of kit, first aid, purchasing rations.

All these tasks could be undertaken by one man, leaving the rest time to concentrate on the next day's activities. Moreover, any expedition would be more exciting if the party did not have to return every day to its starting point.

THE GREAT ROSEBUSH NAUTICAL DISASTER

During College Summer Camp a 3 day mountain exercise was held in the Prescelli Range in south west Dyfed, Pembrokeshire.

Whilst some regarded it as a welcome relief from the fleshpots of Tenby, others may well have had serious reservations, when faced with the challenge of the Raft Race, but more of that later.

A brisk early morning run and a brief talk on local history served as an introduction for Part One, Exercise "Llareggubs Lair". Although not so daunting as Snowdonia the mountains of Pembrokeshire still offer a challange in navigation and outdoor craft and it was these particular skills that were put to the test. In groups of three or four, apprentices were dropped at different points to make their way to an overnight bivouac site.

The following morning the same groups made their way across country to the summit of Mynnydd Carningli, hopefully unobserved, a very difficult operation with DS on the summit armed with binoculars.

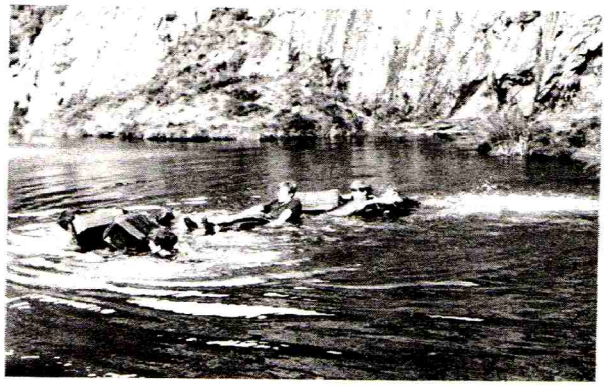
Close by the base camp lies the village and slate quarries of Rosebush. It was in the quarry that Part 2 of the exercise took place. Everyone took part in a series of tests in map reading observation and basic calculations, followed by what has been dubbed the Great Rosebush Nautical Disaster but could equally have been entitled Titanic II, comparing as it did with other less successful naval ventures.

The task, to carry an "unconscious" patient across a hundred foot wide pool. The players - everyone in the platoon less the non-swimmers. The props - 4 plastic containers, one stretcher, 2 coils of rope.

Marks were awarded for:

a. Successfully completing the task.
b. Quality and comfort of the raft.
c. Leadership within the group
d. Condition of the patient.
e. Speed.
f. Technical and artistic merit.
g. Sense of humour.

The collection of photographs tell their own story.



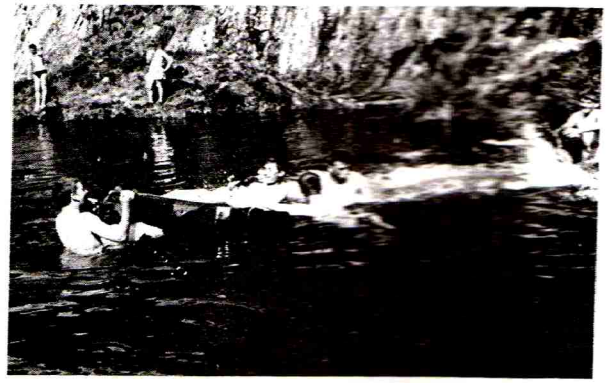
BRUNEVAL: The rest of the team are in fact under water, this was the only submarine attempt. Note slight sense of humour failure on the part of the unconscious patient.



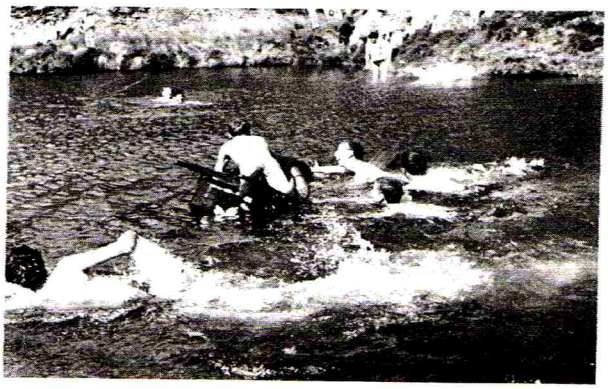
BURMA 2nd team. Good marks for sense of humour, but patient comfort low in their order of priority.



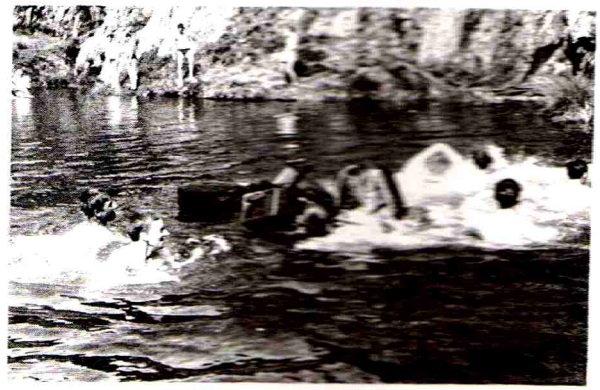
Burma Platoon 1st Team. Fast and comfortable. High technical merit.



Ardennes 2nd Team. Going .....



going .....



gone!



ARDENNES 1st Team. The eventual winners, stylish, speedy and highly artistic.



...and as Corporal Jenkins sinks slowly in the west we say goodbye to Rosebush.

THE BURSAR'S DEPARTMENT

Bursar Major G H W Neal (Retd)



THE COLLEGE POWER HOUSE!

Rear: L to R. Mrs Pearl Wood Mrs Edna Cartwright Mrs Daphne Crofts Mrs Pat Grimes

Front: L to R. Miss Pam Ellice WRVS Mrs Pat Walker SRN Major G H W Neal RAEC (Retd) Mrs Beryl Taylor

The Bursar, Major (Retd) G H W Neal, controls the College's finances and is responsible for Works Services and civilian labour. Within his department there is the PJRC Shop, the sports store, the Medical Inspection Room and the Kon Tiki Club.

The PJRC shop sells all types of sports goods, souvenirs and waterproof clothing. A small profit is made on sales which assists in the purchase of sports equipment for the College.

The sports store is very well stocked and provides the kit necessary for all College teams in all games.

The Medical Inspection Room is run by Sister Pat Walker SRN who deals with the daily sick parades and is always available to deal with any injuries that occur during training. In addition, she carries out innoculations and assists in medical inspections and blood tests.

The Kon Tiki Club is run by Miss Pat Ellice WRVS and is the meeting place for Apprentices in the evenings and at weekends to play indoor games, relax and chat.

Miss Ellice has recently taken over from Miss Pam Riddell WRVS who left at the end of the Christmas 1980 term to take up a similar appointment at Lichfield. Pam had served the College loyally for four years and we wish her well in her new appointmemt.

'A' COMPANY

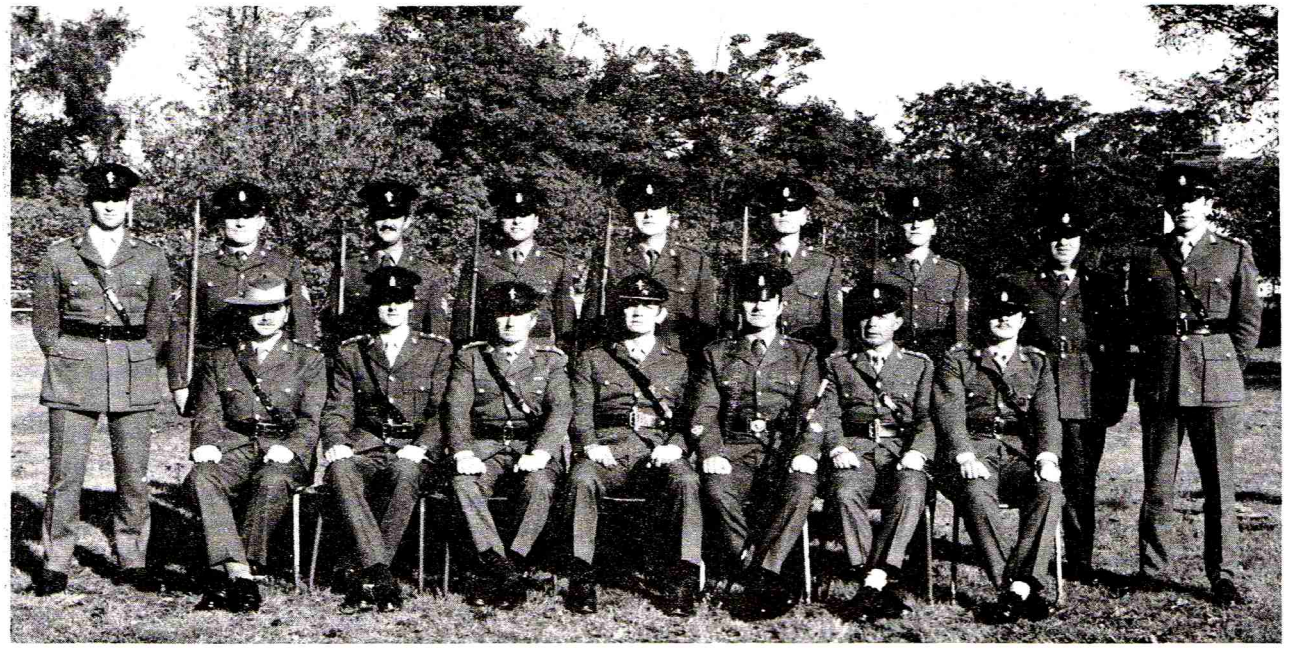
OC Major I F Mills REME

Major T I Bunyard REME

2IC Captain J K Hardcastle RAOC

Captain R A C Eccles RAOC

CSM WOII J Finch RAOC



Permanent Staff 'A' Company October 1980

REAR ROW — Lt G. P. Moore, REME Sgt R. S. Gatley, RAOC Sgt S. P. Bradley, REME Sgt E. C. Leach, RAOC Sgt R. P. Tarr, RAOC Sgt D. F. Hampton, RAOC Sgt F. J. Keogh, RAOC LCpl T. I. Evans, RAOC Lt P. Freegard, RAOC

FRONT ROW — Lt C. Rigby, RAAOC Capt R. A. C. Eccles, RAOC Capt T. I. Bunyard, REME Maj I. F. Mills, REME WOII CSM R. J. Finch, RAOC Capt W. D. Oldham, G.M., RAOC Lt D. C. Inshaw, RAOC

Knowledgeable readers of Thunderbolt will be well aware of the changes that regularly take place during a year in College life. Platoons leave and new recruits arrive to perpetuate the names of our platoons.

During the past year every platoon in the Company has completed their time here but the sense of immortality persists, for example, Arakan Platoon continue their run of successes in the Assault March competition and Anguilla seem to be forever on one community project or another.

On the sports field we win some - and we lose some. The Cross Country Cup went to B Company - but the Boxing Trophy came to A.

The articles produced by the platoons record the detailed history of the Company over the past year. It is my task to record some of the perhaps unrecognised achievements and particularly to thank those who do so much to enhance Company life.

To ease my task I have dug deeply into many learned works, to see what others have said on these subjects, no apologies are offered for the use of a few apt quotations ... "all that can be said is that two people happened to hit on the same thought and

Shakespeare made use of it first, that's all". (R B Sheridan).

Sport

"... if all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work". Shakespeare (Henry IV, Part I).

The major sporting successes over the past year have not been achieved without dedication on the part of players and organisers alike. They have certainly not regarded it as tedium. Beginning with a superb win in the Army Junior Athletics and more recently the success of both 1st and 2nd Football XIs in winning the South East District A and B leagues, sport plays a stimulating, exciting and rewarding role in our life. Congratulations to all concerned with such fine teams. A Company won a very exciting boxing tournament, a well drilled team trained by Cpl Langton and CSM Finch reversed the 1979 result, all present witnessed a demonstration of good sportsmanship.

Education

".... I owe a lot to my teachers and mean to pay them back some day". (Stephen Leacock).

The involvement of our Education Staff with the platoons is becoming more evident. The sight of an RAEC Captain's face, blackened and festooned with greenery, is now commonplace. They form an important link between the academic and military regime. Thanks are due to our Company tutors:

For Ardennes Platoon - an articulate bunch - as expected from Mr Eddie Smith. Alamein - Mr M Johnson, Arnhem - Lt R M Manual, Anguilla - Captain P Scott, Arakan - Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield and Aden - Wg Cdr (Retd) P Hope.

Community Projects

".... on becoming soldiers we have not ceased to be citizens". (Anon - time of Cromwell 1647).

After the event, be it a collection or actual involvement with others - that's when the meaning of community involvement comes home to us all.

Arnhem Platoon led the field when they actually advertised in the local press their willingness to give help. The Hillside Home for handicapped adults asked for a party to install a Portakabin. This involved heavy work laying all the necessary cables.

Other tasks have been regular visits to Brookwood hospital carrying out simple renovation jobs and even just talking to patients. The air raid shelters defied all our efforts to dismantle them. Capt Eccles suggested use of explosives was not well received, it was thought that the course of remedial theraphy would be set back some years.

Small parties from all platoons have carried out renovations in a number of old people's gardens. Long may our apprentices learn to see themselves as soldier citizens. Finally -

The Ladies

" .... Those graceful acts, those thousand decencies,
that daily flow from all her words and actions" (John Milton)

Thank you to all the ladies on the staff of the College. From Sister Pat Walker who climbed mountains with us on summer camp to our office ladies, wives and girl friends.

".. we aint no thin red heroes nor we aint no blackguards too.

But single men in barracks, most remarkable like you.

And if sometime our conduck aint all yer fancy paints

why single men in barracks don't grow into Plaster saints"

(Kipling)

ADEN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt C F Nisbet RAOC

Capt W D Oldham GM RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt R Reynolds REME

Winter Term 1979

Well, here we all are then, having fun ... Ah well, we can but dream.

Aden Platoon has had a good term and everyone is happy. The new Aden Platoon arrived in September and, much to their surprise, did not start disassembling vehicles or issuing stores on their first day. No, they had to learn that unpolished boots meant a stomping - verbal, of course, from the Platoon Sergeant and that saluting the Platoon Commander in the field on exercise was almost as bad. They buckled down and found that all things were possible if you worked hard enough for them. The Platoon's representative in the barrack lawyer and social sciences group, Citizen Bramall (obviously a "mole" in the making) was heard to say "I haven't decided which the biggest enemy is yet, the fascist dictators or the capitalist bourgeoisie, but at the moment I think it's Sgt Reynolds". The amazing thing about it was that he understood all the words he used.

The platoon exercise arrived and Aden Platoon exfiltrated (to use the medical term) out onto GI Training area, where the platoon commander practiced his skills and invited the rest of the platoon to imitate him. They started to do this fairly well after the first night, when they all got wet. Bashas suddenly improved no end. During the night the usual patrols were sent out and much to Lt Nisbet's delight, another platoon was using the area. Of course Aden spent the rest of the night revving the "enemy" base and bumping patrols; very good training, especially when neither platoon commander knew when the other was going to bump his patrol. Needless to say, Aden won all the encounters and the other platoon commander pleaded to be allowed to conduct his exercise in peace. Perhaps if his platoon base had been better hidden, and his platoon more professional on their patrols, they might have learned something too. As it was, the recruits of Aden gained a good deal of experience by the time the exercise ended.

The term continued with basic training in all subjects and culminated in a very dramatic demonstration of section skills on the Passing Out Parade, with many explosions and much smoke to impress the parents and friends who were watching. After this, a well deserved and welcome Christmas holiday.

Spring Term 1980

Each term produces a number of amusing incidents which often come to mind long after the rigours of the serious side of military training have been forgotten. For Aden one of the most notable and perhaps mentionable "funnies" occured in the first few weeks of the term, when the platoon experienced its first Fire Practice. The Platoon Sergeant having been tipped off and fully aware that something would go amiss strategically placed himself close to the barrack block to observe the reactions of the apprentices. On hearing the siren pandemonium broke loose and, one apprentice who will remain nameless, remembering that the assembly point was on the sacred barrack square, was seen and fortunately apprehended by the Platoon Sergeant

as he streaked out of the barrack block carrying his trousers over his arm! There are of course many more tales, but certainly not printable in this journal.

We have had a good number of successes in the field of sport and as a platoon have produced some outstanding sportsmen. College colours were awarded to APtes Gill and Lang for Rugby and to APtes Knott and Jervis for Cross Country. APte Weissang, our star footballer, attended and successfuly passed the trials for the Army Youth Football Team. Well done.

The platoon put in a great deal of hard work in the White Lodge collection for handicapped children. When all the moneys were handed in and counted, Aden Platoon had raised the most and we were awarded the White Lodge Rose Bowl for our efforts, plus an extra half day's leave by the Commanding Officer which went down very well with the platoon.

The term did not go by without a mishap or two. APtes Davies and Jervis both sustained broken bones whilst attempting to defy gravity in the gymnasium. Fortunately they are both fully recovered now but the message is, enthusiasm in training is great but not when attempting the impossible.

Promotions came our way at the end of term and APtes Knott, Lang and Preira are to be congratulated on being awarded the rank of Apprentice Lance Corporal.

Finally, this term we said farewell to Lt Nisbet who handed over the reins of platoon commander and the task of forming the platoon into the College Corps of Drums next term went to Captain Oldham.

Summer Term 1980

This term has been dominated by our role as the College Corps of Drums. It began from the moment the platoon returned from recess and will end with the last beat of the summer Passing Out Parade.

Sgt Reynolds at the outset insisted that if he was to fill the role of Drum Sergeant Major with dignity, then a new mace would have to be purchased, as the mace used by his predecessor, who was but five feet nothing high, barely reached his waist band!

A great deal of work was accomplished in the early weeks of term; new Corps of Drums uniforms were tailored to fit and much polishing and shining took place. Practice with the instruments was a daily occurrence; some of the platoon picked up the drum or bugle quickly but for others it was hard work. However, slowly but surely the platoon mastered it's new role, grew in confidence and produced good quality music and marching displays. ALcpl Preira soon established himself as the lead bugler while APte Campion did the same on drums.

Our first engagement was at Penally during College summer camp when the platoon Beat Retreat at a cocktail party. This was followed a week later with a display on the promenade at Tenby and the next day a further display at Penally carnival.

Since then there have been many more performances including two displays for handicapped children which were particularly enjoyable and worthwhile. However, without doubt the highlight of the term was the Manchester Show. The platoon stayed at Manchester University for the week of the show where the accommodation and food were excellent and as a result, the Platoon Staff had the greatest of difficulty when time to return to Deepcut arrived, in persuading the reluctant apprentices to board the coach!

As one would expect the weather played its part at the Manchester Show and although we managed two performances each day between showers, on the last afternoon of the show the weather had the final say and com-

pletely washed out any chance of a performance. Nevertheless an extremely good week was had by all and the platoon made friends and gained many admirers during the stay in Manchester.

Between all our Corps of Drums engagements we managed a week's ELT camp in Snowdonia and during the course of the term promoted APtes Ward, Brown, Harman and Gill to ALcpls and ALcpls Irwin and Preira to Apprentice Corporals. A fine reward for a hard term's work.

Winter Term 1980

The first half of the Winter term has been eventful for Aden Platoon. Much time has been devoted to trade training and the importance of gaining a good result. Driver training has also been to the fore and it is pleasing to report that the results so far have shown a high percentage of passes.

Apart from hard work there have been enjoyable times too and ALcpl Norcross deserves a mention having spent two weeks wandering over the Atlas mountains in Morocco and living off the land. The small team of RAOC soldiers on this so-called exercise even had time to view some of the historic sites in Morocco and explore the kasbah of Marrakesk. Some have all the luck!

An adventure of a different kind was undertaken by APtes Davies, Gill and Maxwell, who equipped with sea legs, braved the storms of the Solent and managed to stay afloat for 5 days. This was no mean feat particularly as APte Davies was responsible for the cooking!

Some of our number so enjoyed their adventure activities in Snowdonia last term that they volunteered for another session this term and were gently persuaded to climb every mountain. The competition apparently was so intense to be first to reach the summit one day, that ACpl Harman and ALcpl Ward resorted to unfair tactics and have since joined our Company boxing team!

A mention must be given to Sgt Tarr who joined the Platoon at the beginning of term while Sgt Reynolds spends a well-earned rest on a military training course. The platoon were under the initial impression that life was going to be so much easier until it was realised that their new, large, rugby playing Platoon Sergeant was an ex-apprentice RSM of the College and there isn't a trick or skive unknown to him.

On the serious military training side, members of the platoon have given their assistance and experience to recruit platoon exercises and ALcpl Parker, Alcpl Allan and APte Strang have shown enthusiasm in this direction, even if they were occasionally prodded into battle by their Platoon Commander.

ACpl Greenacre, APtes Anderson, Campion and Gawthorpe spent three weeks finding out the role of an Ordnance Support Unit while detached to Ashford in Kent. By all accounts their knowledge of the RAOC has increased dramatically as a result, and the OSU Vehicle Park has since rid itself of a phantom Landrover which apparently came to life once the civilian supervisory staff left for home each evening.

Knowing the ability of the platoon to search out snakes in the grass, finding coins on bar floors and spotting rats a mile away, the Platoon Commander persuaded the platoon to join in a search for a vital missing piece of an American aircraft. The prize for finding such was £5,000 but we were not successful. Nonetheless, £200 was added to the College funds as a result of our efforts by a grateful General Electrics Company of America.

Finally a sporting success, APte Weissang has been selected to

represent the Army Youth Football team again this season and to be team captain. Well done.



ASgt Preira (Aden) with his family, after being presented with the Maule Cup for Military Proficiency on Passing Out Parade December 1980.



APte Weissang (Aden) with his family after being presented with the Best Sportsman Cup on Passing Out Parade December 1980.

THE LAST NOTE

"Sergeant, what specialist courses have you attended to qualify for the position of Drum Major?"

"Well sir, I am a REME vehicle mechanic and have been known to tune many a military move during my service."

"It seems, Sergeant, that we both are well suited for the role of training the College Corps of Drums! As for myself, with some 20 years experience in the ammunition field, I have been known to produce the sound effects for the 1812"!

The beginning of Summer term presented more than just the usual spate of headaches for the Platoon Commander and Sergeant of Aden Platoon. To transform 28 apprentices, whose total musical experience was less than a blast on a infantry whistle, into a presentable Corps of Drums to perform in public in less than a month seemed an impossible task.

It is worth digressing at this point to include a brief history of the Corps of Drums and to enlighten the reader on how they are formed.

The Apprentices College Corps of Drums is a direct descendant of the Corps of Drums of the Junior Leaders Battalion RAOC which was formed in 1961 and sadly, disbanded in 1974. This disbandment was a direct result of the raising of the school leaving age, whereas prior to 1974 junior soldiers served for two and a half

years, thus it became necessary to reduce their period to 15 months training.

The Corps of Drums was reformed in 1976 and has been going strong ever since. It is formed from RAOC apprentices currently undergoing training at the College and in the ideal situation we have two platoons involved at any one time, one platoon training as potential musicians, while the other performs at civil and military functions. In reality, the pressure of the College training programme and the lack of a duplicate set of musical instruments due to the expense involved, permits little if any training to be undertaken by the shadow platoon before assuming the role of Corps of Drums. Once the platoon assumes the role, which alternates between wholly RAOC platoons of A and B Companies (a sigh of relief from the REME lads!) and not, it must be stressed, from volunteers, the apprentices practice in their own time and complete a full military training programme identical to all other apprentices.

The Corps of Drums is an unofficial body, the training of its musicians is dependent upon limited assistance from members of the RAOC Staff Band. It relies heavily upon donations for the upkeep of the uniforms and instruments.

Aden Platoon practised relentlessly with their musical instruments during the first weeks of Spring term. Drums, bugles and bell lyre players slowly but surely mastered their instruments while the Platoon Sergeant juggled with the mace. The apprentices adapted to their new role with great credit, training hard in their spare time and the assistance given by members of the Staff Band was invaluable.

In the second week of May the College moved to Penally Training Camp in South Wales for our summer camp. By this time Aden Platoon were practising in earnest, both with their musical instruments and at marching displays. APte Davies established himself as our bass drummer and did a magnificent job throughout the term. ASgt Preira was a 'natural' with the bugle taking a leading role with the bugle section and, amongst the side drummers, APte Campion emerged as our lead tipper.

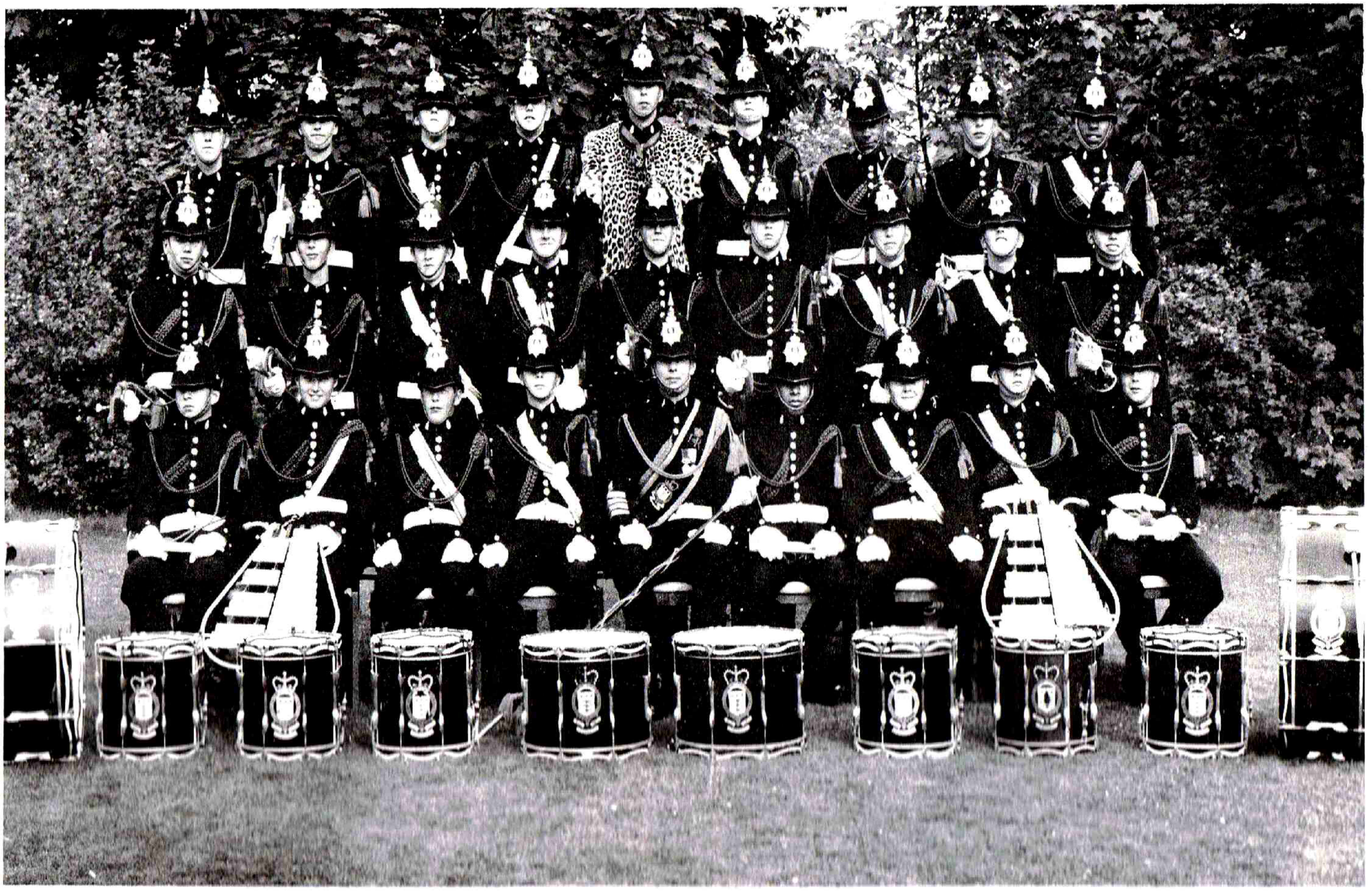
The first engagement was Beating the Retreat at a cocktail party at Penally Camp were many local dignataries were in attendance. The weather was perfect, the newly formed Corps of Drums rose to the occasion and in the evening sunlight, discarded their pre-match nerves and performed admirably. The red tunics, white belts, black helmets and gleaming boots and instruments of the Platoon were a striking contrast against the grey barrack square and green lawned surround. The initiation of the Corps of Drums was complete and the occasion was appropriately celebrated after their display - with thirst quenching shandies provided by a much relieved Platoon Commander.

The first engagement was followed quickly by an evening display on the promenade at Tenby with the town Mayor taking the salute. A few days later we were again in action at Penally fete which was attended by several thousand spectators.

The Corps of Drums were now full of confidence and our marching displays and music greatly improved. Indeed, we were by this time, fully prepared for the many engagements to come.

The summer term passed swiftly and July was upon us in what seemed to be no time at all. The highlight of our summer engagements had arrived when in late July the Corps of Drums travelled to Manchester to participate for five days at the Manchester Show.

As anticipated, the Manchester weather played a part in the show but, fortunately, did not interfere unduly with our twice daily performances viewed



Corps of Drums Aden Platoon Summer Term 1980

REAR ROW — A/Cpl Knott A/Pte Capper A/Pte Ringrose A/Pte Anderson A/Pte Joyce A/Pte Gawthorpe A/LCpl Parker A/Cpl Greenacre A/Pte Weissang

CENTRE ROW — A/Cpl Gill A/Pte Maxwell A/Pte Campion A/Pte Dickson A/LCpl Ingham A/Cpl Brown A/LCpl Lang A/Pte Bramall A/LCpl Allan

FRONT ROW — A/Pte Jervis A/LCpl Ward A/Pte Lane A/Sgt Irwin Sgt R. Reynolds, REME A/Sgt Preira A/Pte Strang A/LCpl Norcross A/Cpl Harman

by many thousands of spectators. Morale amongst the apprentices was high and the excellent food and accommodation provided by the University helped to maintain our spirits.

The show was a great success with the part played by the Corps of Drums being enthusiastically received and the apprentices were showered with praise for the standard of their performances.

So the summer term drew to a close and, as the last note of the College Passing Out Parade sounded across the square, a proud but much relieved Platoon Commander beat his own retreat and passed the baton (or is it the buck!) to his successor.

ALAMEIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Capt A R L Jaggers REME
	Lt G P Moore REME
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt R E Howell REME
	Sgt Bradley REME

Winter Term 1979

The term began on a promising note with 11 promotions within the platoon.

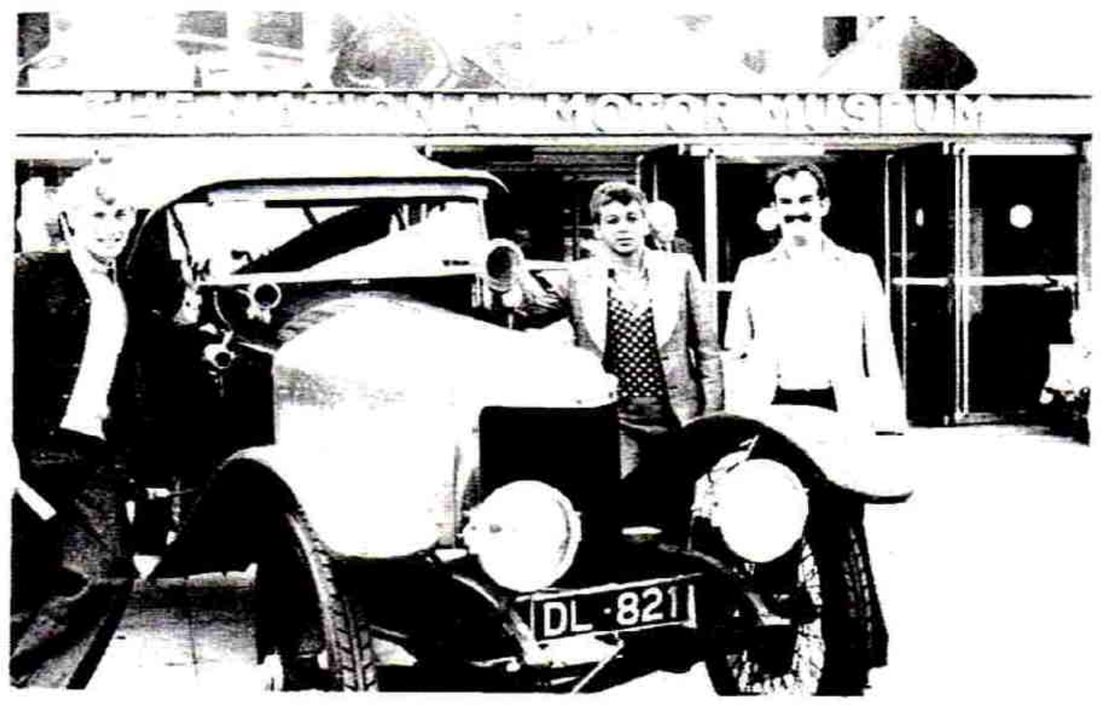
ALcpl White (now ACpl) took over the reins in the block from ACpl Coutier who returned to Ardennes Platoon. ACpl White was to be ably assisted by newly promoted ALcpl Hargrove, Nisbet, Horner, Rose and Woolley who all remained with Alamein. ALcpls Gillet and Campbell moved to Arakan Platoon and ALcpls Barkes, Walker and Hay to Aden Platoon with our best wishes and congratulations on their promotions.

From 23-28 September Alamein took advantage of the indian summer and departed for Southampton where we spent a busy week visiting military and civilian places of interest and generally enjoying ourselves.

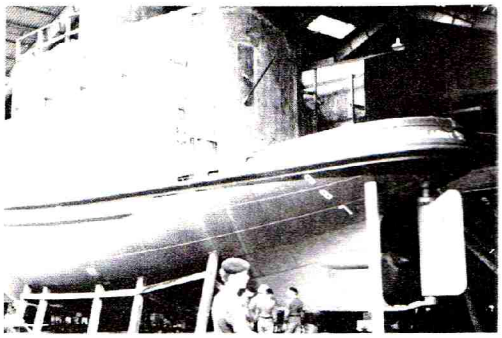
EX SOLENT WITNESS 23-28 Sept 80



Sgt Bradley chats to Lt Graham, 2IC of 17 Port and Maritime Workshop REME whilst APte Watling and ALCpl Campbell amuse themselves in the carpenters' shop



ALcpl Hargrove, ALcpl Nesbitt and Sgt Bradley at the entrance to the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu



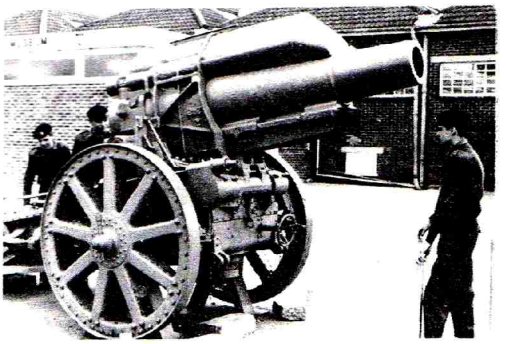
ALcpl Horner before a 65-ft tug maintained in readiness by the US Marine Fleet Activities Unit at Hythe. The "house" on top is a preserving "cocoon"



Alum Bay - Isle of Wight. Who taught Communication Skills to APte Watling

On the 6 October the platoon moved out of camp and spent a night in the field, living under their ground-sheets and learning, in addition to minor tactics, how to survive in the field. All enjoyed the challenge that this presented, particularly having to prepare their own meals from twenty four hour packs and solid fuel stoves. All returned to camp the next day better equipped for their future roll in adult service.

On 18 November A Company moved to St Martins Plain to spend a week on Skill-at-Arms training. Despite occasional spells of rain much was achieved and in addition to firing personal weapon tests on the SLR all progressed to more advanced shooting on the moving target range and the individual battle shooting range



APtes Paterson and Greenwood working out how to transport this German 210-mm Mortar, captured in 1917, from Bovington to Deepcut

where targets popped up from the most unexpected places and we were expected to engage them from all positions behind different types of cover. An added bonus was the opportunity to fire 21-mm sub calibre rockets from the 66-mm Light Anti Tank Weapon. Alamein platoon was one of the few platoons that had the chance to practice their command skills in giving fire control orders on the fire control range. It was highly realistic seeing the result of your orders in the form of live bullets homing on to the target which you had indicated.

Congratulations are in order at this point for APte Paul who gained his Marksmanship badge for the highest score achieved during the Camp. Crossed rifles were presented by the Commanding Officer. Well done!

Shortly after the SAA Camp came our second opportunity to prove our mettle on the inter-platoon assault march competition. Despite poor preparation of equipment by a number of platoon members which resulted in a time penalty of two minutes, and APte Greenwood's unfortunate stoppage on his rifle (caused by half a ton of sand collected on the assault course), the other three riflemen scored well and the platoon excelled itself on the march phase by achieving the fastest time resulting in an overall second position for Alamein. Next

time - No 1. Congratulations to Arakan on their fine win which for a recruit platoon was unbelievable.

On 11 December the platoon donned its Sunday best and in a coach provided by our fairy godmother (44 Squadron) we were whisked away to Brookwood railway station and thence to the Garrick Theatre and "Death Trap", a play which kept us spellbound and on the edge of our seats throughout this ingenious creation whose principle character was portrayed by Gareth Hunt of the Avengers.

During this term the platoon has become a tighter knit unit but there have been opportunities for the individuals within the platoon to express their talents as part of other teams or on their own. Worthy of mention are ALcpls Hargrove, Rose and Nesbitt who represented the College at rugby and were also in the Company boxing team. ALcpl Woolley who displayed courage and determination in beating a tough opponent in the inter Company boxing competition and APtes Greenwood, Linstead and King who took part in Ex Long Paddle, a canoeing exercise on the Thames and received creditable reports for their efforts.

On the 14 December we bade farewell to Captain Jaggers, our platoon commander for our first two terms at the College, and also to ACpl White who leaves us to go on to trade training at Bordon. We wish them well for the future and welcome Captain Powrie as our "caretaker" platoon commander and ACpl Horner who takes over ACpl White's "hot seat" next term.

Spring Term 1980

I spent my first day as a Platoon Commander at the College boarding a train for Capel Curig in North Wales, where Alamein Platoon were on ELT camp. I arrived too late to visit the slate mines or to do the low level walk, but was able to see the platoon engaged in the high level walk up Mount Snowdon. Most of the apprentices enjoyed the climb, probably because they were led to believe that the restaurant on the summit would be open. Although the summit was covered in snow the temperature did not fall too low and it was only the rain that made eating our sandwich lunch slightly unpleasant. Returning back to ground level was virtually a race between three groups led by the ELT instructors.

Other activities included watermanship which involved all ranks, Platoon Commander included, getting very wet indeed! The first task was to establish a safety rope across the stream at the back of the camp, after which all of the apprentices went across, tightly gripping the rope to 'test' it - or so said Ssgt Green. Once the apprentices had got thoroughly wet a pulley system was set up to transport 'injured' persons safely over the stream. It was inevitable that the new Platoon Commander would be winched first and receive a ducking, but luckily he had taken the precaution of removing his watch and camera before he was 'dipped'. Towards the end of the afternoon it started to rain heavily thus ensuring that even Ssgt Green got wet.

The ELT camp was most enjoyable despite the poor weather and we returned to Deepcut to prepare for the Fremington Company Camp. Fremington was a very well run camp and most Permanent Staff preferred it to Tregantle Fort. The activities included parascending, surf canoeing, command tasks, rock climbing and abseiling, cliff walking and map reading. It goes without saying that the most popular activities were parascending, when the weather permitted, and surf canoeing. The least popular were the 'tabbing' activities of map reading and cliff walking.

Platoon staff were not always with their platoons but, fortunately, were able to supervise some of the

activities. The Platoon enjoyed the camp and the local town provided much hospitality in the form of girls and fish & chip shops. Some, however, were rather too enthusiastic at sampling the local night life, especially on the first night, which resulted in the platoon being confined to barracks for the second night.

Lt Moore and Sgt Bradley organised a platoon battle camp weekend on G1 and R which got the platoon switched on to the military way of thinking after such 'civvy' activities as education and ELT. The exercise enemy was provided by Lt Biddle's merry band of men from B Company, who proved to be very difficult to locate by normal recce patrolling techniques. However, once found, we had a most dramatic night assault up a steep hill setting off dozens of trip flares in the process. The only accident which occurred was when APte Dougan tripped and winded himself so the operation can be regarded as having been reasonably casualty free.

Other activities included vehicle camouflage, setting up trip flares, using night surveillance devices (IWS) and setting up a defensive position. Many lessons were learned or relearned on the weekend.

The term finished with a first class Passing Out Parade, the visiting officer being the DGEME Major General P H Lee. Alamein passed off with most of the REME Platoon going to SEME Bordon for trade training as vehicle mechanics or recovery mechanics, although APtes Dougan and Greenwood remained in the area for training as storemen at the ETS. We wish them all good luck in their futures.

Summer Term 1980

The 'new Alamein' formed up in Pam Riddle's 'working men's' club on 10 June and waiting for them were Lt Moore, Sgt Bradley and the 'gals from CHQ'. They were issued with tracksuits, College guide books and a cup of WRVS coffee. That evening the barber's trio arrived and commenced shearing. The 31 new lads now at least looked like soldiers. The prize for the apprentice who lost most hair must go to APte Calder who looked like a hedgehog afterwards.

On the first Saturday a 5-a-side football match was held in the drill sheds so that not too much damage would be caused. The opposition came from Arnhem, the other recruit platoon and a very spirited game resulted.

After a week spent mainly involved in either the Medical Centre or the QM Store the platoon started training in earnest. Most apprentices have difficulty in map reading so this was allocated a lot of training time - most of the platoon now know training area G1 backwards.

Another subject that is the responsibility of the Platoon Commander is FMT and the platoon now have a basic knowledge of patrolling and section attacks. This knowledge was put to good use during an end of term 24 hour exercise on Areas Y1(a), Y1(b) and G1. The platoon practiced recce and fighting patrols and watched Capt Eccles' first class pryotechnics demonstration. Next time the platoon watches such a demonstration Lt Moore will run a sweepstake on how high the steel helmet is blown skywards! The comment of the exercise came from APte Calder who asked the Platoon Commander for some more Dextrose tablets for his Hexy cooker!

The term was also notable for the Assault March competition which is the one competition which everyone resents doing but are glad that they did it afterwards. The platoon was well on its way to coming second to Arakan but as four members had to be dropped just before the Assault Course the overall position was last. The overall level of fitness was quite reasonable and Alamein should do well on the next Assault March.

The term rounded off with an informal party in the Quiet Room (surely a misnomer) and ASgt Stockings and ACpl Shaw (both on loan from Arakan) were presented with a travelling alarm clock for services rendered.

The last event in any term is, of course, the Passing Out Parade and Alamein together with Arnhem and Benghazi, put on a most spectacular Recruits display. Alamein provided half of the PF section which included Boxwork, Aikido and Battle PT. The Boxwork was of a very high standard considering that the platoon have only been rehearsing for two to three weeks and the somersaults over the box were most impressive. The platoon also provided a squad under Sgt Bradley who demonstrated SLR weapon handling and firing. Most of those in the SAA squad felt that it was just another excuse to get the weapons dirty prior to cleaning. The display passed off most successfully, and everyone was very impressed.

These notes would not be complete without one of the apprentices penning a few words. Following is APte Scott's account of Alamein's first month.

"On Tuesday when we came it was raining. This place looked gloomy and dead. For the first few days we were going from place to place like a yo-yo. When we got kitted out it was like Christmas with new boots, combats and other clothes. When we first put our combats on I looked like a boy wearing his Dad's clothes. I had been told that if the clothes fit you must be a freak, but I haven't needed any exchanges and my boots now fit like a glove.

Our first lesson was the introduction of the SLR, learning which way to point it and the names of the parts and what they do; but the hardest lessons are PF (physical fitness!) They should have a warning "PF can and will kill you" but so far it has been easy. I was expecting to be run off my feet every day.

I had expected better accommodation like they have down at the bottom depot and a heated swimming pool. Some people find the training harder than others but I find it easy."

APte Scott should go far!

HOW IT HAPPENED



Day 1 in the Army. O'Connell, Stoter and members of Arnhem Platoon enjoying their first taste of Army food!



Day 2. ALcpl Preira showing members of Alamein over the camp.
L to R: Calder, Meek, Stoneman, Leatherbarrow, Clemence, Lester, Shilton, Robinson and Day



The Platoon looking like soldiers.

Footnote: Harrison is now ACpl and potential VM, Hayter is ALcpl and potential REME clerk. Sanderson and Brooks are now ALcpls and set for trades as RAOC Supply Clerk and Supply Specialist respectively

Winter Term 1980

The Winter term 1980 started on 8 September with Alamein's strength standing at 26 apprentices and additionally ALcpls Knott and Clements, who were on loan from Aden Platoon.

The term was to be orientated towards Education although Alamein lost Lt Flaherty the Platoon tutor to B Company - Lt Col Schofield was in the seat for about a week until Mike Johnson took over.

Military training was not entirely forgotten as the platoon visited 4 Field Regiment RA in Aldershot and were shown around the Light Aid Detachment REME by the EME, Captain Steadman. The platoon looked over the vehicle and gun repair hangar as well as the electronic equipment repair trailers. Equipment such as the 105-mm light gun, its towing vehicle the 1 tonne Land Rover and CYMBELINE mortar locations radar were seen. This was the first visit to a working unit by the platoon and it was hoped to follow this up with a more comprehensive programme of visits to working units in Aldershot in January 1981.

Before the platoon left, a display was put on with a light gun being brought into and out of action.

The Mobilisation Exercise scheduled to occur on 20 September was cancelled, so the platoon were unfortunately not given a chance to defend the Apprentices College against Orange Fantasians - Alamein must wait until Battle Camp.

During the end of September the opportunity arose for four members of Alamein to attend Exercise "Pyrenean Polka" which was an ELT camp in the Pyrenees. APTes Bookes, Douglas, Evans and Unsworth were chosen from a large number of volunteers. Unsworth had only just recovered from hospitalisation in MRS Pirbright but was adjudged fit to go. APte Brookes distinguished himself by gaining an "Excellent" grade. The trip consisted of activities such as hillwalking, navigation and climbing.

That perennial event "The Blackdown Fives" was planned for Sunday 28 September and Alamein was tasked to run the Command tasks (Lt Moore is now the unit advisor on this activity!). Forty teams of girls and boys aged 13-18 descended upon the College and we were all kept busy from 0900 to 1500. Each four-member team was required to scale a seven foot wall using an oil drum, two planks and a toggle rope. The fastest team crossed the wall in just over three minutes which was well inside the ten minutes allowed. Members of the platoon, however, achieved an even better time, albeit with some practise.

The next activity of term was the five day platoon Battle Camp held on areas E and Z. This was the second time that the platoon had ventured into the field and the aim was to practise patrolling, section attacks and living in the field. The weather was reasonably kind to us with only one or two days of rain, so morale

was as high as could be expected. The platoon changed location every day and were soon well experienced at packing kit and marching at a moments's notice.

Map reading was also practised and was usually of a reasonable standard except when ALcpl Harrison detoured accidentally into the enemy's camp on one occasion. Enemy were provided by our old friends (?) Arnhem Platoon and they proved to be worthy adversaries even if they were rather easy to locate!

Only ALcpl Doy sustained injury during vehicle anti-ambush drills and he had to be casevac'ed by our attached Armour expert Lcpl Mathews. Luckily Arnhem were not equipped with tanks so Lcpl Mathews had to act as a 'grunt'.

The food and accommodation were provided by Messrs 'Compo and Basher' and proved to be unpopular with everyone except Lt Moore, Sgt Bradley and Driver Bright RCT, but by and large the battle camp was a success.

The platoon also visited the RAChD Depot at Bagshot Park and were most impressed with the WRAC girls who served up the coffee and lunch. The museum was also of interest as it contained many exhibits made by British soldiers whilst in captivity as POWs of the Japanese. Members of the platoon also tried hard to locate the mouse in a Terence Cuneo oil painting, so the visit was judged by the 'lads' to be a great success.

The platoon failed to achieve any great honours in the College cross-country, partly due to some navigational errors and partly due to the absence of the platoon staff - Lt Moore was on a UEL course in Scotland and Sgt Bradley was busy on his Artificer Selection Board at Bordon.

I am sure that the platoon will give both a round of applause for passing their respective courses.

ANGUILLA PLATOON

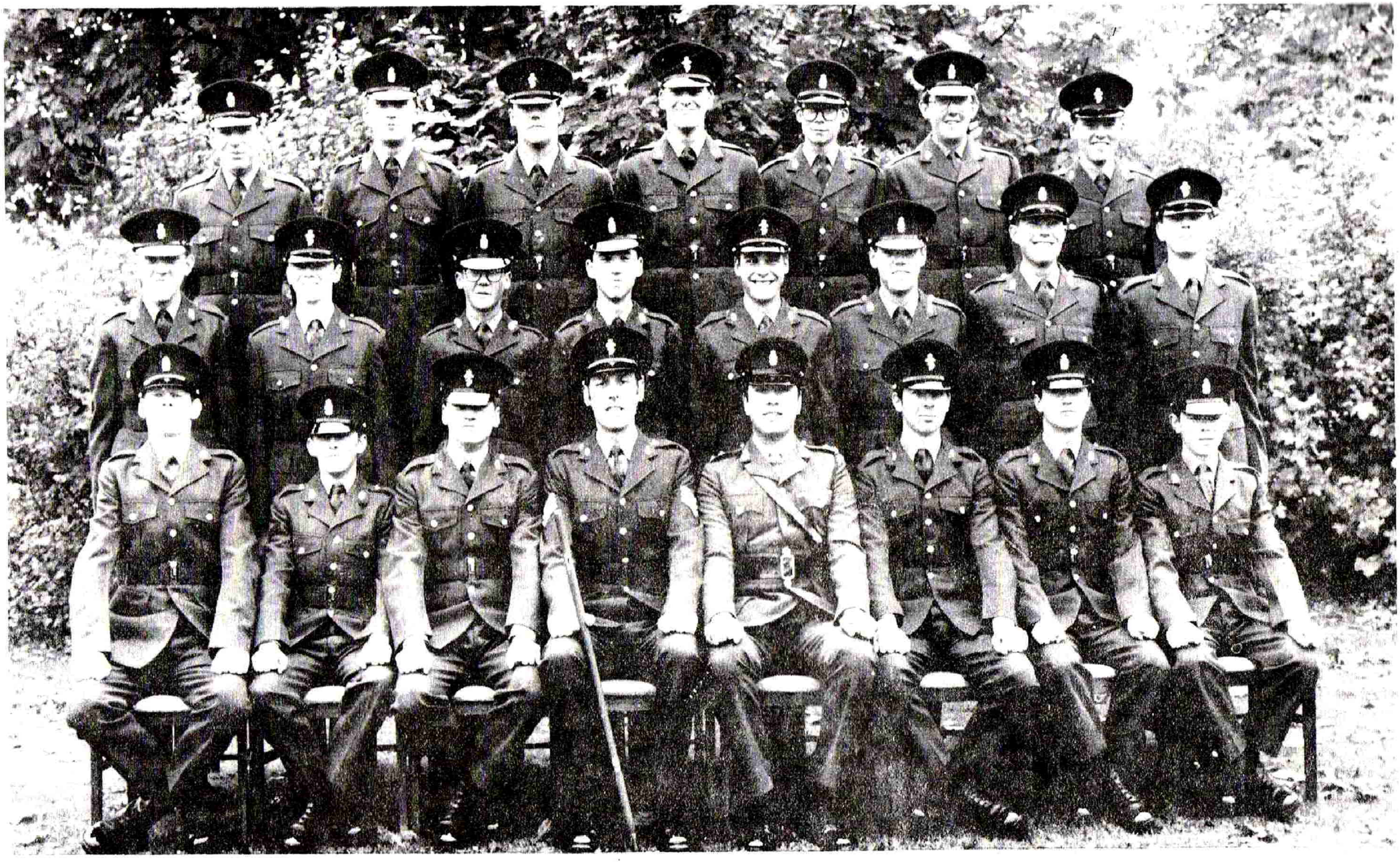
Platoon Commander	Lt K G Marshall RAOC
	Lt W D Oldham RAOC
	Lt P L Freegard RAOC
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt R S Gatley RAOC

Spring Term 1980

The arrival of Sgt Gatley to Anguilla Platoon meant that the new term started off with a bang. To some of the platoon he was a cross between Attila the Hun and Ghengis Khan.

Our first exercise was in Leek. A week of rain, sleet and snow, reinforced by gale force winds meant that the exercise was not a sparking success. The value of ELT Wing teaching was obvious as 75% of the platoon had symptoms of exposure (or so they said) and everyone returned safely to a well earned week's rest before leaving for Wales with our new Platoon Officer, Lt Oldham.

At first the train journey from London to Capel Curig was uneventful. About 2 hours into the journey APte Cosgrove struck his head as he put it out of the window and lost his glasses. The Cosgrove saga didn't end with this as he managed to drop his pants while abseiling. Cosgrove baring all for



Anguilla Platoon Winter Term 1979

REAR ROW—A/Pte's Blackburn Beattie Muir Wright Cosgrave Bobbett Mumford

CENTRE ROW—A/Pte's Stanley Knight South Rabbitt Taylor Doyle Keymer Giles

FRONT ROW—A/Pte Embleton A/Lcpl Hirst A/Lcpl Grundy Sgt P. Daniel, REME Lt K. G. Marshall, RAOC A/Lcpl Smith A/Lcpl Cook A/Pte Griffin

the world to see nearly brought Ssgt Green off the rock face because he couldn't stop laughing. Cosgrove redeemed himself by navigating the route to Snowdon in trick conditions with the aid of the CTO's glasses.

The Anguilla battle camp on training area Z had its fair share of surprises. ALcpls Hoy and Mathie set up the camp defences with some very impressive anti-personnel devices (man traps). Meanwhile APtes Rabbit, Blackburn and Walker being a bit trigger happy preferred to shoot first and ask questions later. The platoon commander set each man the task of moving across an area which had been mined and booby trapped. Thank goodness the mines were dummies because the REME element would not have reached the Passing Out Parade. Our best wishes go to the REME boys, Acpls Hurst and Grundy, ALcpls Hoy, Mathie, Smith, APtes Giles, Walker, Taylor and Mumford. We wish them all the best of good fortunate for their future careers in the REME.

Summer Term 1980

Summer term started with Anguilla Platoon going off in all directions, some to the ETS and some to the British School of Motoring for driver training, but the bulk of the platoon went to the ETS, to learn how to count to ten and what a box looks like - so APte Doyle informed everyone.

APtes Keymer and Blackburn started their staff clerk's course. Keymer liked it so much he is going back to the ETS for an action reply.

Only one member of Anguilla attended Summer Camp at Tenby - APte South. Affectionately known as "Elvis" he made himself very useful during the three day exercises held in the



Ardennes apprentices clearing dead elms at Colne Valley

Prescilly Mountains, So much so, that the other staff members on the exercise bought a small leather bound book of Welsh legends which the Commanding Officer presented to him.

After driver training the complete platoon went to Oxford for a week's exercise, walking the Oxford Way and more practically, signposting it! Halfway through APTes Beattie, Stanley and Griffin left us to go to Vogelsang with the RMA Sandhurst. Well, we completed our week in Oxford, had a rest in Blackdown for two days and off we went again this time to the Colne Valley just outside London to clear dead elms from a new bridle path where APte Cook was last seen escaping from a friendly bull - up one of the elm trees (one that Anguilla had fortunately overlooked).

Once again we returned to the home comforts of Blackdown; then Anguilla were asked if they would act as "enemy" against the Surrey ACF in which the platoon chased the cadets around the countryside, with a little help from Ardennes and, like all good things, the exercise ended with Anguilla getting killed of!

Earlier in the term a visit was paid to the ACF at their home base at Bletchingly from which such contacts have since blossomed. However, before they had a chance to go to heaven Anguilla went to the RAChD Centre at Bagshot and were brought back to life by the Centre, once again to go out into the big, wide world.

Here endeth the Summer term.

Winter Term 1980

Life for the new Anguilla Platoon started with a shock at the beginning of Winter term. The "old boys", in fact apprentice NCOs loaned from other platoons, and Sgt Gatley, were busy getting the accommodation in Block 3 into shape for the expected intake.

The new intake included Lt Freegard who arrived to do battle with the painters who had been in Block 3 for some time. The success of his first task was minimal as they were still there four weeks later. Next day saw the arrival of the boys, firstly with long hair, then with short. It turned out that quite a few of the boys were already known to Sgt Gatley, especially Doyle whose brother had incurred the wrath of Sgt "Genghis Khan" Gatley. Another poor unfortunate to be recognised was McShane whose father had known the platoon's beloved sergeant for some time (as a Vehicle Specialist of course).

As soon as the platoon had picked up their kit they saw the more sadistic side of Lt Freegard - on a run (to be one of many). Sgt Gatley maintains that he has been brought in to make or break him fitness-wise. As middle distance runs in boots were a new thing to most of the platoon, they all found the going a bit hard at first, all that is except Hardwick who soon earned himself the nickname of Arkle as he runs something like a horse and found the going very easy. All fitness training in the College led up to the cross country run, held just before half term. On the first running there was some confusion about the course and many of the platoon found themselves running the wrong route. Consequently slower runners like Blackham found themselves surprisingly far up the field. A re-run, however, sorted the platoon out into more realistic positions with Blackham near his more usual place!!

The more obvious part of recruit life became quite a chore for Sgt Gatley after Anguilla were "asked" to leave the square by the RSM on the first day of his drill parades for Winter term. The descriptions of the particular incident vary considerably, from blaming the band to the type of gravel on the parade square. In essense the front half of the platoon were in step and so were the back half, however, they were not in step with each other. Luckily everything turned out OK on the day of the Acceptance Parade.

At the parade itself was WOI Elsey, father of APte Elsey. WOI Elsey wore service dress with some rather smart brown shoes. APte Elsey, however, was not impressed with dad's turnout and promptly gave him a rocket for NOT bulling his shoes to the required standard (in fact not bulling them at all).

In the Army one form of drill always leads on to another. One form of drill is Pokey drill and is simply seen as another sadistic form of training that permanent staff can inflict on apprentices. The unfortunate fact is that the little bodies of apprentices in Anguilla Platoon are unable to hold the massive weight of an SLR (11 lbs) at arms length for long periods at a time. The co-ordination required to hold the rifle in both hands, then take away the left or right, seems to be also beyond most of the platoon's capabilities as they took away both hands then, low and behold, they became scientists and discovered gravity! The more meaty side of weapon training also became apparent. After a certain amount of classroom training the platoon discovered firstly the Depot .22 range, then Ash Ranges. With range days came lessons in a few fundamentals of military life, namely picking up empty cases and the joy of a Salvation Army mobile canteen coming over the horizon.

Recruit training involves a fair amount of classroom work, and the education staff make sure that the boys get their full allocation of classroom periods. Certain members of the Education Wing have said how sweet Anguilla Platoon are (on occasions), but SHE said that she wishes to remain anonymous. Of course platoon staff are responsible for some classroom work in addition to education days. This can range from the more juicy parts of Military Law (eg Chapter VII MML) to how to navigate in Block 11 classroom 5.

The platoon visit to London brought a temporary change of scene. While APte Howard was feeding the birds around Buckingham Palace on his packed lunch, everyone else saw the Changing of the Guard (spelt a different way to Lt Freegard's name) between the Welsh Guards and the Royal Green Jackets. Most of the apprentices decided that they were better off in the RAOC as they couldn't march as fast as the RGJ. The highlight of the day for APte Corish came on travelling from one place to another on the tube - it was his first trip. On the subject of the Underground, Sgt Gatley is now taking lessons in counting up to 30! The main reason for the visit came in the afternoon with a visit to the Science Museum. APte Gartside said that one of the themes was Silicon Chips with everything.

Finally some members (selected may I add) are now pushing back the frontier of medical science with Cpl Hawkins and QMSI Mather. They are attending extra PT to see if circuit training is of any use in improving physical fitness. If the answer is NO then Anguilla platoon will have saved many hundreds of recruits from a fate worse than death in the gymnasium.

ARAKAN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt D C Inshaw RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt N P Botfield RAOC

Sgt D F Hampton RAOC

Winter Term 1979

Arakan Platoon, consisting of 34 apprentices formed up on 11 September 1979, looking duly apprehensive. The first week brought the normal com-

plaints, "I'm homesick Sir", "I don't like the food", but these were all swiftly dealt with and Arakan soon began to take shape.

After two weeks 2 apprentices had left and we were left with the hard core that was to do so well.

The training programme had now got underway and the platoon entered into it with enthusiasm.

The cross country competition began to appear on the horizon and preparation began in earnest. The platoon quickly earned the nickname "suicide squad" because of their passion for running but it paid off, as the 'suicide squad' became the first recruit platoon ever to win the competition.

Half term quickly came and went and then we were out on G1 for the first platoon exercise. The platoon quickly learned the art of making themselves comfortable and quickly realised that when their Platoon Commander disappeared from the location, that they should 'stand to". Lt Inshaw also learned that when setting a trip flare to ensure that Sgt Botfield is nowhere near it, as he almost successfully burnt his hair off. Is there a moral here somewhere.

At the College Skill-at-Arms camp, the platoon achieved some creditable results, especially when they heard that the marksmen would be presented with the appropriate badge.

Next came the Assault March competition; having a reputation to keep up, training was conducted in earnest, so while the College slept Arakan were pounding the cross country course. The platoon preserved its reputation and after a close fought competition, they came out on top, a very creditable performance by the largest platoon.

Preparation then began for the end of term Pageant which went very well and on 14 December the platoon departed for a spot of well-earned leave.

Spring Term 1980

After a very well earned rest, Arakan Platoon returned fortified, ready for the rigours of their second term. The term started quietly, with everyone finding their feet again, after all the Christmas festivities.

The first event to appear on the horizon was the cross country competition. Full of confidence after last term's success, the platoon regained the Cup getting 10 apprentices in the first 20 places. APte McGill fulfilled our trust placed in him and won a very good competition.

The next few weeks were spent quietly in barracks with training going ahead at full speed. Half term quickly disappeared into the mists of time, with the platoon finding themselves preparing for a long weekend in Wales. The platoon were going to Craig-y-Parc School of Physically Handicapped children, where we were going to lend a hand in clearing ground for their use. We arrived late on a Thursday afternoon, quickly set up camp and surveyed the work ahead. The following morning we awoke to torrential rain but undaunted set to work and by the end of our stay a prestigeous amount of ground had been cleared. Then, all too soon, it was back to Deepcut to "dry out" and prepare for Fremington Camp.

Fremington was a welcome break away from Deepcut and the platoon had a thoroughly enjoyable stay getting out every day on various activities. Again, all too soon, it was back to College and the run-in for the end of term.

The remainder of the term passed uneventfully and then we found ourselves on the Passing Out Parade. The Passing Out Parade was conducted in glorious weather and the platoon acquitted themselves most creditably.

Finally the Spring term came to an end and the platoon said goodbye to Ssgt Botfield who was off to Germany to take up a new post as a WO2. To him the platoon send their very best wishes.

Summer Term 1980

The platoon returned refreshed from Easter leave on 29 April, ready to-face the rigours of their final term. We all quickly got back into the routine and started to prepare for College Camp at Tenby.

Sgt Bradley joined the platoon in the absense of WO2 Botfield and he was quickly brought up to the standard required by Arakan Platoon.

On 13 May, in glorious sunshine, we arrived at Penally Training Camp. For the first three days the platoon were in the Precillys on Exercise "Hercynian Hurdle", which involved a lot of hill walking. We then moved back to Penally and the next 10 days we spent canoeing, abseiling, climbing, sailing, parascending (when the weather permitted), command tasks and sun bathing. Unfortunately, time passed very quickly and all too soon we were back in Deepcut.

Our next event was the final platoon battle camp, this was a great success and the platoon learned a lot from it. At this stage in the term Sgt Bradley left us and WO2 Botfield's replacement Sgt Hampton, arrived.

Half term passed quickly and again we were on the move, this time to Capel Curig for our ELT camp. The weather was quite kind to us except for the 3 day exercise when it poured down with rain but the platoon did very well and everyone finished.

Then it was back to Deepcut once more to count the blisters and prepare for the Assault March competition.

The day of the competition dawned bright and very hot but, as usual, the platoon performed admirably and came in winners for the second time!

As this account goes to press the platoon are busily preparing for the Passing Out Parade. It only remains to wish the platoon the best of luck in their chosen trades.

Winter Term 1980

Fresh from Summer leave the Permanent Staff returned to the College on 8th September. Preparation began straight away to get ready for the 200 new recruits arriving on 10 September.

The new Arakan Platoon duly arrived with only one failing to appear and straight away began their recruit administration.

Two days later they had all passed their PULHEEMS and were fit to run. The first run was a gentle trot to judge the overall fitness which on the whole was quite good, but, in the immortal words, there was "still room for improvement".

This term education started early and consequently military training was more staccato than normal.

Drill quickly got off the ground and Sgt Hampton was seen to be turning grey at a rapid rate of knots and comments such as "ripping arms off" abounded. FMT started during the second week, but the first period was spent showing the recruits the mysteries of tying puttees and wearing combat kit.

Early on in the term we had a visit from the I of E team (it is a long time since the Platoon Commanders have appeared to work so hard). We saw the team depart, with the Company still intact.

Another first occurred during the fourth week with the first charge going through - APte Ball has now decided to buy a razor.

Drill by this time was progressing well, with the Acceptance Parade looming large on the horizon. Sgt Hampton proved himself to be an excellent body catcher when, during a rehearsal, he saved APte Minall from bouncing more than once.

Fitness had now improved dramatically and the platoon acquitted themselves well in the cross country, not so much by positions, but by effort shown. Full marks to APte Turner and Co.

The first main objective for the recruits came all too soon and the platoon found themselves in the Acceptance Parade. Their standard and turnout was exceptionally high, all praise to Sgt Hampton.

So, flushed with their success, the platoon proceeded on half term for a well earned break.

ARDENNES PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Captain D D Matheson REME
	Lt K G Marshall RAOC
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt J M Clarke RAOC
	Sgt E Leach RAOC

Winter Term 1979

The platoon returned from the summer holiday and started the trade element of their training at the College. In addition, everybody went to Leconfield to learn to drive, with most of the platoon gaining a driving licence.

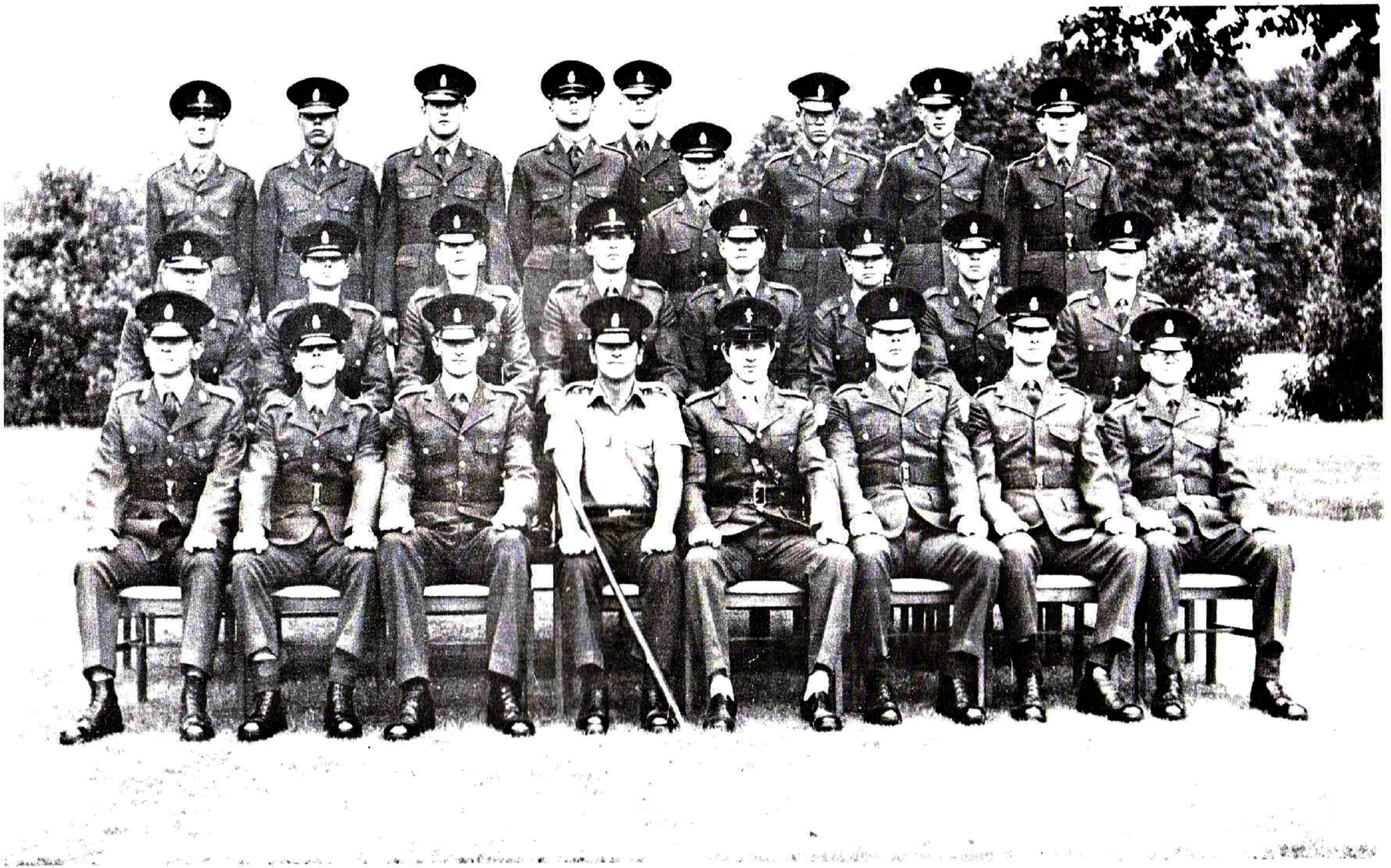
Apart from these activities, Ardennes entered wholeheartedly into community service work. The main task was at the "Grange" in Hindhead, which was set up some years ago to cater for some of the less fortunate handicapped children in the area. The assistance included, gardening, painting, repair and general clearing up, but more important, helping the nurses to look after and entertain the children themselves.

In the boxing competition, Ardennes Platoon was represented by APte Budgie Sambrook, who acquitted himself with honour, enthusiasm and success. APte Turner was also in the squad but did not box on the night.

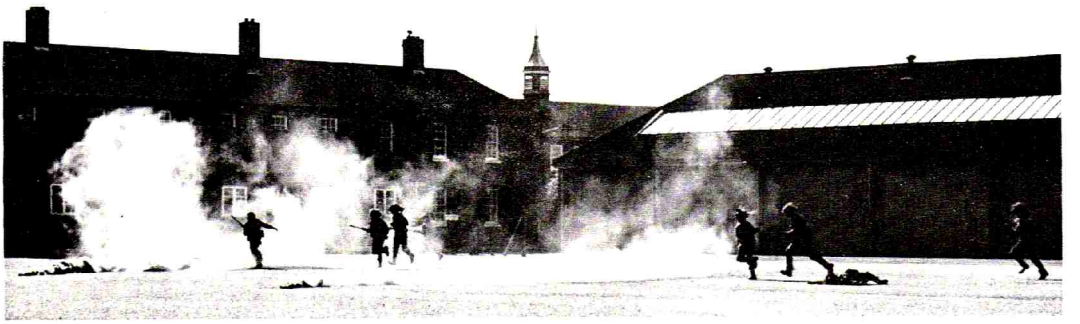
The end of term came on us very quickly and the daily panic got steadily worse. ASgt Biggs was awarded the trophy for the "Best All-round Sportsman", to go with his Sergeant's Cup of the previous term.



ASgt Briggs (Ardennes) receiving the Sergeants' Cup as College Best All-rounder from Mrs Toni Short, wife of the Training Centre Commander, Prize Giving December 1979



Back Row L to R	A/PTE Sanbrook A/PTE Westerman A/PTE Neale A/PTE Groves A/PTE Stoodley A/PTE Phillips A/PTE Sutton A/PTE Gamble A/PTE Fox
Centre L to R	A/PTE Coffin A/PTE Anderson A/PTE Murray A/PTE Turner A/PTE Thomas A/PTE Martin A/PTE Bell ATPTE Prime
Front Row L to R	A/LCPL Hodson A/LCPL Karas A/CPL Courtier SGT Clarke CAPT Matheson A/CPL Pow A/LCPL Bennet A/LCPL Moore

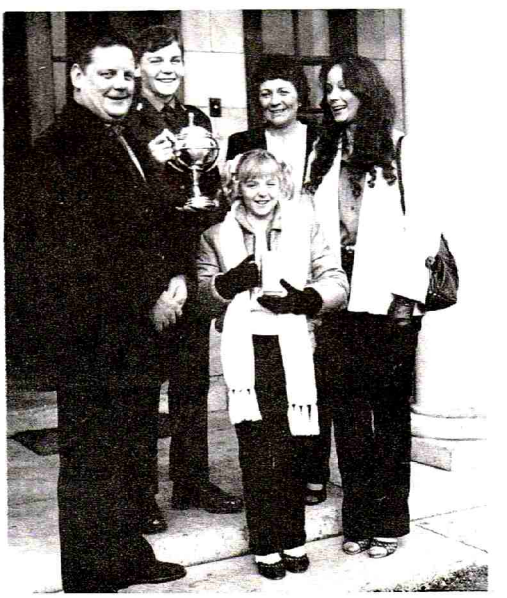




Ardennes involved in a Section Assault on the College drill square - Spring Term 1980

only one thing - survived and kept our sense of humour.

Unfortunately Battle Camp is made up of about 40% lecture, 10% action and 50% boredom. This was especially true when we were moving to a new location when one of the sections had to get down and wait for a considerable length of time. Regrettably, one of the section succumbed to a thing which we had all been denied over the camp - sleep! Therefore when the section moved on, he continued to sleep, blissfully unaware of what was going on around him. It was one hour before anyone noticed that he was missing. Sgt Leach was not pleased when, after a long and arduous trek, he had to go out and look for the 'lost lamb', but Lt Marshall was greatly amused by it, as were the rest of the platoon. The 'lost lamb' was found eventually, back at Deepcut and the air around



ASgt Etherington (Ardennes) with his family after receiving the Sergeants' Cup for the best all-rounder. December 1980.

Deepcut was pretty blue when Sgt Leach first set eyes on him!

On another occasion, the platoon took part in recce patrols which ended with Lt Marshall 'correcting' the Section Commander for pointing him the wrong way, taking us through Bisley Ranges when we should have been about 180° in the other direction.

ARNHEM PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Captain D M Wood RAOC
	Capt J K Hardcastle RAOC
	Capt R A C Eccles RAOC
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt F J Keogh RAOC

Winter Term 1979

This was Arnhem's third at the College and for the four members of the REME it was to be their last. Early in the term Sgt Keogh was away for three weeks on his B1 Supply Specialist's course which he successfully passed.

Platoon camp was at Proteus Camp in Nottingham. APte Tingay had the following to say about that camp:

"From the 7 October to 12th October Arnhem Platoon went to Proteus Training Camp at Ollerton, Nottinghamshire. It was to be a military training camp for us; during which we did a 3 day exercise, vehicle map reading and vehicle anti-ambush drills. We also had one day in Nottingham.

On 5 October the advance party left Deepcut with the food, rations and ammunition. The advance party consisted of Lcpl Evans, ACpl Williams, ACpl Smith, ALcpl Reed, APte Boyd and a civilian driver. They were to prepare the camp for the remainder of the platoon ready for when they arrived on the following Sunday.

On Sunday 7 October the main party loaded one 4-ton truck with stores and themselves onto another. The main party arrived at Proteus at around 1430 hrs and unloaded stores and moved into the barrack blocks. We had a meal at 1700 hrs and were allowed into Ollerton that evening.

On Monday 8 October we moved out for a 3 day exercise called Exercise "Major Oak" on the training area. We camouflaged the trucks and Land Rover and dug in. It was hard work digging trenches. At around 1800 hrs we had to stand to, which lasted around an hour. This was the same each day we were out on exercise. During the night two people were on guard from each section. There were 3 sections which were:

No 1 Section:
Sect Comd - Acpl Williams
2IC - ALcpl Ford

No 2 Section:
Sect Comd - Acpl Saxon
2IC - ALcpl Reed

No 3 Section:
Sect Comd - ACpl Smith
2IC - ALcpl Calder

Each morning at first light we had a "stand to" for around an hour. The 3 sections were commended by HQ which consisted of Capt Wood, Lcpl Evans, ACpl Day, ALcpl Roy and Apte Boyd. Each section supplied 2 men to clear up after each meal and one man to

Cpl White who was the enemy.

At around 2350 hrs on Tuesday 9 October we broke camp and moved sites and dug in on a new site. We finished digging in at around 0300 hrs and then went into the normal defensive routine.

During the time we were on exercise some other parts of our training were practised such as reconnaissance patrols and fighting patrols.

On Thursday we did vehicle anti-ambush drills and then broke camp and returned to Proteus. We cleaned stores and in the afternoon we did a vehicle map reading exercise. We then got the kit ready to be loaded and in the evening we went into Ollerton.

On Friday 12 October we loaded the kit and travelled to Nottingham and we spent the day there after which we travelled back to Deepcut. The weapons had previously been loaded on the Land Rover which had departed for Deepcut earlier in the morning.

It had been a busy week and the most concentrated fieldcraft training that we had done during my year at the College, but it was good fun and interesting to train in a different part of the country."

The next week was ELT camp in Wales. ALcpl Reed had this to say about ELT camp.

ELT Camp by ALcpl Reed

Day One

The day we arrived the weather was fine. It was a 5 hour journey on the train, but it seemed to go quite fast. We were to stay at Capel Curig.

When we arrived we discovered we were to stay in 160 pound tents. After we got over the shock of the accommodation we drew our kit from the stores. After that was done the group leaders were briefed. They told us what we were doing the next day, which was a low level walk. After tea there was not much to do so we had an early night.

Day Two - Low Level Walk

We were woken up a 7 o-clock. We got our kit on and went to breakfast. We left camp at 9 o-clock. We stopped off at a shop to get sweets and drink for the walk. We arrived at our destination at about 10 o-clock. The object of the exercise was to map read across the countryside from point to point. We were split up into 3 groups. Each group had one or two members of staff with them but they were not allowed to assist in any way with the map reading. We set off at about 10.30. After a while we realised this so-called low level walk was not so low level and were soon tired. It was an up and down route. Occasionally we went slightly off course but we soon corrected ourselves. The ground was very soft, making the footing very slippery and I fell more than once. We stopped for lunch at about 12.30 at a small lake and moved on again at about 1 o-clock.

We finally finished at about 3 o-clock arriving back at camp at 4 o-clock. After sorting out our kit we found there was nothing to do and we again had an early night.

Day Three - Rock Climbing

The next morning we had rock climbing. We loaded up the lorry with the equipment and left the camp at about 9 o-clock. We arrived at our destination at about 9.30. After setting out the kit we discovered there were four climbs to do. Two easy and two not so easy. Capt Wood our Platoon Commander, was the first to have a go at the first one, he found it easy and so did most of us. The second was not so easy with a nasty overhang, but we all managed and the third was again easy, giving no-one any problems. However, as for the fourth this was where the problems really started. APte Izzard was the first to attempt this one and to our surprise found it quite easy. Only four or 5 other people managed it, me being one of them, but

only after about ten attempts.

During the day the Commanding Officer and Brigadier turned up to watch. They seemed quite impressed with our climbing. Overall it was quite an enjoyable day out.

Day Four - Exercise "Hard Slog"

We again had an early night since today was the day of our expedition which consisted of map reading across the range of mountains called the Glyders. The first half of the course would be done one day and the second, the next.

We set off from camp at 9 am. We were split into three groups each taking a different route but in the end arriving at the same destination. The first group was set off at a point about four miles from where we were to set off. We started at the same point as group one but we were to depart 10 minutes after them. Again, the Brigadier and Commanding Officer turned up to wish us luck.

At first all went well and we found the first point easily, but it was hard going to reach it. However, because we took an easy route at the first mountain we soon caught group one. After the first point the others were easy to find and we arrived at the camp site alongside group one at about 2.30. Group three soon arrived. As we pitched our tents it started to get windy but we thought nothing of it, and after a meal we went to bed. By this time the rain had started to come down but we thought it would clear during the night.

We were woken about 4 o-clock in the morning to be informed that one of the tents had been blown down and the weather was so bad we would have to abort the camp. So we got on our water-proofs and took down the tents which was not so easy with the heavy winds. We were to get down by an emergency escape route. This was a very dangerous path down the mountain. Because of the heavy mist we had to form a line and stick close together. We managed to get down safely after about an hour and a half. We were all soaked to the skin but were soon picked up by the transport and taken back to camp.

After we handed all our kit in and got cleaned up, we were informed we could have transport down to the local town which was Bangor. The transport was to leave after our de-brief at 6 o-clock. In the de-brief we were informed we would still be getting our ELT Certificates, due to the fact it was not our idea to abort the expedition.

When we arrived at Bangor we found it to be quite "dead" and ended up in the local pictures. We were picked up at 11 o-clock. We left for Deepcut at 8 o-clock the next morning and arrived back at about 2 o-clock.

We had a good week but we were disappointed not to complete the last exercise.

It was nice to get back to Deepcut and sleep in warm and comfortable beds.

RPC III Drill Test

On 14 November 1979 Arnhem Platoon were formed up in three ranks ready for the CSM's inspection. Arnhem Platoon had the honour to have their own CSM, who was CSM Finch. The reason for having our own CSM was that both CSM Hosband (B Company) and CSM Miller (Trg Wing) were unable to be at the College at that time, due to circumstances beyond their control.

The CSM (A Company) began the drill test in the usual manner, it was all over in the expected time; due to the brilliant instruction of Sgt Keogh, Arnhem Platoon passed with flying colours.

St Martin's Plain

On Sunday 18 November 1979 Arnhem Platoon moved, along with the rest of A Company, to St Martin's Plain in Kent.

On the first day of arrival we settled into our blocks. We then began to prepare for the next day.

On Monday 19 November, Arnhem began by doing the normal admin of the day. They then caught the transport which would take them to the ranges. At the ranges Arnhem fired the 06-mm anti-tank weapon as well as firing on the indoor theatre range.

On Tuesday 20 November, Arnhem Platoon caught the transport to the ranges where they began the grouping and zeroing session. This was in the hope that they would pass their annual personal weapon test. In the afternoon the platoon fired the 9-mm Browning (pistol).

On Wednesday Arnhem took their annual personal weapons' test, this was on the ETR ranges. Unfortunately visibility was very poor on that day. At the end of the test seven members of the platoon had passed. Those who passed were ACpl Smith, APtes Atkinson, Long, Marshall, Tingay, Upton and Wane.

In the afternoon the platoon fired the light machine gun, this was a great favourite with the platoon.

After the ranges, the platoon left in a Bedford to return to Deepcut. This was necessary because the platoon had their English RSA Stage I examinations the next day which was Thursday 22 November 1979.

Boxing 1979

Arnhem Platoon had five members in the team out of a possible 12, the five were ASgt Day, ALcpls Ford, Calder, Reed and APte Mazzone.

ASgt Day's category was light flyweight, he fought APte Murray and he won a winner's medal.

ALcpl Ford's category was light heavyweight. He fought APte Burns and unfortunately he lost. This was a controversial decision, in most people's opinion ALcpl Ford won on points.

ALcpl Calder's category was light middleweight, he fought APte Chivers. Unfortunately he lost but he fought bravely showing guts and determination. He had a hard fight because he was out-matched in every way.

ALcpl Reed's category was heavyweight. He fought APte Waby but regrettably he lost, the referee stopping the fight in the first round.

APte Mazzone's category was middleweight and he fought APte Batterham but lost due to a controversial disqualification.

Assault March Competition

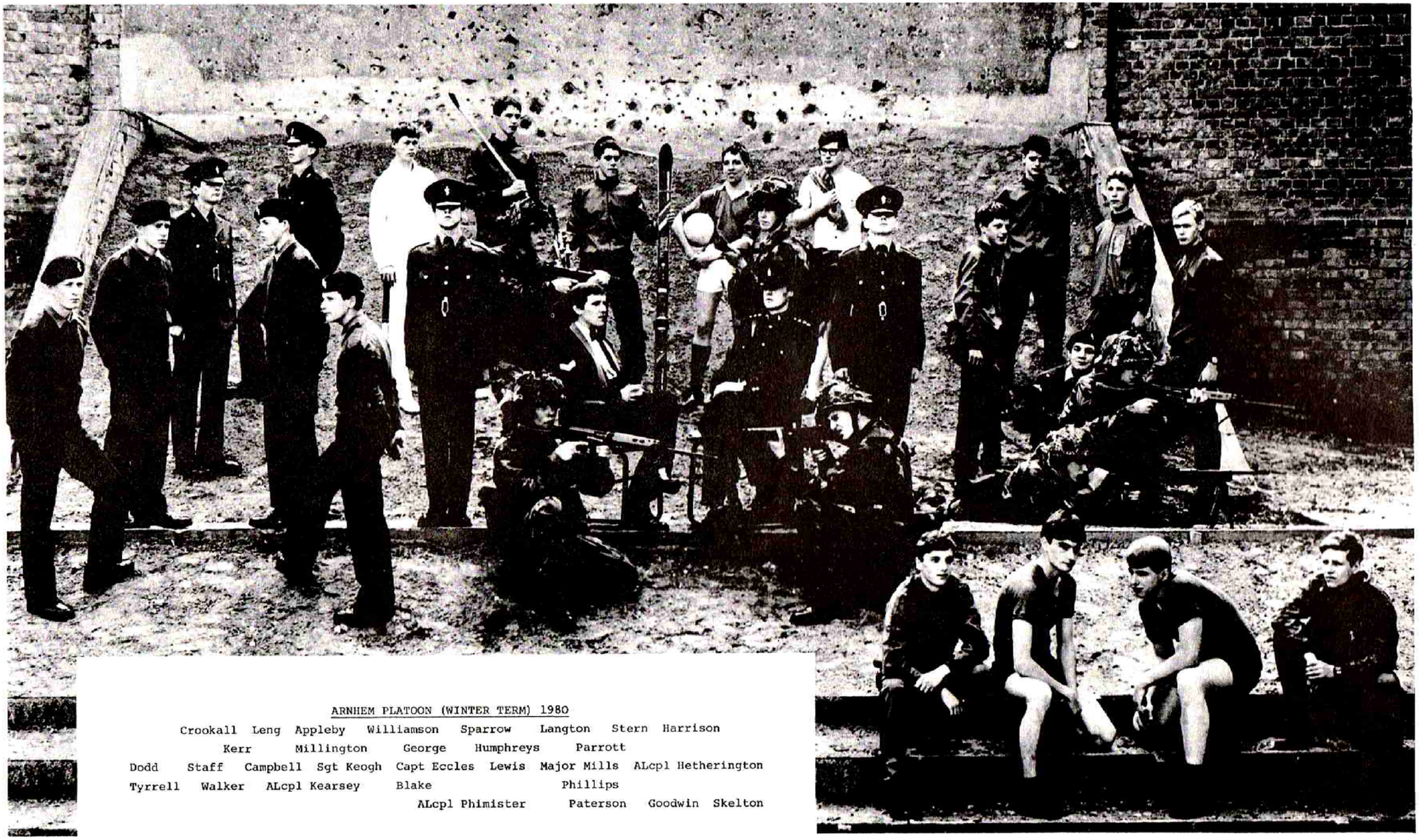
On Tuesday 27 November 1979 Arnhem Platoon took part in the Assault March Competition, together with all the other platoons in A Company.

The result was a bit of a surprise to the rest of the Company, most people expected Arnhem to win mainly because we came second in the previous competition.

The result was:
1st - Arakan
2nd - Alamein
3rd - Arnhem
4th - Anguilla
5th - Aden

The course consisted of a four mile endurance run carrying full battle kit and rifle; after the run there followed a short assault course. At the finish the platoon had four shooters, two who were nominated and two who were picked. They fired and then the competition was completed.

The trophy was presented by Brigadier Short.



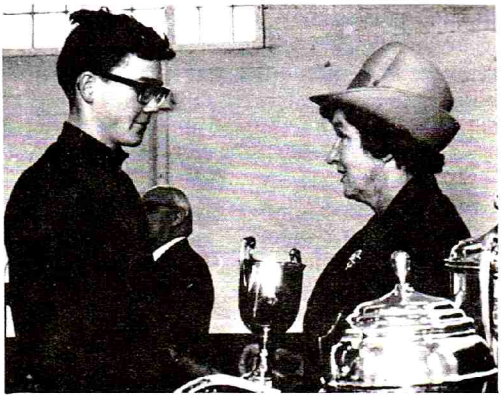
ARNHEM PLATOON (WINTER TERM) 1980

Crookall Leng Appleby Williamson Sparrow Langton Stern Harrison
Kerr Millington George Humphreys Parrott
Dodd Staff Campbell Sgt Keogh Capt Eccles Lewis Major Mills ALcpl Hetherington
Tyrrell Walker ALcpl Kearsey Blake Phillips
ALcpl Phimister Paterson Goodwin Skelton

An interesting montage posed by Arnhem Platoon showing some of the many forms of dress worn by members of the College and indicating the variety of activities followed by them.

Visit to Dorset

On Friday 30 November 1979 Arnhem Platoon visited the Tank Museum at Bovington in Dorset. We travelled to Bovington Camp in a Bedford and arrived there around dinner-time. We then walked round the Tank Museum. The Museum held many different varieties of tanks, there were armaments and uniforms. The Platoon seemed quite interested obviously some more than others, but most thought it was worthwhile.



Passing Out Parade December 1979. Mrs Toni Short presents the Maule Cup for Military Proficiency to ALcpl Roy of Arnhem Platoon

After walking round the museum the platoon had their dinner with the Junior Leaders of the Royal Armoured Corps. As the return journey was quite long we returned to the College after dinner.

We now had the Passing Out Parade to look forward to. We rehearsed and rehearsed for the Pageant and the six REME members practised for their final parade as term leavers. We wished APtes Allison, Bosworth, Atherton, Tingay and ACpls White and Smith the best of luck in their trade training and then went home for a well deserve holiday over the Christmas and New Year.

Spring Term 1980

The Spring term opened with Arnhem starting their final term at the College. The platoon was now down to 23 apprentices having said farewell to the six REME members the previous term. At this point it must also be said that we also said goodbye to Capt Malcolm Wood who left to go on his Long Armoured Course at Bovington. Capt Wood gave excellent service to the platoon and will be missed by everyone at the College. As there was no replacement until summer term this left Sgt Keogh as acting platoon commander.

The platoon, during this term, were on their Trade Training at ETS Regimental Depot. Trades taken were Supply Specialist, Supply Clerk and Staff Clerk and it is pleasing to report that all the boys passed their various courses with creditable results. Once the courses were finished the boys were then whisked away to Leconfield to take Driver Training and again the majority passed and obtained full driving licences.

The Passing Out Parade was approaching rapidly and with a week and a half left, the last member of Arnhem arrived back from Driver Training and so it was down to some hard work on parade rehearsals.

On 3 April the big day dawned. The College was once again playing host to hundreds of parents, brothers, sisters and relations of the senior boys. It gave platoon staff the opportunity to meet their apprentices' relations and to discuss with them the future of their boys. It turned out to be a fine Parade and a fitting end to the platoon's stay at the College. ARNHEM January 1979 - April 1980 had proved to be a fine all-round platoon with good heart and spirit. We wish them all good luck for their future careers in the RAOC.

Summer Term 1980

On 9 June, 31 bright-eyed, cheery, long haired young men, arrived at the College to begin recruit training.

They were to be the new Arnhem Platoon.

For the first four weeks of training Sgt Keogh was again to act as Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant, as Capt Richard Eccles was not due into the College until July to assume the appointment of Platoon Commander.

After documentation the first day of training dawned. The first lessons were to be drill. Sgt Keogh's stick was seen flying round the drill square on that fateful Saturday morning, but all was well. The boys have settled down and are proving to be a capable platoon willing to work hard and they are enjoying life at the College.

On Thursday 3 July Capt Eccles arrived at the College to take over Arnhem Platoon. We wish him every success during his tour at the College, especially with Arnhem.

The platoon was now training hard for the Company Assault March on Tuesday 22 July. After some hard training the day arrived and at 1330 hrs Arnhem platoon were the first to start the March. One hour and five minutes later tired, sore, but still together they finished the March with no penalty points and after some good shooting on the 25-m range our final time was 60 minutes and 5 seconds. This gave the platoon 2nd position overall. A very good performance indeed.

The platoon are now looking forward to the end of term when, on the 8 August, we leave for a week's tour of Arnhem in Holland. We hope to give a full account of this trip in due course.

Winter Term 1980

Agent: Intergalactic S15020C
Time: 4 - 17-7-93
Area: Sol Planet 3 - Humans
Report: Potential Aggressors

Previous Report: General Warlike Activities

Current Report: Detailed Training Activities

LONG LIVE THE PADASHAR EMPEROR

Sir

Please find the enclosed report, much of which is quite incomprehensible, the names odd and the actions most peculiar. Nevertheless, I have included all material for assessment by the "GREATER MIND OF ARGON 4". It was necessary for me to use the molecular disruption pack, which to all intents and purposes made me invisible to humans.

PASSED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Signed _____
GREATER MIND OF ARGON 4

General

The small military unit I studied was called Arnhem Platoon (more of this name later) and was similar in size and training programme to many other units. Thus as with the ant colonies of Beta 7, you may multiphy the overall effect by a galactic quadroon.

Arrival and Initial Training

The humans of Arnhem Platoon arrived on a day in June Sol time 1980. They wore long fur on their heads and strange clothes, which seemed to amuse the humans already present. 31 arrived and were greeted by a long human called 'Sir' or "Capt Eccles' and a number of other words which I do not understand. By his side he kept a shorter human called 'Sgt Keogh' or 'Sir' or 'Staff' or 'Sergeant'. The long one then seemed to lose interest and left the short one to get on with it. He took away all their clothes and gave them green ones - he cut off most of their fur - he made them do tiny

circles on their footwear so they could see their faces, and then, would you believe, he made them walk up and down and complained when the circles fell off. To finish this initial training he took them to a dwelling called Aldershot and showed them the Military Display which seemed to impress the humans tremendously.

Continuous Training

The long one 'Eccles' then returned and together with the short one 'Keogh' continued to make the unit in question do all manner of odd things. For example they spent much time looking at the hovel called 'block' - under the beds, in the cupboards, in the basins, which was preceeded by frantic cleaning under the beds, in the cupboards, etc - you see Sir - it seems they have to do it all themselves, there is not a single 'Android' cleaner to be seen.

When they get outside they continued this odd behaviour, by running round and round in small circles, well judging by the human reaction they seem to be big circles - they call this an Assault March, doing it in their green clothes and carrying 'equipment' and a thing called a 'rifle'. One day many of them chased each other round and it would appear the Arnhem came 2nd.

Soon afterwards they were made to put all their 'equipment' on again and were dropped (by an incredibly slow beetle) in a wood. There they were made to live under sheets of 'plastic' material and do all manner of warlike activities, This it would seem was called a battle camp.

About six weeks after they arrived I noticed a certain amount of tension in the air, called end of term fever. Important humans whom everybody called 'Sir' peered into the cupboards, an increased supply of circles were put on boots until one day they all gathered round a large square. Here we saw humans from Arnhem give displays of marching, gymnastics, logs (trees actually cut down for the purpose of carrying around) and Aikido.

It seemed then that they were all about to go home for a holiday. The long human 'Eccles' congratulated them all on a good 'term' - he gave the ones called Hetherington, Kearsey and Phimister, red material to put on their arms and called them 'Lance Corporal'.

But instead of going away like the others, Arnhem Platoon set off across the water to a place called Arnhem. It seems that the platoon was named after the town. They spent much time looking at the places where other humans were killed, and then looked at pretty towns such as Amsterdam.

Once they had returned from across the water, they then dispersed and went to their home places.

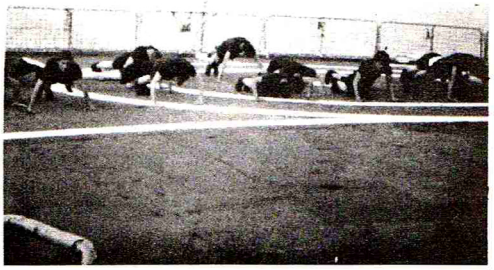
ARNHEM visit ARNHEM

8 - 15 August 80

by APte Phillips G S

Our visit to Holland began on 8 August 1980 with a coach ride to Marchwood during which time we managed to get lost a couple of times. We boarded the ship just before lunch, alas the food was a bit poor in quantity and quality.

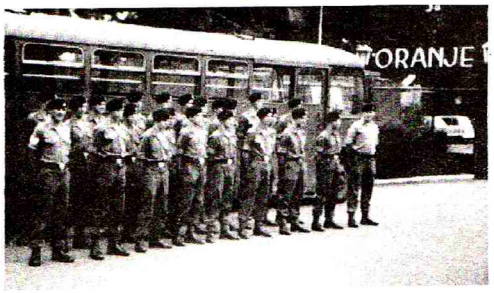
The ferry trip across the North Sea was rather boring and I was pleased to leave the ferry the following afternoon. We then had a long bus



Early morning PT aboard LS

ride from Antwerp to Arnhem. When we arrived at Orange Barracks we were shown to our rooms by the Dutch Army. The rooms, showers and latrines, were of a good standard, the food excellent and the service first class we we actually ate in the Sergeants' Mess. That evening we had a short look around Arnhem town.

On Sunday we went to the British War Cemetry at Oosterbeek which holds the 1,700 victims of the Battle of Arnhem. It was a very overwhelming experience. After lunch we went to the Hartenstain Hotel which was the Divisional Headquarters and is now a museum. We had an hour of interesting discoveries looking at maps, pictures and models of the battle. Later we went to the bridge at Arnhem, the northern end of which was captured by 2 Para under Lt Col Frost. That night we went into Arnhem for a few drinks.



Arrival at Dutch bus in Arnhem

On Monday we went to one of the most interesting buildings I've ever been in. The Headquarters for NW Europe Luftwaffe Command in World War 2. The walls and roof were 10 feet thick steel reinforced concrete and was virtually impregnable. At the end



Leaving LS at Antwerp



Before the bridge at Nijmegen



On the Arnhem bridge

of the war when the Germans tried to blow it up they only raised the roof 3-mm. Considered one of the safest buildings in Holland it is now part of the National Archives.

We then moved on to Landing Zone Y used by 4 Para and went hunting for momentos. Finding only modern empty cases we travelled on to Nijmegen and saw the bridge that the Allies



APte George's impression, aided and abetted by his father

took. As we had some time we were able to look round the old part of Nijmegen town.

The next day we ventured to Amsterdam. Once we managed to find a parking space for the bus we went on an introductory tour by canal. It was interesting seeing the old buildings, churches and all the house boats.

We then proceeded to the Rijk Museum, which was full of priceless pictures and works of art including the "Night Watch" by Rembrandt.

After this we were launched on to the streets of Amsterdam. It is a beautiful city, but the streets are full of unsuspecting dangers. Junkies, prostitutes, 'gays', freaks and hippies made the place seem like hell. Once seen, never again.

On Wednesday morning we went for final shopping in Arnhem. We then cleaned our rooms, had lunch and returned to Antwerp and the LSL home. The weather was lovely on the way back and we sunbathed during the day. Early that night there was a great electric storm so I went to bed early.

Back in Marchwood we went through Customs and then returned to the College where we picked up the rest of our kit for the holidays. It was the end of an enjoyable week and my first trip abroad.

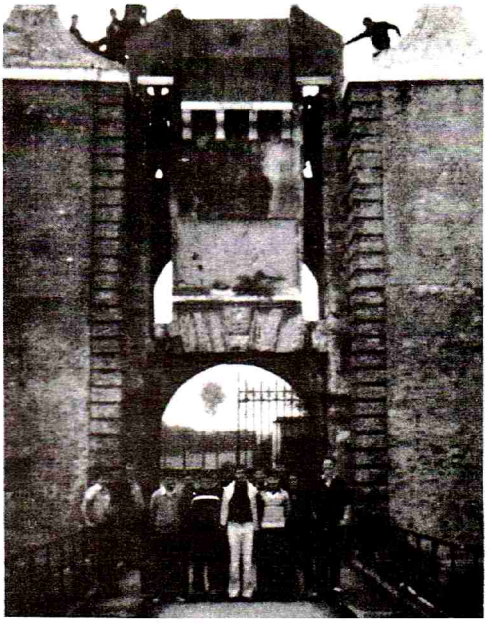
ARNHEM VISIT CALAIS Ex Leap - Frog October 80



Map reading overlooking Dover before departure.



Before the town hall of Calais



Before the gates of the 'Citadelle' Calais

'B' COMPANY

OC Major E Champion RAOC

Maj T A Glen RAOC

Training Officer Capt A N B Jelly RAOC

CSM WO2 (CSM) J N Robinson RAOC

This year has seen the Company placed under new management. The new OC, Major T A Glen, arrived in January; Captain A N B Jelly, the new Company Second-in-Command, in November; and Sergeant Major J N Robertson in March. Not that the old management had been sacked! Major E Champion has been posted as a Lt Col and WOI B A Hosband moved from CSM B Company to become College RSM.

As a Company we very quickly formed into a new team and set about competing in earnest against our old rivals, A Company. True to tradition the cross country prize evaded us - just. However, after that we never looked back and snatched the winner's trophy in swimming, basketball, orienteering, skill-at-arms and athletics.

Winter term saw a tremendous challenge to the ability of the Company to maintain its identity and Esprit de Corps when we received four platoons of recruits. To show them the way we only had two platoons - Bruneval, fourth term RAOC lads who were busy with driver training and trade training and Benghazi, who only a term before had, themselves, been recruits and who were heavily involved with the Corps of Drums.

Due to the very hard work of the Permanent Staff and Junior NCOs and the keeness and determination of the recruits, we quickly formed into a cohesive unit and finally managed to grasp from A Company that most elusive of trophies, the cross country trophy. Later in the term, however, the Company had its first taste of defeat for nearly a year when in the closest and most sporting of competitions the A Company boxing team just managed to wrest from us the long-held boxing trophy.

The end of term party showed how high morale was within the Company and what hidden theatrical talents we have! The end of term Passing Out Parade proved the quality of the product. The recruit platoons drilled with precision, confidence and flair and Benghazi Platoon gave an outstanding performance as the Corps of Drums. The Company went on leave in the highest of spirits.

Tragedy struck only a few days after the end of term when ALcpl Jeremy Timms, our Apprentice Drum Sergeant Major, was killed in a road traffic accident. He was a much-liked young man who had a bright career ahead of him and he will be missed by his comrades.

During the past year junior soldiers have often surprised the Permanent Staff (and themselves) with the excellence of their performance. Members of the Company have beaten the best in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at offshore sailing; shown themselves to be the best marksmen in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and represented the Army as junior athletes.

At a lower standard than this - though arguably, more importantly - many more Apprentices have discovered that they have some sporting, military or intellectual ability where they thought they had none. Others have found that they now have the courage to face

and overcome fear - either of heights; of water; of the elements, or of social situations. It is perhaps this less dramatic but steady progress of the average Apprentice within the Company which is most pleasing.

In the past year we have seen a great many boys develop and mature into competent and confident young men who are a credit to their service and Corps. It is my honest belief that the standard of our product is steadily improving.

BALACLAVA PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Lt I S J Cassidy REME
	Lt I B Biddle REME
	Lt M J Knight RAOC
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt C J Taylor REME
	Sgt J W Starkey RAOC
	Sgt D A Atkins REME

The platoon has had a busy but rewarding year. We said goodbye to Lt Cassidy, a sad occasion, and Spike, a happy occasion. Lt Biddle took over and Sgt Taylor continued his able work as Platoon Sergeant and Drum Major. As well as numerous Corps of Drums engagements, the platoon managed to fit in four camps.

The first of these was Exercise "Hard Slog X" the External Leadership Training exercise in Snowdonia. The platoon worked hard and maintained their collective sense of humour in spite of some very poor weather conditions.

The next camp was held at Tregantle Fort in Cornwall. Here the platoon learned some fairly advanced FMT skills. During the hours of darkness Tregangle Fort is said to be haunted by a ghost. We found that it was haunted by APte Bennett.

The penultimate camp that the platoon was involved in was at Fremington, again in the south west. This time, however, we were with the whole of B Company; one of the features of Company Camp was the large number of inter-platoon competitions. In spite of appalling weather conditions, Balaclava assault course team set an all-comers record. However, due to some dubious work on the staff side, the platoon was 'robbed'. On the pony trekking, Balaclava troop of the RAOC light horse staged some hilarious displays. APte Simpson· especially, showing that, despite a cavalry background, he preferred the ground to the back of a horse.

Finally, Platoon Battle Camp. During this rather wet camp we noticed that ACpl Peacock and APte Harding's trenches collapsed without any assistance from the enemy. We fought off A Company's attack and staged a quick ambush which left Sgt Gatley speechless.

As a parting gesture, Balaclava Platoon strolled to victory in the inter-platoon basketball competition. The final was nail-biting! Balaclava clinched victory, however, with two quick baskets just before the final whistle. Our congratulations must go to ALcpl Canavan who played magnificently in spite of the 'flu.

In the last term we have had a new Platoon Sergeant, Sgt D A Atkins, who joined us as a Corporal from 70 Ac Wksp Middle Wallop. We said goodbye to Sgt C J Taylor, who entranced us



Fremington Mounted Coastal Patrol. APtes Shanks, Murray, Cottom and ALcpl Heaps



Fremington Assault Course. APtes Murray and Hughes

all by throwing the mace on his last parade, when he left the Army after many (but not too many) years to go and be a civvy.

September 1980 saw the old sweats into Man Service, and a new intake to replace them and keep the name going. Management also changed and Capt M J Knight took over the helm while Sgt M Hogan replaced Sgt J W Starkey.



The tail of the same patrol. APte Simspon, APte Ball and ALcpl Heaps

APte Cooper (now ALcpl) achieved Best Recruit B Company and APte



APte Murray. All at sea!

Walton (now ALcpl), APtes Peacey, Lonnen, Mason, Mills, Slight and Jennings, have all represented the College at various sports from football to orienteering.

APtes Currie, Laing, Mills, Thomson and Walton fought their way into the Company boxing squad with Currie, Laing and Mills representing the Company on the night.

With numerous exercises under battle conditions on local training areas, the platoon is now looking forward to training in North Wales, Fremington and later, Tenby.

Long, rewarding careers are expected now that the uncertainty of civilian life has been left behind.

BERLIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Lt I B Biddle REME
	Capt T I Bunyard REME
	Lt A Shepperd REME
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt D M Bevan REME
	Sgt D M J Rooke RAOC

Old soldiers now, Berlin Platoon entered their second term full of confidence and courage; their new Leader, Capt T I Bunyard REME. The main event was Company Camp at Fremington near Barnstaple in supposedly sunny Devon. The activities were many and varied, including canoeing, abseiling, orienteering and pony trekking. Canoeing proved to be the most nerve-racking activity, with compulsory capsizing under the leadership of Mr Redwood. Those who actually managed to surf had an enjoyable day, however APte Murray managed to capsize in a foot of water and refused to go out any further.

Berlin were also unlucky with the weather when they went orienteering on Exmoor. The fog closed in and reduced visibility to less than 100 metres, only two groups completed the first two checkpoints, the rest were rescued by Capt T I Bunyard on the escape road, (see photo). The Camp was voted 'testing but enjoyable'.

Although A Company were the overall winners of the College cross country towards the end of term, Berlin Platoon came a very creditable second in the platoon line up. Later in the College basketball competition Berlin were just beaten by Balaclava in one



Among those of Berlin rescued from Exmoor. APtes Turner, Haggart and Causer.

of the most exciting games of the competition, this left them in third place and again reflected great credit on the whole platoon.

In the Summer term the highlight has to be the College Camp held at Penally in Pembrokeshire. Here the man who indents for the weather had obviously 'got it right', since we had two glorious weeks of sunshine. Everybody had a thoroughly enjoyable time and got sun-tanned but not burned. At summer camp the platoon also had a new Platoon Sergeant, Sgt D M J Rooke, who joined us from



The College detachment, mostly from Balaclava and Berlin Platoons, taking part in the famous Nijmegen March (1980). The detachment was commanded by Lt Redwood, supported by Sgt Starkey.

1 Armd Div Ord Coy. At this time Capt T I Bunyard also left the platoon and moved to greater things - lending a little culture to A Company.

This term has a host of camps and commitments including the Nijmegen Marches, for which 10 of the platoon are in training.

In conclusion, Berlin has been over committed but never overwhelmed, hard-worked but never humourless and, finally, challenging but never challenged for the title of least boring platoon in the College.

The new Berlin, a REME platoon, arrived in September, keen and raring to go. The platoon has taken a full part in College activities, six members doing sub aqua training and several competing in orienteering competitions.

Shortly after half term Berlin Platoon left camp for their first experience of living under field conditions. A high standard of fieldcraft was maintained throughout the three day exercise and great improvements in efficiency and speed of action was made as the camp progressed. During the exercise the weather was fine and frosty and the experience was enjoyable and beneficial to all those who took part.

The platoon finished 7th/10 in the College cross country race, but supplied the individual winner in APte MacTaggart. He also competed for the College in the Army Junior cross country relay championships, in which the team finished third. A creditable result.

In the B Company Christmas party the platoon practised hard for their musical sketch, "The Twelve Days at Deepcut" and their efforts were rewarded by being unanimously voted best performers.

In all, an enjoyable first term, with the lads doing their best in all activities and making a good start to life in the College.

BRUNEI PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt J E S Redwood RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D Carlin RAOC

Brunei Platoon arrived in September 1979 and settled down to six weeks hard work. This culminated in passing off the square, which they all managed to do successfully. Sgt Carlin then disappeared to Pirbright to do his All Arms Drill Course.

The next major event was the Company Skill-at-Arms Camp at St Martin's Plain. The weather certainly was not on our side, but most of the lads enjoyed the camp. APte Meacham proved to be the best shot in the College, gaining his marksman's badge at the Camp.

Their first experience of living in the field was gained on a three day battle camp. The only hiccup happened when APte Milburn came out late to join up with the rest of the platoon. He had missed the transport so had decided to walk to the local training area. The only problem was he did not know exactly where the area was! He was picked up in Pirbright by the RPs, heading in the wrong direction.



Prize Giving December 1979. Mrs Short, wife of the Training Centre Commander presenting the Crawford Tankard, for the best all-round marksman to APte Meacham of Brunei.

The first term ended with the Passing Out Parade and Pageant. The platoon carried out the drill display under the directions of Sgt Leach and surprised themselves by doing extremely well.



Prize Giving December 1979. ASgt Evans of Brunei receiving the Toch H Cup, as best scholar of the term, from Mrs Toni Shorts, wife of the Training Centre Commander.

Term two started slowly. Everyone had eaten too much Christmas pudding by the looks of things. A few short, sharp exercises soon sorted that problem out and the lads settled down into the routine. The highlight of the second term was the Company Adventure Training Camp at Fremington. The inter-platoon competition for the Challenge Shield was fiercely contested between Burma and Brunei. Unfortunately we came off second best, but we did have the best individual team, comprising of Messrs Oakley, Toop and Meacham. The term ended with the Passing Out Parade and the whole platoon on parade. APtes Watts and Collingwood were the stick orderlies and did a fine job.

The final term started a week early for six of us. This was because we wanted to go canoeing and it was the only time available. It was a pity the expedition lasted just a week because we certainly did not feel like coming back to the College at the end of it. We lost ALcpl Toop to Burma Platoon to show them how it is done! The remainder of the platoon settled down to passing their RPC 3 tests. ASgt Buchanan was rarely seen as he was involved in driver training and trade training.

College Summer Camp quickly came and went then it was off to North Wales on ELT camp. The first two walks up Snowdon were disappointing as visibility was down to zero, but it did improve their navigational ability. Most enjoyed the camp and ALcpl Spiby and ACpl Ogden and their respective groups did extremely well on the expedition phase.

The next event was the Platoon battle camp which involved living in trenches for four days. During the Camp ALcpl Rogerson went off to a Junior Athletics meeting where he won the shot-put competition, whilst the rest of us were flogging over the Guards' Assault Course.



Map reading made easy!
APte Winstanley, ASgt Buchanan, ALcpl Rogerson and APte Dunn



Orienteering on Exmoor. LCpl Miller, APtes Butler and Milburn

Brunei Platoon's other interests this term have been in Parascending in which they form the College squad led by ALcpl Spiby and ALcpl Miller. We had APte Haggie and Collingwood enter the Army Junior Slalom Championships and APte Whaling and Collins have been consistent members of the College shooting team.

The year has drawn to a close and they have successfully completed the course, all achieving a high standard, which will give their successors a hard task to beat.

September 1980, the old Brunei Platoon had departed to their respective training depots in the REME. This left the block empty for a new platoon, the majority of whom duly arrived along with the rest of the recruit platoons.

With the recruits came ANCOs from Bruneval Platoon and Benghazi Platoon. Their first term was hard work. They won the inter-platoon cross country race with APtes Spinks, Mitchell and Woollett coming in the first 20. They then followed this success by becoming runners up in the inter-platoon football competition. In between their sporting activities the platoon passed off the square in week six, spent a concentrated week on Ash ranges and three days in the field in the first week of December. All the platoon and permanent staff were on the Passing Out Parade except for Aptes Lowres and Mathias who were hobbling around at the end of term. APte Shipton just managed to stay with the parade without passing out himself.

Four ANCOs were made up to replace the departing NCOs. They are ALcpls Crawford, Perkin, Mathias and Woodman.

Term two has just commenced and already we are working towards the Platoon battle camp which is in the last week of January. Also the adventure training has started on the practical side with an afternoon spent on the climbing tower and a trip to Hawley Lake to do the canoeing/swimming test and capsize drill. The water temperature was 4^{o}C on the first day and $2\frac{1}{2}^{o}$C on the second. Yes, it was slightly chilling and, yes, I did go in as well (just to demonstrate a screw roll!!!). Roll on Fremington.

BRUNEVAL PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Lt A Shepperd REME
	Lt I B Biddle REME
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt J W Starkey RAOC
	Sgt D A Hogan REME

The Spring and Summer terms 1980 have been very successful for the platoon, with many members distinguishing themselves.

The Company was in camp in Fremington for a week in March, at which several inter-platoon and inter-group competitions were held.

Bruneval excelled particularly in the map reading exercise, where the first team was Rigby, Haywood and Pratt and the second, Eveleigh, Mudie and Barratt. Having the first two teams (and by a convincing margin) was a great achievement for these young men, beating almost 30 teams from the other platoons.

The platoon also did very well in the other competitions; Wignall, Roberts and Williams were impressive in the .22 shooting and all the teams achieved good results in the assault course.

The orienteering competition, which was held in difficult conditions, was led for the most of the camp by Haywood, Rigby and Pratt, only to be beaten into second place on the last day.

The inter-company shooting competition was held towards the end of the term. In this Bruneval Platoon finished a creditable third overall, behind two other B Company platoons. The star of the team was Davey, who won the prize for the best rifle shot in the College. He received good support from the rest of the platoon in the SMG and Rifle competitions.

ACpl Harrison attended an Outward Bound Course at Loch Eil in the Spring term and returned full of enthusiasm and with an excellent report. His instructors were very pleased with his progress on every activity, especially the course cross country race, which he won.

Over the Christmas leave, Haywood volunteered his services for the local recruiting centre. For his efforts there and other achievements he was nominated for the College Initiative prize.

Going on to the sporting side of the Spring term, the platoon 'A' team won the College orienteering championships with Rigby, Haywood and Cranney winners of the event by 15 minutes.

The College cross country championship showed a considerable improvement for the platoon, rising from the 7th position before Christmas, to 3rd this term. ACpl Harrison and APte Haywood did very well individually but this was a good team effort and credit goes to every member of the platoon team.

ACpl Harrison also represented the senior Training Centre cross country team against the Surrey Police, where he finished 17th and the junior team in the SEDIST championships where he helped the team to 3rd place in the Minor Units event.

In the Summer term the sporting life of the College was soon under way with the athletic season. Barratt and ALcpl Bennett did well in the College meeting, gaining bronze medals in the discus and the high jump respectively and Pierce gained selection on previous form to compete in the Training Centre meeting in the Triple Jump, where he performed well against senior competition.



ALcpl Ryan of Bruneval about to face the breakers

Maxwell has represented the College shooting team throughout the Spring and Summer terms, including the Corps championships in May. Davey also competed for the College after his fine performance in the inter-Company competition.

ALcpl Waite has been training with the College gymnastics display team, which is schedule to give sound performance this term.

In the world of sailing, Goddard has done very well, crewing the winning boat in the Chilwell Cup. He has also been successful in a sailing course held at Falmouth last term.

The platoon has been well represented in all College activities, and the Apprentices can feel well pleased with their efforts. We look forward to further successes throughout the rest of their stay at the College.

For the Summer term Bruneval and Berlin merged and became known as Bruneval Platoon for the Trade and Driver training. All have now successfully passed these and have been posted throughout Germany and the United Kingdom.

BURMA PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Lt B N Groves RAOC
	Lt A S J Booth REME
	Lt W L Hutton REME
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt P Ritchie RAOC
	Sgt S Squires REME

Spring Term

The new decade heralded Burma's second term and with it promotion for Jones, Henry, Skelton and Metcalfe. Sgt Squires left temporarily for the rigours of the RDQ Course and Sgt Ritchie stepped in. The Company Camp at Fremington was enjoyed by all; Burma being particularly successful and winning the inter-platoon shield. More trophies came our way as a result of the College shooting competiton where ALcpl Metcalfe won the Crawford Tankard and Rabbidge won the SMG Individual Cup. The platoon came second in the SLR shoot and first in the SMG, achieving the overall highest score. The teams were:

SLR	SMG
ALcpl Henry	ALcpl Metcalfe
Apte Barton	Apte Irvine
Cobb	Ogden
Davies	Porter
Greenbank	Rabbidge
Hamer	Ray
Joyce	
Parmiter	

The end of term then seemed to arrive almost too quickly but not before a good platoon party and farewells to Lt B N Groves and Sgt P Ritchie; also an early start the next day for jungle clearance at 'White Lodge', a local school of spastic children.

Summer Term

With the new partnership of Lt A S J Booth and Sgt S Squires on the Order of Battle, Burma Platoon commenced their third and final term. Skelton and Jones were further promoted tc ACpl and Fitzmaurice and Porter to ALcpl. ACpl Jones, ALcpls Henry and Metcalfe were seconded to Benghazi Platoon to show the new intake the ropes and we welcome ALcpls Eveleigh and Toop from Bruneval and Brunei respectively.

The College Athletics meeting was quickly upon us and the Burma athletes supported the Company well, as the results show:

Acpl Skelton	1st 100m
	1st 200m
	1st Long Jump
APte Greenbank	2nd Javelin
ALcpl Fitzmaurice	2nd Shot Putt
ALcpl Henry	1st 400m
	2nd 800m
	2nd Long Jump
ALcpl Metcalfe	2nd High Jump
ACpl Skelton & Barton	4 x 400m Relay Team
ALcpl Henry & Hamer	4 x 400m Relay Team

Also the victorious Tug of War team was predominantly Burma:

ALcpl Fitzmaurice
Alcpl Porter
APte Barnes
Barton
Hopper
Parmiter
Sullivan



Fremmington Assault Course. APtes Metcalfe, Fallon and Porter

Next came the Training Centre Championships:

ACpl Skelton	2nd Long Jump 2nd Triple Jump
ALcpl Fitzmaurice	2nd Shot Putt
ALcpl Metcalfe	2nd High Jump
ALcpl Henry	1st 800m 4 x 400m Relay Team



Visible faces - APte Colborne, ALcpl Porter.

And as I write, ALcpl Henry has won the Junior Soldier Championship at the Travers Clark meeting.

The College Summer Camp at Penally brought sunshine and much fun - as well as the Tenby Vampire! ALcpls Toop, Hamer and Mateer represented the College in the Army Canoeing



Fremington again! ALcpl Fitzmaurice receiving the inter platoon shield for Burma from Mrs T A Glenn

Championships, whilst the remainder went up to the Prescillys and achieved the fastest time in Capt Bunyard's 'nautical disaster'. It was, however, Lt Barnes' (one of the platoon tutors) lemming-like jump into the water which stole the show, followed shortly by the Towering Inferno cliff fire. Never a dull moment!

The fresh air and Welsh scenery was swiftly substituted for more fresh air and the local scenery of E1, E2 and other local training areas as the platoon moved out for a week on Battle Camp. This provided valuable experience for all and was popular - with the possible exception of wearing NBC kit on hot days!

Well done lads; we wish you the best of luck in your future careers in the REME.

The 8th September saw the start of a new Burma Platoon under the command of Lt W L Hutton who was also a new arrival. To help the platoon settle

down ALcpls Bartsch, Pibworth, Bydon and Sullivan were seconded to us. The first event of any importance was the College cross country in which the platoon came second. APte Silvey came 10th and APte Melrose came 18th, both positions being creditable.

Half term was over very quickly and our minds turned to the battle camp. Everyone enjoyed being real soldiers and having to live out in the open. APte MacIndoe was captured but retaliatory measures were put into operation and an exchange of prisoners was arranged on mutual territory. After 2½ days of hard, cold work, everyone agreed that it had been worth the effort to go on camp.

APte Thompson took part in the 1980 RAOC Orienteering Championship at Wendover Woods near Aylesbury and was congratulated on being the only junior soldier to successfully complete the long course. He won the individual junior event, which is a very good effort for a soldier who had only played the sport for four weeks.

The inter Company boxing competition was well represented by Burma Platoon. All three who took part won their events. Sadly this was not enough to win the cup for the Company. Those taking part were APtes Melrose, Conn and Ford. During the Company party at the end of term, APte Conn was presented with a trophy for being the best boxer of B Company and APte Melrose was given a cake for his efforts in the competition.

The platoon also did well in the sketch competition, coming second. This was due to the hard work put in by APte Shirley (who guided everyone with his acting ability), Spencer (who played Superman), Williams, Conn(who was trying to be nominated for the Miss World competition) and many others.

At the end of term a number of awards and colours were presented to Burma Platoon members for sporting achievements: They were:

APte MacIndoe	-	Best shot of the Shooting team
APte Davies	-	2nd best
APte Galloway	-	Hockey colours
APte Thompson	-	Orienteering colours
APte Simons	-	Football colours

We say goodbye and good luck to ALcpl Bartzsch and Pibworth as they go to other Units far and wide. ALcpl Sullivan was promoted to ACpl and the following were promoted for their efforts.

ALcpl Burgess
ALcpl Jones
ALcpl Eddington
ALcpl Simons

With the Winter term over, we all look forward to three weeks leave.

BENGHAZI PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Capt T I Bunyard REME
	Lt S J Parry RAOC
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt G H Mack RAOC
	Sgt J H Woodcock RAOC

After the initial hectic start and the natural thinning of the ranks, the platoon settled in well.

Within hours of arrival the platoon began to take on some semblance of a military unit, with the removal of



BENGHAZI PLATOON

APte McWhinnie APte Wallbanks ALcpl Hand APte Newton APte Sutherland ACpl Oliver APte Burns APte Chivers ALcpl Forbes APte Davies ALcpl Brown ALcpl Williams ALcpl Goodacre ALcpl Johnson APte Mee APte Mann ALcpl Sheldrake APte Batterham APte Lumley APte Betts APte Greville ALcpl Stimpson APte Martin ACpl Lowbridge Sgt B.H. Mack R.A.O.C. CAPT T.I. Bunyard R.E.M.E. ACpl Miles ALcpl Bates APte Barker Flax.

SEPTEMBER 1979

several layers of hair (and the discovery of sets of ears which had not seen the light of day for many a while).

Some, namely one APte Alderson, anticipated the forthcoming surgery and turned up with a haircut that would put to shame an American serviceman. Perhaps a 'before' and 'after' arrival photograph should have been produced.

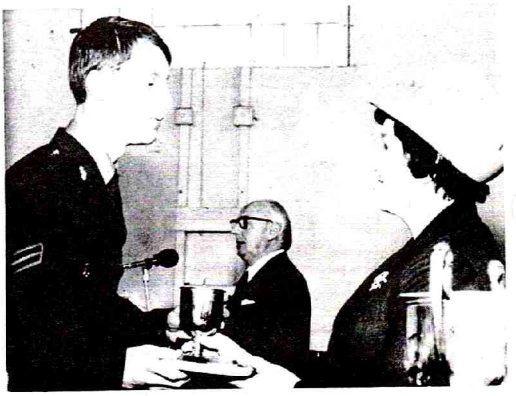


Prize Giving December 1979. ALcpl Johnson receiving the Pedlar Cup (for Outstanding Leadership) from Mrs Toni Short

Initial kit issues produced amazing results; shirts KF ex large for small Apprentices, barrack dress trousers, long for short Apprentices - we've had them all. Only one apprentice managed to look complete unsoldier-like in everything - APte Sketcher. However, he left us shortly after arrival.

As the training progressed, the apprentices took on a much leaner look - were they getting fitter or weren't they getting fed enough?

A battle camp weekend provided many of Benghazi Platoon with their first opportunity to dig a military hole and live in it. However, sporadic attacks at unearthly hours by a dastarly enemy managed to produce a sleepless night for many. The enemy suffered minor casualties in the form of one bush, successfully shot



Prize Giving Winter 1979. Mrs Toni Short, wife of the Training Centre Commander, awarding the St Albans Cup (for initiative) to ACpl Lowbridge

by APte Sullivan, after it failed to reply to the correct password.

The Community Project, White Lodge, took the form of a painting/weeding weekend. Our Percy Thrower, APte Chambers, successfuly identified a weed, demonstrated its removal to the rest of the platoon and then set to work with a vengeance with the



ALcpl Barker (Benghazi) taking the helm



Winter Term 1979. APte Burns of Benghazi receiving the Outstanding Boxer Cup from the Commander, Brigadier Short

The painting party occasionally managed to paint a wall and seemed intent on painting out the windows and the floor. Their efforts, however, were much appreciated by the staff.

Special congratulations should be made to APte Sullivan on his nomination as 'Best Recruit to B Company (not for his bush) and APte Richards for winning the Skill at Arms prize for both Companies.

In the second term, Benghazi Platoon took over the Corps of Drums. Apprentices were issued either a drum, bugle or bell lyre, et voila, an instant band. Bookings were few and far between due to the time of the year, which is indeed a pity, due to the excellent performances they are capable of.

APte Clegg produced a superb performance at 10 Ord Sp Bn on Remembrance Day. Congratulations were rained upon him by all members of the congregation.

ALcpl Timns led the Corps of Drums with a masterly performance as Drum Major. It is with deep regret that we heard of his tragic death in a motorcycle accident in December - he will be missed by all.

Alas, in the cross country, Benghazi Platoon came well down in the order of merit, although individuals managed some startling results. APte Franklin managed to come 18th although I think a certain amount of confusion in the woods(!) helped. APte Broom and ALcpl Royle are to be congratulated on their efforts in coming within the top twenty of the College.

ACpl Scott represented the Company in the College boxing as a heavyweight. He seemed quite surprised when the A Company contender hit him so hard, he appeared to get quite annoyed and so the slugging began. A tremendous slugging performance followed with Scott declared the eventual winner.

The end of term Christmas party brought out the best in everyone when the platoons were asked to produce a playlet. Benghazi's contribution was 'This is your life', subject - the RSM. Whether or not the facts are true there was no libel suit. In fact it was more likely to come from Sgt Carlin against ACpl Sullivan for his realistic impersonation - so much so that Mrs Carlin appeard to be laughing fit to burst.

Spring term began with a vengeance. The Platoon/Company went orienteering mad. The night exercise produced all sorts of wild claims - torches being pinched, markers moving, etc, etc. In fact one group managed to get the same point twice without realising it. Such is the deviousness of the Permanent Staff.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Education Officer Maj D G Edwards RAEC



THE COLLEGE EDUCATION STAFF JANUARY 1981

Back Row:
L to R: Mrs Betty Copley; Mrs Margaret Bonta; Mr P Heap BA: Mr J F Watson; Wg Comd (Retd) P W Hope BA; Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield MA(Oxon); Mr G Forrest BA; Mrs Lyn Bradley; Mrs Esther Redman

Front Row:
L to R: Lt M L Bott BA; Lt R M Manuel; Capt P Scott BSc; Maj D G Beaumont BA; Maj D G Edwards BA; Lt A D Barnes; Maj P B Dixon BA; Mr W E Smith

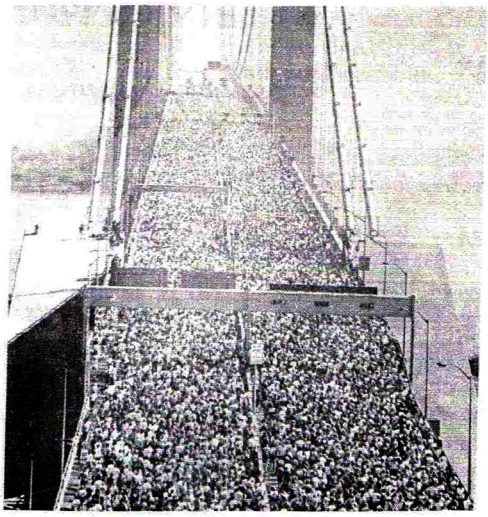
During the past year considerable activity has taken place in the department in preparation for the introduction of the new Junior Army Education Certificate (JAEC). Syllabi and objectives have been re-written in all subjects and certain changes in emphasis have been made. As a result of the introduction of this new scheme of education, apprentices who achieve a high standard in the final assessments will be allowed to take two subjects in the Adult Education for Promotion Certificate examination (EPC) which is required prior to promotion to Sergeant. The two subjects are Military Calculations and the Army in the Contemporary World. It must be emphasised that before sitting these subjects at the EPC level, it will be mandatory that the successful apprentices will all have achieved high standards of attainment in all the subjects studied in the Junior Certificate course and also to have obtained a favourable recommendation from the Commanding Officer.

The introduction of JAEC is significant

in the fact that time spent on Education is not only relevant as a vital support to trade training and preparation for adult service but is also a most valuable preparation for future promotion.

During the course of the year, the Education Wing has continued to play its customary active role in the life of the College. Certain outdoor activities have both developed and prospered mainly due to the sterling efforts of Maj Beaumont, Capt Scott, Lt Barnes and Lt Manuel. Major Beaumont "picked up" where he "left off" some four years ago, in organising the Parascending Club, Lt Barnes qualified as a Diving Supervisor and has subsequently started a most successful Sub Aqua Club which had its baptism in an expedition to the Isle of Lewes during summer leave. Capt Scott and Lt Manuel have involved themselves in water activities - literally "at the deep end". Indeed Lt Manuel is now a fully qualified inland water canoeist. At Summer Camp he was heavily committed to the essential business of safety boat provision and organisation. He simply amazed us all with his expertise in 'finding' a boat· "launching" it and even "driving' it. Capt Scott too has had his moments. Although suffering many of the trials and tribulations so common to all would-be sailors, he eventually 'sailed' through with flying colours. Rumour has it that he is really looking forward to this year's summer camp. Mr Watson and Mr Johnson have also made no mean contribution to the skill and enjoyment of the College water activities. Offshore sailing has been a great 'hit' despite the discomfort of seasickness.

In other spheres of outdoor activities where the Wing is prominently represented, pride of place must surely be in Lt Bott's selection for the Army team competing in the New York Marathon, in which he finished 266th in a field of 14,000 - a highly memorable and commendable performance.



The start of the New York Marathon 1980 14,000 runners on Verranzo-Narrows Bridge (the longest suspension bridge in the world). Can you find the Army team - and in particular Lt Bott?

On the civilian front we said sad farewell to two long serving lecturers, Mr Bill Waddington and Major George Lane RAEC (Retd). We wish them both the best of luck. Bill Waddington has retired after serving some twelve years in the College and prior to that many years in civilian teaching. Major George Lane has moved on to a neighbouring unit. At the end of the Christmas term Lt Flaherty WRAC, who has served in the Unit for some three years, also left for an appointment in BAOR. We also wish her the best of good fortune in what should be a very challenging appointment. Our support staff, despite all threats of cut-backs and economies, remains unchanged, a situation for which we are all truly grateful. The efficiency and co-operation in supporting the work of the Wing given by Mrs Bonta, Mrs Fielden, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Copley and Mrs Binion cannot be praised to highly. The day-to-day smooth running of our organisation is in no small way due entirely to their efforts.

The past year has therefore seen significant changes in both personnel

and the approach to the work of the Education Wing. It is anticipated that the efforts made by all members of the staff will result in a more relevant and meaningful system of education which will be of great benefit to the Apprentices in preparing them for their military careers.

THE 1980 NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

Report by Lt M Bott RAEC

On a cold blustery day in October this year 14,000 runners congregated on the longest suspension bridge in the world for the start of the world's greatest and most exciting race - the New York City Marathon.

Over 20,000 entries for the race were refused and such is the fame of the event that on the open market up to $100 dollars was being offered for a race number. The sheer enormity of the task of organising a 26.2 mile race through some of the busiest streets of New York is unimaginable. 2,500 volunteers assisted in the organisation, 306 portable toilets were used, 103 gallons of blue paint, 60,000 bottles and mineral water and the biggest boast of all, the world's largest urinal (I just had to try that out).

Among these thousands of runners, experienced and first time marathoners alike were 13 British Army representatives, who had earned their places in the team by qualifying in the inter-Services Marathon earlier this year. Included in this team were QMSI Bill Pegler (APTC) who travelled all the way from Hong Kong, SI Chip Rafferty (APTC), SI Ray Butters (APTC) and myself, Lt Mike Bott RAEC (ex APTC).

The team was accommodated in a US Army Camp, Fort Wandsworth, close to the start of the marathon. We flew by RAF VC10 and arrived four days before the start which gave plenty of time to settle into the change of routine.

The Verrazono-Narrows suspension bridge was closed to traffic on the day of the race and both lanes were used. The first time marathoners and women separated from the male runners by the concrete central reservation. To avoid the possible bunching of runners, a grid system was used where the faster runners (on previous times) were placed nearer to the start line.

The countdown over loudspeakers was like a Grand Prix start. Everything went according to plan. The start was smooth and fast and within two minutes every runner had passed the start line. 28,000 legs pounded over the bridge, assisted by a 40 mph tail wind, runners laughed and joked as the euphoria and exhilaration of the occasion lifted them. Overhead helicopters wheeled and the New York City marathon was underway.

The race was to take in five Boroughs of New York from its start at Fort Wandsworth - Staten Island through Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and to finish in the famous Central Park Manhattan.

The view of the Manhattan skyline from the Verrazono-Narrows bridge was spectacular but the most unbelievable sight was yet to come. As the runners left the bridge to merge on 4th Avenue they were confronted with thousands upon thousands of cheering spectators. They lined every street, 10-12 deep, wildly cheering and clapping and giving the competitors the most tremendous welcome to the "Big Apple'.

The strong tailwind and the excitement of the crowds resulted in many fast times for the earlier stages of the race which caused many runners "to hit the wall" at about the 22 mile stage. The additional problem was that the tailwind became a headwind

when the route changed direction at about the 20 mile stage. Five bridges also had to be negotiated, of these the Queens borough bridge was probably the hardest. The hard metal grating and the strong wind sapped the energy and by the time we had reached Manhattan for the first time, the race was beginning to take its toll; by now we were in 1st Avenue Manhattan, and the crowds were bigger than ever. In some places there was only a narrow gap through which to run and the feeling was one of near claustrophobia with the jostling crowds and the towering skyscrapers.

At every corner drinks of all descriptions were offered and scores of young blacks pressed forward to offer their hands for 'fives'. The Bronx was hard work, gusting winds and undulating streets but the constant encouragement from the crowds was very helpful. Soon we were racing across Willis Avenue Bridge which links the Bronx with Manhattan and heading for Central Park.

In Central Park thousands of spectators lined the route, whistles and horns were blowing, bands were playing and huge digital clocks displayed the race times. The noise was deafening, the support fantastic. Faces loomed out of the crowd shouting "You're looking good" and "Congratulations, bud, you've made it" and then suddenly it was all over. A medal was placed around the neck of every finisher, who was then wrapped in a metal foil survival blanket and ushered along the chutes to the reception area.

The finish, like the start, was computerised and a quick check of the running number with a remote code indicator only took a second.

Then came the biggest problem of the day - how to find each other. With thousands of runners all milling around huddled in tin foil like oven ready turkeys it wasn't easy. Finding our transport back was even more difficult and eventually we gave up and went back to Fort Wandsworth by subway. We felt rather embarrassed sitting on the train wrapped up like something off a Christmas tree but what the hell, in New York City nobody bats an eyelid.

Timings and placings were as follows:

	Posn	Time
SI Rafferty	57th	2 hrs 23m 09s
SI Butters	198th	2 hrs 35m 23s
QMSI Pegler	200th	2 hrs 35m 31s
Lt Bott	266th	2 hrs 38m 32s

SI Rafferty's remarkable time of hrs 23m 09s indicates the great potential he has as a marathon runner and he is soon to enter a marathon to be held in Israel sometime in the New Year - we wish him every success.

RESPONSIBILITY

By ASgt M P Hammond

Leadership is a word of many meanings. A good leader will think not just for himself but also for the people who he is leading, whether he is a democrat or an autocrat. The number of people he leads is of no importance. What is important is that a good leader should treat everyone the same and care for each of them, using his every ability to its utmost.

Being an apprentice NCO within the College has its ups and downs and it can also cause a loss of many friends especially if you become an NCO in the platoon in which you were a recruit. This is a fact all NCO's have to accept, because once you have been promoted you are not to treat them in the same way as you did when you were an apprentice private. You have to lead them and look after

them. Your room or platoon may not accept this but you must ignore that because whether they like it or not an NCO has to do that which is expected of him, namely to lead and discipline the soldiers in his charge to the standard that is accepted by all ranks throughout the College.

My time as an apprentice NCO within the College has been a most enjoyable one but it has had its frightening moments when I have felt that I have made a wrong decision or given a wrong order. But I have learnt, I hope, from my mistakes and that is why an apprentice is promoted. An NCO will never be perfect. Sometime in his career he will make a wrong decision and he will feel that he is not worthy of the rank he holds. But within the College as an apprentice NCO if you make a wrong decision someone will help you rectify that mistake so that when you are posted to the regular army and promoted you will not so easily make the same wrong decision because as a young soldier you will have had the experience of responsibility and you will be aware of the ways of good leadership. I must emphasise, though, that an NCO should not take on any responsibility that is above his capabilities unless he is under supervision, for example, during a training exercise.

To be a good NCO you must lead by example. If you set a high standard in behaviour, in dress interest and work, then other people will begin to follow your standards. There will always be a soldier who will have his mind on despising any person that sets a high standard of turnout and sets an example for others to follow. But in such a case this is when you must use your initiative. You must devise a plan and a method of catching the said person out. It will not be easy but it can be done. Think about it logically and sensibly and ask yourself what will catch him out. For example, if an apprentice is an all round trouble maker but is discreet about it so that only you and your platoon notice it, you have to get the rest of the platoon to make life hard for that apprentice (without, of course, breaking the rules and orders of the College.) Then you must tell him effectively that unless he improves his manner and standards he will not be accepted by the platoon. If this does not work then the only other alternative is to take the matter to higher authority so that disciplinary action may be taken. You may not like doing this but you have to face the facts; if that apprentice carries on in his own way then it will eventually destroy your position as an NCO in your platoon and sooner or later the platoon will follow his ways.

So to all the NCOs of the College I must say that it is all worthwhile. Don't run ahead of yourself. Take things as they come. To the apprentices I will say that you can never go wrong if you follow the orders of an apprentice NCO. But you have to help him if you are to succeed in being good in everything you do, both at work and at play.

CAR CLUB

Obiter Dicta

Many apprentices at the College are REME and have a natural interest in the subject of vehicle maintenance. Many RAOC lads are interested in eventually training as a Vehicle Specialist. For these reasons, vehicle maintenance (and driving) is a subject that interests most of the apprentices at the College and consideration should be given to improving its position in the syllabus.

The Car Club is at present used as a maintenance facility for the

Permanent Staff of the Apprentice College. At one time car maintenance was run as an Extra Mural Activity (EMA), which was held on Monday and Wednesday evenings but several problems were experienced. As most apprentices were not of car owning age they practised on specifically acquired 'old bangers'. Obtaining the initial finance to purchase old vehicles to work on and the subsequent cost of buying replacement parts was difficult. Tools were not part of the Unit Equipment Table, so privately owned tools had to be used. Further problems arose when the 'unit car' was finished, as it would either have to be sold or stored. The cost of MOT testing, taxing and insuring the vehicle for use, for example, as a driver training vehicle were unacceptable.

It was also difficult for apprentices to maintain enthusiasm throughout such a long term project. There are several ways of alleviating these problems to ensure that potential vehicle orientated tradesmen are given an insight into vehicle repair and maintenance.

A less ambitious 'rebuild' project which could be fitted into the 2½ hours per week EMA timetable should be instituted. The rebuild of an engine from a popular car could be undertaken at reasonable cost. The storage of such a small assembly would not be a great problem. The engine could be sold for additional funding of the EMA whereas to sell a complete car would require that car to be up to MOT standard. If vehicle maintenance was incorporated into the education syllabus more time would be available for theory to be taught.

If a cast off landrover were obtained to renovate, spares could be acquired through service sources and the vehicle would eventually be used for driver training for those apprentices who have already passed their DOT test.

Vehicle maintenance and driving are interesting subjects for lads of 16 and 17 years old, many of whom shortly after passing out will commence trade training of a vehicle orientated nature. Many more will be required to drive landrovers and Bedfords in their service career. It would be to the Army's advantage if this sort of practical training could be made available, to give our apprentices a head start. With, at present, 7 SNCOs who have received vehicle training (3VS, 4VM) and five REME Officers on station it should not be impossible.

MODEL MAKING / ART CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

Assistant Mrs Souter

This has been an important year for the Club. In November the Club was given a new clubroom which was to belong to the club alone and not be used as a classroom. Unfortunately it was not until March that heating was installed, so it was a cold winter.

The high standard of art work has been kept up, thanks to the efforts of Mrs Souter. This year APte Cairns won first prize in an exhibition of hobby work in the College with an oil painting of three German soldiers. Capt D Mathieson left the College at Easter on posting and his place has been taken by Lt M Manuel.

The war-gaming part of the club has been very active and grown to about

ten members who have become very enthusiastic.

Many different games have been played including Mediterranean 16th Century Galley Warfare; First World War Ships; 1715 Jacobite Rebellion; Second World War Armour; Modern Armour, and First World War Air Battles.



Setting up a War Game model table. APtes Martin (Arakan), Paton (Brunei) Stott (Arakan) and Jones (Arakan)

COLLEGE HOBBIES EXHIBITION

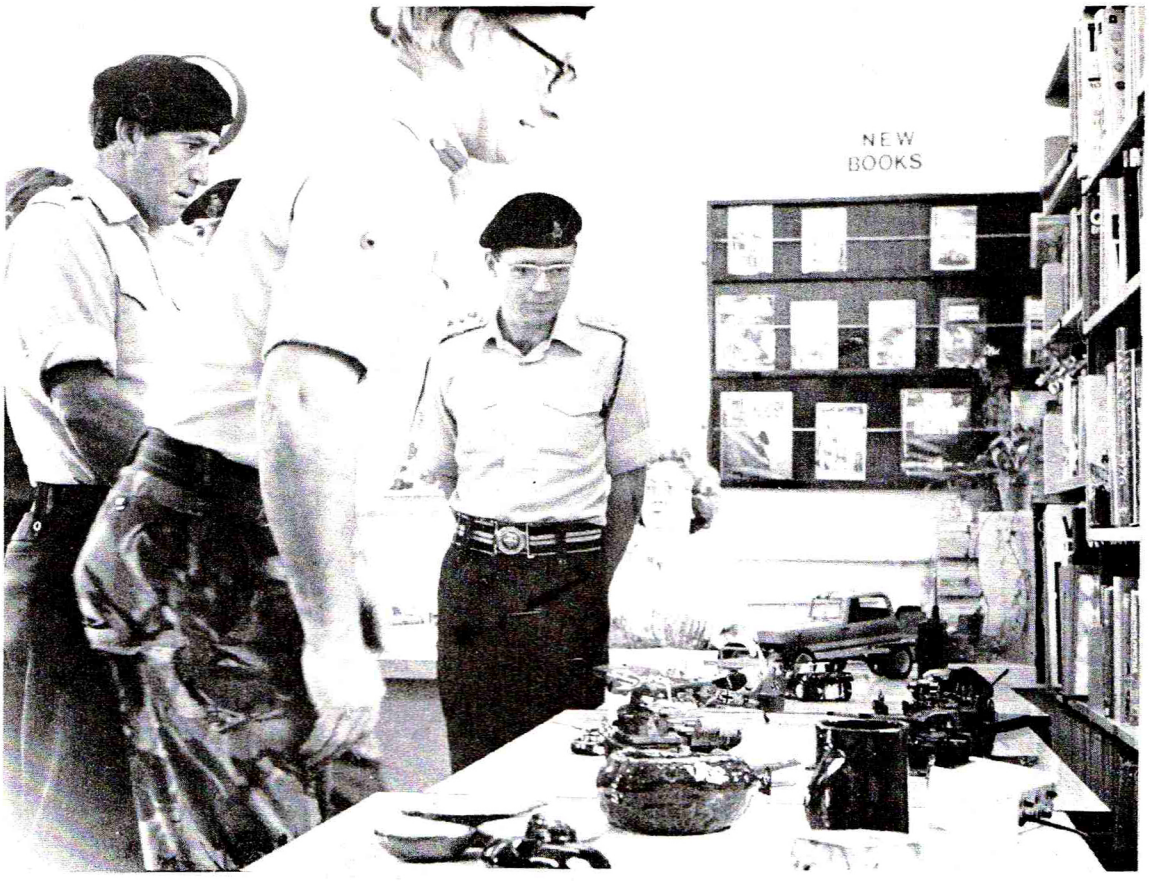
8 - 10 July 1980

Apprentices have many interests and talents beside those required for military training. The College Hobbies Exhibition provided an opportunity for these interests and talents to be displayed not only in the College but also in ACIO window displays throughout the country.

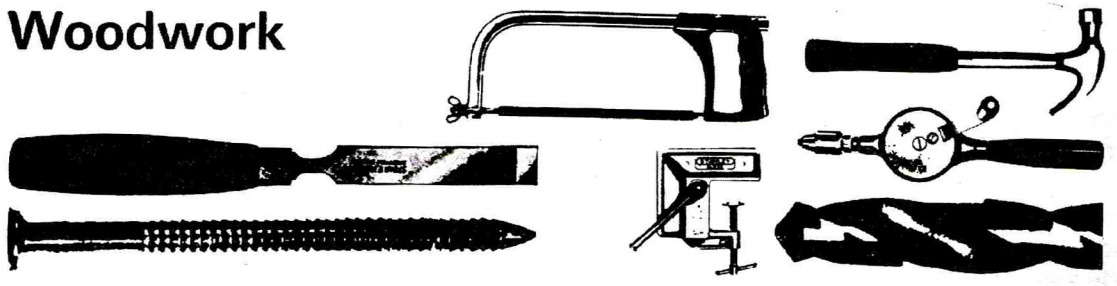
The exhibits ranged from metalwork to embroidery. Included was a digital clock made from a kit, a radio controlled car, model soldiers, model tanks, moccasins, pin and string pictures, pottery, carving and painting.

The exhibition was judged by Brigadier M J Short CBE ADC who was impressed by the overall quality of the display. He awarded first prize jointly to APte Cairns for his paintings on military subjects and APte Calhoun for his highly original embroidered

jacket. Their work will be displayed in the ACIO in York and their parents will be entertained for a day to view the exhibits.



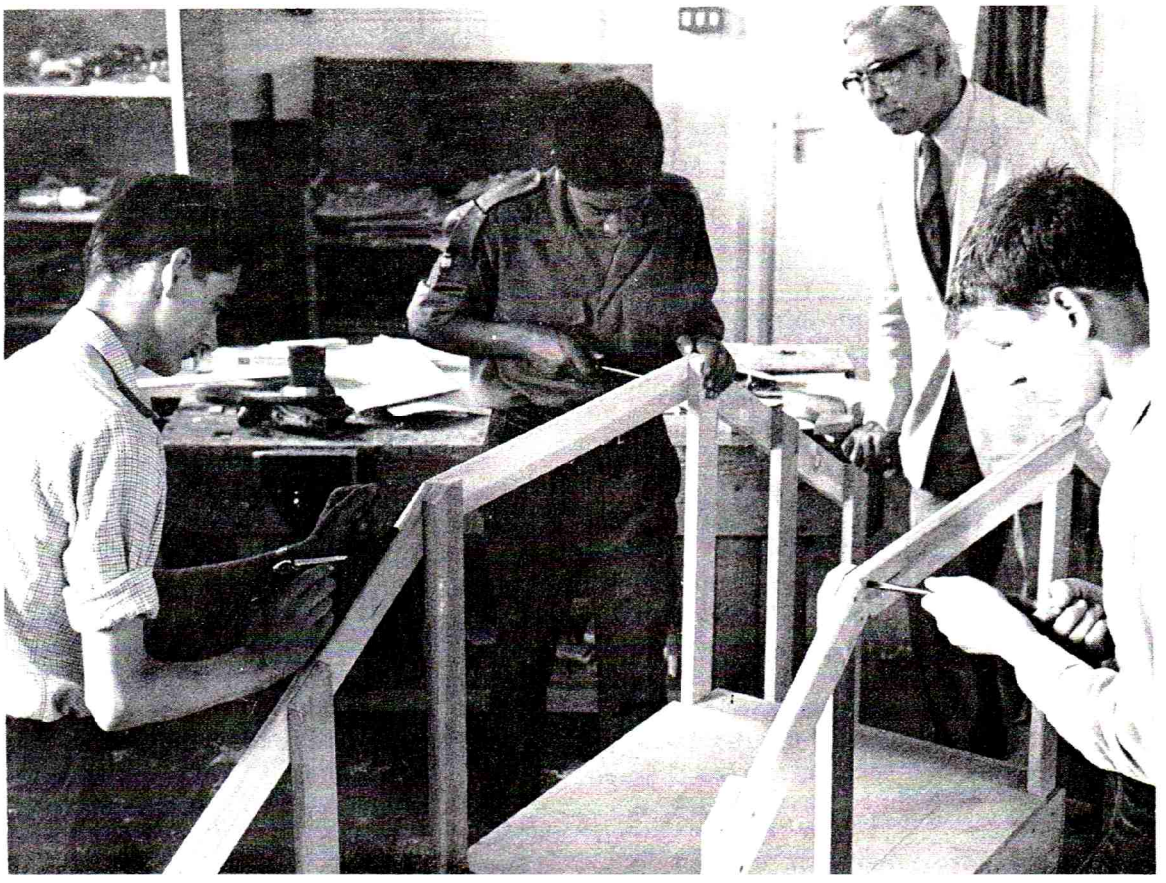
Brigadier Short judging exhibits on display in the College library. Attending him are the CO and the organiser of the exhibition, Capt P Scott RAEC. In the background is the College librarian, Mrs Sylvia Fielden.



Officer in Charge Major (Retd) G Forrest

Assistant Mr J Maguire

As a rule, very little happens in the woodwork club that is worthy of a special report. During hobby hours, members go quietly (sometimes just the opposite!) about their business, making book ends, cassette racks, fruit bowls and the like. Except that the results reflect the care and determination put into the work, there is not a great deal of



With Major Forrest in the picture are APtes Jones and Wood and ASgt Priera. APte Davies, who also helped, is out of the picture. So is Mr Jimmy Maguire, the instructor, without whose help and guidance the work would not have been possible.

newsworthy activity.

Late in 1979, however, the Commanding Officer received a letter from Mr Paul Brown, the Headmaster of Botleys Park School, Chertsey - a school for handicapped young people. He said that he had visited White Lodge and seen some climbing stairs made some years ago by members of the College woodwork club. The question was, could he have a similar structure? On behalf of the Commanding Officer and Senior Education Officer, Major Forrest agreed, but did not promise when it would be finished.

The reasons for interruptions to the work were as many as the hours of work lost, and on two occasions apologies were passed to Mr Brown for the delay. The work was never neglected, however, and small additions were made when possible. It was not until the Autumn term of 1980 that the stairs were finally handed over. We gather that Mr Brown is very happy to have them and that they are being put to good use. Considering the degree of handicap suffered by some of the young people, the contribution made by the College to helping them is small, but the Club members who made the stairs feel very happy to have been involved in the project.

WHITE LODGE COLLECTION 80

It is with great pleasure that we were able to record that this year yet again members of the College have increased the total amount of money they have collected for the White Lodge Spastically Handicapped Children's Centre. Collections first started in 1972 and to date the College has given well over a 1,000 hours of work towards the centre and, indeed, other schools, and has collected in the region of £10,000.

This year's efforts which raised £2,400 for the centre was collected by members of the College on a one day charity collection in the local areas of Camberley, Frimley and Aldershot. The photograph shows the handing over of the ceremonial cheque to the children of White Lodge. The band of the College was in attendance and gave a musical display for the children.

Over the eight years that the College has been closely associated with the centre, they have carried out work on the garden, surrounding areas and even in the building itself. It is indeed a credit to the apprentices that they care and work so hard for the handicapped children of the locality.

It is interesting to note that Mrs Toni Short, the wife of the Commander of the RAOC Training Centre is the President of the North Hants and West Surrey Spastics Society and that Lt Col Curtis RAOC, our Commanding Officer has had a long association with the Spastics Society and is at this time Chairman of North Hants and West Surrey Spastics Society.



How the job was done!
ALcpl Johnson and APte Sutherland of Benghazi Platoon

PROPAGANDA

By W E Smith Esq

The word progaganda is a very familiar one today. Incidentally it provides a good example of the way in which, in the course of a single generation, a word can change its meaning or take on fresh associations. Grammatically of course, the word itself is a derivative of the verb "to propagate" which means simply to increase or multiply. It is interesting to note that it was first used to designate a committee of the Roman Catholic Church, appointed for the purpose of organising and directing mission work. Later on it was extended to cover "mission work" on behalf of any cause, religious, political, sociological, philanthropic or

reformatory. It was in this sense that the word became part of the ordinary English vocabulary, and it implied the dissemination of information to enlighten the public and so win support for the cause in question. There was no sinister suggestion about it. Its object was to create an informed public opinion.

The Great War of 1914-18 added a new dimension to the meaning of propaganda. In order to stir up patriotic fervour and to maintain hatred of the enemy, it became necessary for all the belligerent governments to circulate exaggerated atrocity stories, to expatiate on the gallantry and the excellent morale of their own troops and to reinforce reports of the imminent collapse of the enemy's resistance; to minimise or even to conceal altogether their own reverses, and to make the most of every small defeat sustained by their opponents. For this nefarious business every available resource was used; the newspapers, caricatures, the stage, the cinema, and even the pulpit. The aim of propaganda was no longer to enlighten but to mislead the public, and to sway its sympathies in a chosen direction by whatever means would best achieve that end. It was certainly not to supply information which would equip people to think and come to a reasoned decision on the questions involved, but to get them to accept uncritically whatever ideas the propagandists wished them to accept. Thought was the very last thing it sought to stimulate. This sense the term has retained ever since, so that today to describe a book, a newspaper article or a lecture as "propaganda" is, ipso facto, to suggest that its veracity cannot be relied upon. As a recent writer has put it "propaganda is a subtle process of suggestion by which contrary views are gradually pushed into the background, and the victim is left happy in the illusion that he has arrived at the desired opinion by his own powers of observation and deduction."

Propaganda in this sense has assumed very large proportions today; that is why we should constantly be on our guard against its influence. In its more obvious forms, perhaps, it is not a very serious danger to the intelligent person; but we are frequently being "propagandised" by all kinds of subtle means when we do not realise it. Nowadays a great deal is known about individual and crowd pyschology, and this knowledge the propagandist is turning to his own account, so that he has developed just that 'subtle process of suggestion' referred to earlier. None of us can be totally immune from the influence of such a process as this, for suggestion is a very potent force with each one of us, and it is easy for us to delude ourselves into the belief that we have thought out a question when actually we have not. This is why we should be particularly vigilant.

Whatever we may think of Adolf Hitler as a politician, a statesman and an authority on ethnology, few will deny that even before his rise to power he showed a fairly sound knowledge of crowd psychology and the principles of effective propaganda. They are set out, though not always in too coherent a fashion, in Mein Kampf.

In a modern world beset with all the problems, whether social or political it creates for itself, surrounded by all the gadgetry of mass communication, it is absolutely vital that each and everyone of us realise the relationship (or the difference) between propaganda and thought. We all would do well to study "The Seven Secrets of Propaganda" detailed so admirably by A J Mackenzie in his book Propaganda Boom. He maintains that the essentials of propaganda are as follows:

(1) It must repeat and repeat its story

(2) It must paint every picture in of its own choosing

(3) It must contain at least a kernel of truth

(4) It must be built around a slogan

(5) It must be directed against a specific objective

(6) It must hide its purpose

(7) It must time its "releases" with extreme accuracy.

Other factors and considerations, of course, also enter in but on these seven, for the main part, the propagandist relies. If we bear them in mind they may help us to distinguish mere propaganda from genuine information and so to resist the impression that it seeks to make upon us.

ANGLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Sgt J H Woodcock RAOC

The Anglers have had quite a successful season despite poor weather and transport difficulties.

The Club had a weekend at the beginning of the season with the RNAS at Culdrose for the annual sea-fishing trip but gale force winds restricted the activities to beach fishing. Later on APte Clegg landed his first ever pike and ALcpl Scott managed a catch of ten fish (bream and roach) in one afternoon.

Now we are well into both spinning and float fishing and looking forward to many outings on our local waters, deep-sea fishing off Littlehampton and, of course, what we hope will be our biggest catch of all off Tenby during College camp.

ATHLETICS

Officer in Charge Capt A N B Jelly RAOC

The College Athletics team has had a successful season. B Company were the winners in the annual athletics meeting in which some high standards were achieved.

Later in the season we competed in the RAOC Training Centre meeting and we were the overall winners. As a result many of our athletes were selected to represent the Training Centre in Senior Army competitions. It is gratifying to record that for the first time the Training Centre reached the Zone 1 final.

On the junior scene the College managed another first when we won the Army Minor Units competition for 1980. Following on from this we were able to put forward eight athletes for the individual championships. All our apprentices did well and were a credit to the College.

The following boys have taken part in representative matches.

ALcpl HENRY	Army Senior	- RMAS
	Army Senior	- Surrey & Hants
	Army Senior	- Other Services
APte McGill	Army v Navy	
ASgt Skelton	Army v Navy	

ASgt Malcolm Army v Navy

We record with pride that these four boys received these representative honours.

Throughout the season Henry has been the outstanding member of the club both in his personal performances and also by his example to the remainder of the team in his dedicated approach.

BASKETBALL

Officer in Charge Lt P L Freegard RAOC

Assistant Cpl N R Langton RAOC

It was the aim of the Club at the outset to get some sort of team together to learn the basic skills. Because we had little expertise it was decided not to enter serious competitions. However, we did play the ACC Apprentices College in a friendly match. Although heavily defeated, we learned many useful coaching points and that our players had some potential. Certainly if points were awarded for enthusiasm the RAOC Apprentices College would be top of the league.

Lt Freegard's enthusiasm and skill has certainly rubbed off on the lads who are even beginning to mimic his play. Cpl Langton's help has been invaluable and QMSI Mather has found himself playing in practice games.

Next term we hope to enter the Army Junior Basketball Championships.

BOXING

Officer in Charge QSMI R Mather APTC



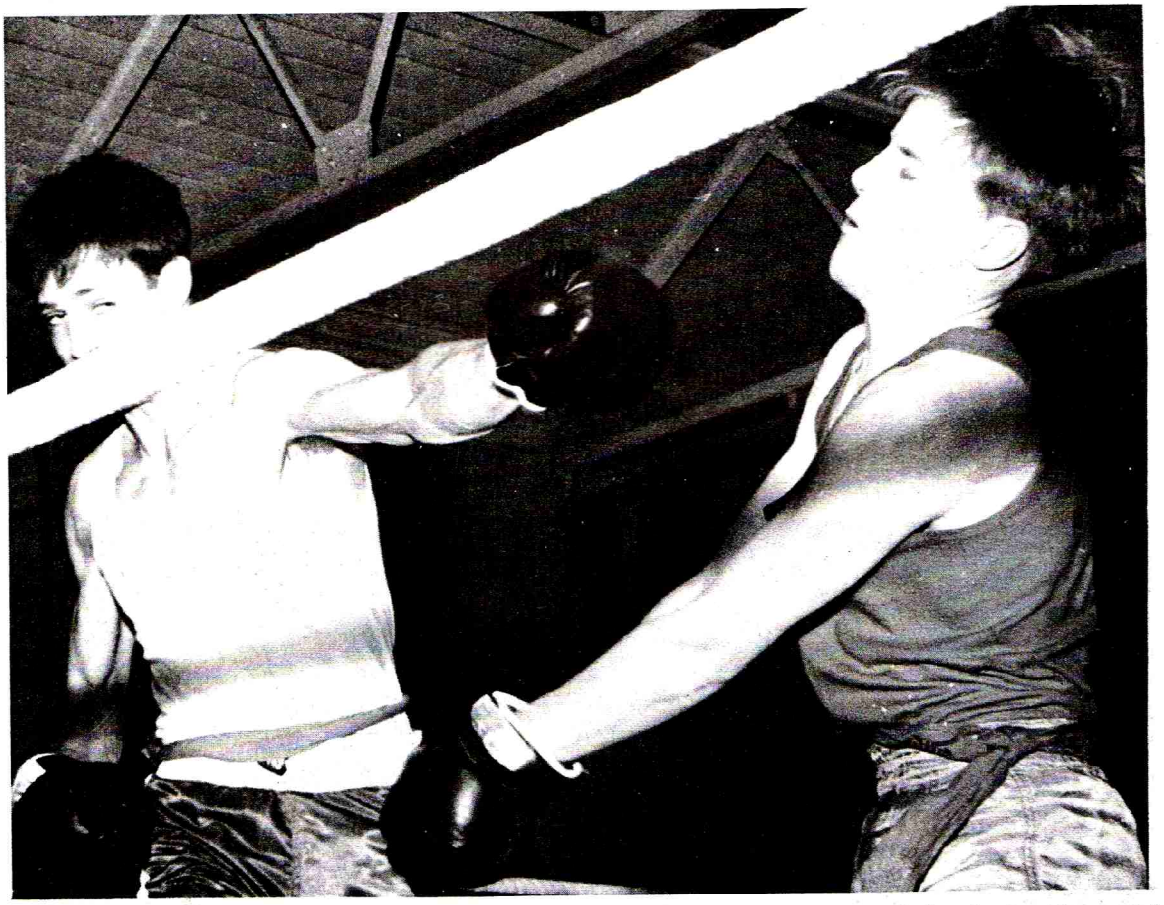
The £50 seats! The Training Centre Commander, Brigadier Short, and the CO between rounds. In the background a motley crew distinguished only by a glimpse of Lt Bernadette Flaherty (behind the Brigadier's left ear), our first and, so far, only WRAC officer on posted strength.

28 November saw the annual trip of the Apprentices College into the land of boxing fanatics. The two companies threw themselves bodily into the compulsory six weeks part-time training, which quickly turned into a race to see who could train the most before the contest.

The company teams were trained by the Unit AIPT's, Cpl Langton RAOC training A Company and Cpl Hawkins REME training B Company. Most of the training was done after normal working hours and both companies and their boxers are very grateful to them for the skills and enthusiasm they both displayed during the training and the competition.

On the night itself the competition was of a very high standard, guts, determination, skill and pride in the companies showing in all the bouts. The result was a win for A Company by only 1 point, their first win in boxing for seven years.

Congratulations to all the boxers on a fine performance.



There will seldom be a better photograph of the perfect straight left than this. It comes from twelve months ago. Delivering it is APte Chivers, receiving it is ALcpl Calder.

CANOEING

Officer in Charge SSgt L C Thwaites RAOC

Canoeing has not only been hit by the weather but also by a serious shortage of transport. However, the weather is still the biggest single arbiter in canoeing activities.

The introduction of ten wet suits has meant that the College canoeing team has managed to do quite a lot of training ready for the Army Canoeing championships next summer. Much of this has been done on EMA evenings supervised by Cpl Ruscoe at the RE Swimming Pool in Cove. The standard of rolling is now very high, which is an important factor when it comes to entering competitions. All things considered it has been a very productive year for the canoeing team. Let's hope they do well next summer.

CRICKET

Officer in Charge Capt D Oldham RAOC

The cricket season began early this year with net sessions at the Aldershot Indoor School during the Spring term. However, it soon became apparent that although a great deal of enthusiasm was generated at net practices, we were woefully lacking in talent and apart from ALcpl Keymer, the sole surviving member of last season's team, no other accomplished players were discovered. Nevertheless, we persevered with the able assistance of Sgt Ward until Spring term drew to a close and Sgt Ward received a surprise short tour posting to Zimbabwe which effectively wrote him out of further proceedings during the cricket season. His ability both as a player and coach were sadly missed.

Military training, athletics and, of course, the College summer camp delayed the start of the cricket season in earnest until June. However, the Permanent Staff did manage a game while at summer camp against a local village side. We were assured that this match was a friendly fixture but the opposition seemed to take it very seriously and dismissed us for 60 runs. The pitch certainly played it's part and was perhaps more suited for livestock than early season batsmen. The opposition appeard to be heading for an easy victory having reached 30 runs without loss when suddenly the wickets began to tumble and in an exciting finish we came away winners by just one run. At this point the opposition disappeared and the promised after match hospitality went with them!

Shortly after our return from College summer camp the new recruits arrived at Deepcut and the numbers attending net practice increased dramatically. Sgt Keogh volunteered his services as assistant coach and gave considerable support throughout the remainder of the cricket season. Slowly but surely the potential of a cricket XI emerged from the nets ready for the first match. We were drawn in the Junior Soldiers cricket competition against the Junior Soldiers Depot, POW Division, Crickhowell, but due to their inability to play gained a bye into the semi-finals. The semi-final was played against the RAMC Apprentices College at Ash Vale and proved to be a disaster for our team. Batting first our wickets fell quickly and apart from APte Broom and APte Douglas who scored 6 and 7 runs respectively we offered little resistance to their opening bowlers and were all out for a lowly 24 runs. All credit must be given to the Medics opening bowlers who performed exceedingly well and claimed half our wickets apiece. Their batsmen had little difficulty in passing our total and on the day the Medics were by far the better side. The following week we played against the Junior Guards from Pirbright in a friendly fixture. The College team were determined to do well after their initial poor performance and to prove the point bowled out the Junior Guards for a mere 15 runs. ASgt Thomas took five wickets for six runs, quite an achievement and was ably assisted by APte Leng 3 for 3 runs and APte Walker 2 for one run. The College quickly passed the Junior

Guards total winning by 8 wickets, a result which more than compensated for our poor showing in the cup competition.

Throughout the season the College Permanent Staff provided a number of players for the RAOC Training Centre team, namely Maj (Retd) Neal, our Bursar, Capt Oldham, Lt Inshaw, Sgt Garforth and Cpl Harper. The Training Centre team had a most successful season going on to win the DGOS knockout cup competition. The College also provided Corps players in Capt Oldham and Lt Inshaw.

The following apprentices represented the College during the season. ASgt Thomas, ALcpl Keymer, APtes Bogle, Brooks, Leng, Douglas, Sparrow, Hetherington, Walker, Wallace, Broome, Cox, Phillips, Taylor and Lane. College Colours were awarded to ASgt Thomas, APtes Walker, Leng, Broome, Douglas and Taylor.

The College cricket season although enjoyable has not been successful as far as competitions are concerned, but it is pleasing to know that we do have the nucleus of a good team for next year.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Officer in Charge Capt A N B Jelly RAOC

Assistants Sgt J Hladkij RAOC

Cpl D A James RAOC

Throughout the season the RAOC Apprentices College has run in the South East District Junior Cross Country league. Because of the increase in numbers the College has run against major units within the District. Not withstanding this our results have been most creditable.

In most league races we have managed third place overall. The highlight must be the College's third place in the Army (Junior) Relay championships. This was a very good performance and must put us in good heart for the future.

Next term the College will be running in the South East District championships and, if successful, will go on to run in the Army Cross Country championships. There are no stars in the team but they will undoubtedly emerge when the higher standard races come along.

DINGHY SAILING

Officer in Charge Capt P Scott RAEC

Dinghy sailing is an all the year round sport. Apprentices sail throughout the year at Hawley Lake during sports afternoons.

They have broken the ice during the winter, rowed boats on windless, rainy days and basked in the sun during the summer term.

The sailing activity at Penally during summer camp was a great success. Four bosun dinghies were in constant use and enabled all apprentices to experience sailing and "have a steer". The kind weather allowed us to sail across to Caldey Island and make trips to Tenby and Lydstepp Bay.

Apprentices are coached according to the Royal Yachting Association syllabus, and we aim to train them up to elementary standard in two terms. This year seven apprentices have reached elementary standard at courses held at Hawley Lake and Falmouth.

Competition improves sailing standards greatly, and to this end apprentices have entered the RAOC Offshore Regatta, RAOC Inter Unit Regatta and the RAOC Individual Regatta. APte Goddard was a member of the winning crew in the offshore regatta and APtes Goddard, Newlove and Mason gained third place in their group in the inter unit regatta. They would have done even better but for the wind freshening to Force 6.

Colours have been awarded to APtes Mason, Goddard and Newlove for their enthusiasm and effort throughout the year and the results achieved in regattas.

GYMNASTICS

Officer in Charge QSMI R Mather APTC

A high box display team was formed at the start of this term. A number of keen gymnasts trained in the evenings and offered their services at local events.

Displays were given at St Nicholas School, Hurst, St Hughes of Lincoln School, Knaphill and Heatherside Fete.

Some useful lessons were learnt and a number of recruit apprentices have joined the team. The intention is to meet once a week during winter and spring terms and hopefully produce a team next summer capable of bigger and better things.

The team, organised byQMSI Mather was drawn from every platoon in the College - outstanding performers were: ACpl "Chalky" Robinson and APte Coyle, and from the recruit platoons: APtes O'Connell and Phimister. Remaining gymnasts were: ASgt Stockings, ACpl Ramsey, ALcpls Toop and Murray, APtes Short, Dunn and Sharpe. Assistance was given by Cpl Hawkins and Lcpl Woollaston of the Permanent Staff.

HOCKEY

Officer in Charge Lt J E S Redwood RAOC

Assistant Lt M J Knight RAOC

The year's activities began as always with the usual high hopes and determination. Of course the College suffers from the fact that few apprentices enter either with the skill of having played the game previously or possessing an elementary knowledge of the basic rules. Coaching became the order of all sports sessions.

The College entered two major competitions - the SE District League and the Army Hockey Cup. Our rather inexperienced eleven managed to be successful in its first league encounter but thereafter found the opposition far too skilled and formidable. The Club suffered some rather heavy defeats. However, the players never lost heart and defeat at least

caused them to think seriously about the game and profit from mistakes.

In the Cup competition we did succeed in having a good run right to the semi-final stage going down to Arborfield 4 goals to 1 - no mean performance on the part of our team. The opposition had previously defeated us by double figures.

Yet again, defeat drove the team on with new and exciting determination. We entered for the Bari Cup, a Corps competition, and much to everyone's surprise managed to reach the final of the Festival Shield. It proved to be the most thrilling match of the whole competition. Even after extra time the score was 0-0 and the whole thing had to be decided on penalties, thankfully in our favour.

The 1979/80 season ended on a high note. Now we have started off 1980/81 with a new set of learners and the high hopes and determination of last season. We have suffered our customary defeats but we still have the Bari Cup to come.

MOTORCYCLE SPORT IN THE ARMY

By Capt E G Walcroft

Motorcycle sport has been popular in the British Army for many years, especially within the REME, RCT and Royal Signals. The Army recognises motorcycling as an adventure training activity, and funds are available to assist individuals or units to take part in adventurous activities involving motorcycles. Official motorcycle sport within the Army comes under the auspices of the Army Motor Cycle Association, and each district in Great Britain and each major headquarters abroad has a Secretary of the AMCA to deal with matters of motorcycle sport.

The Army is equipped with a variety of motorcycles, the main two types being the BSA B40 and the Can-Am. The BSA has a single cylinder 350cc 4 stroke engine, rather robust cycle parts (in other words heavy!) and a relatively low ground clearance. The Can-Am, which is the replacement for the B40, has a single cylinder 2 stroke engine and cycle parts which are designed to be soldier proof and comparatively light with a higher ground clearance.

There are two kinds of motorcycle events organised by the AMCA, the motorcycle trial and the enduro. The trial is very much a trial of rider skill and motorcycle capability. It involves completing a ride across country within a set time. The course usually consists of roads and tracks across country, plus a number of observed sections. An observed section is a taped-off area of ground which the rider must negotiate without allowing his machine to stop, and without placing his feet upon the ground. At each section an observer watches the progress of the machine and rider and allots penalty points on a basis of:

Rider places a foot on..... 1 point
ground once

Rider places a foot on..... 2 points
ground twice

Rider constantly uses feet .. 3 points
to negotiate section

Machine stops in ..... 5 points
section

Failure to enter an observed section results in either the addition of further penalty points or disqualification. Many courses consist of ten observed sections to be completed four times within a bogey time. Penalty points are awarded for each



The author with B40 stuck firmly in the mud

minute over the bogey time.

The term enduro is taken from the word endurance, and a motorcycle enduro is designed to be a test of rider and machine capability, and the capacity for both to endure a long journey across country whilst keeping to a rigid time/speed schedule. The course usually consists of tracks and cross-country going, with a number of control points along the course. The rider is then tasked with negotiating the course (which could be anything up to 200 miles in a day) at a set speed. His time of arrival at each control point is estimated and penalty points are awarded for early or late arrival at that control. There may also be special tests added, such as an acceleration and braking test, or a number of laps of a scrambles course, with the fastest competitor setting the bogey time. Machine components are not allowed to be changed during the course of the competition.

Competitions are publicised in District or Formation Orders, and usually accompanied by an entry form. Most competitions have 2 classes, one for riders with service machines and one for riders with competition machines. Riders in the competition class ride either genuine trials machines worth £700-£1,200 or trial bikes (motor-cycles designed for both normal road riding and cross-country riding) costing from £400-£1,000. The advantage of having a competition class is that personnel serving in a unit not equipped with service motor-cycles can use their own private machine (in Germany I once came 4th in the competition class of a Service Trial using a machine that I rode to work daily and had, a month before, ridden from Germany to the Isle of Man and back again).

Equipment needed by the rider is fairly inexpensive compared to the majority of motorcycle sports. The Army stipulates the wearing of a crash-helmet, boots and clothing made of strong material, and often a rider will use an Army crash-helmet, combat kit and DMS boots. The more earnest rider will pay £25 for a trials helmet with an ACU stamp, either a two piece waxed cotton outfit or a one piece outfit of either waterproof or non-waterproof material costing £40-£60. A pair of stout knee length boots of either rubber or leather costing from £20-£50 and a pair of gloves usually completes the dress.

Motor cycle sport is within the grasp of most soldiers wishing to spend a little money and effort on a skilful and often exhilarating activity. The standard of competition is designed to test the most skilful rider whilst encouraging the beginner to improve his skills, and riding skills learned in the most exacting of circumstances always benefits the road riding ability of the soldier.

Soldiers are encouraged to take part in civilian events to improve their own standard. The standard reached by Army riders is indicated by the presence each year of an Army team in the International Six-Day Trials, held in a different country each year and considered by many to be the premier enduro event in the world. If you progress from Service trials to the International Six Day Trials you can truly consider yourself a top flight motorcycle competitor!

OFFSHORE SAILING

Officer In Charge Mr J F Watson

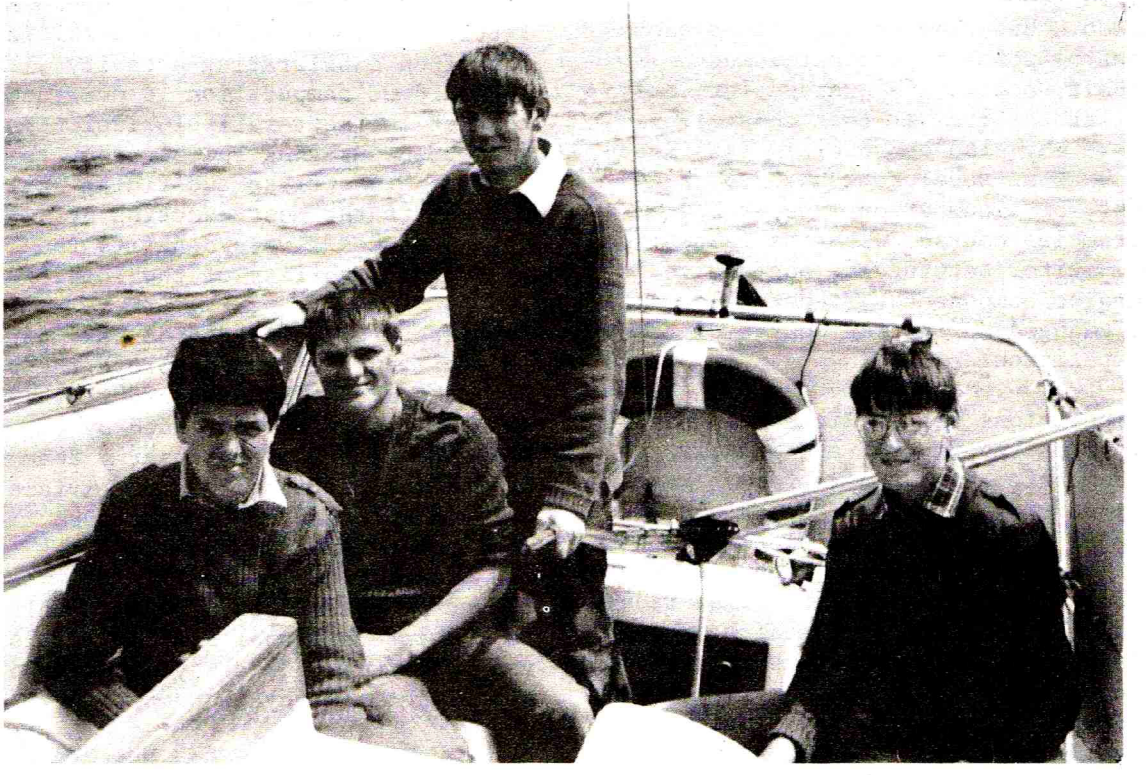
Assistant Mr M F Johnson

Our Offshore Sailing season started in May when, during the College camp period, we sailed the College yacht "Thunderbolt" to Falmouth and back to Gosport. The journey was split into six stages with a different crew of apprentices on each leg. 15 apprentices and four members of the Permanent Staff participated in the exercise which we code-named "Channel Buoy III".

June is traditionally the busiest offshore month and so it proved in 1980. Four days after we returned from Falmouth we took part in the second RAOC Offshore Regatta. We took the second prize. A week later we took part in the Army Sailing Association Regatta and the following weekend we attempted, once again, to sail along with 1,000 other yachts in the famous "Round the Island Race." But, alas, it was not to be our race! A very strong wind on the nose - a very rough sea - and finally a foul tide caused us, along with several hundred other small yachts, to limp rather dejectedly back to Cowes.

Between the end of June and the end of November the yacht was used for day sail training, weekend Solent adventure training and three times was chartered to qualified members of the Permanent Staff.

We look forward to better weather in 1981 and perhaps now that we have more qualified sailors in the College we shall be able to achieve one of our aims .... 2,500 miles in a season.



At the helm - Major Fraser Mills Crew - APtes Ryan, Charge, Paterson.

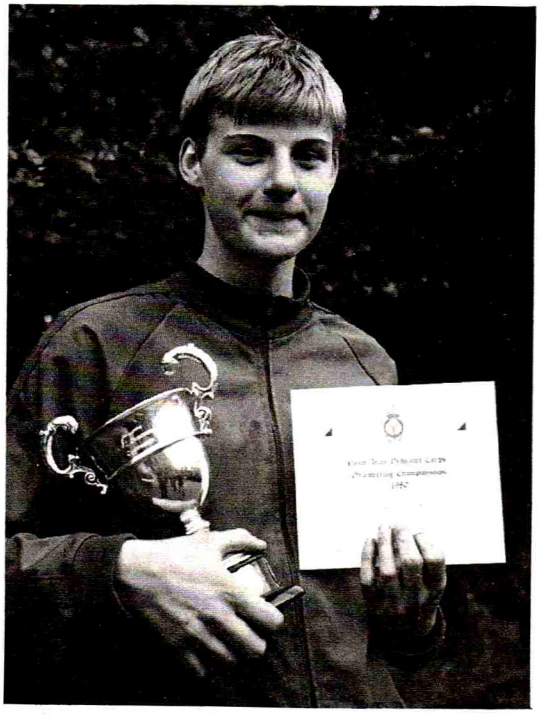
ORIENTEERING

Officer in Charge Lt G P Moore RAOC

Orienteering has 'run' fairly smoothly over the term. Tuesday afternoons were reserved for training and the following aspects were practised:

Fitness Training
Use of Silva Compass
Reading Contours
Orienteering Map Symbols
Event Procedures and Administration
Tactics

This training was varied and proved to be of interest and value to the apprentices. The training was reinforced by competitive running on Thursday afternoons. Initially Area G1 was used as this was readily accessible, no transport being required. The College also holds vast stocks of the 1:10,000 scale Orienteering map of Frith Hill and Old Windmill Hill)ie G1 and G2). The first courses to be tried were those arranged for the March 1980 College Orienteering Championship, namely courses A, B and C which were of equal length and severity.



APte Thompson, Burma Platoon, winner of the Best Junior Award at the RAOC Corps Orienteering Championships 1980.

Thompson started this sport on arrival at the College, he had no prior experience. An outstanding performance, on a very difficult course, particularly from a member of a recruit platoon with only six weeks training behind him.

When this area had been exhausted, the Orienteers travelled by transport to Bagshot Heath, next to the MVEE test track and this was a very interesting area as none of the apprentices had been there before. The most recent area to be used has been Mytchett Common, just beyond the Training Bn and Depot RAOC which can be reached on foot. This hilly area is particularly good for developing stamina.

On the competitive side the College put forward several contenders for the RAOC Orienteering Championships on 15 October 1980, which was combined with the inter Corps event and the SE vs SW District League event. This was held at Wendover Woods, Bucks and individuals achieved the following results:

Major Bunyard was 25th overall out of 120 and gained 76 points for the District.

Lt Freegard was 41st overall, 6th best RAOC entrant and gained 68 points for the District.

Capt Walcroft was 68th overall, 16th best RAOC entrant and gained 48 points for the District.

APte Thompson was 111th overall, 36th best RAOC entrant and only just failed to gain District points. He was the highest placed Junior Soldier and won

the Best Junior award.

The above individuals assisted the RAOC Training Centre teams in coming 1st, 2nd and 6th. APte Mills was unfortunately disqualified.

The Royal Engineers invited the RAOC to participate in their relays on 25 October 1980 and Major Bunyard completed his course in the blistering time of 38 minutes 22 seconds assisting the RAOC Training Centre 'A' team to 5th place for the B Course.

APte Mills distinguished himself by attaining the highest possible score (HPS) on two consecutive score events held on 30 October and 6 November on G1.

OIC Orienteering, Lt Moore has been in touch with two local 'civvy' clubs - Guildford Orienteers (GO) and Southern Navigators and approval has been granted to enter apprentices in events run by these clubs. Lt Moore took a party of eight lads to an event at Holmwood Common, Dorking on 16 November 1980, which despite the incessant rain was enjoyed by most of them. The event was demanding and courses were up to 11 Km in length and required a high standard of navigation and stamina.

Further entries in civilian events are anticipated as the lads benefit from entering a high level, well organised competition against a dozen or more clubs. Many courses are available depending on both the skill of the individual and the time available. A spin-off is the community links fostered with many civilians from local teams and also gaining publicity for the College.

The OIC is planning to obtain some more up to date maps of G1 and other local areas such as Bagshot Heath and Mytchett Common. Lt Moore has also updated the SEDO on Orienteering Map Coverage for the Air Survey Section RE at RAF Wyton, which although recently issued was incomplete and lacked detail.

To conclude, College colours have been nominated for APte Mills of Balaclava and APte Thompson of Burma and APte Mills has been nominated for the Radley Cup.

Next term will see the Orienteers entering more civilian events and competing for BOF merit badges as well as visiting the Bracknell Sports Centre where a permanent course is available at weekends.

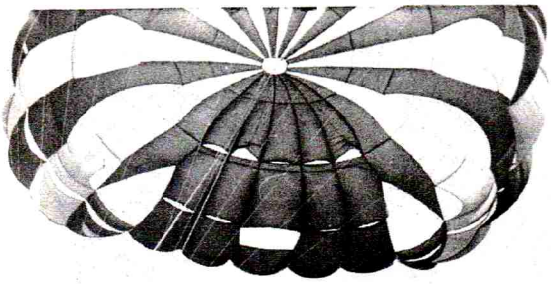
PARASCENDING

Officer in Charge Major G D Beaumont RAEC

Quite appalling weather conditions throughout the year have limited our activities. However, a College team acquitted itself quite creditably in the round canopy section of the National Championships at Grantham over the August Bank Holiday period. The standards now being achieved by the top performers, some with 10-12 years experience in the sport, astounded our boys.

We have said goodbye to Lt Nisbet, our brilliant, but not to be emulated by beginners, flyer of high performance canopies, and to the ever-keen Sgt Wilkie, now forming a new club in Antwerp.

WO2 Finch has become qualified as an instructor and Sgt Hampton has joined us as a trainee instructor. Noticeably his platoon, Arakan, forms the backbone of the Club next season.





National Championships, Grantham, August 1980. APte Spiby about to make his bid

RUGBY

Officer in Charge Lt D Inshaw RAOC

Assistants Sgt J Edwards RAOC

Sgt R P Tarr RAOC

Cpl S G Jenkins REME

On the whole 1980 proved to be a rather difficult year for College rugby. This was due in the main to key players being unavailable for selection because of prior military training commitments. There were also added difficulties in pitch re-construction work and even the arrangement of suitable fixtures.

However, despite all the administrative trials and tribulations, the Club continued to do its best on or off the field.

ALcpls Kearsey and Laing along with APtes Mason, Millington and Skinner secured selection in the Aldershot Colts XV. As a result APte Skinner went on to play in an Army Colts trial which was a great achievement at this level.

1981 has got off to a great start and we are all hoping for much better things. Lt R Dempster has now taken over the role of OIC and is bringing his expertise to bear in all training sessions. Sgt Tarr is not only a



Apprentices v Permanent Staff November 1980



The same with Major Bunyard prominent

firm selection for Depot and Corps Rugby but is also engaged in Army matches. Cpl Jenkins is a Corps player of no mean ability.

The College XV got off to a most exciting start in its first match of the new term drawing 20 points to 20 in a really thrilling game with the Junior Riflemen's Coy, Winchester. All in all, there is every satisfaction to be felt in College rugby circles these days.



The same again. This time a break by APte Norman (Berlin)

SHOOTING

Officer in Charge Lt C Nisbett RAOC

Assistant Cpl D Constable RAOC

The College has had a successful year as a result of the efforts of the following club members:

ACpl Hammond has been a member of the College shooting team and competed in the REME, RAOC and the Junior Army

Skill-at-Arms meetings and was a credit to his unit. His achievements were:

REME Skill-at-Arms meeting
Rifle Champion Young Soldier

RAOC Skill-at-Arms meeting
The Individual Young Soldiers' Cup

Team member of the Young Soldiers' Challenge Cup

Apprentice Individual Rifle 2nd

ALcpl Wilson, although he never won any individual awards during the competitions he was a very good team member through his enthuiasm and team spirit. It is a pity that he never reached his peak until it was too late.

ALcpl Moore is a very keen shot and achieved some good results at the Skill-at-Arms meetings and has been a regular member of the College team. His achievements were:

RAOC Skill-at-Arms meeting
The REME Trophy (Winner)

Apprentice Individual Rifle (Fourth)

ALcpl Jones was a very good team member and was always cheery even when he was not achieving the best of results. Although his results were fair towards the team scores his individual achievement was:

RAOC Skill-at-Arms meeting
The REME Trophy (Runner-up)

ALcpl Clements steadily improved meeting by meeting and became a worthy member of the College team. His individual achievements were:

RAOC Skill-at-Arms meeting
The Young Soldiers Runner Up Cup (Winner)

Apprentice Individual Rifle (First)

Young Soldiers Cup, Team member (First)

The Enlisted Boys Individual Challenge Cup (Winner)

Junior Soldiers Skill-at-Arms meeting
31st out of 240 (very good)

APte Whaling was another good team member and achieved fairly good results for the team, his failing was competition nerves. If he could overcome his nerves he would make a first class shot.

APte Maxwell, on the day, is a fairly good shot provided he does not let his nerves get the better of him. A good team member and reliable. His individual achievements were:

RAOC Skill-at-Arms meeting
Young Soldiers' Cup Team member (First)

APte Cobb was a late draftee into the team for the last meeting which was the Junior Army Skill-at-Arms meeting. He proved to be a well worthy team member although he had no previous experience at competition shooting. I feel, with a bit more experience, he could become a first class shot.

APte Davey was another late team member but did the team credit although he had had no previous experience at competition shooting.

APte Collins, like the two above, did the College proud although being drafted into the team late. He would have done well if he had had previous experience. A good team member.

APte Meacham - another late member to the team but a good one as he improved by leaps and bounds during the Junior Army Skill-at-Arms meeting. His individual results during the meeting were excellent as he came 12th in the Green Howards' Cup out of 240 firers at which 50% were Infantry, Paratroopers and Guardsmen. He was the only apprentice from the College to receive an Army Medal at this meeting.

SKIING

Officer in Charge Capt R A C Eccles RAOC

Great enthusiasm was shown by apprentices to the introduction of skiing as a sport. 70 lads appeared for the introductory talk. They were given the hard facts of financial cost and physical training. There was a stunned silence as 45 apprentices trooped out. It appeared that most believed skiing involved sun, snow, birds and booze.

Training started in earnest with fitness runs including limbering and leg strengthening exercises. After a number of sessions the apprentices were ready for the Stainforth Ski Centre dry slope.

APte Goodwin, Arnhem Platoon, soon showed his expertise gained from previous ski experience, while APtes Campbell, Lewis, Parrott and Toomey quickly picked up ski techniques to snow plough standard.

Capt Eccles and Sgt Gatley have been providing instructional services on the slopes while Lt Parry has given back-up and fitness training.

The Summer term ends with 15 keen skiers ready for next term's dry ski training, culminating in ski exercises in Aviemore and the RAOC and Army Ski Championships.

SOCCER

Officer in Charge Capt D Oldham RAOC

Coaches Sgt S J Squires REME

Sgt S P Bradley REME

Sgt E C Leach RAOC

Sgt F J Keogh RAOC

Sgt C J Ward RAOC

Two separate teams have been nominated and this arrangement has gone a long way to improving the general standard of football in the College, to promoting competition for team places and to maintaining enthusiasm.

The 'A' team is top of the SE District Junior Soldiers League at the time of reporting and cannot be overhauled. The 'B' team has played with equal enthusiasm and has achieved quite a satisfactory position in its league.

An inter-platoon competition was held last term and the finalists were not the favourites but recruit platoons. Arakan ran out easy winners by beating Brunei 5-0.

Although all the team players have played well and ten were recommended for College colours, undoubtedly the star performer has been APte Weissang. He is the present Captain of the Army Youth team for whom he has played regularly throughout the season.

Sgt Ward equally deserves special mention. He has refereed every home game played by the College this season.

Quite a number of key players left the Club at the end of the Autumn term and were sadly missed. They were Etherington, Mackay, Geddes, Brydon, Wilson, Henderson, Black and Weissang.

SQUASH

Officer in Charge Cpl G C Adam REME

Assistant Sgt D Carlin RAOC

New arrivals to the club were introduced to the intricacy of placing a squash racket to a ball at high velocity. With plenty of practice and patience they then progressed to hitting the walls, and each other. Casualty free, they were introduced to the rules and, after coaching, they were let loose to find victims among the 2nd, 3rd and 4th termers.

APte Doy (Alamein) with 'jaws open' went directly to his platoon corporal, ALcpl Shaw, and drew first blood. Others who were less fortunate were awarded prizes for their misfortunes, which they claimed to be worse than PF.

The introduction of the College squash ladder has given the apprentices the opportunity to drill their superiors around the squash court with 'controlled vengeance'. APte Asplen (Berlin) has taken full opportunity of this by politely challenging his OC, Major T A Glen, sporting a large smile as he did so.

On hearing of the introduction of the leagues ACpl Burns (Arnhem) came out of his shell and one afternoon left Basketball to challenge the then "creme de la creme" of the apprentices, APte Asplen. With skill and cunning he had attained from a squash club - north of the border, he introduced his victim to areas on the squash court he had not visited before!

The apprentices have now played enough within their own ranks and seek stiffer opposition. This will be accomplished at the start of next season with matches against other junior units. A match with the ACC Apprentices College before the end of the current term will whet their appetites.

Just one final note to members of staff who may find themselves playing the apprentices:

> "Be kind to those on the way up and they will be kind to you on the way down".

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

It must be a rare event indeed for any apprentice to find his name included in the columns of "The Times". An extract from the paper is printed over (left) and alongside it a recent appreciation which appeared in the RAOC Gazette.

By one of those strange coincidences it was at almost the precise moment of the "Times" release that the following photograph arrived in the College. SSgt Robinson was introduced to squash, as an apprentice and given his first lessons by a then platoon commander, Capt Ted Champion. Ted later came back for a second term, first as a Company Commander and then as College Second-in-Command. He left in December 1979 on promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel.

Squash rackets

Robinson rewarded for his long journey

By a Special Correspondent

Important promotion and relegation issues in the Inter-county championship, sponsored by Perrier, were decided at the weekand highlighted by a splendid tussle at Brighton, where Sussex preserved their premier division status and both Kent and Warwickshire were relegated.

The British international, Barry O'Connor, now in Germany, flew over in a vain attempt to help Kent, who were runners-up to the title winners, Yorkshire, last season, but no longer have the services of one of their leading players, Stephen Bateman.

At Crowthorne another international player who made a long journey to help his county had more success. Robbie Robinson's trip from his army base in Germany was rewarded by helping Middlesex to earn promotion from the first division south to the premier. Robinson played No 2 to the England international, David Thomas, and this strength in depth enabled Middlesex to win their group against Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire.

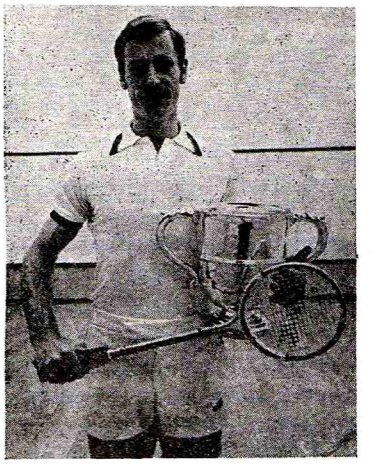


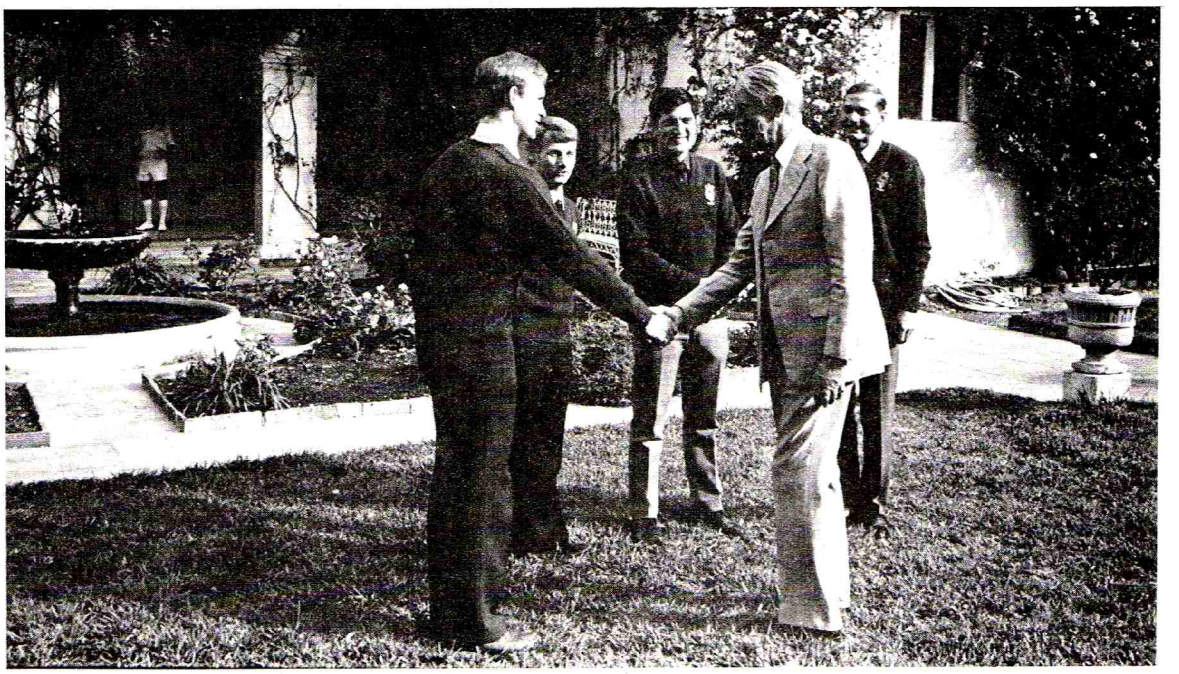
Photo Soldier Magazine.

Sergeant Robbie Robinson with the Army Squash Trophy.

Sergeant Robinson enlisted in the Junior Leaders Battalion at Blackdown and it was there that he was introduced to squash. His progress with the game was rapid and his first major success was in 1971 when he won the Army Under 19 championship. He represented the Corps whilst still a junior soldier and won the Corps title in 1972.

Robbie has served with 22 SAS, Headquarters AFCENT and 12 Ordnance Field Park. He was BAOR champion in 1974, 1975 and 1976 and whilst in Germany he took part in many international tournaments. He has won the Maastricht Invitation Open and both the Dutch and Swiss Open Plate. There have been trips to Denmark, Berlin and Sweden, when he beat the Swedish No. 1.

Now serving in the AG Secretariat in London, Sergeant Robinson has been an established Army player for the last seven years. He is No. 1 for Middlesex and is currently No. 10 in the national ratings. He has played for the Squash Rackets Association and is the present Army and Combined Services champion.



General Sir William Jackson GBE KCB MC ADC(Gen), the Governor of Gibraltar and a Colonel Commandant of the Corps, welcoming an RAOC squash team to his residence, October 1980. The team was led by Major Ted Champion, late of this College (extreme right)

SUB AQUA CLUB

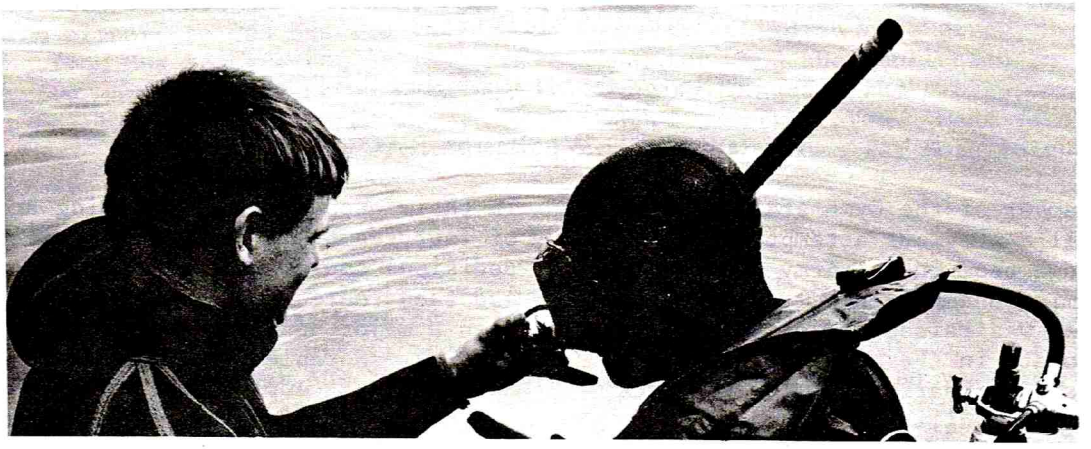
Officer in Charge Lt A Barnes RAEC

The College Sub Aqua club was resurrected in 1979 with a membership of 14 apprentices. It was hoped to train everyone up to British sub aqua Club Class III level and with this in mind a programme of: swimming pool training, lectures, and open water diving was planned. Variety was introduced into the programme by using different venues such as Arborfield indoor pool and simulated open water sea conditions with the Royal Navy at HMS Vernon, Portsmouth. Limitations to the training were imposed by the fact that we had no supervisor - an Army DCI stipulation - but this has now been overcome by Lt Barnes qualifying as a SADS.

Without doubt, the major achievement of the Club was the summer expedition to the Outer Hebrides, ex "Flip-Flop". Eight apprentices and the diving officer made the long journey - which was an adventure in itself - to the western most part of Scotland and stayed as the guests of the RAF at Stornaway for a fortnight. The diving was better than we had dared to hope for; warm water, clear visibility, an abundance of wrecks and more scollops, crabs, lobsters and other shell fish than could be loaded into the boat. On the occasional day when Force 8 Atlantic "breezes" made diving impracticable, the natural beauty of this unspoilt island provided a pleasant alternative.



APte Parmeter (Burma) being checked by APte Shatetle (Bruneval) with the bubbles of a submerged diver to the rear.



Not a scene from the "Blue Lagoon" but ACpl Miller being prepared for a dive

Each day's diving was a memorable event in its own right, but one of the most exciting dives was the visit to the wreck of the "Jolare" which sank on 1st January 1919, drowning most of the 230 men on board who were returning from the First World War. When searching for the wreck there was a very "spooky" atmosphere in the surrounding terrain of wraith-like kelp and sudden ghostly appearances of large black outcrops of rock - called "The Beasts of Holm" - with the imagination being stirred even more so by the diffusion of light through the green water. The remains of the wreck were located with the boiler and mast being most prominent and some artillery type ammunition was spotted on the sea bed nearby. As this was probably live at the time of sinking, it was left in situ and its location reported to the coastguard.

Other dives included successful searches for crabs, lobsters and scollops which gave interesting variety to the expedition because they were all found at different parts of the island; each type of shellfish preferring different under-water conditions.

The recent wreck of a trawler was located in shallow water in the approaches to Stornoway harbour after its existence was discovered by overhearing a conversation by local fishermen but a dive on the almost intact wreck of a large cargo ship at the south of the island had to be aborted because of gales.

The most amusing incident of the expedition must be credited to ASgt Stockings who suddenly began swimming around in ever decreasing circles. He had spotted a large blue dog fish and because of its rather sinister similarity to jaws; decided that he was in mortal danger. His immediate reaction was rapid circular movements with which he hoped to confuse the fish; but this only resulted in guffaws of laughter from all observers, even including the fish, which soon became tame and allowed itself to be stroked.

Because of the warming effects of the Gulf Stream, the waters around the Isle of Lewis were plentiful with a variety of marine life, even dolphins and seals being sighted.

The end of the exercise arrived far too quickly and with it a sense of frustration for the untapped potential of the area. With the realisation that we had hardly scratched the surface, ex "Flip Flop II" was provisionally booked for next August.

SWIMMING

Officer in Charge QSMI R Mather APTC

Assistant Cpl D Woollaston RAOC

No member of the Gymn staff can recall a previous attempt by a College team in the Army Junior Swimming championships. This season a team was raised and competed at Harrogate in the Minor Units championship. Bearing in mind the lack of local facilities the team, under LCpl Woollaston made good progress in their preparation, finishing 3rd of four teams. A number of close decisions could have gone our way and then there would really have been a major upset in Army swimming circles. Notable performances were achieved by: ACpl Porter, ACpl Robinson, APte Gabriel, APte Trebert and APte Smith.

Following the Army Junior championship a number of our swimmers represented the Training Centre in the South East District Team championship at Sandhurst and a triangular match was held against RMAS and AAC Arborfield. A total of 12 swimmers formed the nucleus of the team and all 12 took part in at least one competition. Many more apprentices have appeared on the swimming scene usually as potential canoeists or sub-aqua divers. Next term swimming will include preparation for the first College water polo championships.

TENNIS

Officer in Charge Lt B Flaherty WRAC

Assistant Cpl W Gibson RAOC

Tennis Summer 1980 was played on the courts of the RAOC Depot Blackdown. We began the sport in June with a group of six apprentices. Five had never played tennis before. With practice and often watching Wimbledon they improved sufficiently for two apprentices, APte Cranney and ACpl Skinner, to be entered in the RAOC Corps Championship in Aldershot.

General Brown RAOC spoke to the apprentices at the championships and offered words of encouragement to them and said he hoped that they would continue with the sport when they left the College.

The final of the Junior Section was played on the courts at Blackdown and ACpl Skinner, after a close match, beat APte Cranney.

EXERCISE BERBER BREAK 4 - 18 OCT 80
LOC ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Report by 24494432 A/Lcpl Norcross

Day One

0800. Transport arrives. Fly from Gatwick at 11.15. Fly over Isle of Wight, Channel Islands, Lisbon, Gibraltar. Hair raising taxi ride from airport to Cas bus station. Get bus from Cas to Marakesh at 1800 hrs. Arrive Marakesh 1930 hrs. Check in at hotel.

Day Two

Rude awakening by town crier. Up early book bus for Marakesh. All ready to go but bus is full. Next bus is at 2 pm. Spent morning looking in Marakesh market. Had Kebab lunch then got bus to Marakesh. Arrived Quarzazati at 1700 hrs. Check in at hotel.

Day Three

Taxi ride to next town as bus was not leaving until afternoon. Caught lorry from town, to start point, which was a small village. We pitched tents by river. Children were given chewing gum for wood they collected for us. Went looking for the two guides and ended up with three. Went to one of the guide's home for Morocco cup of tea.

Day Four

First day of walking. We are following a river up. We have to cross it many times, sometimes it is waist deep; current is also very strong. We are invited to a wedding so we stop walking early. We camp outside the village.



Capt Walcroft in the mountains

Day Five

Still following river. Crossing river all day. Stop night in village. We bought a goat, watched it being slaughtered and the same night we ate some of it.

Day Six

Valley gets wider travelling higher up away from the river. Stay in a cave.

Day Seven

A snake bit a mule which threw one of the guides. Mule and guide were OK. Spent day climbing to the top of the valley and on a plateau. There is snow on the higher peaks. We are now at the highest point we will climb to.

Day Eight

All day spent descending. We descended very fast. We bought some fish off fishermen. During the day we walked through a village and were invited in for mint tea.

Day Nine

We had fresh trout for breakfast. Last day of walking. We were walking along a footpath which broadened out to a very wide track. Here we stayed the night as there were some local shops nearby. We booked transport for the morning.

Day Ten

We took the transport (lorry) to the next big village. We were invited to stay at the first place in the village. This was our first clean up. We did some washing and had a bath in the river.

Day Eleven

Today was free. We were staying here for rest as we had finished early. We went to the weekly market for some fruit and veg. Most of the day was spent in the sun.

Day Twelve

Transport problem. The driver of the lorry asked for double money because he was doing a special run into the town for us. We got off the lorry and began to walk. Three hours later we stopped a lorry and got a ride into town for half price. Checked in at hotel in Demnat.

Day Thirteen

Got up at 5 o-clock to catch bus to Marakesh but missed it. Caught 6 o-clock bus. Arrived Marakesh 10 o-clock. Went to market to buy presents.

Day Fourteen

Caught afternoon bus to Casc. Checked in at hotel. Spent some hours looking around town. Went for a French meal.

Day Fifteen

Bus to airport 1120 am. Caught plane 1230 hrs to Gatwick. Arrived 1900 hrs. Arrived Guardroom 22.27 hrs.

Day's Routine

0800- Pack away kit and load up mules
0900 Breakfast. One boiled egg with bread and tea
0900 Start walking
1030- Break from walking
1230- Lunch - One cup of soup
1400 Tin mackerel
Bread and jam
Cup of tea
1400 Start walking
1730 Make camp for night
Dinner - Veg with an instant pack of food
Some nights had goat stew

THE 1980 WORLD NURDLING CHAMPIONSHIP

When South East District announced, in May 1980, the Nurdling Championships for the year, could there have been anyone not intrigued enough to find out more? Breathes there a man with a soul so dead he would forego that once in a lifetime chance to be an innovator, a founder member, the pathfinder of a new activity? Because if such a man exists he has forfeited the right to call himself a sports lover, for such it is - Nurdling that is - not Hurdling - NURDLING. Sport of the noblest Olympic ideals. None of your "run of the mill" sport you understand, but one with the "Made in Britain" stamp on it.

There is perhaps a great conflict of opinion over the value of sport, ambivalent views such as those expressed some centuries ago:

> "... is nothing but beastely furie and extreme violence whereof procedeth hurte."

or another stunner:

> "... with thronging of huge multitude, with bursting of shinnes and breaking of legges, be neither civill nor worthy the name of any trayne to health."

Things have'nt changed much in the intervening years but certain games have survived the risk of the odd burste shinne or gammy legge to enter the 20th century lists nurtured by the IOC, FIFA or BSJA and the like. We now have BANANA, the British Amateur National All-Comers Nurdling Association, catering for Nurdlers - world wide.

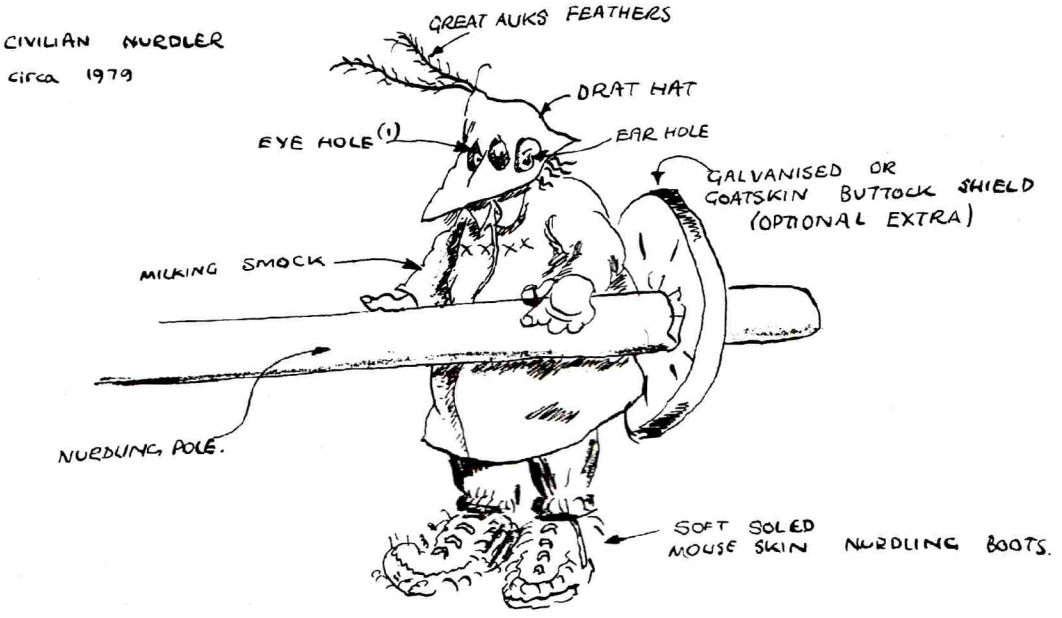
Ever since 1979 the Nurdlers have with a furie, as beastly as any seen in by-gone years, competed for the BANANA GT in the National and World Championships. Into the white heat of such a thronging multitude stepped the Beaumond Grunties, as dashing a trio as ever nurdled .

A brief word on the origin of the team. Grunty was a self-appointed title of the un-acredited Garrison representiative for the combined United Nurdlers, True-Blues and Yahoos. The Beaumond bit was dug out of Roget's "Whots 'it" in an attempt to add a touch of class - suggesting a rather rakish, cavalier, snappy sort of dresser. (When you look at the artist's impression of our team walking the course you may have a better idea of the desired image).



I ought to add at this point that the team came from the RAOC Apprentices College, though one member was from that other lot - the REME. (Thinks - "perhaps the CRAFTSMAN will print this load of old rubbish if no-one else wants it'). At a price! - Ed).

Drawn in Round One against a team of out-of-work TV actors led by Wolfie Smith of the Tooting Popular Front and an equally redundant team who looked rather like pantomime dames, the team moved stickily through the Foot Slidge and squelched to a 3-length victory despite a painful



Like all true-blue sportsmen the team did no training whatsoever and with the genuine zeal of the amateur, muscles taut like knotted string and filled with enormous enthusiasm - tempered of course with British restraint - the team ran out into the area - Hill View cow field. Of course this was a large, well fertilised course, as called for in the rules of Nurdling tolerating a degree of flexibility or misinterpretation which allows for style and eccentricity to be displayed.

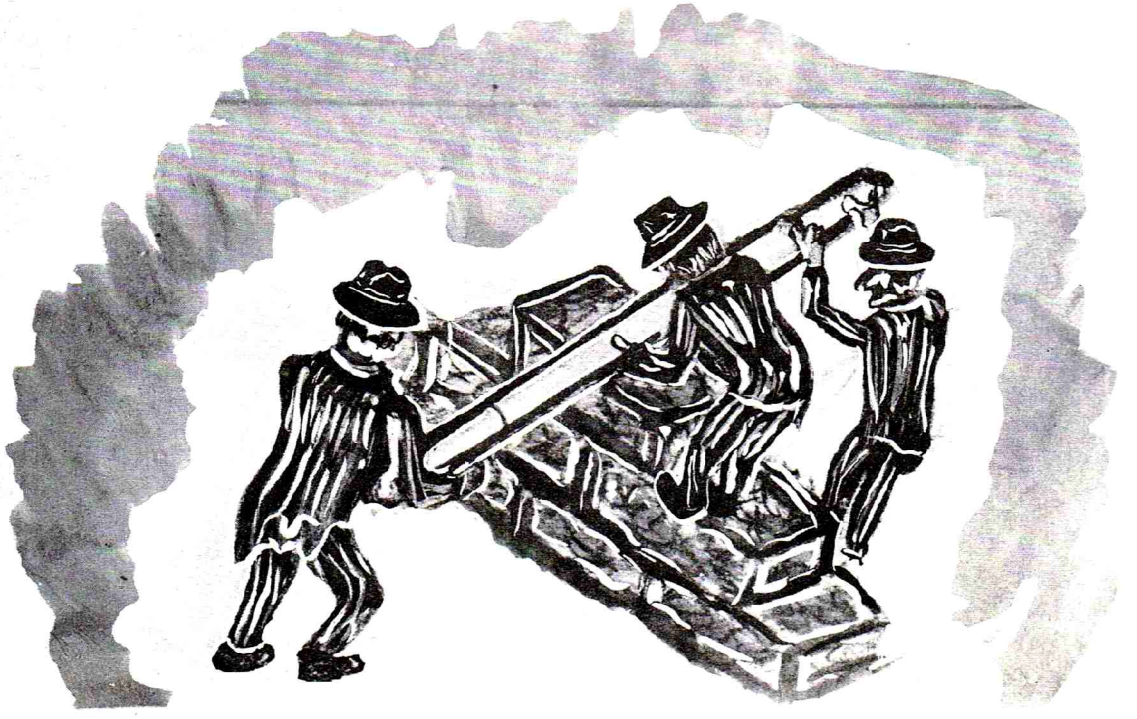
Each team carries a 16-foot nurdling pole, originally designed to gather maidens upon, but this aspect of the game sadly, is now lost to us! The pole is carried along "the run" following a ceremonious wetting of the boots in the Foot Slidge (vats of goats' milk). Not a word may be spoken - other than drat!

incident at the cow byre.

Fortified by draughts of a stimulating nurdling brew, the second round sorted out the real nurdlers from the faint-hearted lunatic performers. A highly fancied team from Middle Wallop known as Nigel's Nancies, came within a nurdle-pole's of beating our team but style told and we had our first ever finalists.

Another team of actors appeared on the start line for the final, anxious to avenge their comrades of the earlier run. They looked mean - but easily distracted. The other remaining team, the City Gents, representing the Bank of England and resplendent in Threadneedle pin stripes and bowlers, looked as though they might have a trick or two in their wellies.


DRAT!





The gun went - through the Foot Slidge with the City Gents leading, bowlers awry, buttonholes smelling strongly of goats' milk. Into the cow byre, scene of multiple cow byre rash at an earlier attempt - through safely (less kilt), over the evil smelling cauldrons of curdled washing-up water, under a net, over a net, over straw bales, through straw bales, over cow dung, through .....! It was to underwhelming with 3 rods, 4 perches and the length of a nurdle pole to go! Barring accident, the World Championship would go to the College. Well, the TV stars spotted a camera and stopped for interviews; the City Gents ran into heavy profit-taking and, hooray, the Grunties crossed the line to become the 1980 World and National Nurdling Champions - and helped to raise £1,000 for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.





The Champions! Capt Ted Walcroft, WO2 Jim Finch and their intrepid leader, Major Terry Bunyard

COLLEGE PRIZEWINNERS 1979 - 80

The boys who win prizes each term are the top 20 (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 is is felt that a more widespread record is needed. Hence-forward, therefore, in this magazine, will be published the names of all prize-winners during the year under review. The lists covering December 1979 to December 1980 are printed herewith.

	WINTER TERM 1979	SPRING TERM 1980
Recruits		
Nockles Cup (Skill-at-Arms)	APte Meacham	APte Bryar
Recruit PT Cup	APte McGill	APte Short
Best Recruit A Company	APte Stockings	APte Etherington
Best Recruit B Company	APte Henry	
Education		
The Toc-H Cup (Best Scholar)	ASgt Evans	APte Upton
Military Training		
Crawford Tankard (Best all-round Shot)	APte Meacham	ALcpl Metcalfe
The Maule Cup (Most proficient Soldier)	ALcpl Roy	ALcpl Mathie
The Sergeants' Cup (Best all-rounder)	ASgt Biggs	ASgt Day
The Hayes Cup (For external leadership)	APte Sutherland	APte Peacock
Character and Community		
The West Shield (for Citizenship)	Ardennes Platoon	Arakan Platoon
St Albans Cup (for Initiative)	ACpl Lowbridge	APte Haywood
The Pedlar Cup (for Leadership)	ALcpl Johnson	
Sport		
The Progress Cup (Best Sportsman)	ASgt Day	APte McGill

	SUMMER TERM 1980	WINTER TERM 1980
Recruits		
Nockles Cup (Skill-at-Arms)	APte Richards	APte Russell
Recruit PT Cup	APte Phimister	APte Hughes
Best Recruit A Company	APte Harris	APte Jacobs
Best Recruit B Company	APte Sullivan	APte Cooper
Education		
The Toc-H Cup (Best Scholar)	APte Smith (244)	ASgt Hammond
Military Training		
Crawford Tankard (Best all-round Shot)	APte Meacham	APte Richards
The Maule Cup (Most Proficient Soldier)	ASgt Stockings	ASgt Preira
The Sergeants' Cup (Best all-rounder)	ASgt Skelton	ASgt Etherington
The Hayes Cup (for External Leadership)	ACpl Harrison	ACpl Mock
The Pedlar Cup (for Leadership)		ASgt Hammond
Character and Community		
The West Shield (for Citizenship)	ASgt Buchanan ALcpl Canovan ALcpl Heaps APte Feehan APte Seville	ALcpl Kearsey
St Albans Cup (for Initiative)	ACpl Turner	ASgt Preira
Sport		
The Neal Cup (Best Cricketer)	APte Broom	
The Progress Cup (Best Sportsman)	ALcpl Henry	APte Weissang
The Radley Cup (for Orienteering)	Apte Rigby	APte Mills
Special Awards		
Hobbies Exhibition		
1st Prize	APte Cairns	
2nd Prize	APte Colburn	

VALETE COLLEGE LEAVERS

Winter Term 1979

RAOC

Staff Clerk RAOC

APte Bain G J
APte Castle K R
ASgt Evans B
APte Gamble K A
ALcpl Hodson C D
ALcpl Karas E L
ACpl McKinney W A
ASgt Pow J C
APte Prime S D
APte Shepherd R A
APte Sutton M
ASgt Waite D R
APte Wilson W R D

Supply Clerks

APte Allen C R C
APte Bent G
ASgt Biggs M
APte Fox M J
APte Jones E J
APte Walker

Supply Specialists RAOC

APte Anderson R S
APte Bartram D S
APte Bell S M
ALcpl Bennett M V
APte Clarke G M
APte Coffin S W
APte Cooney S
ACpl Courtier R K
APte George H G
APte Greaves A M
ALcpl Groves T V
ALcpl Jehu M G
APte Kitson K B
APte Mackin P
APte Madeley P W
ALcpl Marshall D J
APte Martin N A
ALcpl McEvoy C J
ALcpl Moore K W
APte Murray I S
Apte Neal M
ALcpl Noonan
APte Phillips K I
ALcpl Rome A B
APte Sambrook H P
ACpl Stewart M S
APte Stoodley C J
ALcpl Stout D G
APte Thomas D
ASgt Turner R W
APte Westerman M R

Driver

APte Ferguson J B

Potential Driver

APte Jones D A

Potential Transfers

APte Allison M J
APte Bosworth A P
ALcpl Brown N D
APte Folwell P M

REME

Potential REME Tradesmen

APte Atherton T
APte Barker A W
ALcpl Bates D
APte Batterham A J
APte Betts A J
APte Brown B D
APte Burns S
APte Chivers P B
APte Davies K
APte Forbes I
ALcpl Goodacre I G M
Apte Greville M W
APte Hand M K
ALcpl Johnson A J
ACpl Lowbridge S P
APte Mann J B
APte Martin N
APte McWhinnie S D
APte Mee E R
ACpl Miles G R
APte Newbury P R
APte Newton D
APte Scarborough A
APte Sheldrake A S R
ACpl Smith D P
ALcpl Stimpson A K
APte Sutherland G G
APte Tingay M
APte Wallbanks K
ACpl White P A
ACpl Williams A E
ALcpl Williams J A

Potential Transfer

ACpl Oliver G R

Spring Term 1980

RAOC

Staff Clerk

APte Atkinson E J
APte Brash A S
ALcpl Calder D R
ALcpl Day A C
ALcpl Marshall K J
ACpl Reed D C
ACpl Roy A

Supply Specialists

APte Boehm M A
APte Boyd R
APte Burns R B
APte Drury K A
ACpl Ford D A
ALcpl Izzard T R
APte Knibbs M C
APte Long D A
APte Mazzone G
APte Sales A J
APte Wane D A

Supply Clerk RAOC

APte Upton L G

REME

Vehicle Mechanics

APte Achew I H
ALcpl Barkes C B
APte Edwards G
APte Giles G A
ACpl Grundy S
APte Hirst T R
APte Linstead K P
ALcpl Mathie M G
APte Paterson A J
APte Paul D M
APte Poole G
ALcpl Rose D G
ALcpl Sargent N
APte Taylor G N
APte Watling E J
APte Weir C H B
ALcpl Woolley S

Electronic Technician

ACpl Horner A K

Gun Fitter

ALcpl Gampbell A H

Vehicle Electrician

APte Hargrove IP

Recovery Mechanics

ACpl Gillett T P
ALcpl Hoy J
ALcpl Walker W G T
ALcpl Smith R I

Metalsmith

APte Mumford G D

Driver

APte Steeden L

To be notified

APte King J E

Storemen

APte Dougan P
APte Greenwood

Clerks

ACpl Williams
ALcpl Nesbitt G F
ALcpl Lumley P

Summer Term 1980

RAOC

Staff Clerks

APte Blackburn
ALcpl Keymer
APte Shanks

Supply Clerks

ALcpl Canavan
ALcpl Clements
APte Cosgrave
APte Feehan
APte Heaps
APte Hibbert
ACpl Peacock
APte Seville
APte South

Supply Specialists

APte Beattie
APte Bell
APte Bennett
ACpl Bobbett
APte Brown
ASgt Buchanan
ALcpl Cook
APte Cottam
APte Davenport
APte Doyle
APte Embleton
APte Griffin
APte Hall
APte Harding
ALcpl Lewis
ASgt Malcolm
APte Mannings
ALcpl Murray
ASgt Newlands
APte Ramsay
ACpl Richardson
ACpl Robinson
APte Simpson
APte Stanley

REME

Potential Vehicle Mechanics

APte Barton
APte Buckler
APte Butler
APte Colborn
APte Collingwood
ACpl Corbett
APte Davies
APte Dunn
APte Fallon
ALcpl Fitzmaurice
APte Greenbank
APte Haggie
APte Hamer
APte Hanley
APte Hardman
APte Hardy
APte Hopper
APte Jarvis
APte Johns
APte Joyce
APte Kingdom
APte Mateer
APte McGill
APte Meacham
ALcpl Metcalfe
APte Mortimore
APte Newlove
APte Nichols
APte Oakley
APte Ogden
APte Oldham
APte Parker
APte Parkinson
ALcpl Porter
APte Rabbidge
APte Ray
APte Sanford
APte Shakesheff
APte Sharpe
ALcpl Shaw
APte Shettle
APte Shipton
ACpl Skelton
ACpl Stockings
APte Sullivan
APte Thompson
ALcpl Watts K E
APte Whaling
APte Wilson
APte Winstanley

Potential Armourers

APte Barnes
APte Epps
APte Irvine
ALcpl Jones G T
ALcpl Moore

Potential Electronic Technicians

APte Collins
APte Dawson
ALcpl Toop

Potential Storemen

APte Cobb

Potential Electrician

APte Weighall

Potential Metalsmith

APte Woodcock

Potential Recovery Mechanics

APte Parmiter
APte Robinson
ACpl Thomas
APte Trebert
ALcpl Turner

Potential Gun Fitters

APte Greaves
APte Mason

Potential Vehicle Electrician

APte Cairns

Potential Aircraft Technicians

ALcpl Henry
ACpl Jones C K
APte Milburn
ALcpl Miller
APte Smith

Potential Vehicle Technicians

ALcpl Rogerson
ALcpl Spiby

WINTER TERM 1980

RAOC

Staff Clerks RAOC

APte Capper G J
ALcpl Gabriel C A
ALcpl Henry M C
ACpl Knott A L
ALcpl Lang D J
APte Maxwell A J
APte Moreland T J
APte Mumford N A
ALcpl Otter D
ALcpl Thompson G
ASgt Wilson R C
APte Weissang

Supply Clerks RAOC

APte Anderson J W
ALcpl Bartzsch P G
APte Bennett P
APte Campion G L
APte Causer N

APte Charge M A
ACpl Clements K E
APte Davey M G
ALcpl Edwards J A
APte Gawthorpe
APte Goddard D A P
ALcpl Greenacre C G
ALcpl Haggart I C
ASgt Hammond M P
ASgt Harrison J M
ALcpl Mock P J
APte Mudie J R
APte Skinner P
ALcpl Taylor C J
APte Turner C C
APte Turner J C
APte Waite G A
ALcpl Williams M J

Supply Specialists RAOC

ALcpl Allan S
APte Asplen M J
ACpl Bramley M
ACpl Brown K A
ALcpl Brydon A
APte Cameron S
APte Collins P
APte Cox A W
APte Cox M W
APte Coyle J A
APte Cranney S W
APte Currie D W
APte Davies R I
APte Dixon
ACpl Gill R P
APte Goff P R
ALcpl Harman C D
APte Hughes P E
ASgt Irvin A E
ALcpl Ingham G N
APte Jervis A R
APte Joyce C
APte Lane R L
APte Lewis M A
APte Maxwell T P
APte McKee P W
APte McNeil D J
APte Murray A D
ALcpl Norcross D F
ALcpl Parker M A
APte Paterson A C M
ALcpl Pibworth A J
APte Pierce C D
APte Pratt N F
ASgt Preira C N
ALcpl Rigby C C
APte Ringrose E J
APte Roberts I F
APte Ryan M J
APte Strang J
ALcpl Ward D
APte Wardell M P

Drivers

ALcpl Barratt T J
ALcpl Wignall L J

REME

Vehicle Mechanics

APte Black W
APte Bryar S A
ASgt Etherington P
ALcpl Melling D
ALcpl Smalley P A
APte Wilson R R

Inst Technician

ACpl Mackay C R
ALcpl Short D J
APte Williamson G

Recovery Mechanic

ALcpl Sharkey R T

Fitter Gun

APte Bramall T A
APte Geddes K N

Clerks

ALcpl Chidlow R A
APte Henderson A F

WHEN THE WAR IS OVER

By A Sgt Hammond M P

When the war is over,
When the battle is lost and won,
Who will take the blame,
For what the world has done.

When the war is over,
No more battles to be fought
No one to take the victory,
No one to care or count the cost.

When the war is over,
No one to hurt or maim,
No one to blame or hate,
For those without name.

When the war is over,
No one to share the pain,
No one to fight and claim,
No one to cower and complain.

When the war is over,
When the armies all have gone
Who will bring the peace
To those who waited long.

IMPRESSIONS AND VIEWS OF A DEPARTING ADJUTANT

By Capt P J Taylorson RAOC

Every member of both RAOC and REME is, or should be, well aware, in keeping with most units throughout the British Army, that both Corps suffer a shortage of manpower in relation to the requirements imposed upon them. In view of this shortage, coupled with the ever increasing improved technical ability demanded from our soldiers, there is little doubt that this College serves an extremely important function. As the charter of the College suggests, our aim is to produce soldiers who are destined to be the future Senior Non-Commissioned and Warrant Officers of our Corps, be they RAOC or REME. Indeed, many ex-members of the College have attained commissions and others will continue to do so in the future.

In order to achieve the aim the quality of the Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers has to be of the highest order. Many readers are probably not aware that the Commanding Officer personally interviews all permanent staff before they are accepted for posting to this College. In consequence, we have some of the best instructors available in either Corps. As a measure of the excellence of our staff, it is interesting to note that most depart at least one rank higher and in some cases, two!

On the other side of the coin, statistical evidence indicates that the future of any young man who passes through the College as an Apprentice is very good indeed. Whilst one cannot boast that the buildings are modern, certainly the facilities, both for formal and informal training, afforded to the young apprentice are of a standard comparable to any good quality public school. A recent survey of the onward progress of apprentices showed that in all rank structures over 30% of personnel in each grade were formerly apprentices. This fact is even more impressive when one realises that former apprentices constitute only a minority of all adult entries.

In summary, the College has a first class permanent staff, be they military or civilian and produces a highly commendable product which ultimately will ensure that the backbone of both our Corps, our traditions and high standards will continue to be maintained.

If you are a member of the permanent staff or, alternatively, have been a 'graduate' of the system, you have every reason to be justifiably proud of yourselves.

If you are still an apprentice remember that whatever you give to the system will be more than repaid in the future. A word of warning though. Here your needs and all waking hours are cated for. Your training staff have no other task but to look after you. When you pass out and join an adult unit, your Officers and NCOs will not be able to devote so much attention to you and your wellbeing. They have their own tasks and jobs to get on with. At the moment you are physically fit and you have little free time to yourselves. In your adult unit it will be easy to become unfit and with the increased amount of free time, bored. You have been introduced to hobbies, sports and adventurous activities. In your adult unit it will be up to you to occupy your own time and not just sit around in the clubs and NAAFIs drinking. You have been made aware of what is available and in due course it will be up to you to seek out the activities that you have enjoyed here and remain involved.

If you belong to a receiving unit, please look after our former appren-