The Thunderbolt

Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College



Issue No 12

August 1982

The Thunderbolt

JOURNAL OF THE
RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

Front cover:

This superb aerial view of the entire College (less playing fields) was taken from a helicopter by 2Lt Angel Snow of the Education Department. More of her helicopter photographs appear among Alamein Platoon notes.



Lieutenant Colonel D M Putt RAOC

Commanding Officer RAOC Apprentices College

FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

As your new Commanding Officer, it gives me great pleasure to contribute my first foreword to the College magazine. My initial introduction to the College was to receive a copy of Thunderbolt which I found both interesting and informative.

First I must, on behalf of the Permanent Staff and past Apprentices, thank Lieutenant Colonel Curtis for all that he achieved whilst commanding the College. Our best wishes go to him and his family for a happy tour in Germany. I trust they will enjoy their new appointment as much as their stay at the College.

This is my first appointment to serve with Apprentices and in the short time I have had I have found the job to be stimulating and challenging but most of all, enjoyable. The exuberance of youth is reflected in the Apprentices, who are always eager to accept any challenge. Indeed, much of our time is spent guiding their vigour and vitality so that they develop both in character and determination to succeed in their chosen profession.

Our aim at the College is to produce a well trained soldier who will be an immediate asset to his first adult unit. Apart from teaching him his military and trade skills, much time is spent on moulding and developing his character and interests. This is done by affording him the opportunity to take part in all the sports, external leadership and adventure training. Furthermore, we continue to help members of the community less fortunate than ourselves in our welfare activities. I believe that this mix of training enables us to maintain our tradition of providing the RAOC and REME with soldiers of high calibre and potential. It must be remembered that we only initiate the process.

My job of supervising and training young men must be one of the most satisfying appointments in the Corps. The Apprentices of today are every bit as good as their predecessors. They continue to gain success in their sporting achievements and, I believe, leave the College well motivated and keen to succeed. During this last year they have been involved in several public parades, the most notable being that for the Lord Mayor of London.

Once again the wind of change is nigh and Thunderbolt must set a new course. The reduction in the Junior Entry will eventually affect our organisation but I am confident that this new challenge will be met by the Permanent Staff and our aims will continue to be met.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff and indeed all the outside units and agencies for their continued support. It would be remiss of me not to make a special note of thanks on behalf of many of my predecessors to Mr Eddie Smith, for some years the senior civilian lecturer in the College. Our best wishes go with him and his wife for a happy retirement.

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EDITORIAL

Literary Editor

Mr W E Smith

Publication Editor

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

At the time of writing the first British bombs have been dropped on Port Stanley airfield on East Falkland and the Argentinian air force has attacked the Naval Task Force in return. Already members of this College have been posted to the South Atlantic and there can be little doubt that our printers, REME at Woolwich and RAOC at Donnington, will also become involved, directly or indirectly, to a greater or lesser degree. There is some danger than that this publication will not appear on its due date - August 1982. If it doesn't we apologise to all who have been waiting for it and quote "force majeur". If it does (the copy is all prepared and ready to be put to bed) our thanks will be due once again to our friends at Woolwich and Donnington who, no doubt, will have worked a great deal of harassed overtime to meet our dead-line.

For the editor this should be a sad occasion since, after being founding editor in 1970 and twelve years in the hot seat thereafter, this is his last edition. But sadness is scarcely the right emotion. Relief would be more appropriate, for the yearly task has been by no means joyful - mainly because, exactly conversely to the harlot of history, the editor enjoys responsibility without power. Contributors, both literary and photographic, have to be persuaded, cajoled even coerced. None seem to want to write or record voluntarily. Providing copy is an irksome, additional, low priority requirement which always comes at the wrong time to the wrong person about the wrong subject and with the wrong brief. Yet from on high comes the insistent demand for a lively and attractive account of the goings on in the College not just to entertain its inmates and provide them with a permanent record of their time here, but to act as a sort of propaganda vehicle for widespread distribution, particularly to recruiting offices, extolling the attractiveness of junior soldiering in RAOC and REME. Between these two millstones, one immovable and the other irrestible, comes the editor, feeling that he would be much better off between the mills of God. He is not unhappy therefore that his stint is now over and hopes he will be forgiven for taking this opportunity of saying so, taking refuge behind the sacred cow of "freedom of the press".

Are there any lessons to be learnt and passed on? It might seem paradoxical but one idea which would lighten the editorial load would be to have a magazine issued not every year but every term. Thus a fixed commitment could be written into the termly training programme which activity leaders would know had to be met before going on leave or posting.

Footballers would write about football in the football season and cricketeers about cricket in summer. All copy would be fresh and sharp instead of being, as at present, a twelve month old memory exercise once or twice removed. The magazine would of course have to be smaller - if only for printing capacity reasons. More original contributions from the boys, both literary and visual, might be encouraged in education time (JAEC permitting). But perhaps, above all, we should seek, or be granted, printing and reproduction facilities

nearer home so that the onerous burden of proof-reading and checking can be shouldered more easily and more efficiently.

All this of course is in the future and in the hands of the new editor and future COs. The present editor, weary of the unequal struggle now lays down his blue pencil for the last time and retires, gratefully, into oblivion.

"The old order changeth,
yielding place to new
And God fulfills himself in many ways
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world"

STAFF LISTS JANUARY 1981 - DECEMBER 1981

Appointment	Spring Term 1981	Summer Term 1981	Winter Term 1981	Spring Term 1982
COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS				
Commanding Officer	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC	Lt Col D M Putt RAOC	Lt Col D M Putt RAOC
Second in Command	Maj C R Coote RAOC	Maj C R Coote RAOC	Maj C R Coote RAOC	Maj C R Coote RAOC
Adjutant	Capt J S Kerr RAOC	Capt J S Kerr RAOC	Capt J S Kerr RAOC	Capt K S Kerr RAOC
Padre	Rev M R Ryall RAChD	Rev M R Ryall RAChD	Rev A J Smith RAChD	Rev A J Smith RAChD
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO1 (RSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO1 (RSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO1 (RSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO1 (RSM) S Brierley MBE 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 K M Nicholson RAOC	Sgt K M Nicholson RAOC	Cpl P A Rhodes RAOC Pte V J Powers RAOC	Cpl P A Rhodes RAOC Pte V J Powers RAOC
HQ COMPANY				
College Training Officer	Capt E G Walcroft RAOC	Capt J P Inman RAOC	Capt J P Inman RAOC	Capt J P Inman RAOC
Asst College Training Officer	WO2 (CSM) M A Bloomfield RAOC	WO2 (CSM) M A Bloomfield RAOC	WO2 (CSM) M A Bloomfield RAOC	WO2 (CSM) M A Bloomfield RAOC
Training Clerk	Sgt C J Ward RAOC	Sgt C J Ward RAOC	Sgt K M Nicholson RAOC	Sgt K M Nicholson RAOC
TRAINING WING				
Skill at Arms	Ssgt D M J Rooke RAOC	Ssgt D M J Rooke RAOC	Ssgt D M J Rooke RAOC	
External Leadership Training	Ssgt L C Thwaites RAOC	Ssgt L C Thwaites RAOC	Ssgt L C Thwaites RAOC	Ssgt L C Thwaites RAOC
	Sgt T J Ruscoe RAOC	Sgt T J Ruscoe RAOC	Sgt T J Ruscoe RAOC	Sgt T J Ruscoe RAOC
	Sgt T J Hladkij RAOC	Sgt T J Hladkij RAOC		
Physical Training	WO2 (QMSI) R Mather APTC	WO2 (QMSI) R Mather APTC	WO2 (QMSI) R Mather APTC	WO2 (QMSI) R Mather APTC
	Cpl N R Langton RAOC	Cpl N R Langton RAOC	Cpl N R Langton RAOC	Cpl N R Langton RAOC
	Cpl S Hawkins REME	Cpl S Hawkins REME	Cpl S Hawkins REME	Cpl S Hawkins REME
	Cpl D Woollaston RAOC	Cpl D Woollaston RAOC	Cpl D Woollaston RAOC	Cpl D Woollaston RAOC
	Lcpl I H John RAOC	Lcpl I H John RAOC	Lcpl I H John RAOC	Cpl I H John RAOC
		Lcpl N A Pilkington RAOC	Lcpl N A Pilkington RAOC	Lcpl N A Pilkington RAOC
Military Training	Sgt W Gibson RAOC	Sgt W Gibson RAOC	Sgt W Gibson RAOC	Ssgt R P Tarr RAOC
	Sgt D J Fox RAOC	Sgt D J Fox RAOC	Sgt D J Fox RAOC	Sgt D J Fox RAOC
	Sgt P C Mullen RAOC		Sgt D A Atkins REME	Sgt D A Atkins REME
	Cpl D A James RAOC	Cpl D A James RAOC	Cpl R D Rainey RAOC	Cpl R D Rainey RAOC
	Cpl S G Jenkins REME	Cpl R D Rainey RAOC	Cpl G Smith RAOC	Cpl G Smith RAOC
	Cpl T J Watson REME	Cpl P R Coney RAOC	Cpl M A Snelson RAOC	Cpl M A Snelson RAOC
	Cpl R Clarke RAOC			

Appointment	Spring Term 1981	Summer Term 1981	Winter Term 1981	Spring Term 1982
BURSAR'S DEPARTMENT				
Bursar	Maj (Retd) G H W Neal	Capt (Retd) W Playle	Lt Col (Retd) G R Davison MBE	Lt Col (Retd) G R Davison MBE
WRVS	Miss P Ellice	Miss P Ellice	Miss P Ellice	Miss P Ellice
SRN	Sister P Walker	Sister P Walker	Sister P Walker	Sister P Walker
ADMIN WING				
Admin WO	WO2 (SQMS) E W Patterson RAOC	WO2 (SQMS) E W Patterson RAOC	WO2 (RQMS) E W Patterson RAOC	
Admin Cpl	Cpl P Coney RAOC			
Armoury	Cpl T I Evans RAOC	Cpl T I Evans RAOC	Cpl T I Evans RAOC	Cpl T I Evans RAOC
Provost	Sgt T Kelly LSL	Sgt T Kelly LSL	Sgt T Kelly LSL	Sgt P R Thomas LSL
	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC
	Cpl R Bullon REME	Cpl R Bullon REME	Cpl D A James RAOC	Lcpl T W Duncan RAOC
		Lcpl I Van Nuil RAOC	Lcpl I Van Nuil RAOC	Lcpl P A Kearse RAOC
				Lcpl I Van Nuil RAOC
CATERING				
Kitchen Manager	Ssgt D C Russell ACC	Ssgt D C Russell ACC	Ssgt D C Russell ACC	Ssgt D C Russell ACC
	Sgt B Harradine ACC	Sgt B Harradine ACC	Sgt B Harradine ACC	Sgt B Harradine ACC
A COMPANY				
Officer Commanding	Maj T I Bunyard REME	Maj T I Bunyard REME	Maj T I Bunyard REME	Maj T I Bunyard REME
Second in Command	Capt R A C Eccles RAOC	Capt R A C Eccles RAOC	Capt R A C Eccles RAOC	Capt R A C Eccles RAOC
Compant Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) R J Finch RAOC	WO2 (CSM) R J Finch RAOC	WO2 (CSM) R J Finch RAOC	WO2 (CSM) D M J Rooke RAOC
Arnhem Platoon	Lt M J Davis REME	Capt M J Davis REME	Capt M J Davis REME	Capt M J Davis REME
	Sgt F J Keogh RAOC	Sgt T J Watson REME	Lcpl G H W Matthews RHG/D	Sgt J J C Scott REME
Arakan Platoon	Capt B J Johnson RAOC	Capt B J Johnson RAOC	Capt B J Johnson RAOC	Capt B J Johnson RAOC
	Sgt D F Hampton RAOC	Sgt D F Hampton RAOC	Sgt G F Clarke RAOC	Sgt G F Clarke RAOC
Anguilla Platoon	Capt P L Freegard RAOC	Capt I Reid REME	Capt I Reid REME	
	Sgt R S Gatley RAOC	Sgt R S Gatley RAOC	Sgt R S Gatley RAOC	
Aden Platoon	Lt A N Goldie RAOC	Lt A N Goldie RAOC	2Lt I A Gorsuch RAOC	
	Sgt R P Tarr RAOC	Sgt R P Tarr RAOC	Sgt R P Tarr RAOC	Sgt R S Gatley RAOC
Alemein Platoon	Lt G P Moore REME	Lt G P Moore REME	Lt P F Stamps RAOC	Lt K N Tween RAOC
	Sgt S P Bradley REME	Sgt S P Bradley REME	Sgt D R Brock RAOC	Sgt D R Brock RAOC

Appointment	Spring Term 1981	Summer Term 1981	Winter Term 1981	Spring Term 1982
Ardennes Platoon	Capt I Reid REME Sgt E C Leach RAOC	Capt S P Smith RAOC Cpl S G Jenkins REME	Capt S P Smith RAOC Cpl S G Jenkins REME	Capt I Reid REME Cpl S G Jenkins REME
B COMPANY				
Officer Commanding	Maj T A Glen RAOC	Major T A Glen RAOC	Maj T A Glen RAOC	Maj R N Lennox RAOC
Second in Command	Capt A N B Jelly RAOC	Capt A N B Jelly RAOC	Capt M J Knight RAOC	Capt M J Knight RAOC
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) J N Robertson RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J N Robertson RAOC	WO2 (CSM) D J Franklin RAOC	WO2 (CSM) D J Frankin RAOC
Bruneval Platoon		Lt T L Piper REME Sgt J F Kreft RAOC	Lt T L Piper REME Sgt J F Kreft RAOC	Lt T L Piper REME Sgt J F Kreft RAOC
Brunei Platoon	Lt J E S Redwood RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC	Lt J E S Redwood RAOC Sgt D Carlin RAOC	Lt J E S Redwood RAOC Sgt A W Inder REME	
Benghazi Platoon Sgt J H Woodc	Lt S J Parry RAOC Sgt J H Woodcock RAOC	Lt S J Parry RAOC Sgt J H Woodcock RAOC	Lt W L Hutton REME Sgt D Daniel RAOC	Lt P R Knoll RAOC Sgt D Daniel RAOC
Burma Platoon	Lt W L Hutton REME Sgt S Squires REME	Capt T S Marwaha REME Sgt S Squires REME	Capt T S Marwaha REME Sgt D Carlin RAOC	Capt T S Marwaha REME Sgt D Carlin RAOC
Balaclava Platoon	Capt M J Knight RAOC Sgt M A Hogan REME	Lt W L Hutton REME Sgt M A Hogan REME	Lt R W Dempster REME Sgt M A Hogan REME	
Berlin Platoon	Lt R W Dempster REME Sgt A W Inder REME	Lt R W Dempster REME Sgt A W Inder REME		Capt M R Maginess RAOC Sgt M A Hogan REME
EDUCATION WING				
Senior Education Officer	Maj D G Edwards RAEC	Maj D G Edwards RAEC	Maj D G Edwards RAEC	Maj K E B Abnett RAEC
Instructors	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Maj P B Dixon RAEC Capt P Scott RAEC Lt A D Barnes RAEC Lt R M Manuel RAEC Lt M L Bott RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Maj P B Dixon RAEC Capt P Scott RAEC Capt A D Barnes RAEC Capt R M Manuel RAEC Lt M L Bott RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Capt P Scott RAEC Capt A D Barnes RAEC Lt M L Bott RAEC Capt R M Manuel RAEC 2LT C G Hanlan RAEC	Maj G D Beaumont RAEC Capt A D Barnes RAEC Capt R M Manuel RAEC Capt P Scott RAEC Capt C G Hanlan RAEC 2Lt H A C Snow WRAC

Appointment	Spring Term 1981	Summer Term 1981	Winter Term 1981	Spring Term 1982
Civilian Lecturers	Mr W E Smith Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield Wg Comd (Retd) P W Hope Major (Retd) G Forrest Mr M F Johnson Mr J F Watson Mr P Heap	Mr W E Smith Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield Wg Comd (Retd) P W Hope Maj (Retd) G Forrest Mr M F Johnson Mr J F Watson Mr P Heap	Mr M F Johnson Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield Wg Comd (Retd) P W Hope Maj (Retd) G Forrest Mr J F Watson Mr P Heap	Mr M F Johnson Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield Wg Comd (Retd) P W Hope Maj (Retd) G Forrest Mr J F Watson Mr P Heap

PASSING OUT PARADES 1981-1982

Our parades under the most adverse conditions during 1981 have lived up to the demanding standards expected of the RAOC Apprentices College. The apprentices' turnout, bearing and precision of drill earned well deserved praise not only from the Inspecting Officers, whose names appear below, but from many parents, guardians and visitors who continue to attend our Passing Out Parades.

The Summer Term Parade had to be abandoned half way through the Platoon attack due to a torrential downpour. This was the first time for over 20 years that the Parade had not gone ahead and the Prize-giving had to be completed in the Gymnasium. Unfortunately, the elements were no kinder for the Winter Passing Out Parade and an amended Parade was held owing to the square being covered in snow.

Our Inspecting Officers over the past year were as follows:

Spring Term 1981

Brigadier R W Thornton
Commander RAOC Trg Centre

Summer Term 1981

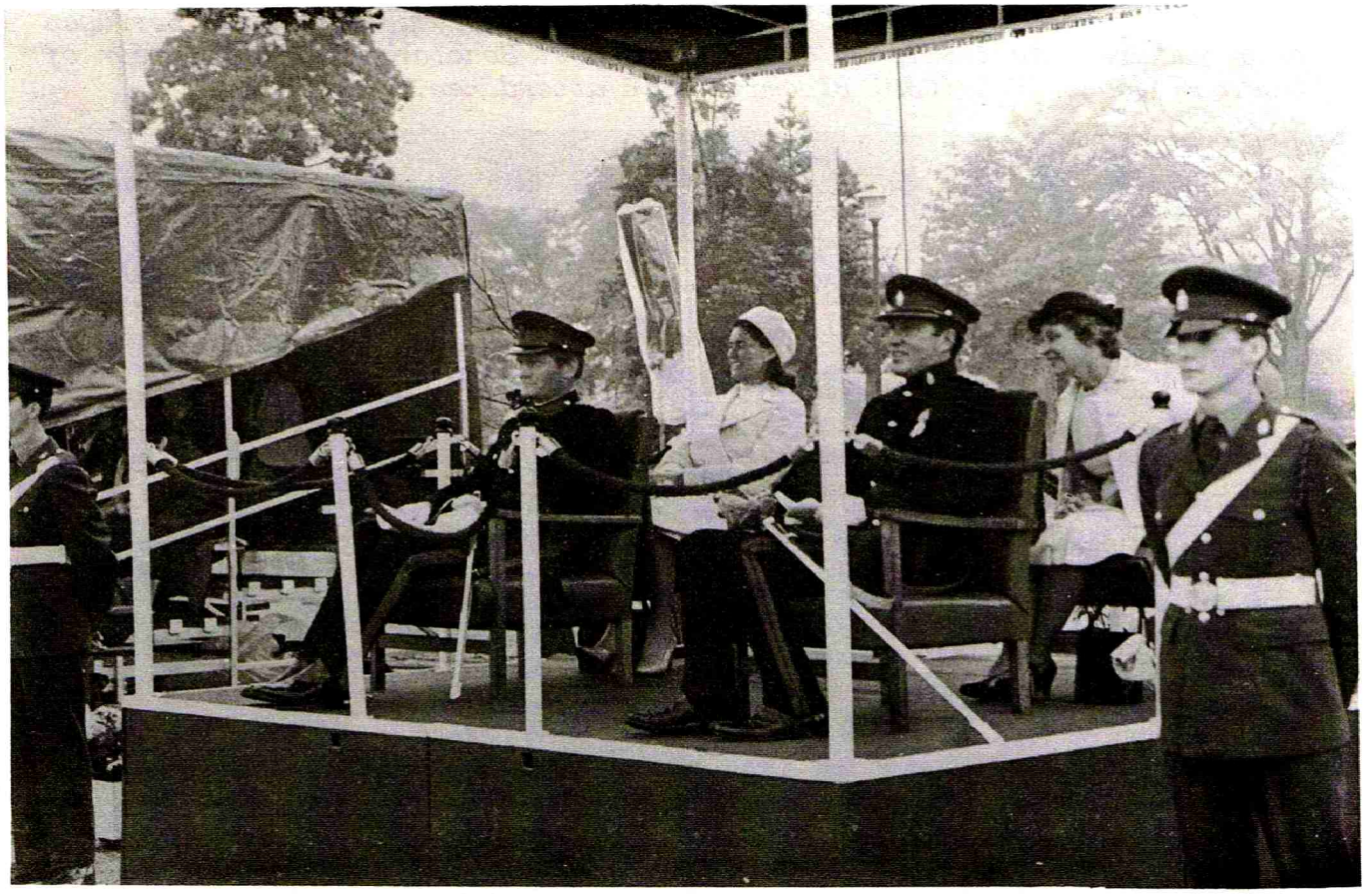
Brigadier G B Berragan
Commander COD Chilwell

Winter Term 1981

Brigadier J A Turner
Commander RAOC Trg Centre

Spring Term 1982

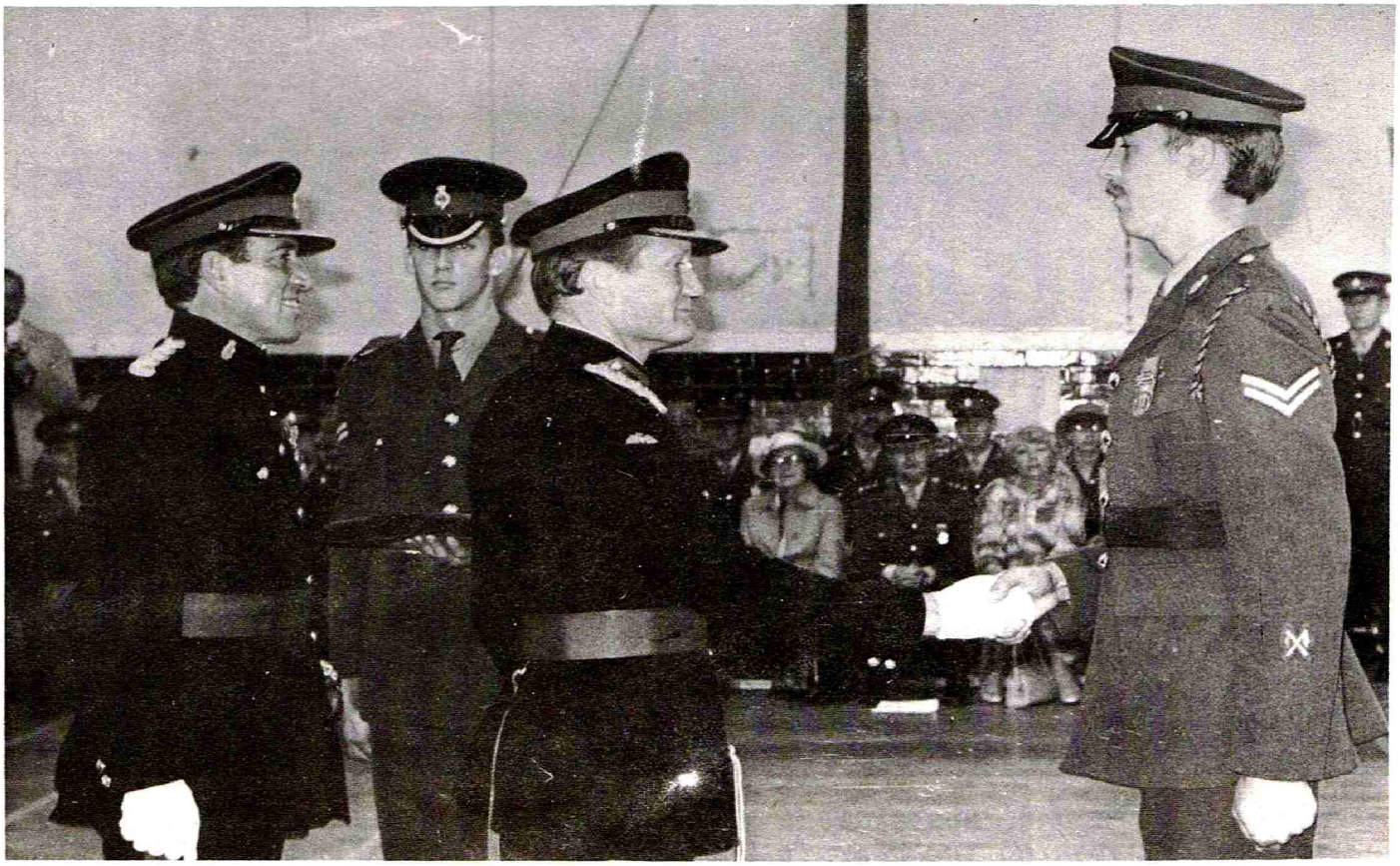
Brigadier F P Crawley
Director Base Depots LE(A)



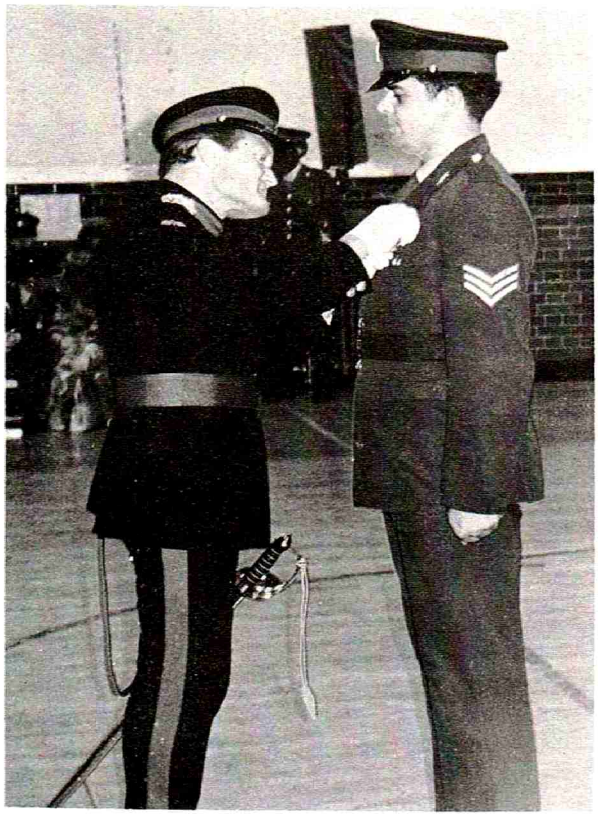
Passing Out Parade August 1981. Brigadier and Mrs Berragan, Lt Col and Mrs Curtis watching the Recruit Display moments before one of the heaviest thunderstorms of recent years flooded the parade ground and forced the outdoor element of the parade to be abandoned.



Passing Out Parade August 1981 now in the gymnasium. Brigadier Berragan presents presents the Toc H Cup for the Best Scholar to APte Thompson of Burma Platoon. WO2 (CSM) Bloomfield in attendance.



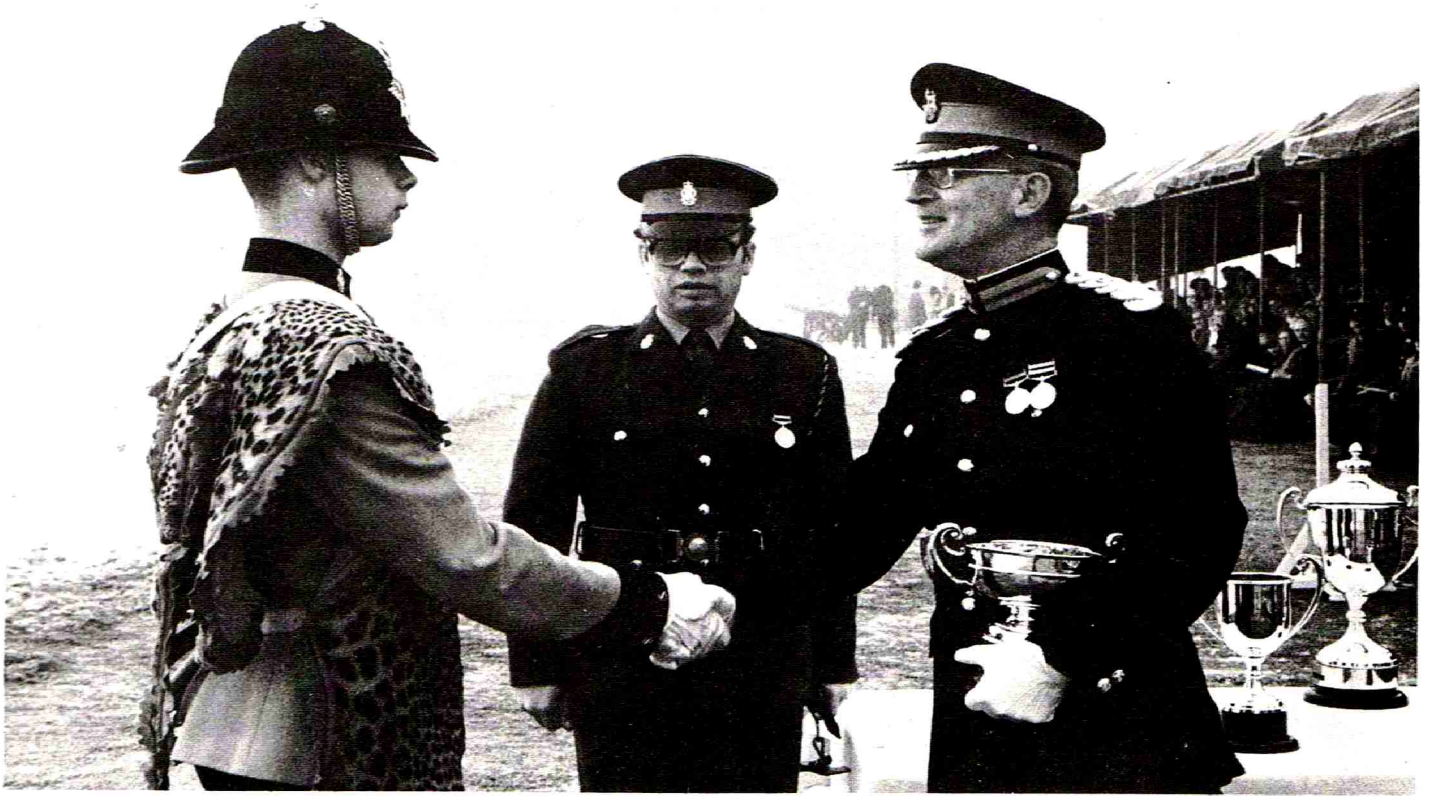
The same. Brigadier Berragan presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Cpl Watson REME. The orderly is Cpl Mathews RHG/D.



Brigadier Berragan presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Sgt A W Inder REME.



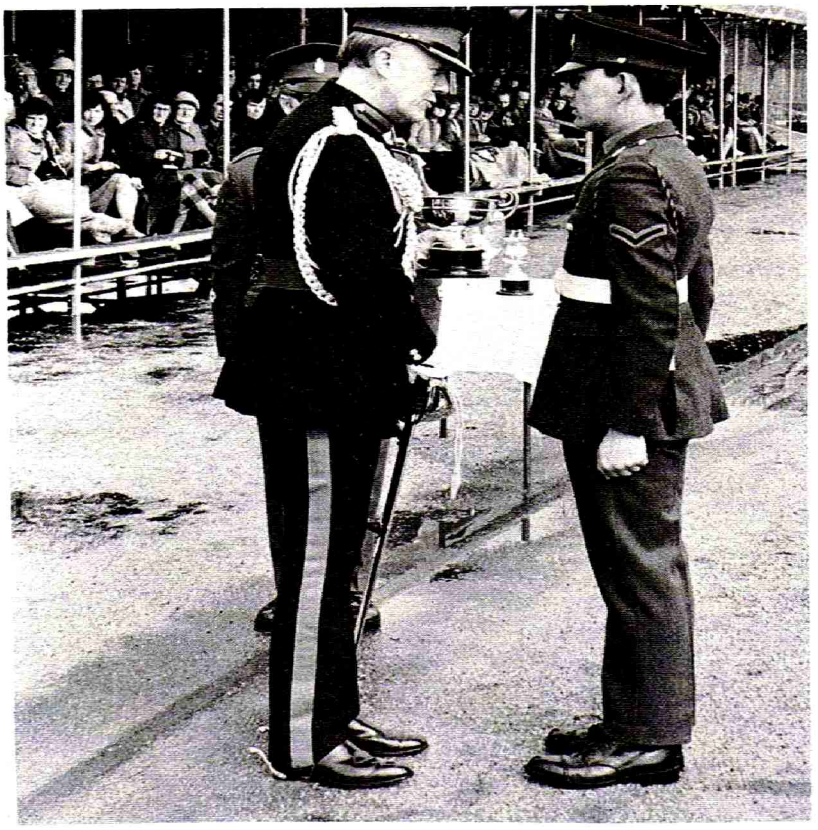
Passing Out Parade December 1981. Brigadier Turner inspecting Term Leavers in the shapes of (R to L) ALcpl O'Rourke, APte Tams, ASgt Laing, APte French, ASgt Spinks and APte Mitchell.



Passing Out Parade December 1981. Brigadier Turner presenting the Toc H Cup for the Best Scholar to ASgt Bridgeman of Anguilla Platoon. The snow, partially cleared, is much in evidence.



The same. The Term Leaves this time are (R to L) APtes Woodman, Woollatt, Rutherford, Jenkins, Mason, Mitchell and Grist.



Passing out Parade August 1981. Brigadier Crawley presenting the Cup for the Best Scholar to ALcpl Fazackerley of Aden Platoon.



The same. Apprentices R to L are ALcpl Dilley, Aptes Jackson, Stokes, Siddall, Wilson and Heap of Arnhem Platoon.

VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS

Lieutenant General P A Travers 8 May 1981
General Officer Commanding South East District

Colonel J Irwin 11 May 1981
Astronaut Apollo 15

Major General M Callan CB 23 July 1981
Colonel Commandant

Brigadier J A Turner 16 October 1981
Commander RAOC Training Centre

Brigadier J R Smith OBE 27 November 1981
Chief Education Officer
United Kingdom Land Forces

Major General Maseko 23 March 1982
Chief of Staff Q, Zimbabwean Army

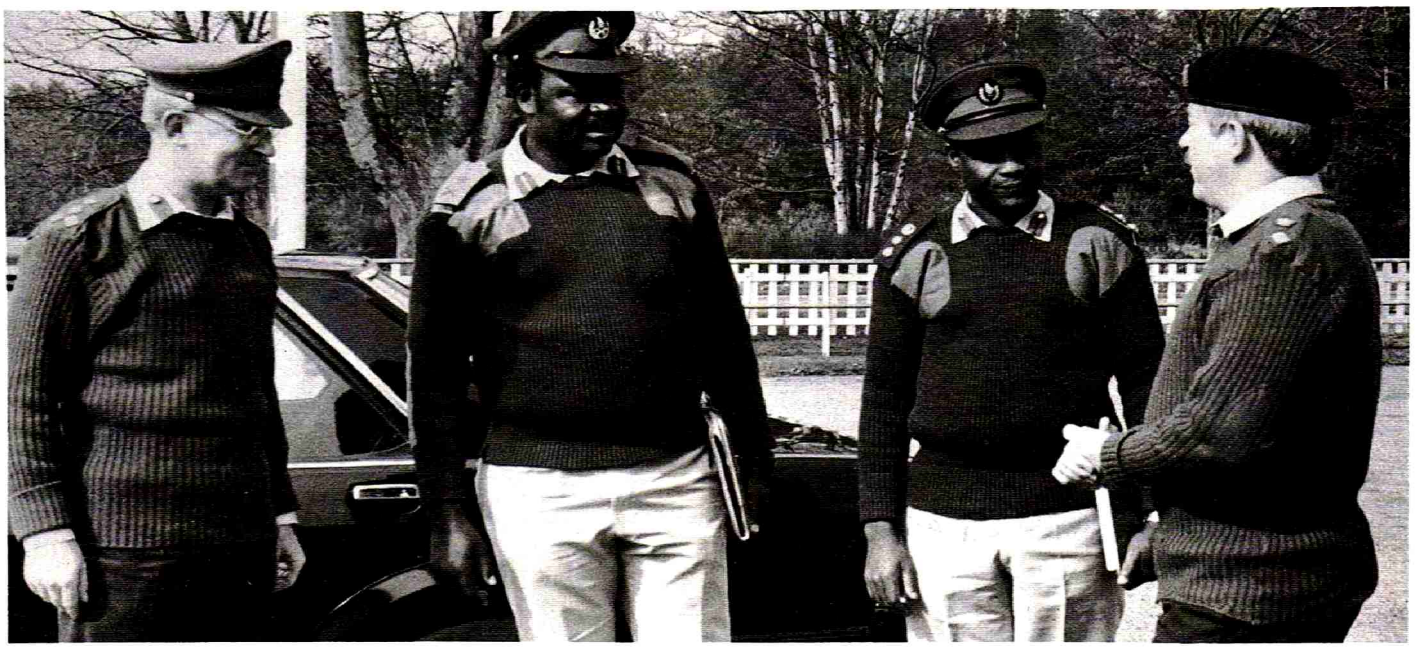
Lieutenant General R B Trant CB 18 March 1982
General Officer Commanding South East District



General Travers arriving at College HQ and being introduced by the CO to (L to R) Major Coote (2IC), Capt Kerr (Adjutant) and WO1 (RSM) Hosband. Brigadier Thornton, Comd Trg Bn, in the background .



General Travers meeting OC A Company, Maj Bunyard and his 2IC Capt Eccles. Mention must again be made of Brigadier Thornton, behind the General, since we failed to photograph him satisfactorily when he took our POP in March 1981.



General Maseko, Chief of Staff Q, Zimbabwean Army arriving at College HQ with Brigadier Turner and being welcomed by Lt Col Putt, the CO.



General Maseko watching Berlin Platoon on weapon training under Sgt Scott and Cpl Smith. The CO and Brigadier Turner are equally interested.





General Trant, GOC SE District, visited the College on 18 March 1982. On the left he is shown talking to Capt Reid of Ardennes Platoon and on the right inspecting Ardennes Platoon with APtes S W Roberts and M Roberts prominent.

HQ COMPANY

College Training Officer Capt J P Inman RAOC

Assistant Training Officer WOII (CSM) M A Bloomfield RAOC



HQ Company on parade.

LCpl John Sgt Gibson Ssgt Thwaites Sgt Ruscoe Sgt Nicholson
Cpl Smith Lcpl Hawkins Cpl Rainey Lcpl Pilkington

Ssgt Tarr Lcpl Kearse Pte Rodwell Cpl Panton Lcpl Robbins Pte Wilder
Ssgt Russell Sgt Harradine Lcpl Courcey Lcpl Stocks Cpl Hazlett
Cpl Evans Cpl Ryan Sgt Fox

Mrs Vaughan Mrs Lungley Capt Inman Maj Coote Capt Freegard
Mrs Challoner WO2 (CSM) Bloomfield QMSI Mather

The past year for HQ Coy has been a very active one. Firstly the company has been re-organised to include all those people not on the strength of A or B Companies. This inevitably includes the cooks, bottlewashers, rubber ducks (now called MTIs) and the muscle men of the Gymnasium. Faces seem to change so quickly in HQ Coy, inmates either spend two thirds of their time on courses like Cpl Rainey or they move on quickly to the Companies like Cpl Snelson. Consequently Cpl Smith is often called Cpl Jenkins, Cpl James is often called Cpl Van Nuil and so on. Only the old sweats like CSM Bloomfield get addressed correctly.

Captain, now Major, "Tiny" Ted Walcroft has departed for BAOR to be replaced by Captain John Inman (No, not that John Inman!). John on his own admission is not a gladiator and so makes a change from the adventurous pursuits of his predecessor.

As usual the College has been very busy over the past year and the HQ Coy has played its part to the full in both serious and lunatic activities - but more of the crazy later.

Let us start with the Gymn, officially called the Physical and Recreational Training Team. This department has always been a very happy little satellite of HQ Coy and has seen a number of changes over the past few years.

Since the arrival of QMSI Ray Mather two years ago the Gym has gradually become quite well equipped, which is essential to carry out effectively all the demands for various forms of PT laid down by the training programme. The floor of the gym has been complete re-surfaced and re-marked and is now quite impressive.

Last year, around about Easter time, we were joined by Cpl John and Cpl Pilkington. Ian 'Taffy' John was already well known to the staff here as he was working in the Gym at the Depot before his posting. He is a very good all round sportsman, but his real passion is for the game of football. Ian is a very talented player who regularly represents his Corps. His enthusiasm for the game has done a lot to inspire the college team.

Lcpl Norman Pilkington came to the College from Germany. Norman, originally from Preston, ensured that he fitted into the Depot straight away. He is a very good hockey player and takes part in just about every sport. At present he is working hard in his build up for the advanced PT course.

During the last year members of the PT staff have undertaken several courses at various places throughout the country. Cpls John and Pilkington have both passed canoeing courses and were both recommended to be assessed as canoeing instructors. Cpl Woolaston passed his advanced PT Instructors course last summer, which must be one of the hardest courses in the Army (Not as hard as the All Arms Drill Course" quote by Cpl Rainey), Despite a very determined effort and doing very well on the course, he unfortunately (on this occasion) did not achieve his ambition of gaining promotion to Sergeant and transferring to the APTC. He also passed his unit Expedition Leaders course even though he was found climbing up the inside wall of the kitchen at the outward bound centre, slightly the worse for drink.

Cpl Nan Langton is at present on his advanced PT course for the second time. He had some very bad luck at his last try when he was involved in a car crash just 3 weeks before completing the course and had to withdraw. We all wish him the very best of luck this time. In addition the Langton's first baby arrived, a boy called James. Many congratulations and best wishes to you all.

QMSI Mather passed his examination for the entry to the Open University and is now well on the way to gaining a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Last year's summer camp at Tenby was enjoyed by all the PT staff. Cpl John and Cpl Hawkins ran the beach games on Penally beach, while Cpls Langton and Pilkington helped the RSM with the water skiing. Cpl Pilkington's morale did seem to ebb slightly towards the end of the first week, as the RSM continually used him as an anchor for the speed boat while he took his tea break. QMSI Mather's day started at 7 am! with the swimming session at the local pool. There were rumours that his day's work actually finished at 8.30 am although these probably had absolutely no foundation.

With the summer well upon us, on return from Tenby, the high box display team started serious training for its numerous displays. After a few weeks the team was looking truly professional. They



The Muscle Factory. L to R. QMSI Mather Cpl Woollaston Lcpl John and Lcpl Pilkington

gave some very good displays at various shows around Surrey and eventually finished off the summer session with an excellent display of two way box work at the Army Show at Andover.

On one occasion the gym staff actually had to give a high box display themselves at a show at Hartley Whitney when the boys team was unavailable. It went very well, despite the fact that our six reluctant heroes were still trying to pluck up courage in the local pub 20 minutes before the display.

Cpl John had a good week's break in July at Basinbourne at the Army Exhibition for Schools instructing youngsters in trampolining.

The Autumn term started peacefully enough, but this peace was soon shattered by mention of what must be the ultimate battle between the companies, the Inter Coy Boxing Championship. Soon both were in a flatout race to produce the fittest and best team in the time available. Cpl Langton and WO2 Finch trained A Coy's team, while Sgt Hogan, Sgt Daniells and Cpl Hawkins trained B Coy's team. All the lads of both companies put their heart and soul into the training and by the week of the competition both could boast teams of fit and very determined boxers. The actual competition lived up to everybody's expectations with some excellent bouts and a few skilful and polished performances from some of the boxers. B Coy narrowly scraped through with a victory by one point, although the spirit in which all the boxers fought tended to make the actual result seem unimportant.

The muscle factory has at its mercy, twice weekly, the permanent staff for a roasting. It appears that the QMSI takes great delight in giving the Colonel, Adjutant and RSM a very hard time.

One of the more prominent departments of the College is the ELT wing. I feel this is mainly because of a distinct reluctance to wear any form of uniform. In fact rumour has it the RSM thinks they are civilian instructors. The members of the ELT wing usually appear (when one sees them) to be spending their time doing very little. The question is, how often does one see them? The answer can only be "Not very often" as they spend most of their time away from barracks on exercise. Let us hasten, then, to put the record straight.

This year the ELT wing has been involved in 10 weeks of ELT camps, a two week exercise in the Orkneys, exercise "Top Peak" in France and, of course, the college Summer Camp. The ELT camps are all very similiar, consisting of one week based at the Capel Curig training camp in Snowdonia. During their time in Wales the boys are taught and practice rock climbing and abseiling techniques. In addition they carry out low and high level walks building up to a 3 day exercise when the apprentices are released on the Welsh mountains.

Exercise "Top Peak" was an expedition to Chamonix by a small party of apprentices, led by Ssgt Thwaites of the ELT wing. Two days were spent ice climbing on Les Bossons glacier and three days in an attempt on Mont Blanc itself. The party was forced to retreat after a night of electrical storms. The considerable fall of snow accompanying these storms brought the additional danger of avalanche. Unfortunately rain for subsequent days made further climbing impossible so the exercise party prematurely returned to Deepcut.

Continuing the inclement weather story brings us to the ELT experiences on Summer camp. Ssgt Thwaites and Sgt Haladkij who ran the abseiling activity say that the weather was fine on the first day and that they enjoyed "throwing" apprentices down the cliffs of Gibraltar slabs! As the days went by the weather turned bad and life became progressively more unpleasant for both boys and staff.

Certain members of HQ Company kept the ELT instructors on their toes, particularly Sgt Tarr whose 16 stone frame had to be fitted with an improvised safety harness for abseiling. Halfway down the face he became entangled in his rope and the harness slipped to his knees and left him hanging precariously upside down. He managed to reach the safety of the beach but not before the Brigadier had witnessed his predicament.

Another member of HQ Company raising interest was QMSI Mather who was unfortunate enough to visit the abseiling when there were cameras present. For those who cannot spot the deliberate mistake, his helmet is on back to front! For this error he has been the butt for a number of jokes and threats.

Regimentally the Company has been busy, being responsible for weapon training, first aid and NBC instruction for both apprentices and permanent staff. Capt Inman as CTO insists that he conducts the gas chamber exercises for the CO and Adjutant, with double strength CS gas, so rumour has it.

This article cannot close without a mention of the most important man in the company (so he keeps telling us) namely Sgt (if it wasn't for me) Nicholson. He is responsible for the day to day paperwork of Heather House and for course loading. Obviously I had to mention him in case I want to go on a course!

EXERCISE COLD COMFORT 82

Early in March on a small isolated group of islands inhabited largely by sheep farmers of British descent, a dramatic invasion took place. But the foreign invaders soon found themselves holed up in their lonely barracks near the windswept coast of the main island. They were trapped by a vicious enemy - the awful weather.

The invasion of the Orkney Islands by Headquarter Company started on 2 March when an advance party of 7 stormed ashore at Stromness, compliments of P&O ferries and 37 Sqn RCT. The main force arrived at the same place the following day, this time compliments of British Rail. Linking up with the others, the whole group took over an abandoned coastal battery before sending out patrols to dominate the island.

The island, however, was preparing its defences. The sea had already taken its toll of packed lunches, eaten unwisely before the ferry sailed. Wind and rain were next on the agenda with chemical and biological weapons in reserve. These reserve weapons took the form of asthma, colds and a sort of blister agent which only affected the feet, effectively stopping the invaders walking, canoeing, climbing or fishing.

This report is taken from the diary of one of the survivors. No names have been changed - to punish the guilty. Let us then go back to the beginning.

The original idea was to take as many permanent staff from Headquarters Company as could be prised from their cosy niches away to somewhere remote where they could (be made to) take part in some of the outdoor activities that they normally only watch the apprentices doing during the rest of the year. And so we went to the Orkneys. The first thing to note about the Orkneys is that they are a long way off. They start some 10 miles north of John O'Groats and consist of a group of small islands some 20 of which are inhabited. The largest islands surround a natural anchorage of great size called 'Scapa Flow" home of the Grand/Home fleet in both world wars.

To get there by rail took about 24 hours from Deepcut to Ness Battery, a disused camp near Stromness. Stromness is one of two 'towns' on the biggest island in the Orkneys which is confusingly called 'Mainland'. Perhaps I should dwell for a moment on the train journey. The rail party quickly established a routine for themselves which was to be repeated on the return journey. WO2 Purvis would begin to empty adjacent seats using a remarkable device designed orginally for respirator testing but disguised as a pipe. This process would be continued by Sgt Nicholson as he (cheated) his way to another pile of matchsticks at cards accompanied by shrieks of glee (from him) and loud protests (from his victims). In this way most of our neighbours disappeared. Most that is, but not all. One schoolboy armed with a space invader's game (hand held) remained until Capt Inman managed to wear the batteries flat, without achieving a very good score as I remember. An offer to swop it with a Rubik cube was turned down.

In this way the troops travelled towards Thurso. To try to raise the tone, Capt Inman started a chess league. There were a number of games but easily the most notable took place between Sgt Nicholson, banned from the card school, and Cpl Ryan. Cpl Ryan had the advantage of being fortified by brown 'lemonade' - at least it was in a lemonade bottle - which had a small peculiarly appropriate to the country of our destination. This assisted him in

the bold capture of a knight which his opponent made no attempt to defend. 'Well done' say you chess buffs, and indeed it would have been well done apart from the fact that he had captured one of his own pieces. The chess equivalent of an 'own goal' perhaps. Anyway, after many adventures aboard the sleepers and the heaving ferry (heaving in more senses than one), we all arrived in the Orkneys.

During our time there we managed to do a lot of walking, some climbing, a bit of canoeing and fishing. Capt Inman assaulted the teeming rabbit population, using his shotgun, and managed to supplement our compo diet. The fishermen were not so successful. We also set up an impromptu clay shooting range using the old battery control tower, lumps of coal, and CSM Bloomfield. Pte Wilder let one of the rabbits escape by hanging it outside the kitchen overnight - it mysteriously disappeared - but did a good job in preparing the other four.

Pte Wilder also featured in the canoeing which was carried out on the edge of Scapa Flow. Anyone anxious to hear a first hand report on the water temperature of the sea in early March should ask him (splash). The rest of us stayed afloat - or ashore.

Weather and ferry difficulties prevented us from crossing to the hillier island of Hoy so our walking expeditions were all at a low level on the Mainland. Apart from relics of the naval presence during the two world wars, which include many abandoned gun positions, a chapel built by Italian prisoners and the Churchill causeways around Scapa Flow (also Italian built), the island boasts a number of prehistoric ruins. These had survived intact, more or less, because they were of stone - there are no trees on the island. They made useful check points for walkers and were of interest in their own right.

Climbing had to be done on the coastal cliffs and was dependent on the tide and seas leaving the base of the cliffs free. The constant strong winds and the tremendous waves, which sent spray over the tops of the cliffs themselves, made this activity more exciting than usual. Memorable events included: Sgt Nicholson actually climbing, he hasn't stopped talking about it since, Cpl Smith on the cliff top trying to brain Capt Inman at the bottom with a lump of natural flagstone big enough to interest the College 2IC; Eric the oily shag, rescued from the briny by Sgt Gibson; and of course WO2 Mather who actually got his helmet on the right way this time - of Tenby 81 - well done Q!

One day, when the weather was exceptionally bad, even by Orkney standards, some of us went on a visit to a local whisky distillery. Disappointingly no sampling was allowed although CSM Bloomfield managed to scrape off some of the froth from a vat. This surprised no-one except the guide. Meanwhile the more educated members of the party had been visiting the museum and cathedral in the capital, Kirkwall.

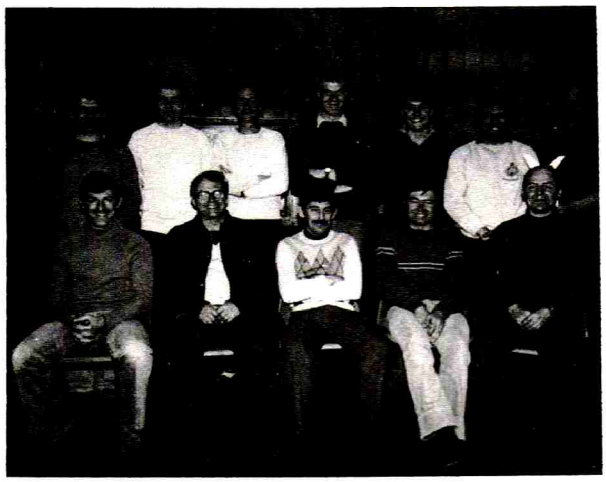
This latter visit had no effect, however, on the weather which grew worse the longer we stayed. The day the rail party left the wind reached Storm Force 10 with seas to match. There was a run on Kwells. The ferry crept out of Stromness harbour, hatches and deadlights fastened, and sneaked through the Flow for as long as possible, passing over the remaining wrecks of the German fleet from the first world war. Eventually it dashed out from the lee of Hoy into the Pentland Firth and crashed, pitched and rolled its way to Thurso. During this whole affair Sgt Nicholson refused to open his eyes, even when one of his shoes was spirited away. We arrived in Thurso to discover that the mist which we

had glimpsed from those portholes which were above the water line, was in fact a blizzard and that the Highlands were blanketed by a foot of snow. The weather was having its last fling.

Well, both road and rail groups made it back somehow, leaving behind a lot of friendly, if puzzled, Orcadians. Puzzled that is as to why 12 soldiers (and two intrepid civilian drivers) should travel to their cold and windy islands some 800 miles away during one of the coldest and windy months of their year to walk, climb and canoe. As a famous philosopher once said (or was it Eric Morecambe): 'There's no answer to that'. But we enjoyed it lads, didn't we? (Pause for a background chorus of "YES" "Where to next year?" he mused.



The Road Party aboard the ferry St Ola L to R Cpl Ryan, Sgt Nicolson, Cpl Smith, CSM Bloomfield (standing) WO2 Purvis and Sgt Fox



The whole team. Front row: Cpl Smith CSM Bloomfield, Sgt Fox, Sgt Gibson, WO2 Mather. Back row: Capt Inman, Cpl Ryan, Sgt Nicholson, WO2 Purvis, Lcpl Kearse, Allan Kennedy, Ssgt Thwaites



Cpl Smith tests the strength of a natural bridge during a coastal walk.



The coast on a calm day.



When the climbing had to stop. Mountainous seas and heavy rain drove this bunch of wombles, together with their pet, Eric the Stag, from the cliff tops. Gibson, Mather, Purvis, Kearse, Kennedy (with Eric), Smith, Ryan, Inman, Thwaites.

'A' COMPANY

OC Major T I Bunyard REME

2IC Captain R A C Eccles RAOC

CSM WO2 J Finch RAOC

WO2 (CSM) D M J Rooke RAOC



Sgts Clark Gately Scott Cpl Jenkins

Lt Tween Capts Davis and Eccles Major Bunyard WO2 Rooke Capts Johnson and Reid

'Enry Flax Cleo

The customary Company photograph opens A Company's contribution to this year's magazine. It should be pointed out that this particular photograph was taken only after careful grooming and arduous training and not just of the dogs.

The next photograph is of the same group in more relaxed mood, less dogs.



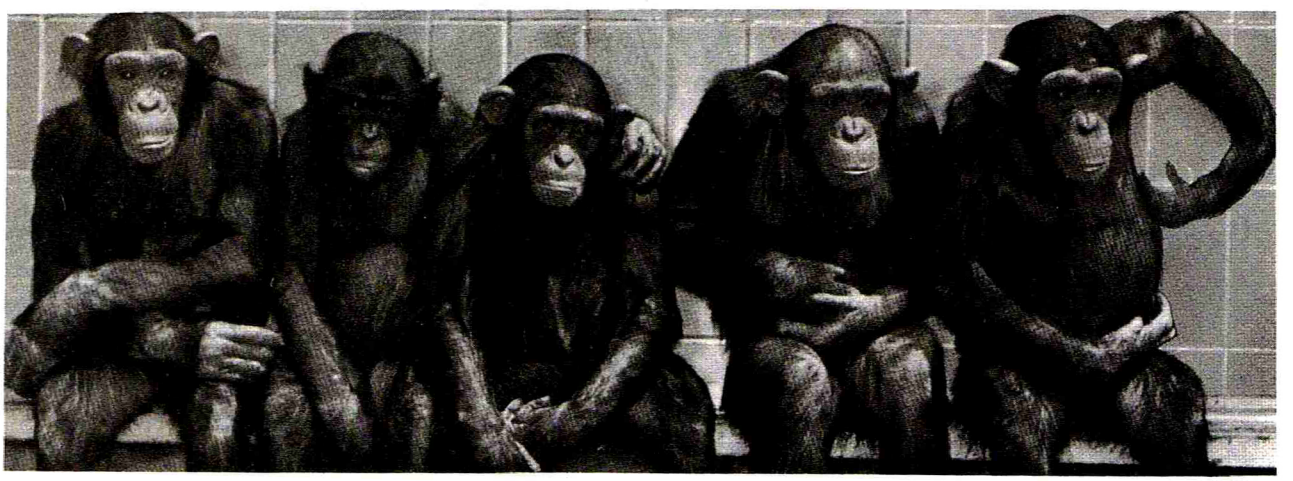
To suggest that life at the College ages one to quite such an extent is inaccurate, quite the contrary in most instances. Our ever young Second-in-Command, Capt Eccles, whose autobiography appears elsewhere won the RAOC Individual Ski Championships. Capt Johnson has become the Army Veterans Marathon Champion for the second successive year. Cpl Jenkins has been a regular member of the Training Centre and RAOC Corps rugby team, taking part in both the Northern Ireland and BAOR tours. Sgt Scott has recently completed a Free Fall parachute course, inspiring a number of Apprentices also to notable success. Capt Davies and Lt Stamps gave up their Christmas to run in the Hogs Back race. Sgt Clarke took the College badminton team to the Army final. Sgt Gatley coached our skiers and still found time to win a medal at the Bari Cup Hockey Festival. Capt Reid, who sadly leaves us (and the Army) soon, after 28 years service, won the Training Centre hammer throw event. Lt Tween arranges caving expeditions, helicopter training, trips abroad for his apprentices and like all good subalterns does lots and lots of Orderly Officers. Maj Bunyard, following his success in the World Nurdling Championships, added the UKLF Individual Orienteering (Vintage Class) to his trophy cabinet. Finally in an attempt to credit everyone with some outstanding contribution over and above the normal call of duty I wish to record that our newly arrived CSM came second in the Training Centre pole vault competition.

Whilst the detailed accounts of our Platoon activities appear elsewhere, a number of notable achievements are worthy of emphasising. ASgt Corish (Anguilla) who capped a highly successful time at the College with the award of the Sergeants' Cup in December 1981 has since achieved further fame for his part in the rescue of a German civilian who had fallen through thin ice. ASgt Hepburn (Arnhem) was also awarded the Sergeants' Cup in Spring 1982 became the first apprentice for a long time to go direct to REME as a potential Regimental Duty instructor. It speaks highly of his ability that he is currently attending a course with adult NCOs of many years experience.

ALcpl Fazackerly and ASgt Stephen both of Aden Platoon, were selected to represent the RAOC as members of staff on the first Army Youth Adventurous Training Scheme course at Fort George.

Our sportsmen have played a major part in College teams throughout the year, it will no doubt be recorded elsewhere that A Company have not enjoyed a winning streak in major competitions recently, but there have been some close run events.

The Boxing Championships did, I believe, typify all that is good



about such team competitions, hard fought in a spirit of good sportsmanship, I would be happy to think that all members of the Company, and indeed, the College always approach life in our two Corps with the same determination and courage.

To all apprentices, past and present, A Company is alive and well and wishes you every success. To the loyal and long suffering ladies, Mrs Terrey and Mrs Fielden, who work tirelessly on all our behalves a big "Thank you". Finally to those who doubt the identities of the permanent staff in our earlier photographs, I include a happy snap of us really at our leisure, or as we are seen by all apprentices.

ADEN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt A N Goldie RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt R P Tarr RAOC

Cpl M A Snelsdon RAOC

Summer Term 1981

The summer term notes which follow were compiled by APte Williams, now posted as a Staff Clerk to HQ South West District.

"We all arrived back from summer holidays to face an athletic-minded Lt Goldie. Barely recovered from that shock we were rushed down to Tenby, to do all the exciting things the Army does on TV. Water-skiing, canoeing, sailing, climbing mountains, swimming in the ice-cold Rosebush quarry, parascending, orienteering and sunbathing. Our return to Deepcut was marked by our preparations for battle camp which everyone enjoyed - except Johnson who was suffering(?) on his Outward Bound Course - which he passed. Aden Platoon then went off to Craig y Parc, Cardiff, to work for mentally handicapped children. Then back to Deepcut in time for the Assault March competition, in which the platoon's No 1 Section came first. Finally, the Passing Out Parade, when we said goodbye to Meed and Cromble-holme and saw Preston, Stephen and McIntosh all promoted".

Winter Term 1981

The programme for the winter term was geared to the preparation for the South East District competition. A number of years have passed since the College entered and it was Aden's lot to attempt this very demanding competition. The skills involved fortunately corresponded largely with the standard and stage of training so for achieved by the platoon, the big difference being in the leadership required from the apprentices. Corporal Snelson took over the training and competition for places in the team was fiece right to the last minute. A number of surprises occurred notably the sight of APte Williams leading the group and carrying the kit of the faint-hearts. On the day success eluded the Platoon although some consolation was gained from the knowledge that a number of units did not complete the competition and from the complimentary comments of the DS on the grit and determination shown by the team. Special mention should be made of ASgt James who acted as 2IC the patrol, a grand effort from an apprentice.

The Passing Out Parade meant a sad farewell to the REME element of the Platoon, namely ASgt James (gunfitter), APte McGowan (gunfitter), ALcpl Preston (Aircraft Tech) ALcpl Sneddon, APtes Cowling and Hutton



ADEN PLATOON SEPTEMBER 1981

REAR ROW – A/Pte McGowan A/Pte Garrick A/Pte Hutton A/Pte Leslie A/Pte Cowling A/Pte Kinsler

CENTRE ROW – A/Pte Bowden A/LCpl Johnson A/LCpl Fazakerley A/LCpl Sneddon A/Pte Gillespie A/Pte Williams A/Cpl Preston

FRONT ROW – A/LCpl Clark A/Cpl McIntosh A/Cpl Gore Lt A. N. Goldie, RAOC Sgt R. P. Tarr, RAOC A/Cpl James A/Cpl Stephen A/LCpl Elliott

(Vehicle Mechanics) and APte Gillespie, (metalsmith).

Spring Term 1982

The final term at the College for the rump of Aden Platoon held out prospects of approaching demands in the way of trade training, driver training and any other form of devilish training devised by their last remaining member of staff, Cpl Snelson. Memories of the previous term's efforts under his patriarchal care may well have caused some trepidation. Cpl Snelson, however, went off to Warminster and Aden Platoon breathed a sigh of relief only to find Sgt Gatley in his, by now, customary role of caretaker, looking after their interests.

Postings have arrived, the usual last minute changes have left Fazackerley, Gore, Stephen and McIntosh somewhat bewildered. By the time the magazine goes to print their future either in Bielefeld, Verden, Detmold or, with the Army Youth Adventurous Training scheme will have been decided. All have successfully completed their training and Aden Platoon leave us with the College's good wishes. Next term our new recruit platoon inherits a fine tradition. Aden is dead, long live Aden!

ALAMEIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt P F Stamps RAOC

Lt K N Tween RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D R Brock RAOC

Winter Term 1981

Alamein Platoon formed with 42 apprentices to start basic training under Lt P F Stamps RAOC on 8 September 1981. Settling in did not take long with the first six weeks spent bulling kit, making it fit and coping with the never-ending duties. Friends were made and friends were lost (on their departure from Her Majesty's Service) but after the Acceptance Parade, where Alamein turned out in the College's best dress and boots, the pressure was off with the arrival of half term.

Half term over found the platoon soon working hard again, this time for the Assault March on 10 November. Unfortunately the day's performance did not live up to the usual Alamein Platoon standard.

The grindstone continued to turn with the first platoon battle camp taking its toll on morale and strength but all was soon to be rectified with the platoon party, the night the exercise ended. A merry time was had by all.

Blood was next to be drawn on the rugby field with Alamein's first ever match against Arnhem. Apprentice Baker broke his shoulder in the first ten minutes (good effort there, Baker) but, in spite of numerous black eyes and cauliflower ears a worthy win was gained by the end of the game. A second match, against Arakan proved tougher. A strong headwind during the second half turned the tables to a 12 all draw. Notable performances came from Apprentices Dolan, who scored the first try, Cummings who then scored the next two and Williams A, Blair and Jelley who also performed well. Let's hope for better luck next term.

The term was flashing by and the end came in sight when Alamein Platoon were chosen to demonstrate the main attraction of the Passing Out Parade, the platoon attack. Six inches of

snow did nothing to mar the humour and cheerful enthusiasm of the platoon. Dash, down, flump, observe, fire - the crowd loved it!

Spring Term 1982

Enthusiasm waned slightly towards the end of the three and a half week Christmas recess but was soon back with Apprentices rarin' to go. Hearts fluttered with the prospect of Alamein becoming the College band but even that news could not break them. So, another battle camp was organised straight after half term and 30 apprentices trooped off to cover over 25 miles of Surrey countryside lashed by relentless, bitter North winds. This was the moment when the new Alamein Platoon Commander turned up. Lt K N Tween had arrived from Northern Ireland to take over from Lt Stamps who was about to head off on his Officers' Food Technology course down at the School of Ordnance. Four days in the field and one day in camp saw Mr Tween in and Mr Stamps out, with a couple of presents from the platoon to try to keep his car on the road. "Good luck, Sir!" Sgt Brock also departed at the same time to attend a six week drill course in the "Wooden Top Factory" just down the road. Standby for the winners of the next drill competition.

Second term Company training took place at Fremington Camp, that rain-sweptmanifestation of myth and virtue in North Devon. Cpl Ford from the Depot joined the Platoon as stand-in platoon sergeant for the duration of the camp where activities included "dodging the local police" by map reading off the top of cliffs with Apprentice Leahy, "rescue from the Valley of the Rocks" by Apprentice McManus and Johnstone, "confuse the enemy by varying your route" with Apprentices Bromley and Steele, and "run for home" by Apprentices Carrier and Simpson (very good effort there on the 18 mile Orienteering competition). Other activities included rodeo-style horse riding



Fremington Company Camp. Clay, Hamlet Wood and Bromley of Alamein Platoon



Fremington again. APte King on the assault course

in the rain with ALcpl Hartley and APte Hamlet showing the way and the tented camp evening activitity "double your blisters" (after a 15 mile walk) by Lt 'pick up the log' Tween.

River canoeing was another one of the camp high spots. The day started with the platoon receiving practical instruction on a small lake north of Barnstaple. After a quick lunch those who wished to brave the five miles of River Yeo between the lake and the Barnstaple estuary were give the last rites. The river was in flood and treacherously fast currents were to prove very demanding on both skill and stamina. Lt Tween and APtes Blair, Collins, Ashworth and Williams S D, paddled away under the watchful eye of five instructors. It was not long before APte Ashworth

began canoeing through trees and fences, eventually trapping himself, closely followed by APte Williams S D who capsized after hitting a submerged log only to prove whilst being swept downstream, that a canoe is not essential kit for canoeing. APte Blair did not last much longer, finishing his trip with a strange combination of the aforementioned methods of canoeing. And there was more to come. APte Collins had cracked the style but Mr Tween had a hard time getting the hang of it! His canoe seemed to have a magnetic attraction for submerged logs, overhanging trees and bushes and just about every other form of flood debris from Ilfracombe to Barnstaple. He even managed to career down a weir backwards and that takes a lot of doing.

Eventually, after four hard hours of solid canoeing we arrived at Barnstaple estuary complete with blisters and aching backs, legs and shoulders. The estuary has a very wide stretch of calm water with one tiny lone rowing boat moored in the middle. It doesn't take many guesses to work out who managed to hit that lone obstacle; yes, Mr Tween. It's amazing how he managed it!



APte Johnson of Alamein abseiling at Fremington

The platoon football team made their mark when ALcpl Williams A scored four goals in a very close 6-all draw in a challenge match against a local Barnstaple College. Alamein's result was by far the best compared with the performance of the other platoons. A win would have been a certainty had APtes Murphy and King played but they were sick at the time. The College was also slaughtered by Alamein at basketball. APtes Cummings, Jelley, Simpson and Leahy take the credit for a worthy 18 to 14 win.

All in all, the Company camp was hard work although, as with everything, fun in retrospect. Tenby here we come.

Sport also featured quite well back in the College. Although A Company lost the inter-Company sports competition members of Alamein put in creditable performances in all the events notably APte Murphy who scored the only A Company goal in the hockey and ALcpl Williams A who managed to score one of A Company's two goals; better luck next time, eh! B Company were left standing when it came to orienteering especially with apprentices like Clay around.



Fremington Camp. A DUKW entering the sea at Atturn Instow with some of Alamein aboard.

So far in the inter-platoon football Alamein have been led straight into the semi-finals by APte King and ALcpl Williams A (A for 'again'). Their partnership produced most of the winning goals in the 12-7 score.

Further afield some were reputed to be having fun in Scotland. APte Hortop spent most of his time trying to win the Army Ski Championship - in hospital. Apparently he had a



Aboard the DUKW. The CO and Platoon Commander, Lt Tween (Alamein)

good chance in the giant wheelchair slalom, having broken a leg on day one of the Ski meet. ALcpl Hayward-Wills never actually got to Aviemore after being bedded down with a throat that resembled a cross between a kaleidoscope and the lunar landscape.

Injuries and sickness aside, Alamein Platoon can look forward to some helicopter training and, possibly, an expedition to Gibraltar - but only time will tell.

The halfway stage has now been reached so with only another two terms ahead of us, the end is in sight. All that is needed is to continue the effort, the determination, the enthusiasm and the will to win.

STOP PRESS

As the following photographers show, the helicopter training has already taken place but there is no further news of the Gibraltar project.



Alamein Platoon formed up in front of the Scout helicopter which gave them flying experience around the Aldershot area, one day in March 1982





APtes Murphy and Williams living dangerously at 500-ft

APtes Leahy and Johnstone (Alamein) ready to be airborne

ALAMEIN INTRO - ANON

"It's alright for you, what about us, the permanent staff, I mean - it's no joke." "Look, it's like this. You're apprentices, right? You come here, no preconceived ideas (if you have, they change fast), completely new life, make a man out of you, learn a trade - you know the score - it's all fairly black and white."

Now then, for us, the permanent staff, we've come from relative normality in the Army, outside to this Hallowed Place. Sit up straight, Steward-Byson and pay attention! Now where was I? Ah yes, I mean we know what life out there in the Army is like. We know all the systems and then suddenly POW**!!** Here we are with the youth and hope of the nation (God save us) thrust upon us. A pretty daunting thought eh, Thompson? And stop picking your nose, boy!

They say it gets to you in the end, I think it gets to you before the end. It starts on Day One and gets into your system like a maligant growth. No names, no pack drill, but look at CSM Finch (poor chap is being posted you know).

The people who are really affected most of all are, naturally enough I might add, the platoon commanders. I heard that snigger, Pistletweed, see me afterwards boy!

What we platoon commanders suffer from is an identity crisis. You may laugh but when Apprentice Private soldiers start calling their barrack blocks 'dorms', doing each other's hairstyles and go on 'hols' instead of leave or even furlough it's time to stop and think. If we are not careful they'll be having midnight feasts and joining the 'Famous Five' club! If you don't know who they are, Dale, ask Cokeworth.

Of course the next logical step is

for platoon commanders to throw away berets and grab mortar boards and gowns. It won't be "Report to the Sergeant Major, Smith", instead it will be, "Two hundred times, I must not bite my nails - by tomorrow first lesson, Smith".

Right now, settle down class er - I mean platoon, in fact, I mean brace up actually. Oh damn, here comes the head, I mean, CO ...."

APPRENTICE PRIVATE ZIPPY POSTLETHWAITE

ALAMEIN PLATOON

SECOND THOUGHTS

Dad drove me to the App Coll gate
My nerves began to fluctuate,
I saw the camp, I felt so wrought,
I'm beginning to have a second thought.

I see the platoon staff, not very nice
I feel as though I'm in a vice,
Orders here, orders there,
So many orders, I just don't dare.

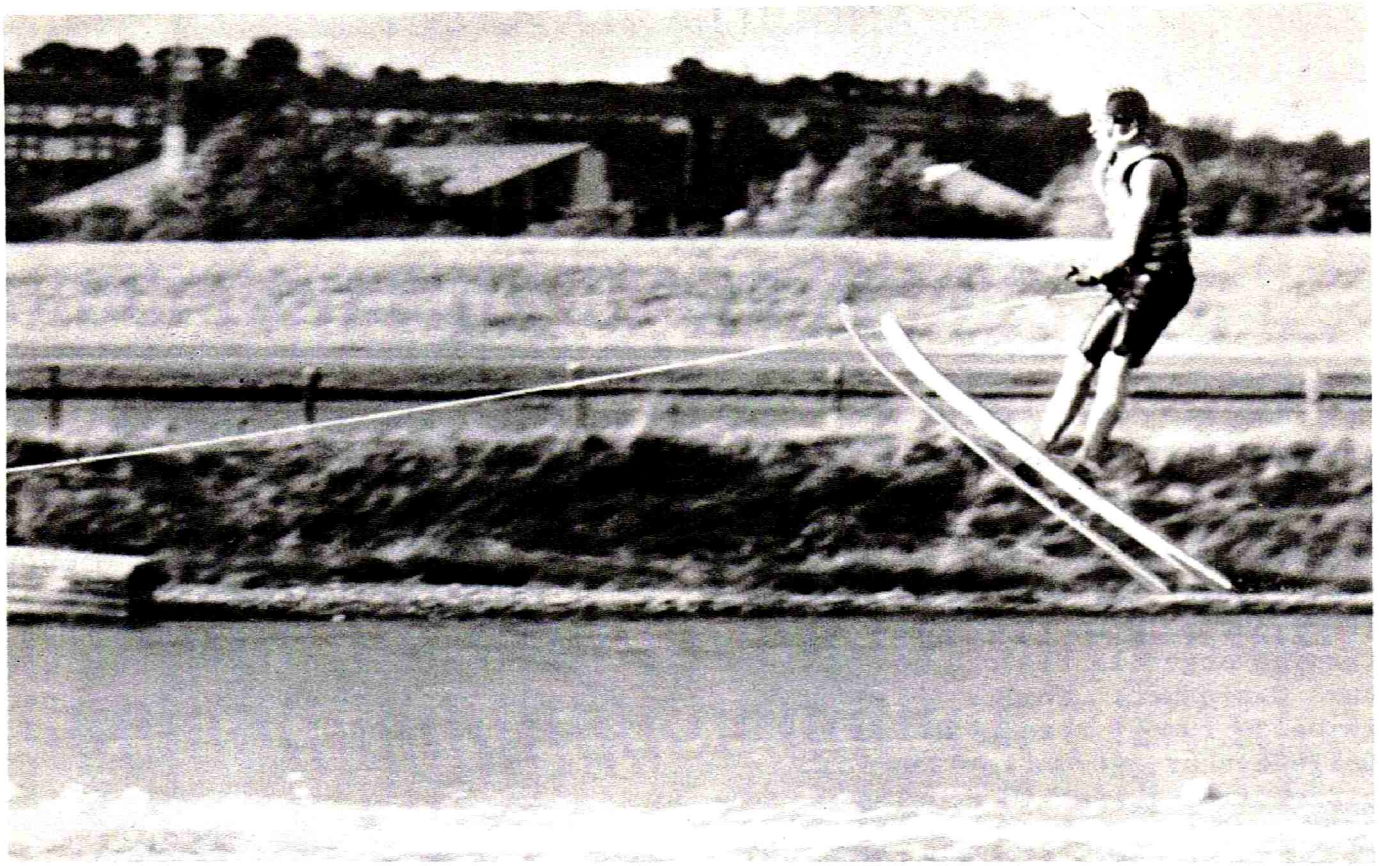
See my mates; what a bunch,
One with big eyes and one with a hunch,
One called Jelley and one called Smelley
Also a Dosser and even a Waffler.

One's a Crot,
Another's called Strop
And even with the rest of them still here,
They're all the best by far or near.

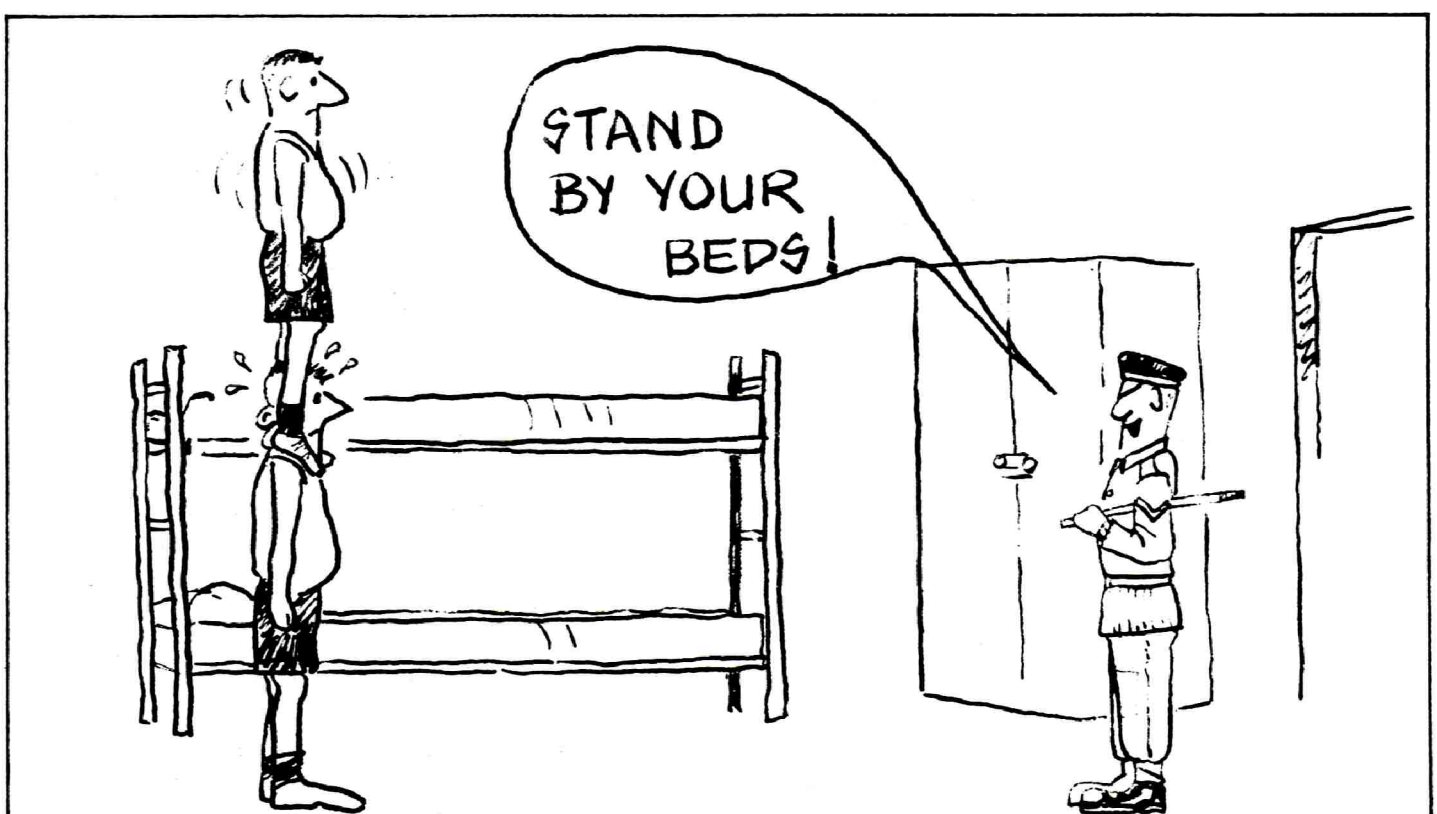
Training hard, especially physical,
The lesson programme is indivisible,
All the instructors run the farce;
"Move yourself or I'll boot your backside".

I try my hand at dreaded drill.
(Not that we don't get our fill),
Even on muster, what a fuss,
The sergeant orders "get back, you ass".

But look at me now; I'm fitter, smarter,
As disciplined as I'll ever be.
They say I'll get to love the Army
But I still think I'm bloody barmy.



APte Collins of Alamein Platoon taking part in the Peter Stuyvesant British All Regions Water Ski Competition (26/27 September 1981) at Holmepierpoint. He was in the South West team which came 8th overall and he jumped 20.3m from a 5.5-ft ramp. The opposition included Andy Mapple - world slalom champion.



More memories of Fremington from a thought by APte McManus

ANGUILLA PLATOON

Platoon Commander Capt P L Freegard RAOC

Capt I Reid REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt R S Gatley RAOC

Spring Term 1981

After members of the platoon arrived back from a quiet Christmas and New Year to find no Sgt Gatley (Genghis Khan) they thought they were in for a nice quiet term but Cpl Mathews (RDG) put paid to that idea by turning Anguilla Platoon into miniature Guardsmen. Whilst this was going on rumour spread around the College that Sgt Gatley was lost in a snowdrift skiing in Scotland. Many of the platoon hoped he would never return but alas, all good things must come to an end and Sgt Gatley came back to the mutterings of APtes Wilcox, Cunningham (JCB) and Collins saying they had joined the RAOC not the Guards.

With a new platoon commander Capt Reid taking over from Lt (now Capt) Freeguard, (despatched to CHQ to play acting Adjutant until the new one arrived) came the news that the platoon was to be the Band platoon. Accompanied by words of joy and expectation, they soon got down to some band training. Bugles were issued and the buglers who had kindly volunteered started practising. ACpl Howard showed good signs of becoming a promising bugler while APtes Rattan, Doyle and ALcpl McShane kept on making noises of their pieces of brass like sets of bagpipes with strangulated hernias. It was said after suffering these noises that Sgt Gatley had a nervous breakdown but really, he was sent away on an EPC course to learn how to write and count. Capt Reid then took on the double role of platoon commander AND sergeant, with ear defenders at the ready!

The next event to take place was the Spring camp at Fremington where, saturated with rain and floods, A Company went on flood relief and our valiant CSM 'Santa' Finch delivered food parcels to those in need while the result of the Company filled sandbags. APtes Gentle, Blackham and Walsh firmly believed that with all the water about they had contracted the dreaded disease "webbed feet".

And so, to the Easter break ...

Summer Term 1981

With Sgt Gatley educated and Capt Reid feeling young and sprightly, following his efforts, the term started with a trip to Wales on the platoon ELT camp.

Whilst down in Wales ALcpl McShane decided to change the North and South pole to meet his map reading requirements and on a visit by the Company second-in-command, Capt Eccles, we went to look at a disused slate mine where, after a short walk uphill to get into the mine, we all gathered round to have a photograph taken. Later this showed APte Blackham and ALcpl Bollesty looking like Sherpa rejects from Sir Edmund Hilary's Everest expedition. The rest of the week passed with the platoon doing their ELT test and Capt Reid taking Sgt Gatley for walks round the mountains.

On our return to College Anguilla really began to get into the swing of being Band platoon, practising hard for its first engagement, the



CORPS OF DRUMS ANGUILLA PLATOON

Sgt Gatley APte Cunningham APte Gartside APte Collins ACpl Bellamy ALCpl Davis ALCpl McMahon APte Walsh APte Martin APte Savage
APte Rattan APte Elsey APte Munday Capt I. Reid

ALCpl Willcox ALCpl Bollesty ALCpl Coultas ALCpl Howard ASgt Bridgeman Lt Col D. M. Putt Capt J. S. Kerr ASgt Corish APte Doyle
ACpl McShane APte Jones APte Gentle

Blackdown fete. The event passed quite well with Drum Major Kelly and Capt Kerr, the Adjutant, able to uncross their fingers and wipe their fevered brows. This was followed by an appearance at the Officers' Mess dinner night.

The climax of the Band engagements was the Army Exhibition for Schools held at Bassingbourne and with sheer determination, showmanship and the patience of a saint, Drum Major Kelly made the Band a force to be reckoned with which made the Junior Infantry Band, who also took part, stand up and take notice. This also proved to them that because we are RAOC we can do anything (well almost anything), including stacking blankets! ASgt Corish as Drum Major met the US Army General and had the singular honour of his name being blasted over the Tannoy system every so often. However, disaster nearly struck our intrepid Corps of Drums because, whilst performing, the sight of lots of attractive young ladies watching us proved too distracting for ALcpl Willcox and APte Elsey and they had to be brought back to earth by ALcpl McMahon giving an extra loud bang on the bass drum. The show lasted a week which gave the members of the band plenty of time to visit other displays where they collected information on everything they could lay their hands on, from how to join the WRAC to signing up with the RMP. Meanwhile Capt Reid showed us how fearless he was by having a go on the death slide, followed on by the rest of the platoon. Well alas, all good things come to an end and we were soon back in Deepcut to begin our examinations.

At the end of term Anguilla were awarded the prize for Community Spirit by pushing a wheel chair around Reading, Berkshire and - four wheel chairs later - we managed to complete 26 miles for charity. The team consisted of:

ASgt Bridgeman

ALcpl 'Must have a break' Willcox

APte 'Bionic' Gartside

APte 'Tam King of the Jocks' Collins

APte 'Its my coffee' Coultas

aided and abetted by the

OC A Company 'Mum' and

Sgt 'Genghis Khan' Gatley

A good day was had by all.

Summer term finally finished with a great big splash and it was noticed the OC looked great in Service Dress and wellies.

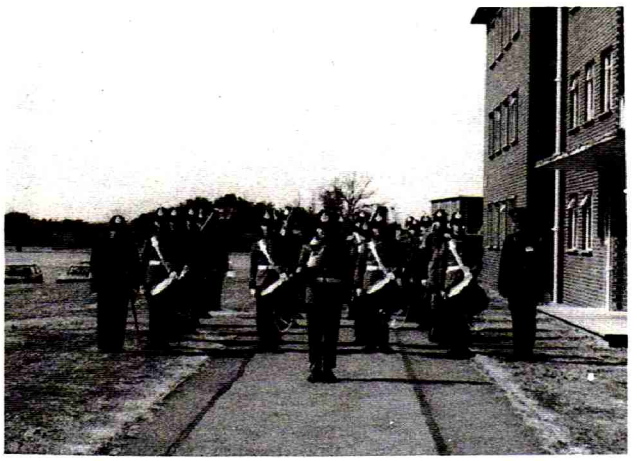
Well, folks, here endeth another term in the RAOC Apprentices College.

Thought for the year:

Men use thought only to justify their wrongdoings and speech only to disguise their thoughts.

Winter Term 1981

Later on Anguilla were on the move again. Still disguised as the Corps of Drums we all went up to Donnington to help get the parade to church for Remembrance Day. We arrived on Friday night, got settled in and on the following day had a rehearsal for the Sunday parade, after which the Corps of Drums entered a team for the Donnington scramble on the Saturday afternoon. However after running and enduring ploughed fields, ditches full of mud, barbed wire, electric fences, more mud, which convinced everyone that the stuff was at least two feet deep in places and coping with farm tractor-trailers picking up beet we could only think that this scramble was an in lieu item provided by COD in place of a six mile assault course. Nevertheless Anguilla platoon managed to come 4th in the team event. It consisted of Sgt Gatley, ASgts Corish and Bridgeman, ALcpls Coultas, Bollesty and Davis, APtes Gartside and Gentle.



Capt Reid, Drum Major Kelly and Anguilla formed up ready to entertain at the RAOC Garden Party, Bicester



Capt Reid with members of Anguilla on their assault on the Welsh mountains in April 1981

THE TALE OF A SERGEANT

Around the corner, comes the dreaded
click.
The shining boots and the wooden
stick.
Off all faces, smiles he wipes
With a grin and a curse and a flash
of his stripes,
"Attention" he shouts then, "stand
at ease -
Straighten those shoulders, bend
those knees"
"Locker inspection" he then cries,
"now right now"
And everyone shouts, "but Sergeant,
how?"
But that dear Sergeant he won't
take 'no'
Searches high and searches low
"I must", he cries, "I must, I must"
And laughs in excitement when he
finds some dust.
"No privileges" he shouts, "no
dinner or tea -
All you'll do is work hard for me"
Then he leaves us, tired and upset,
But we all agree he's the best
Sergeant yet.

ARAKAN PLATOON

Platoon Commander Capt B J Johnson

Platoon Sergeant Sgt B Hampton

Sgt N Clarke

Summer Term 1981

This was to be an extremely busy third and final term with the platoon spending six out of twelve weeks out of camp. The seven day Battle Camp soon saw us on the local training areas, the first phase was to simulate an LAD in the field. This involved much trenching and route marking. The OC visited us when it was complete, not only complimenting us, but relating his own experiences on exercise in similar conditions (all good lamp swinging stuff!) Phase II was spent practising all field craft and military tactics previously taught. Phase III was the College Training Officer's exercise, where all members of the platoon were tested. Special note should be made of the patrolling prowess of ACpl Butler.

No sooner were we back in barracks when we were on the move again - this time to "sunny" Tenby! Almost continuous rain could not dampen our spirits and a good camp was had by one and all (we even saw Sgt Hampton's legs!).

Returning to camp we were soon off to Bordon for an interesting week on trade assessment. Most of the platoon were well satisfied with their trades and we were all looking forward to starting but the ELT camp was the next hurdle to climb. This was spent at Capel Curig under the watchful eyes of Sgts Ruscoe and Hladkji. All but six members passed the stiff two day high level hike. ACpl Jones' section committed the cardinal sin of allowing the group to split up. They were caught and were failed.

In barracks again and hectic preparations for our pass off. Sgt Hampton soon had the platoon in good order. The great day arrived and so did the monsoon season. The skies opened and the parade was washed out. ASgts Purcell and Harper crowned an excellent year at the College by carrying off two of the major prizes.

And so Arakan platoon left Deepcut after 12 months excellent work. It was agreed by most that this was an exceptional platoon. A great deal of the credit for this must go to Platoon Sergeant, Dave Hampton, who saw them through their complete training. Sgt Hampton and family departed to BAOR soon after the end of term.

Winter Term 1981

Under the new partnership of Capt Johnson and Sgt Clarke the new Arakan platoon formed up. Forty spotty-faced, long haired adolescents assembled in the Kon Tiki Club on 18 August 1981. Sgt Clarke was heard muttering; "God" and "Did you see that one" and "Wish I was back in HQ Company". Next day the battle to knock this bunch into some sort of soldier-like fashion began. The days and nights were varied; drill parades, show parades, room inspections, runs and so on. Those who survived matured and learnt quickly, the twelve who left did so slightly wiser and very grateful for their parents' cosy homes.

Within four weeks Sgt Clarke, greatly assisted by ASgt James, ACpl Preston, ALcpls Hepburn, Thomas and Turtill, soon had the makings of a good platoon. FMT and night exercises helped to pass the time quickly enough and soon it was half term.



ARAKAN PLATOON SEPTEMBER 1980 - AUGUST 1981

REAR ROW — A/Pte Cartwright A/Pte Pearson A/Pte Goode A/Pte Haines A/Pte Heath A/Pte Martin R. A/Pte Butler A/Pte Stott

CENTRE ROW — A/Pte Head A/Pte Martin W. A/Pte McDonald A/Pte Varney A/Pte Hughes A/Pte Dubber A/Pte Porter A/Pte Chambers A/Pte Parker A/Pte Heronsby-Smith A/Pte Benton A/Pte Russell

FRONT ROW — A/LCpl Jones A/LCpl Smith A/Sgt Purcell Lt B. J. Johnson, RAOC Sgt Hampton D. F., RAOC A/Pte Harper A/LCpl Turner A/LCpl Ball

On return the first Battle Camp began, where a great deal of hard work and many miles were consumed. Soon it was the end of term and our valiant 28 went on leave for Christmas.

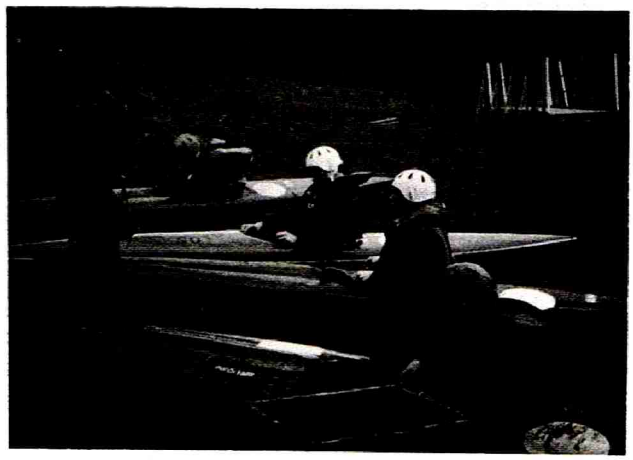
Spring Term 1982

Back after a good leave with no absentees the platoon commander decided that the platoon's fitness was below standard and a series of early morning runs was embarked upon, running in the snow and wet soon became the accepted thing and improvement was quickly seen. Even Walton was able to get round the cross country course in under 21 minutes.

The pace of College work in both education and military subjects for the second termers was stepped up, a very cold Battle Camp on local areas came and went. Final SPSO's were taken and disappointingly for some the most popular trade, vehicle mechanic, was restricted. This caused one third of the platoon to change trades.

One of the highlights of the term was the 24 hours Escape and Evasion exercise, where the JNCOs were captured, permitted to escape (in underpants and boots) having to avoid the remainder of the platoon were were patrolling around them. They had to reach certain 'safe' areas for clothing and further instructions. On the six JNCOs only three made the final RV. It is rumoured that Steel and Pursey would still be out on G1 had they not been brought in.

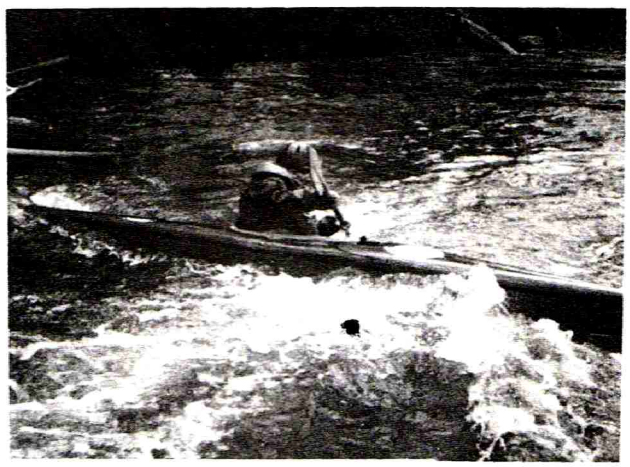
Company camp at Fremington turned out to be an unqualified success for the platoon; winning the map reading, the shooting and being second in the assault course. It is hoped Stanton and Webb, because of their long-distance map reading results (20 miles in 3 hours 12 minutes) will enter the Army marathon championships - because they beat the platoon commander by twelve minutes!



Arakan at Fremington. Last instructions ashore



Afloat at last!



White water! Photographs by 2Lt Snow WRAC

And so to the end of term when Arakan Platoon have been given the opportunity to show their FMT skills by putting on the platoon attack. It should end the term with quite a bang.

Before finishing these notes it is necessary to highlight those who have brought credit to the College. ASgt Hepburn, who has been a diligent NCO throughout the platoon's existence, has played rugby for the College. ACpls Turtill and Thomas represented the College at cross country and soccer respectively. Nagy, Eggleton, Ogley and Tyler played rugby for the College. Stanton, Mackie, Harris, Webb and James represented the College at cross county, and finally, congratulations to APte White for the many 'extras' he has done!

ESCAPE AND EVASION

by ALCPL NAGY

It was supposed to be a full day's fieldcraft according to the briefing by the Platoon Commander, Capt B J Johnson in the Quiet Room. The platoon were told we were going out to practise section attacks throughout the day and would the JNCOs go with the Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Clarke, to act as enemy. On this we, the junior NCOs, left in a landrover on the G1 training area. We did this not knowing our fate.

Approximately one hour later, as expected, a section attack was launched upon us. This is when the unknown started to happen. We lay motionless as they came back to check the bodies, they did this correctly but then bound our hands and blind-folded us. We thought this rather odd but when told the roles would be reversed later we walked unsteadily back to the camp Guardroom.

At the guardroom we were stripped down to our underwear much to the amusement of the rest of the platoon and passers-by in cars, then pushed and whipped into an uncomfortable shed behind the guardroom. In the shed we were told that people in track-suit tops were friendly forces, who later gave us rough maps and told us there would be clothing at the first check-point. Also, there were enemy patrols in the area. Their final words were "It is your duty to escape".

"Great", I thought, as I sat there with my hands bound rather tightly with leather laces. Luckily one of us found he had a new talent as an escape artist and managed to untie us all. We split up intc two groups of three and decided to go our separate ways. APtes Lunt and Rees and I decided to let ALcpls Bacon, Steel and APte Pursey go first. This was to our advantage of course. It is rather a peculiar feeling running across the camp in just underwear and boots, but undeterred we made it to the first check point. Here we found our clothing. A large pair of old lightweight trousers and a KF shirt both of which were rather badly torn, accidently of course! Along with the clothing were instructions for our next check point.

After dressing we set off to find our way to the next point. The area between these points were crawling with patrols, so we again allowed the other three to go first. This was to be the last time we saw them until after the exercise. ALcpl Steel and APte Pursey were caught and had to start again. ALcpl Bacon was running about like a mad dog, thus attracting all the attention, so were quickly slipped through the patrols to find Sgt Clarke at the next check point.

Again we were given instructions to the next point. In this leg there was a railway and canal crossing to be made. We knew there would be patrols at the main road bridges, so we walked carefully along the canal

until we came to a lock where we crossed. Luckily about 100 yards away there was a footbridge over the railway where we again crossed safely. Nothing else caused any problems until we got to the next point. We could not find the instructions. Eventually we found them after walking about for approximately 15 minutes. After this we did not see any of our own troops for the rest of the exercise, but there was one moment of panic near the end when we were crossing a track. We looked up the track and saw about 50-60 military personnel running down towards us. We quickly 'hit the deck' but then realised that our 'so-called' enemy were the local cadet force.

Eventually we made it back to the camp at about 1500 hrs, totally exhausted, hungry and still not quite understanding how our day of section attacks turned out to be so eventful.

ARDENNES PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Capt S P Smith

Capt I Reid

Platoon Sergeant — Corporal S G Jenkins

Summer Term 1981

On 9 June 1981, 31 rather subdued and apprehensive teenagers arrived in small clusters at the Kon Tiki Club to be confronted by the imposing and bristling figure of their platoon sergeant, Cpl Jenkins. One newcomer described the meeting thus:

"I walked in the door and saw a large figure standing and waving a wooden stick out - on which I hestitated - I was introduced to Cpl Jenkins". In no time at all, the floor around the barber's chair lay thick with curly locks and suitably clad in uniform tracksuits (clearly identifying them as 'Nigs' for all the world to see) the Platoon set to, to become 'real' soldiers.

The terrifying regime of bed boxes, sweat nights and change parades, which dominated the first week, soon gave way to an even more daunting programme of daily runs. With the Assault March competition only six weeks away as their goal, the runs quickly progressed to increasingly heavy kit loads over greater distances.

The ability to carry sherpa-like burdens came in useful with the advent of the first battle camp, as the platoon trekked wearily from one patrol base to another in the local training areas. Nevertheless, a mere three days continued soldiering seemed to have more effect than three weeks of FMT lessons and the platoon actually seemed to look as if they knew what they were doing by the time they returned to camp.

At last dawned the great day of the Assault March competition and Ardennes paraded looking suitable war-like after much flapping up until the last minute by their platoon staff to achieve the desired effect. Both A and B teams hared around the course at 'personal best' times and also scored well on the Assault course, but the miniature range proved rather more daunting. With the increasing number of safety mistakes gradually mounting up penalty points it soon became apparent that Ardennes would stand a good change of wiping out more of their own number than enemy in the event of a real war. So, with long faces and muttering at the injustice of it all, the platoon



Ardennes Platoon June 1981 - August 1982

REAR ROW — A/Pte Roberts A/LCpl Witherick A/Pte Harland A/Pte Hall A/Pte Ohloblyn A/Pte Miller A/Pte Wright D. R. A/LCpl Clement

CENTRE ROW — A/LCpl Moore A/Pte Cawte A/Pte Price J. M. A/Pte Wright D. C. A/Pte Vann A/Cpl Woodhouse A/Pte Price A. E. A/Cpl Jones

FRONT ROW — A/LCpl Charlton A/Cpl Hutchings A/LCpl Ward Cpl S. G. Jenkins, RAOC Capt I. Reid, REME A/Sgt Riddell A/Pte McCallum A/Pte Buntin (Bentley)

trudged along to the prizegiving only to find that they'd .... won. The joy and jubiliation that night was boundless.

And so, on to the end of term, with APte Jones picking up the prize for Best Recruit. Despite threats of severe flooding on the Passing Out Parade the platoon succeeded in carrying out its physical fitness and unarmed combat display before the deepening waters began lapping over the box tops.

fitness training and a 20 mile map reading exercise.

With the return of the REME and the platoon at full strength once more, preparations began for the Blackdown Fives Youth Competition. During this period, Ardennes could be observed furtively stealing ladders and painting them unlikely colours, rolling oil drums across the sports field and trying out ever more hazardous command task prototypes. The competition itself proved most



Two very good reasons why the Blackdown Fives proved to be so popular

Winter Term 1981

After a well-earned summer break, the platoon returned full of the joys of spring (or, in this case, Autumn) to face a new term. No sooner had they returned, than the REME element departed to Bordon for their initial technical training, whilst the RAOC element, being less technically minded, spent their time engaging in

successful as far as the platoon was concerned in that the accomplished the prime mission of making female contacts for the end of term party.

Eventually Term Two Battle Camp arrived, nicely coinciding with yet another Fantasian invasion from the south. The troops duly moved to a company defensive position, shared with Arnhem Platoon and proceeded

to dig in. As they became more used to the unfamiliar environment of trench life, their holes in the ground became true temporary homes, with full overhead cover and sleeping and cooking compartments. Glad to find themselves for once in a permanent position, Ardennes, now known as 'the beavers' because of their unabated enthusiasm with the machete, settled into a routine of digging, patrolling and fighting of enemy attacks. With the aid of Anguilla Platoon, a successful bridge demolition guard was put in place, allowing a company of 'Royal Hampshires' to withdraw whilst in contact with the enemy (both played by Anguilla with careful juggling of landrovers and NBC suits for disguise.

After five days of cold and rain, and not a little excitement, the platoon trudged wearily back to camp and, now, with half the term still to go, have settled down into the more mundane life of education, drill and skill-at-arms. However, the prospect of playing rioters on the next Sandhurst Northern Ireland exercise is certainly a bright patch on the horizon.

In a term where ALcpls Riddell and Woodhouse were promoted to ACpl and APtes Charlton and Hutchings to ALcpl, 22 apprentices and Cpl Jenkins survived, Capt Smith sadly departing in an attempt to find a more tranquil life in bomb disposal.

Spring Term 1982

Another two defections from RAOC to REME (ACpl Riddell and APte Ohloblyn) and, Capt Reid's takeover as Platoon Commander marked the start of a term filled with camps.

A fairly quiet battle camp was followed by an exacting ELT camp at Capel Curig during which two more promotions were well earned, APte Ward to ALcpl and ALcpl Hutchings to ACpl.

Newly promoted ACpl Jones and his section showed the most initiative during the two day's exercise not even needing to unpack their tent, whilst someone who shall be nameless sent two of the sections to the wrong start points.

The platoon is now looking forward to Fremington, ACpl Riddell to his forthcoming promotion and all the REME lads to their Passing Out Parade on 1st April (possibly an apt day!)

ARNHEM PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Captain M J Davis REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt T J Watson REME

L/Cpl G S C Mathews RHG/D

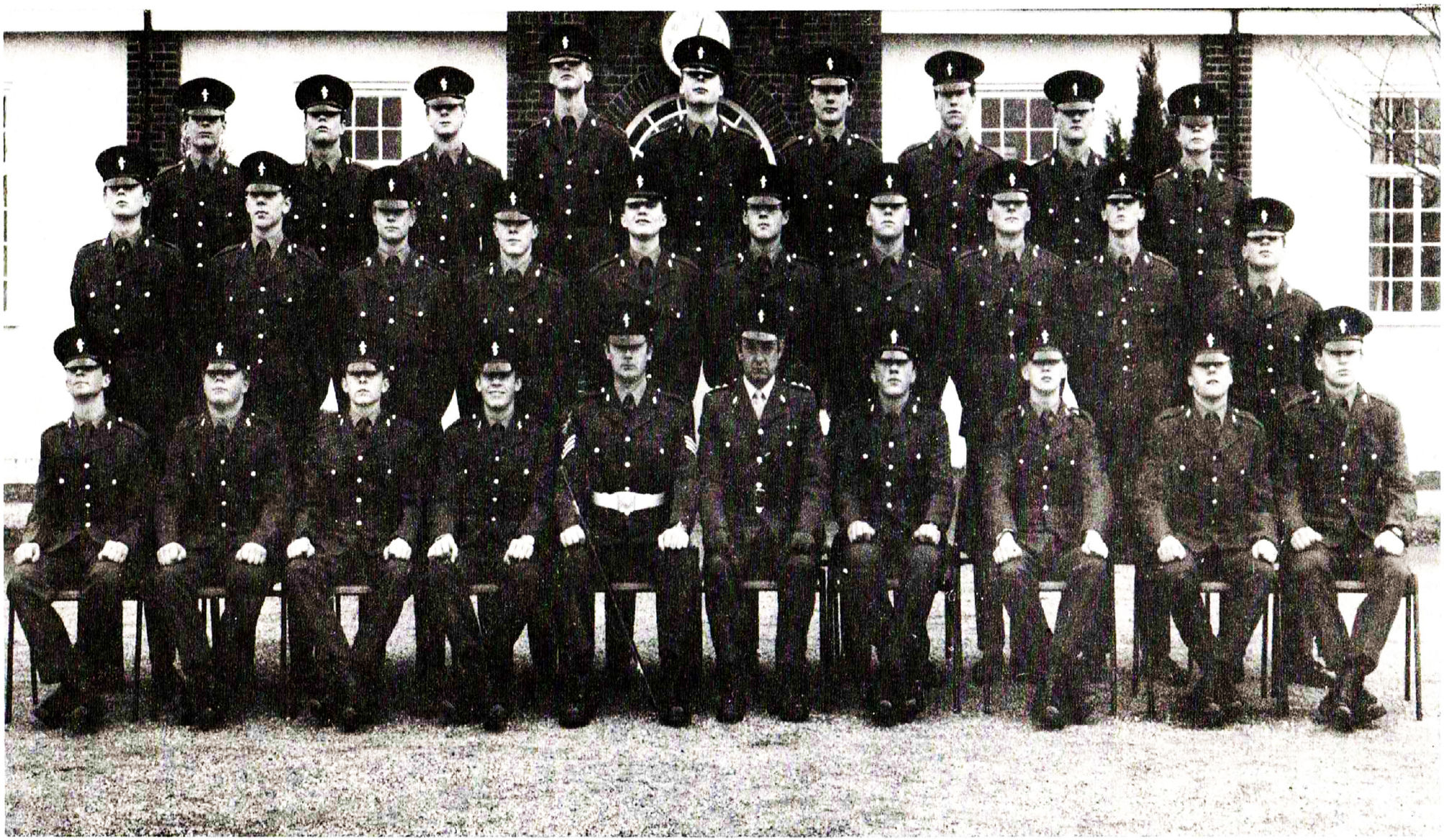
Cpl R D Rainey RAOC

Sgt J J C Scot REME Des

Summer Term 1981 (First term)

The new Arnhem arrived on 9 June 1981, all lovely and fresh from civilian life. Would you believe a whole 30 appeared and all of them REME. It took only a mere seven days to lose two. And then we were 28!

The lads settled down fairly quickly to some hard training and indeed were seen running with webbing for



Arnhem Platoon June 1981 - April 1982

REAR ROW — A/Pte Campbell A/Cpl Turtill A/LCpl Stevenson A/Cpl Perryman A/Pte Hawkins A/Pte Redman A/Pte Alexander A/Pte Jackson A/Pte Stokes

CENTRE ROW — A/Pte Patterson A/Pte Best A/LCpl Dilley A/Pte Maiden A/Pte Panter A/LCpl Wilson A/Pte Gray A/Pte Deakin A/Sgt Russer A/Sgt Hepburn

FRONT ROW — A/Pte Margison A/Pte Greenwood A/Pte Stewart A/Pte Smith Sgt J. J. C. Scott, REME Capt M. J. Davis, REME A/Pte Simpson A/Pte Thornton A/Pte Heap A/Pte Siddall

at least five days out of every seven until the Assault March competition. The platoon came a creditable third overall in the Company.

Next came the introduction into what soldiering is all about. Living in the field. The 48 hour battle camp was very successful with some excellent demonstrations in the art of tin cooking given by the Permanent Staff.

The final hurdle of this eight week first term was the preparation of the gymnastic display for the Passing Out Parade. Fortunately the rain held off for the actual display which included box work, unarmed combat and log exercises. At last the end of term arrived and with satisfied grins on most faces the platoon was looking forward to a spot of well-earned leave.

Winter Term 1981

They arrived back in sunny Deepcut looking extremely healthy and with little or no extra weight added to waistlines they were despatched for a week's Trade Technical Assessment to decide or help to decide their future trades in REME. This week in Bordon, judging by the results, was highly worthwhile and all the apprentices were even more keen to start trade training. However, it was back to earth with a bump when things military had to be transferred from the instructors into the grey matter of the apprentices.

On the sporting scene the platoon has several members who are representing the College at rugby, football and cross country, while a further eight members are on, would you believe, a sailing course!!

The platoon battle camp was the normal "sink or swim" Arnhem Platoon. the weather was especially ordered by the Russians and trench foot was narrowly avoided. On a more serious note, it taught the platoon how to cope with torrential rain, wind and even the odd hail-stone and come out of it all with a grin on their faces. Although it is only half way through the term the lads have a visit to Windsor Castle and the Imperial War Museum to look forward to as well as - wait for it - more leave.



Pony trekking at Fremington. L to R: APte Grey Acpl Turtill and APte Jackson

We have now risen in strength to 29 by recruit APte Stevenson from RCT Taunton.

Spring Term 1982

This is the last and final term for the men to Arnhem in the College. An extremely busy term lay ahead with lots of interesting things to do and achieve. First hurdle was the final battle camp and would you believe we had very little rain. It was a successful one and the apprentices learned a great deal of practical fieldcraft.

Next it was off to North Wales for high and low level hill walking in and around the mountains.

The platoon visited Ford of Dagenham and the Daily Express newsprint works during the term. They were both extremely interesting visits and there were lots of inquisitive

apprentices with torrents of questions.

After a successful Company Camp in Fremington which included some very exciting canoeing the lads returned to base with promise of lots and lots of silent drill to practise for their passing out parade.

THE SEVEN WILD GEESE OF ARNHEM

by ASgt Hepburn

"Fancy going on a free-fall course?" asked our platoon sergeant and automatically 20 out of the 28 platoon members put their hands up. So Sgt Scott organised a visit to the RAF Detachment at Aldershot which opened our eyes to the training and also as to the apparatus used during ground training. We also saw a film of the RAF free-fall team "The Falcons". This visit was the turning point for many members who had orginally volunteered for a free fall course. We were now down to 7 which also included the old man, our platoon sergeant.

We arrived at Netherhaven Joint Services Parachute Centre on the morning of 16 February and after being shown our accommodation our training started.

DAY ONE consisted of learning how to do parachute landing falls which our instructor LCpl Toby Drew made look easy so that, after many attempts, we all started to get the hang of it. Then we moved on to the correct method of entry into the 'plane' which was also an important part of our training. Once in the 'plane' we took up our exit positions and once again we practised this until we all got it right. After lunch we were back in the ground training room to learn how to do the Stable Spread position which is a very important part of our training as this helps you to maintain a stable position in the air whilst awaiting your 'chute to open. Next it was out on to the drop zone (DZ) and we were told all about the 'do's and dont's' on the DZ. We were shown and practised canopy collapsing drills once on the ground, because their is a good chance of being dragged along the ground therefore one has to act quickly to collapse the canopy. By now it was end of day one and we all went back to our accommodation. The JSPC has its own TV room, canteen and bar so we were able to use these, well most of them and we talked to each other on the day's activities.

DAY TWO. Once again we were back in the ground training room and we started our backward and forward PLFs. Having mastered these and many more sore knees and ankles we moved on to the harnesses which were suspended from the ceiling and we were taken through emergency drills such as untangling rigging lines, what to do if landing in water, colliding with buildings or landing in a tree. We then moved on to 'chute control and the types of 'chute. Once again we went to lunch and then we were in the lecture room for the Emergency Drills, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF ripped 'chutes or malfunctions and also procedures to carry out once the 'chute had deployed. Then back to the ground training room for reserve 'chute lecture and how to use it. By now the weather was against us and we finished to day and our training by watching some films on free fall.

DAY THREE. At the beginning of the morning the weather was once again against us but by 1030 hrs the RSM came in the canteen and told us to get out equipment as we were going to jump in 30 minutes. We got the 'plane out of the hangar and then went to the kit issue room and got into our harnesses. Once all 'chutes

had been checked by the staff we went out to the Manifest Area which is the area you assemble at for final checks. Cpl Paul Austin who was another of our instructors and who was to be our jump master for our first jump asked who was going to be first. By now our hearts were pounding but the ice was broken by the old man, of course, who said, "I'll go first". So this was it! We now numbered off and we were then led to the aircraft by Paul Austin



The Seven Wild Geese of Arnhem

Sgt J. J. C. Scott A/Sgt Russer A/Sgt Hepburn A/Pte Siddall A/Pte Best A/Lcpl Stevenson A/Pte Simpson

our jump master. The engines revved, the 'plane vibrated and we were off down the runway - we were off the ground. During the ascent our jump master carried out certain drills. The first was to indicate 300 feet so that we could judge our height during our descent. Then we came round and attached our static lines to the cable inside the plane and checked our automatic opening devices which were on our reserve 'chutes to ensure that they we set at 1000 feet. We were now at 2000 feet and our jump master launched the wind drift indicator. We then started to climb to our opening point of 2600 feet. The time had come, there was no going back. The engine was cut. "No 1 to the door", shouted the jump master. Sgt Scott moved to the door, the wind was pulling at his face and equipment as he positioned himself for his exit. "GO" shouted the jump master and after a last look of fear and exhilaration, he was gone. Next is was ASgt Russer, then it was me - as I got into position I knew what fear and excitement mixed together felt like. It was great! "GO" and I was falling through the air shouting as loud as I could, Thousand and 1, thousand and 2, thousand and 3, thousand and 4, thousand and 5, thousand and 6, check canopy. This was the greatest feeling of my life, nice round canopy and the peace and quiet of descending thorugh the air. As I carried out my checks I could see Sgt Scott and Sgt Russer below me. At 300 feet I turned into wind and adopted the PLF position

"Bump" I was down, in a ploughed field. I had done it. I collected my chute and moved back to the manifest area with a smile on my face. The second pass was aborted as a Harrier jump jet was coming over so the last four to jump had to wait until after dinner time. With

dinner break over and the topic of conversation being what it was like, the four who hadn't yet jumped were being very quiet. We were now on the plane for our second and first jumps respectively. Sgt Scott was once again first to jump and he was smiling as he exited. I then looked at the guys who hadn't jumped and there were four very stern-looking men. Asgt Russer was next and as he went out of the aircraft he did a somersault and when his 'chute deployed he had to carry out the drills he had been taught, to undo his rigging lines. He was OK. Next, it was me and now I knew why Sgt Scott was smiling, you knew exactly what was going to happen and then was great. The four other members of the course came out and as I landed I could see them floating towards the ground. As we all assembled at the manifest area the last four to jump were now all full of smiles and preparing to go up for their second jump. The three of us looked on with envy as the four members of our course went up for their second jump. One by one they came down and all landed safely. We all field packed our chutes and took them back to the equipment room. Having done this, Cpl Paul Austin gave us our de-brief and wrote down the points which he picked up on our exit from the plane.

The RSM then presented us with our Certificates of passing the basic free fall course. We now can go to JSPC at the weekend and continue to improve on the best sport in the world, *FREE FALL PARACHUTING*. "Yes, the Seven Wild Geese of Arnhem Platoon did it!"

We would like to that the following for all their help:

OIC JSPC - Major O'Hara

2IC JSPC - WO1 (RSM) Laing

Instructor - Cpl Paul Austin

Instructor - Lcpl Toby Drew (with the pretty parts)

and our especial thanks go to Sgt John Scott who organised the visit and course.

Finally, "The Seven Wild Geese of Arnhem" consisted of:

Sgt J Scott REME

ASgt C Hepburn REME

ASgt P Russer REME

ALcpl G Stevenson REME

APte D Simpson REME

APte N A J Best REME

APte M Siddall REME

DAY AT THE RACES

by ALcpl Wilson and APte Jackson

Go-karts to some of us are small cars with small engines, sort of playthings. Our platoon sergeant, however, once raced these small machines and told us of the speeds of which they are capable. So, on 20th February 1982 Arnhem Platoon set off for Sisley Karting near Wrotham, Kent, who had offered to show us how the engines are repaired and were willing to allow us to drive the go-karts round the Tilbury race track.

We arrived at 0900 hrs and were met by Mr Terry Cranmer, a representative of Sisley Karting. We had a quick look round the small workshops and then it was off to the race track.

On arrival at the track Terry and his son checked the 'karts' and Terry's son took them out to warm them up. Meanwhile, two of us were getting into protective clothing, jump suits, gloves and helmets. Then it was time to go out for five laps. It took a few laps before we had the karts negotiated and while the remainder of the platoon looked

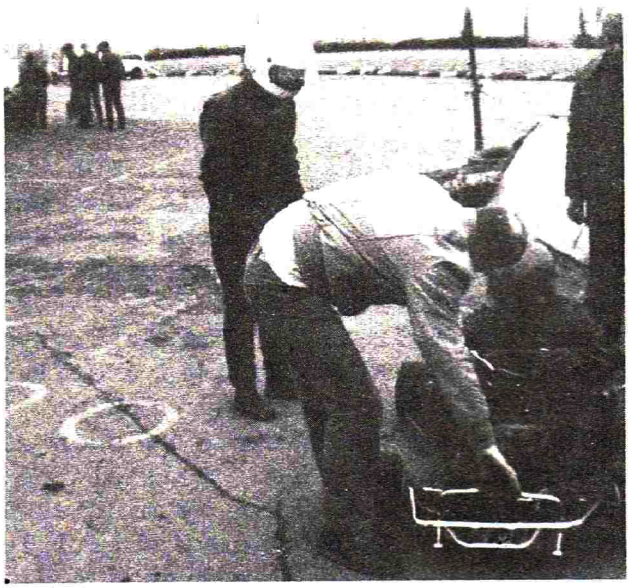


Arnhem at the Race Track. Sgt Scott (mounted) with APtes Jackson, Best, Head

on awaiting their turn, we were able to see the speeds the karts could do in short spaces. The track record is 31.2 seconds and the nearest was APte Jackson with 40.2 seconds. However, Sgt Scott went out and showed us how it should be done in a time of 35.3 seconds for his best lap. Then it was our turn again, trying to go faster and faster and, getting the hang of the kart threw it around corners, going flat out on the straight. The highest speeds were 65-70 mph and sitting only 12 inches from the ground it seems much faster. There were some spectacular spins and crashes provided for the watching members of the platoon. Names that come to mind are APte Heap who spent more time in the tyres and protective barriers than on the track, ALcpl Wilson who thought you had to complete a full circle around bends before being allowed to carry on down the straight. APte (Crasher) Siddall thought that the object of the exercise was to stay off the tarmac track and travel round on the grass dodging the safety fences, while APte Best kept getting his feet mixed up on the accelerator and brake pedals. Lastly comes



APte Head "Look - no hands"



Sgt Scott pointing out the controls

ASgt "Speedy' Russer who went round in a lap record of one minute two seconds and remarked he did not have to touch the brake once.

The day ended with the long drive back to Deepcut and one topic of conversation "I could have gone faster - just wait until next time".

Our thanks go to Sisley Karting for laying on the day's sport and Terry Cranmer who worked hard to keep the karts going throughout the day, also to Sgt Scott who organised the visit.

ARNHEM PLATOON BATTLE CAMP

by APte Gray

The day started in true Army fashion with an early rise at 0600 hours. The block had to be spotless as there was going to be an OC's inspection later on. This put everybody in a fine mood for the week ahead. After we had renovated the block from a condemned-looking building into a reasonable looking military establishment we evacuated it to load the two four-tonners at our disposal. Then we set off for a sadist's holiday at Scotties hideaway just outside Tweseldown.

As usual as we started to pitch the tents and dig trenches the heavens opened and it poured down with rain. The platoon had been split, six members would play 'enemy' for the rest of the platoon. The enemy was changed every day, to give everybody the chance of an administration day.

After the trenches had been dug the fun started. Four patrols went out each day all having a separate task to do, including a ration pick-up. When we got to the pick-up area we found the rations for the next day scattered over a wide area usually in the middle of a field with no cover, so we got blasted as soon as we tried to get them. Some of the other patrols stick in my mind as being rather comical now, when I look back on it, especially APte N A J Best's ration pick-up. When his patrol finally reached the pick-up zone due to APte N A J Best's mystery tour around the training area, the rations were found to be situated on an island in the middle of a hippo's paradise ('wet' tank testing area!) After deploying his gun group to a defensive position, Cpl Perryman moved forward to give covering fire and as he did so N A J Best shot him, then stood up and apologised. Cpl Perryman picked himself out of four feet of mud and carried on, moving forward whilst giving N A J Best various hand signals not mentioned in the field craft text-book. The rest of the mission went as planned until we pulled out and Disasterman N A J Best struck again, discovering he had dropped his respirator somewhere in the bog!

Once we boobed right in front of the Commanding Officer. We had to do a casualty sweep, having been warned that the enemy knew we were coming. We had to do this mission in NBC suits and as luck would have it, it was the hottest day of the battle camp. We finally got to the area where the casualty was supposed to be but there was one problem, where was the casualty? So we sent out a reconnaissance patrol and, when they had found him they reported back. Then we moved out to pick him up with a stretcher made of two tree-trunks and our rifle slings. We got into extended line to move across the field which had no cover, apart from a lone bush about twenty yards from the casualty. Everything went fine till we passed the bush and then all hell was let loose from behind us. The enemy was in the bush. A fire order was given, we overcame the enemy and continued to collect the casualty.

Need I say, one of the stretcher bearers was APte Best. We got about 20 yards and the stretcher snapped in half, right in front of the Colonel. What happens now, we thought. After several moments of deep thought, someone picked up the body and carried it off the area.

Another incident I remember was the day we switched to our NBC phase. We went out on an ambush which went as planned with the enemy being wiped out. After we had searched the bodies we set off back to our base location. When we got there we were told to gather around Sgt Scott. He took an aerosol can out of his pocket and started to spray - the alarm went up "Gas, Gas, Gas". We left Sgt Scott in something of a hurry and proceeded to rip our gas

masks out of their cases. APte Greenwood was the first with his mask on and was the first to get sprayed with CS. After he had been sprayed he stood back, no doubt smiling confidently, at Sgt Scott as if to say "Not quick enough mate". But there came an almighty scream from inside young Greenwood's mask. He had forgotten to screw on his canister so the CS gas had got in through the hole!

The battle camp ended the day after this incident. We did a 12 mile forced march along Basingstoke Canal, several 'winps' dropped out but the rest finished in true SAS fashion with Greenwood at the back, still recovering from the shock of the day before. I think we all enjoyed ourselves in a sadistic sort of way.

'B' COMPANY

OC Major T A Glen RAOC
Major R Lennox RAOC

Training Officer Capt M J Knight RAOC
Capt P A Ball RAOC

CSM WO2 (CSM) D Franklin RAOC

In the year covered by this issue of the College magazine the Company Headquarters have seen numerous changes in Permanent Staff. The Officer Commanding, Major T A Glen, departed in January 1982 and Major R Lennox arrived. 2ICs changed in July 1981, Capt M J Knight moving from Platoon Commander to Company 2IC, and, subsequently, being replaced by Capt P A Ball in April 1982, while WO2 (CSM) J Robertson was promoted to RSM and moved to CVHQ with WO2 (CSM) D Franklin posted in.

As a newcomer, having seen only a term pass quickly, one is bound to draw more on one's own experience than those on file when writing an



B COMPANY

Back: Sgt McBurnie, Sgt Carlin Capt MaGuiness, Sgt Kreft
Middle: Lt Piper, Sgt Hogan, Sgt Daniels, Sgt Inder Lt Green
Front: Lt Knoll, Capt Knight, Maj Lennox, WO2 Franklin, Capt Marwaha

introduction. However, the experiences of the 1982 Spring Term seem to reflect the previous encounters of 1981.

Probably the most marked aspect one notices soon after arrival at the College is the high competitive rivalry at inter-platoon and inter-company level. We have capitalised on this essential of basic training and have laid great emphasis on the importance of working as a team and the individual's contribution to the team. Our theme has been seen to good effect during the Spring term.

The Company won the inter-company Sports Shield, which covered five sports, rugby, football, hockey, cross-country and orienteering. The Company effort in the end of term cross-country was tremendous; our last man; not renowned for his cross-country mobility, had at least 30 opposition shirts behind him at the finish. The Company staff were well positioned to see that our 'tailend Charlie' did not falter. This win was particularly pleasing because it wasn't just the stars who helped us to gain this trophy but the middle men who often fail to get a mention.

At platoon level, Burma took all honours by winning the Company inter-platoon Shield. Had it not been for their band commitments, Bruneval may have given Burma a closer run for their money. Having been robbed of the opportunity to compete fully in the inter-platoon competition, Bruneval showed that they were still a force to be reckoned with by winning the College inter-platoon football cup, beating Arakan 7-2.

The Recruit platoon (Berlin) deserve a mention at this juncture for the very plucky way they have formed and competed in all the competitions.

The end of term awards reflect the individual talent we have in the Company. The three major awards we gained went to ASgt Copping (Best All round Performance), ACpl Iles (the Leadership Trophy) and APte Cameron (Outstanding Performance for Sport - Cross-country). Our minor award winners were ALcpl Gooden (External Leadership Trophy), APte Penn (Citizenship Trophy and Best Orienteer) and APte Archibald (Best Recruit).

The success of the apprentices' development both at work and play is due, in part, of course, to the dedication and interest of their permanent staff. The latters' experience vary from SAS, Para, Commando, ATO and all the operational tours since Aden and their sporting prowess, for most sports, range from Corps to Army standard.

It was been a very successful year for the Company and we are beginning to get feedback from some of our former apprentices. Most notable in terms of achievement was the nomination of APte Thomas as 1981 Vehicle Mechanic of the Year award.

BALACLAVA PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt W L Hutton REME

Lt R W Dempster REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt M A Hogan REME

Summer Term 1981

The Summer Term proved to be a very busy one with little time being spent at the College. The main event of the term was an 11-day visit to Belgium and Germany. This was so that the platoon could see

some RAOC units 'on the ground'. with a view to deciding where they would like to go for their first posting. The visit proved a great success and included visits to Rheindahlen, Sennelager, Dulmen, Bracht and Antwerp.

At 4 Armoured Division Ordnance Company, the platoon had a chance to drive various vehicles including Eager Beavers (fork lift trucks), landrovers and FV 432s (Armoured Personnel Carriers). At 3 Base Ammunition Depot, Bracht, we were given some spectacular demonstrations of explosives, of which the best was a car being blown up. APte Lonnen especially enjoyed this, as it was he who blew it up! The platoon also managed to meet some old friends from the College who were now serving in Germany.

The trip back across the Channel was unforgettable, as could be expected from a landing ship logistic. We were said to end the trip - except for those who were slightly sea sick.

Another highspot of the term was the External Leadership Training week at Capel Curig in Snowdonia. The new Platoon Commander, Lt W Hutton, was in attendance as well as Capt M J Knight. The first low level walk was attempted in very wet and foggy conditions but this was the last we were to see of bad weather. On the third we travelled to Blaenau-Ffestingiog to travel down a slate mine. HQ Coy had found a mine that we were allowed to visit free!! It was hard to believe that anyone could work for a living down there in the dark. The expedition phase of the week lasted two and a half days and every team succeeded in reaching all check point.

The rest of the term passed peacefully except for the end of term parade. It was 'soaked off' in spectacular style.

Everyone is looking forward to the winter term and trade training.

Winter Term 1981

Sadly for Balaclava Platoon it is the end of good friendship and past achievements for all as they pass out to adult service on Tuesday 10 December 1981.

Reflecting back on this term, it has been a hectic and enjoyable time. The majority of the platoon had the honour of representing the College on the Lord Mayor's Show in London. Unfortunately the television coverage ended as they came into view, but this was rectified when the lads were shown the Unit's video recording and photos of themselves on the show.

On 21 November, we had another opportunity to represent the College, this time at the Freedom of the City of Nottingham Parade, which they enjoyed thoroughly.

All this apart, members of the platoon toiled through their various trades with adult service in sight and, when possible, were detached to working units prior to passing out. Some were fortunate enough to work in Recruiting Offices for a short period of time.

The highlight in sports came when three members of the platoon represented the Company's boxing team. APte Currie and ACpl Thompson won their fights and the unfortunate ASgt Laing bravely lost on points but was awarded the prize for 'Boxer of the Night' by the judges. I would also like to mention ALcpl Lonnen for his achievements, being top runner (cross country) for the College and APte Mason for achievements in rugby, playing for Aldershot Colts.

Finally , I must congratulate ASgt Laing for producing the high standards in dress, leadership and morale which won for him the

Sergeants' Cup for the Best All-Rounder at the term's end prize giving.

I have enjoyed watching the platoon grow from raw recruits into trained soldiers and wish them the best of good fortune in their future.

BENGHAZI PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt P R Knoll RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D Daniel RAOC

Winter Term 1981

8 September 1981 saw the formation of of Benghazi Platoon. Sgt D Daniel RAOC was also a new arrival at the College, after spending some time at the Training Battalion. The platoon soon settled down to work and to fitness training for the College cross-country competition.

The first notable event was Exercise "Washington Wander", a 25-mile walk along the South Downs. Everyone made a creditable effort under difficult conditions especially ALcpl Jackson and APtes Squire, Tomkins, Robinson and Williams D W, who were the first recruit team to complete the course.

The cross country competition was a success for B Company again and the platoon came 4th in the College (not bad for only 3 weeks in the Army). APtes Cameron and Coward ran particularly well, coming 2nd and 9th respectively.

Half term came and went uneventfully and the Platoon passed off the square on their Acceptance Parade.

On 20 October, an 11 mile route march competition was held. A fast pace was kept up by all and the members of Benghazi 'A' team raced in to win the event in a time of 93½ minutes.

Throughout the rest of the term various events were held. There was an Orienteering competition. A 10-mile March and Shoot competition and two Initiative competitions. On the first initiative test, Benghazi came second but would have won if only APtes Lethaby and Hanley had not forgotten to take their ear defenders.

The platoon took part on the Remembrance Day Parade and felt, justifiably, proud of themselves on their turnout and drill. They began to feel like soldiers at last.

The inter-company Novice boxing competition was held this term and B Company won. The two members of Benghazi Platoon who were in the squad won their bouts. They were APtes Crawford and Williams G H and both fought very well. We are proud of them.

The Company christmas party was held on 25 November 1981 and was a great success. APte Squire was the lucky one of the platoon and won a digital watch in the raffle.

Everyone is now looking forward to Christmas leave, especially with all they money they will be receiving. The end of term Citizenship prize, the West Shield, was won by APte Schofield for his effort in helping to run the local youth club.

Finally, as a result of their work during the term, four of the platoon were promoted to Apprentice Lance Corporals. They are ALcpls Schofield, Coward, Jenkins and Ross. ALcpl Ross leaves the platoon next term to help run another Recruit platoon, but the others will remain in Benghazi.

This was a good term for the platoon and a lot of effort was put in by

them. Unfortunately they are losing their Platoon Commander, Lt Bill Hutton RAOC, who is leaving to go to West Moors on a long petroleum course. The new Platoon Commander is arriving in February 1982.

Spring and Summer Terms 1981

6 August 1981 - Benghazi Platoon passed out, completing 14 months of training. Looking back over the terms, major events spring to mind - the skiing in Scotland, the visit to Berlin, Corps of Drums; all in all a full year's fun and games.

February 1981, the platoon went to Aviemore for a week's skiing. Few had skied before and, consequently, the icy conditions proved amusing to say the least - cries of "here comes Freddie"could be heard on the snow/ ice as he ploughed down head first. Lake, "the gentle giant", didn't quite get it right, but full marks for trying.

APtes Toomey, Malcolm, Murray, Perrott and Howells spent over five weeks up there training for the Army Junior Championships. The training paid off and they, and four from A Company were well placed in the downhill competition - hopefully boys from the College will be up there again next year.

During their entire stay at the College the platoon formed the College Corps of Drums, the first term practising; the second and third terms performing and the fourth passing out. The drums section soon learned their part with APte Helm making the most progress. They learned 'Beating the Retreat' which became one of the main features of the platoon's performances. Initially, the Corps of Drums was led by Drum Major Jeremy Timns, but he was



Inclement weather (on the front at Tenby and before the Mayor of Tenby) marred an otherwise faultless performance



Brigadier Berragan inspecting the Corps of Drums after the Passing Out Parade (August 1981) had been forced indoors by a thunderstorm

tragically killed in a motorcycle accident. ALcpl Scott took over and did an excellent job, having changed over from the drums. The main problem with the band always seemed to be the buglers. There had to be some talent somewhere and this came in the form of APte Clegg. Courageously he went down to 10 Ord Support and performed the 'Last Post' during the Remembrance Sunday service - nothing but congratulations were rained upon him.

At Summer camp in Tenby the platoon performed for the Mayor, the Brigadier and other local dignatories. The sound of the band could be heard for miles - over the beaches and cliffs - just how far upwind did one have to go to get away from the chimes of the Bell Lyres played by ALcpl Preston and APte Hood?

During their third term the platoon went to Berlin to participate in the festivities marking the granting of the Freedom of the City of Spandau to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

The fourth term was spent on trade training, assisting the local community, adventure training and other military tasks. When 6 August dawned the Platoon donned their red tunics for the last time. Meanwhile out on the square the heavens opened, thunderstorms struck and the parade was washed out. Some hasty preparations were made and the last performance of Benghazi Platoon as Corps of Drums took the form of Beating the Retreat in the gymnasium.

All in all, quite a successful year for the platoon.

Spring Term 1982

At the beginning of February the platoon went to Hawley Lake to do their canoe test. On arrival they found the lake covered in a thick layer of ice. As a last resort and

much to the relief of the apprentices it was decided to use the swimming pool at Gibraltar Barracks. Eskimo rolls and capsize drills were practised and performed with a great deal of enthusiasm and enjoyment, in lovely warm water.

At 1900 hrs on Tuesday 2 March 1982 the apprentices of Benghazi Platoon departed in a 4-ton Bedford to Longmoor to act as a rent-a-crowd for Rhine Coy RMA Sandhurst's first CRW Exercise. On arrival the platoon were shown to accommodation and much to their surprise it was a very good barrack block with central heating.

After an hour or so to settle into their new home the platoon was briefed on what the task for the next three days would be. The platoon took to the streets in old civilian clothes ready to take party in a 'soft riot'. It started as a peaceful protest march but the marches decided to change their route and go into a forbiden area. The platoon then transformed into an unruly mob. They were confronted by troops who were preventing 'the march' from continuing. At this point negotiations began between both parties but to no avail. The riot squad armed with batons and riot shields formed a base line in the middle of the road. The mob became hostile and began to shout abuse and hurl missiles at the troops. Many rushes were made but the troops stood firm. Eventually a snatch squad dashed out and made several arrests. All those arrested were taken away and questioned for several hours. The march was eventually dispersed after which the platoon were given a de-brief by one of the RMA Directing Staff (DS).

During the following two days and nights the platoon took part in many riots and the building of barricades, much to the annoyance of the Officer Cadets from RMA Sandhurst.

Every apprentice in the platoon thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope to be involved in another exercise in the near future. Many lessons were learnt on both sides - woe betide any apprentice using his newly acquired rent-a-crowd skills in the forthcoming leave.

BERLIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander	Lt R W Dempster REME
	Capt M R Maginess RAOC
Platoon Sergeant	Sgt A W Inder REME
	Sgt M A Hogan REME

Summer Term 1981

The Summer term got off to a hectic start with the summer camp at Penally, where the platoon took part in a variety of activities ranging from rock climbing and abseiling to sailing and canoeing. The sailing provided the platoon with plenty of excitement as the weather turned nasty and the water became very rough, causing ALcpl Mawe to capsize three times, finally having to be rescued by the RSM in the safety boat. Meanwhile, on the rock face, APte Pearce decided to combine the techniques of abseiling with those of free-falling - and still failed to beat the record for the descent! Despite these minor problems and the wet weather, the camp was enjoyed by all.

The return to Deepcut meant a return to the more mundane aspects of an apprentice's training with the

emphasis on military skills and education. On the military side, good grades were achieved by all the platoon, whilst in education, ACpl Jones, APtes Mew, MacTaggart and Stobbs passed GCE 'O' level English.

On the sporting side of life special mention should be made of the achievements on the athletics track of ALcpl Wilson and APte MacTaggart who crowned a successful season at unit level by being selected for the Junior Army team against Wales.

Finally, the platoon passed out of College on 6 August 1981. During the ceremony ACpl Jones was presented with the Skill-at-Arms trophy and APte MacTaggart was awarded the Sportsman Trophy.

Spring Term 1982

Berlin Platoon is the Recruit Platoon of the College. The apprentices joined only on 5 January 1982 and at the time of writing are just about to complete their first term. Listed below are some of their first impressions:

a. "Why I joined the Army" - APte Archibald

It all started when I was in primary school and my father used to tell me stores about things that happened to him and his mates when they were in the Army. They told me about the places they visited; the stories had a lot of adventure in them but there was always the hard bit of getting fit. They always said, "Stick it out to the end because the Army is the best life for you". I am pleased that I have joined and I don't think I will leave for a long time yet.

b. APte McGoldrick

I have found that to get on with people you have to be able to laugh at yourself and some of the mistakes you make. To get satisfaction out of Army life you have to participate in all the things you can. The College treats you as a grown up, not as a schoolboy.

c. APte Woodfine

The day after I arrived the platoon was given its clothing and kit. Only two of us did not need to take our kit back to change it because it was either too small or too big.

d. APte Simpson

When I first got here I thought I wouldn't like it, but when i got settled in I began to enjoy myself.

a. First day at the RAOC Apprentices College - APte I Quinn

As none of my family or friends are, or have been, in the Army I had no idea of what life was like for a soldier, how he worked and lived. The life here is a completely different style to the way I lived at home. I got to know the other guys as they came in, although I had a problem with the different accents, especially the guys from Scotland. When I first entered the Camp I knew it was going to be a good thing and that everything was going to be OK even though my parents were thousands of miles away.

f. Company Camp - Fremington APte R Quinn

There was an assault course to do which looked easy but when doing it it was really hard. You had teams of three and they had to go over the course as quickly as possible. At the end there was a 12-ft wall which you had to climb. It may sound and look easy,the thing was that you had to climb it with a 6-ft log.

g. APte Cox

I got into the canoe and had a very hard battle against the waves and

wind to get out. I must have got out about 20 metres when I got my first ducking in the waves. I spent most of the time in the sea, not in my canoe.

h. APte McFarlane

I pony I had was quite small but fast and it took off as soon as we got in to the field. At first I was quite scared but I soon settled down and totally enjoyed the rest of the ride which involved several gallops and one steep descent at full gallop which was terrifying. The funniest moment was when the platoon clown, Roy Reader, fell off his horse, much to the amusement of the platoon sergeant, Sgt Hogan.

i. APte Kelly

Although I was looking forward to going to Fremington I did have a few reservations about certain activities, namely the abseiling, the assault course and the canoeing. I managed pretty well on the abseiling and the assault course, although I must say that at the time I was totally scared stiff. I never actually got to do any canoeing as I was delayed by an accident that I would never in a million years have though would happen to me. It started on the Sunday afternoon after Church Parade. The platoon had been split into two groups, one to play rugby, the other to play football. I was to play rugby. Shortly before the game was due to start our platoon commander, Capt Maginess, and platoon sergeant, Sgt Hogan, came into the block to brief us on how to play at least a good game and maybe even win. Football was our strong point and so not a lot was said to this group. The rugby, however, was a different kettle of fish. We only had one good player, the rest of us only had a slight idea of what the game was about. Capt Maginess explained that there were to be no high tackles as these could be dangerous. At the time I was just doing up my locker. I felt a rough pair of hands grab me by the shoulders and a gruff voice say, "You'll do Kelly." I was at once hoisted by Sgt Hogan and placed in front of Capt Maginess. Capt Maginess demonstrated high tackles. The ones we weren't to use, and then announced that he was going to show us the correct way to tackle. I tried to move but it was too late - I was tackled!! There was a small 'click' as I fell to the ground. As I hit the ground I started emitting little whoops of pain. My leg was dislocated. My comrades were rolling about in hysterics while Capt Maginess was just staring in total amazement. Sgt Hogan, I am sure, was just about to launch into a volley of abuse about wingeing and whimpering, were it not for the fact that we were all looking at a strange protrudance at the side of my knee, namely my knee cap!! Well, I do admit to obtaining VIP treatment by Army standards and was extremely grateful to those like the CSM who kept me smiling and to Sgt Hogan who, dare I say it, acted like a human being!

Needless to say I missed the rugby match but was pleased to see we did better than our footballers. It shows they paid attention and did the correct tackles.

j. Fremington Camp - Anonymous

Overall Fremington Camp was a success for our platoon as we came second, which was good considering this was our first term. It also brought us together in adventurous activities and taught us never to play rugby with Capt Maginess.

BRUNEI PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt J E S Redwood RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D Carlin RAOC

Sgt A W Inder REME

Summer Term 1981

The silly season.

The survivors entered their third term at the College. It was non-stop from the start.

APtes O'Rourke, French and Lowres had already started the term a day early to go with the canoe club to Fremington. This was done in order to have a few days practise before entering the Army Surf championships.

Twelve lads joined Benghazi Platoon and went off to Berlin with them.

APte Mitchell went off sailing in the Solent with the OC for a week and obtained his RYA Competent Crew ticket. (Hello sailor!)

Back from Berlin, wash, shave, said hello to the rest of the platoon then on the bus to Penally. An enjoyable two weeks in the sun (when it came out from behind the rain clouds).

after Penally it was promotion time. APtes Gibson, Mitchell and Spinks were made up to ALcpl and ACpl Mathias formally took control of Brunei (he was already) on promotion to ASgt.

With half term approaching, APte Shipton went sailing with the CO in the Baltic. Well, it was not so much sailing as getting suntanned since there was no wind. This proved to be a small handicap though, and the exercise was understandably popular with all who took part.

Six lads joined Balaclava on Exercise "Far Look" to BAOR. ALcpl Spinks, who was now working with Bruneval Platoon, stepped in at the last moment to deputise for APte Pilgrim who had been bitten by an adder. They came back having really enjoyed themselves, only to be dragged out on battle camp to start digging-in in a defensive position.

ASgt Mathias departed to take part in Exercise 'Monti Bianco 81' and was not seen for weeks. He came back in desperate need of a haircut and with several hairy war stories!

ELT Camp - well the less said the better, I think. Not a successful time and the weather also refused to co-operate.

There was just enough time left for Sgt D Carlin to put them through their paces and pass their RPC 3 Drill Tests.

Then ALcpls Mitchell and Crawford slipped off to the west coast of Scotland to go sailing and miss a very wet Passing Out Parade.

On the whole an extremely busy term with nearly everyone going abroad or taking part in adventure training.

Winter Term 1981

For the first and last day of term all the platoon were together. In between times all, bar one, have passed their trade training and the majority have passed their driving test, in most cases on the second time around!

The local population of Deepcut has been terrorised by the lads in landrovers and Mini Metros as they

have a mad impulse to drive on the pavements rather than the roads. ALcpl Jenkins had a natural ability to do this, giving the instructors a few grey hairs before they gave up in despair.

The platoon took part in Exercise "Washington Wander" along the South Downs. Their map reading certainly has improved as they found all the pubs along the way - occupied! APte Tams caused some alarm and confusion when he was let loose on the radio and kept using the wrong call-sign.

Six lads went down to Penally again. This time to join the Ammunition Technicians of No 1 Ammunition Inspection & Disposal Unit in Tidworth on their Summer camp. To say they had an interesting time would be putting it mildly.

Once the Supply Specialists had finished their training, most spent a week or more at 43 Command Workshops applying their trade. All enjoyed this - especially ALcpl Crawford who volunteered to go nearly every week.

Then there was a little initiative exercise in which ALcpl Gibson somehow managed to get a postcard sent from the Scilly Isles, though he never actually quite got there! At the same time the OC was dragging APtes French and Shipton up Mont Blanc. Those of us still left in Barracks did get a postcard, albeit of a power cut in the Mont Blanc tunnel !

Those who had finished trade by half term formed part of the Guard of Honour for this year's Lord Mayor's Show in London. An honour indeed, but the four weeks rehearsal and No 1 Dress fittings did cause a few headaches, as lads were swapped around. Parades did not finish there. The following Monday it was up to Chilwell in Nottinghamshire to take part in their final parade and march through the City of Nottingham. Reveille at 0400 hrs was greeted with howls of horror from the lads, as we could only practise in the City during the early hours. ALcpls Paton and O'Rourke were to be stick orderlies but were 'fired' by the RSM, so on the day they stood guarding the entrance to the City Hall and had a hard time fighting off amorous admirers.

Now we are all back in Camp. The last few are retaking driving tests and practising for the Passing Out Parade before being despatched to the four corners of the world.

BRUNEVAL PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt T L Piper REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt J F Krett RAOC

Summer Term 1981

Bruneval Platoon arrived at the College on 9 June 1981 and, to the surprise and disgust of some, did not start learning their allocated trade straight away. They had to learn the other Army trade first; how to be a soldier! So, for the first few weeks they have had to knuckle down to boot polishing, uniform sizing and pressing and all the other intricacies of soldiering. We had to usual few fall by the wayside for various reasons and now are down to a nice round two dozen.

Within a few weeks we had passed the Acceptance Parade, much to the amazement of some observers and now we find that the Army will keep us (if we are good!)

Next on the agenda was the platoon



Fremington Camp 1982. Bruneval on the assault course. L to R Satchell, Kellaway, Snowden, Sidebottom, Brain

battle camp and we ventured out on to the training areas for a weekend of learning. Bashas became the order of the day and nasty army style things like all-night guards in trenches and standing-to at first light. Sleep was non-existent, as one individual who shall be nameless (but comes from Geordie land and wears glasses), kept calling "Stand-to" every five minutes as the pine cones fell on his head. He was heard to say to the platoon commander many times, "he's out there, sir, throwing stones at me".



Fremington again. APte Mackin of Bruneval Platoon abseiling with some apprehension

After a weekend of compo, it was back to camp in time for the Royal Wedding, and a good day was had by all. Our teams did not do too well in the Royal Nurdling competition but we entered into the spirit of it.

End of term was soon with us and before we all disappeared to the four corners of the country, to our loved ones and families, we found time to promote six apprentices to ALcpls and we wish them well on their climb up the "great ladder".

Winter term now looms, so, until next term, we wish you well.

Winter Term 1981

First week in September we all arrived back from summer leave to start the arduous winter term.

After the sharp, sudden shock of Sgt Kreft moving us at a great rate of knots around the Parade Square, we all soon settled in again, some of us detached to the two Recruit Platoons as JNCOs. Mention must be made at this point about our budding Field Marshals, Messrs Sidebottom, Snowdon, Bobbett, Jackson, Davies, Copping and Mulligan. We wish them well after their first step up the great promotion ladder.

Any thought of an easy term ahead was quickly dispelled by an exercise called "Washington Wander". This little jaunt consisted of a 25 mile speed march/competition along the South Downs Way to the north of Brighton, and, although we did not win it, the sight of APte Dean lying in the back of a truck, feet up in the air, scoffing Mars bars, will long be remembered. Talking of APte Dean, he has turned into our Adventure Training expert. Having spent most of his summer leave on the Isle of Arran diving and parascending, he now tells me he is off skiing next leave.

The very next week saw the College inter-Company cross country race and everyone seems to have put in a good effort because A Company came second. Back to the grindstone for a few weeks and then the third week in October saw us depart for the jungle on our second term battle camp. Two days of praying for the rain to



The Fremington Assault Wall being tackled successfully by APtes Connor (on top) and Gooden

stop seemed to have the desired effect because the sun came out and we all dried off. A good time was had by all, except for the two civilians who were shot at by ALcpl Bobbett whilst out walking with their dog. (Blanks of course).

Half term leave was soon upon us so off we went to the four corners of the country only to return a mere four days later. This half of the term went very quickly with two trips to London, the inter-Company boxing, in which two of our platoon took part and A Company came second again. The assault march took place three weeks before the end of term and, somehow, even though we had the fastest time for the march and for the assault course, we came second. Could it be a fix?

As this article is written the frenzy of the end of term is upon us, so, until next time, Adios!

Spring Term 1982

5 January 1982 saw the platoon arrive back, refreshed and broke, from Christmas leave to start the new term. Straight away everbody realised that a busy time was in the offing when every spare minute was spent on band practice to prepare for the forthcoming trip to Germany and people started muttering about camps of all descriptions.

Within two weeks we were away on the first one to Wales for ELT camp at Capel Curig. Wales might be nice for a stroll in the Summer, but in January it is horrible, very cold, misty and, of course, a plethora of rain. After the first day everybody was wondering what the high level walk would be like if the mountains climbed on the low level walk were supposed to be small ones.

The weather responded well on the day we were to climb Snowdon. It rained all day. Nevertheless the climb turned out to be a satisfying one, even if APte Dean had to be enticed along the "Crib Coch" knife edge by the platoon Commander holding a Mars bar in front of him.

After a day in the slate mines making our way through the tunnels, it was time for the 48-hour exercise. Surprisingly survival instincts came to the fore and everyone accommodated the rigours of outdoor living happily.

Three days back at Deepcut saw us preparing for Term 3 battle camp at Long Valley. Anyone who has been there (up to their knees in mud) will testify what a quagmire the place is, but we all enjoyed the week and valuable lessons were learned by all parties.

Half term was soon upon us and again we dispersed to the four corners of the British Isles.

Thankful for the respite we started the second half of the term, which included Company camp at Fremington.

The camp was enjoyed by all, even the weather was kind and the laughs came in droves. The best of the week was APte Roberts hanging from the top of the water tower swinging around and around like a conker.

It is not true that "the answer my friends is blowing in the wind". Unfortunately we had to return to Deepcut early to practice for our impending tour to Germany.

BURMA PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt W L Hutton REME
Capt T S Marwaha REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt S Squires REME
Sgt D Carlin RAOC

Summer Term 1981

The platoon's illustrious leader, Lt (Wild) Bill Hutton REME departed on an Ordnance Officer's course in order to qualify to join the RAOC. Capt Tochi Marwaha REME took the helm at the start of term 3 in time to go to summer camp.

Tenby proved to be a change from the previous year. The weather was at its worse but the platoon worked as a team and enjoyed the camp. Many (including the platoon commander) learning the skills of



Building fences at the South of England Show - Ardingly

sailing and canoeing.

Next came the South of England show at Ardingly. The weather at its inclement worst, the first day proved to be extremely wet and muddy. The boys, tasked with building show jumping fences, did an excellent job under trying conditions, the help being much appreciated by the organisers.

The term, going fast, saw the platoon on battle camp. This was the longest period the boys had been in the field, some adapted well and some not so well. The stalwarts of hard work, APtes White and Maratheftis, showed the way.

The climax of outdoor activity was the External Leadership Training (ELT) camp at Capel Curig. As usual the weather was awful but the platoon completed all the activities. APte Thompson was nominated for the ELT trophy for his inspired leadership and map reading on the three day exercise.

The monsoons came with the Passing Out Parade, the awards eventually having to be presented in the gymnasium. APte Thompson was awarded the education and the ELT prize.

Winter Term 1981

37 new recruits arrived full of enthusiasm and some apprehension. Six departed quickly. They were thrown in at the deep end on Exercise "Washington Wander", a 25 mile speed march on the South Downs. A Burma team just missed winning the recruit team prize by four minutes but the platoon redeemed itself by winning the recruit platoon prize.

Potted sports proved too much for the platoon. The shame of losing to Bruneval was too much for the platoon commander Capt 'Catch me if you can' Marwaha and the platoon was on extra fitness training and has been ever since.

Map reading proved to be a 'mindful' for the platoon but "Let me go" Iles was away like a racing pigeon and did manage to get back home. Still working on getting it right.

Lt 'Get em wet' Redwood organised initiative tests for the Company. High hopes were held for the intelligent REME soldiers. Alas they let themselves down. Like true soldiers they managed to blame the Apprentice NCOs - guess the cap badge?

Promotion came Pentecost's way and he is still suffering from the shock of responsibility. The gladiators of Burma - Cupit, Rymell, Pentecost and Williams acquitted themselves well in the inter-Company boxing match. Cupit and Rymell being outright winners whilst the other two just lost their bouts but not their honour.

A March and Shoot competition was negotiated during the term. 'Let me go' Iles struck again. Burma 1st team took a long time to get to the ranges - but, due amends were made on the way back. The platoon proved to be the best at shooting and won the competition because of it.

Friday 4 December 1981 saw another initiative exercise out of the way, Burma pipping Benghazi at the post.

A successful end to the winter term came with the platoon winning the inter-platoon shield, beating Bruneval, a second term platoon, and Balaclava and Brunei, both fourth term platoons. Benghazi never featured.

Spring Term 1982

The Spring term started off slowly with lots of physical training to work off the Christmas pud. Inter-platoon football was being staged - Burma are in the semi-finals. Battle camp saw a few 'goings on' with the platoon getting lost for seven hours (!!!) on a night map reading exer-

cise on Ash Ranges - who can believe it? Comments from the platoon did not spare the platoon commander. An extract from one, "When the RV was reached we were put into a defensive position which was supposed to be tactical although Capt Marwaha was standing out in plain view of everybody."

Battle Camp 1 - Apprentices 0

The next big event was the Company camp at Fremington. The platoon was psyched up to win all the competitions going. The effort was excellent and we only failed to make a clean sweep of all competitions by losing the map reading and football, but we came tops. Sgt Carlin couldn't have been happier.

The term is coming to an end but not before we added the inter-platoon cross country running to our list of achievements.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Education Officer — Maj D G Edwards B A RAEC

Maj K E B Abnett B A RAEC

The JAEC scheme (Junior Army Education Certificate), the description of which was outlined in the last edition of Thunderbolt, is naturally the major work of the instructors of the Education Department. The continual re-assessment of objectives and syllabi is an on-going function that occupies much of the time of instructors, the aim being to provide educational courses which are relevant and interesting to the apprentice and which will provide the RAOC with an adult recruit who is effective in his work from the moment of arrival on unit. Based on the results gained in JAEC, the better students are entered for the Adult Education for Promotion Certificate in two subjects: Military Calculations (mathematics with a Service bias) and the Army in the Contemporary World (current affairs related to the military profession). Over the last 12 months 96 examination subjects have been set and 65 subject passes were achieved: a percentage pass rate of 67.6%.

Over the year all military and civilian staff have continued their involvement with many activities outside the realm of formal education. Major Beaumont is wholeheartedly involved in the art of parascending - a sport which seems to involve elements of water-skiing, hang gliding and parachuting wrapped in a cocoon of nervous tension. Surface water sports are in the more than capable hands of Capt Manuel, Capt Scott and those stalwarts of off-shore cruising Messrs Johnson and Watson. Capt Barnes and Lt Snow gaze at the world through swimming masks in any wet environment from Farnborough to the Isle of Lewis. Capt Hanlan occupies himself with cross country running and orienteering; golf is in the semi-professional hands of Lt Col Schofield; modelling wargaming and equitation are in the hands of Mr Heap. Major Forrest, meanwhile, does things with wood and apprentices.

Individual studies make full use of the educational experience of Wing Commander Hope. The Senior Education Officer tries to control and integrate all these activities.

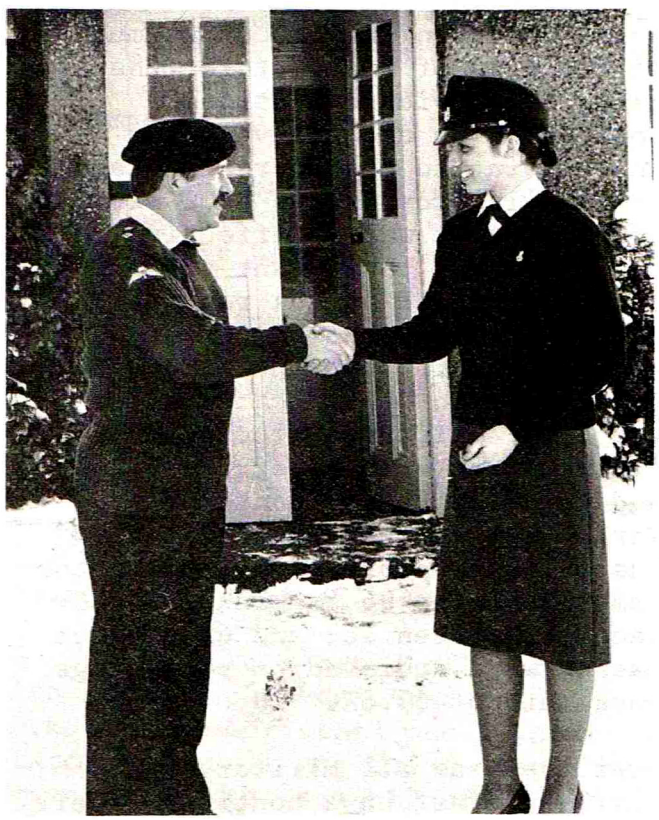
This has been a year of many staff changes in Education Wing. Major Edwards has left Blackdown for Berlin and has been replaced by Major Abnett. Major Beaumont, after 16 years in the Royal Army Educational Corps is discarding his uniform to



In the Library. The Padre, the Rev M R Ryall being introduced to General Travers by the SEO, Maj Edwards, with Mr W E Smith looking on

become a civilian lecturer in Aldershot. Lt (now Capt) Bott and Major Dixon have moved to other locations in South East District and (what treachery!) Capt Scott is in the act of transfering from RAEC to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Mr Smith, after many, many years in the Service of the College has now taken a well earned retirement - however, we hope to enjoy his company on summer camp. Last but not least, Wing Commander Hope after 10 years as a lecturer is leaving the College on retirement. Apart from two years (1946-48) as a civilian, Wing Commander Hope has been involved with the Services since 1940 belonging originally to the Royal Artillery, then the King's African Rifles. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1948 where he served until 1972.

To all the above many thanks are due for all the work that they have put into the College. For the military personnel on posting it is hoped that the experience gained here will stand them in good stead in future



The CO greeting the latest acquisition of the Education Department - 2Lt Angel Snow WRAC

postings. To Major Beaumont we offer good wishes and all success in what is to be his third career - our loss is someone else's gain. Finally to Mr Smith and Wing Commander Hope: may their retirements be long and contented.

Two promotions have taken place - Lts Manuel and Barnes have both become Captains, as has Capt Hanlan who, in addition to a third star, also became a father.

The arrival of Major Abnett has already been noted above; other postings in are Capt Hanlan and Lt Snow WRAC.

Without our civilian support staff the Education Wing could not function and the last year has seen three new faces: Mr Roberts as Librarian/ Storeman, Miss Whiting as Clerk and Mrs Jones, our cleaner, replacing Mrs Tarr who herself replaced Mrs Copley and Mrs Redman.

In conclusion it is felt that the last year has been one of consolidating the changes of the previous year and of producing a cohesive effort to maintain good standards of education. The consolidation and maintenance of standards depends on teamwork and the co-operation of all members of staff within Education Wing; it also relies on teamwork between all elements of the College in the aim of producing a professional, educated soldier. Happily this co-operation is one of the hallmarks of the College.

RETIREMENT

W E SMITH ESQ

Eddie Smith was born and bred in Doncaster until, on gaining a Higher School Certificate at Doncaster Grammar School, he entered Shoreditch Teachers Training College in London. There, in 1937, he gained his Teaching Diploma and his teaching career began in Huddersfield the same year. He enlisted on the outbreak of World War II in the Royal Military Police and served in that Corps at home and in NW Europe until demobilisation in 1946. He landed on the Normandy beaches on D+4 and finally finished his war service as an Assistant Provost Marshal. After the war he returned to teaching in Huddersfield but the call of his early wartime haunts and of the lady who became his wife brought him in 1948 to Surrey where he has lived ever since. From 1948 to 1962 he taught in Egham, became Senior Master of his School and a Head of Department in Further Education. He served for several years as President of the Thames Valley Area of the National Union of Teachers. In Spring 1962 he came as a Lecturer to this College.

During his time here Eddie concentrated on the teaching of English. To his success in this calling



"I count life just a stuff to try the soul's strength on - Educe the man" *Robert Browning*

something like 2,000 junior leaders and apprentices will testify, as they will to his prowess as a drama coach and producer of plays. In addition many hundreds of boys benefited from his skill in coaching soccer, cricket and tennis.

To my mind Eddie had, and still has of course, three outstanding qualities. First, he was a master of his profession (to say that he was a true professional is nowadays too much of a meaningless cliche) and an educator in its truest and fullest sense. Secondly he was the epitome of loyalty. No-one and no event in this College was ever let down by him. Thirdly he was a true and practising Christian gentleman. His faith and moral probity shone, and will continue to shine, like a beacon light in the midst of modern 'permissiveness' and amorality. He believed that "like a cog with a catch - our law of life should be one tooth higher in the wheel every day" and I, for one, am a better man for having known him.

Eddie and his wife Constance have retired to live in Shere, one of the prettier villages of the south east (between Guildford and Dorking), and would be pleased to see any of their erstwhile colleagues and proteges who find themselves in that area. For our part let us be thankful for all they have contributed to the life of the College over the past twenty years and wish them a long and happy retirement.

RETIREMENT

Wing Commander P W Hope RAF (Retd)

Wing Commander Hope gained a degree in London University before the Second World War but in 1940 he joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery in the rank of Gunner. He saw arduous service in Anti-Aircraft Defence (GB) in East London and in Kent. Eventually he was commissioned in the King's African Rifles serving in East Africa and the Far East and achieving the rank of Acting Major.

When peace came he became a civilian but after two years he rejoined the Colours ; this time in the Royal Air Force.

Over the next 24 years he served in various education appointments in Europe and the Far and Middle East, reaching the rank of Wing Commander. For the last four years of uniformed service he was working with the Service Children's Education Authority.

On retirement in 1972 he looked around for some means of continuing his service and eventually found his niche in the RAOC Apprentices College. In his work here Wing Commander Hope saw his task as being two-fold; firstly, to give the young soldier an education that would make him more effective; secondly, to give an open ended training that would serve this young soldier for the rest of his life. This second aim was seen to its full in the hobby periods when anything and everything was grist to the educational mill.

One of his great loves is cricket and over the years he has attempted to instil his love of the sport and his performance into many generations of Apprentices.

In short, Wing Commander Hope epitomises two very British expressions: a gentleman and a gentle man. To Peter and to his wife Molly the staff of the College wish a long and contented retirement.

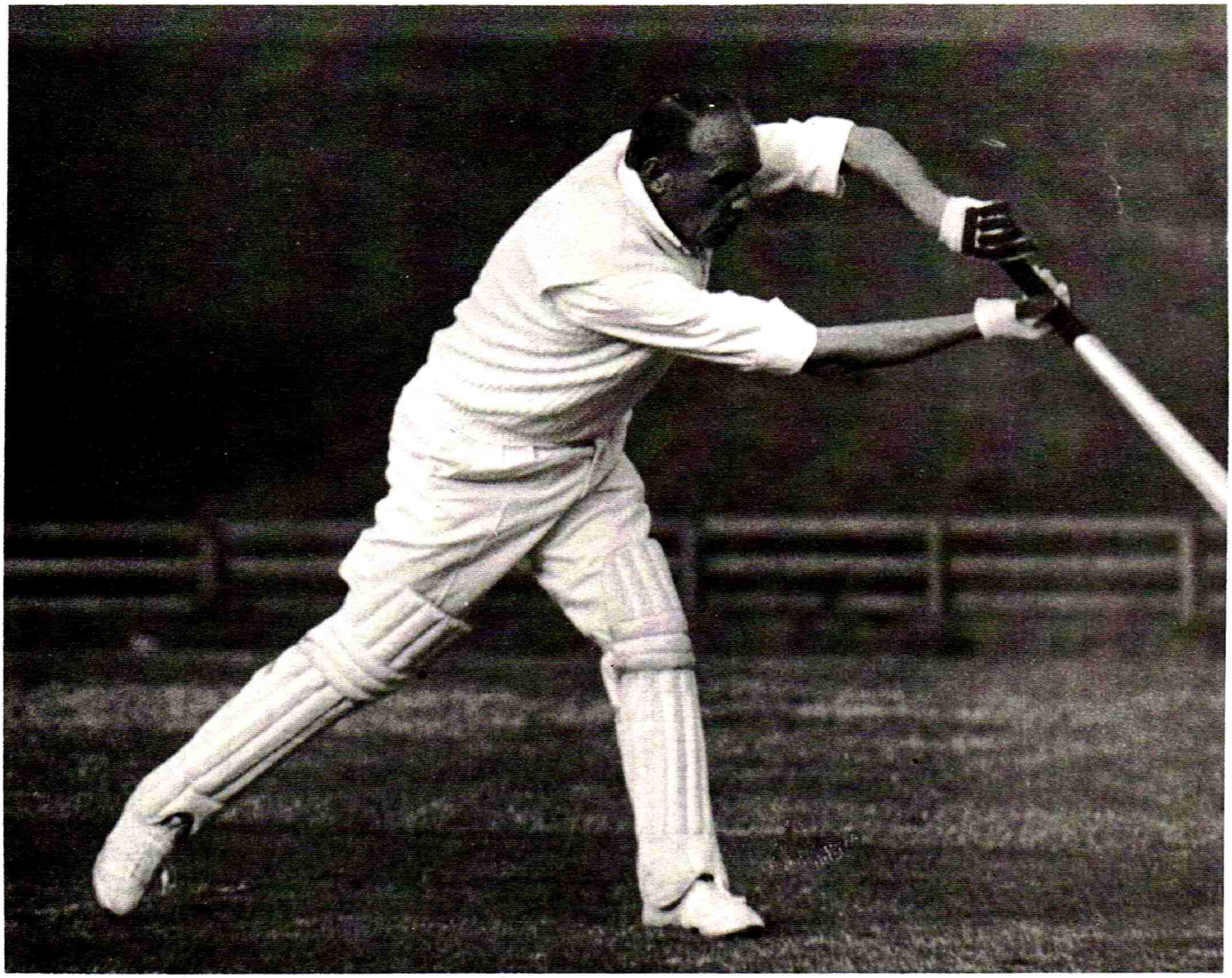
OBITUARY

Major G H W Neale RAEC (Retd)

The announcement of the death after a short illness of Major George Henry Walter Neale came as a shock, not only to the members of the RAOC Apprentices College, and his many friends and acquaintances in the Royal Army Educational Corps but also to the innumerable sportsmen who had played with and against him over many years.

"George" as he was always known, openly by his friends and surreptitiously by generations of young soldiers had a long and varied military career which began in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment when he was called up in 1944.

In 1946 he transferred to the RAEC and was commissioned in 1961. In the RAEC he served in the UK, Greece, Malaya, Germany and Singapore. The writer remembers George as an educational "Rock of Ages" in the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment at Tywyn, Merionethshire when he was happy to accept innovations - providing he could see a genuine need. Change for the sake of change found no acceptance in his mind. He spent the last seven years of his service in Deepcut, then he became a civilian teacher in a local preparatory school, finally returning to the College as Bursar.



George Neale as perhaps he would best like to be remembered by College, Corps and Army

George was, in his younger days, the complete corinthian: rugby, soccer, hockey and cricket were his joy. No-one who has ever seen him scoring 150 runs in an Army Cup match and then taking six wickets with his left arm medium to fast swingers will ever forget the sight. Because of his many sports at all of which he achieved a high standard he was acquainted with many "characters" and he had at his disposal a fund of stories about them. Now he has gone to join the ranks of the characters and he will be sadly missed.

George was truly a charitable man; he possessed many gifts and was willing to share them with the less fortunate. He was the epitome of professional integrity and displayed a well justified pride in any and all aspects of his work.

It is trite and banal to say that he will be sadly missed - that goes without saying. Often a voice is heard in one's mind "Do it this way; I think it might be better". This voice comes both in work and play.

To his widow Jill and his only child Greg the College offers its deepest sympathy in their most grievous loss. One quotation springs to mind "The Titans walked the earth when we were young". They did and he was one of them.

COLLEGE PRIZWINNERS 1981 - 1982

The boys who win prizes each term are the top 15 (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 then replicas and other prizes to remind them of their moments of triumph. But it 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 March 1981 to March 1982 are printed herewith.

	SPRING 1981	SUMMER 1981	WINTER 1981	SPRING 1982	
RECRUITS					
Nockles Cup (Skill at Arms)	APte Williams	APte Perryman	APte McKennar		
Recruit PT Cup	APte Elliott	APte Turtle		APte Archibald	(Berlin)
Best Recruit A Company	APte Clark	APte Jones	APte Nagy		
Best Recruit B Company		APte Copping	ALcpl Pentecost	APte Archibald	(Berlin)
EDUCATION					
The Toc H Cup (Best Scholar)	ALcpl Russell	APte Thompson	ASgt Bridgeman	ALcpl Fazackerley	(Aden)
MILITARY TRAINING					
Crawford Tankard (Best all round shot)	ACpl Purcell	ACpl Jones	APte Rees	APte Eggleton	(Arakan)
Maule Cup (Most Proficient Soldier)	ASgt Sullivan	ASgt Purcell	ASgt Spinks	ASgt Copping	(Burma)
Sergeants' Cup (Best all rounder)	ASgt Burns	ASgt Harper	ASgt Laing	ASgt Hepburn	(Arnhem)
Hayes Cup (For External Leadership	ALcpl Meek	APte Thompson	ASgt Mathias	ALcpl Gooden	(Bruneval)
CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY					
West Shield (For Citizenship)	APte Wilson	ACpl Sergeant	APte Schofield	APte Penn	(Burma)
St Albans Cup (For Initiative)		ALcpl Spinks	APte Rattan	ALcpl Nagy	(Arakan)
Pedlar Cup (For Leadership)			ASgt Corrish	ACpl Iles	(Burma)
SPORT					
Progress Cup (Best Sportsman)	APte Norman	APte McTaggart	APte Gooden	APte Cameron	(Benghazi)
Radley Cup (For Orienteering)	APte Thompson			APte Penn	(Burma)
Robinson Shield (Cross country)	APte McTaggart				
Timns Trophy (Corps of Drums Award)		APte Helm	ALcpl Howard		

ATHLETICS

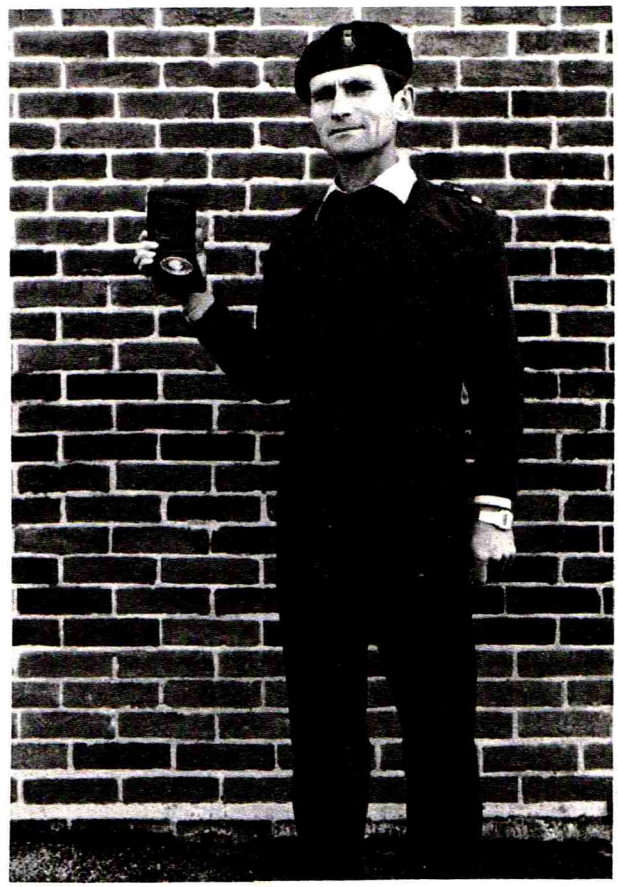
Officer in Charge Capt A N B Jelly RAOC

Capt B J Johnson RAOC

The 1981 Athletic season began in April when both Companies held separate championships in preparation for Apprentice College/ Training Centre meeting that was to be held on 7 May 1982 at Bracknell. This was to be a five team competition between A and B Coys Apprentice College, the Permanent Staff Apprentice College, Training Bn RAOC, and the Minor Units. After the exciting afternoon athletics B Coy narrowly beat A Coy, with the Senior event finishing in favour of the Training Bn.

The College entered the Army Junior Championships with a good team, coming a very close second to Junior Para. Excellent performances were gained by McTaggart (1st in the 1500m), Wilson (1st in 200m), Gibbs (1st in Long Jump) and Harper (1st in the Shot). Our relay team also won.

The Army Individual Championships saw the College well represented, and again McTaggart and Wilson triumphed. Their success was to give them their Army representative honours and their subsequent Army colours. A suitable climax to a short but successful athletic season for the College.



Capt Johnson proudly displaying his his "gold" as winner of the 'veterans' section of the Inter-Service Marathon on 29 April 1981

BADMINTON

Officer in Charge Capt M J Davis REME

February 1982 saw the College badminton team entering the Army Badminton Championships at the RAPC Training Centre at Worthy Down. We journeyed down to the mecca of badminton with a team of eight in a Bedford in the pouring rain. Everyone was feeling very confident after all the expert coaching they had received from Sgt Mick Hogan.

The morning of 12th February saw our first games in earnest. We were slightly out-classed and were quickly eliminated from the first round of play. The next day saw us back in the limelight, bubbling with confidence. This limelight, however, was soon snuffed out as one after another we were 'taken to the cleaners'. This was the day we

decided our coaching techniques were not paying off so the remainder of the day was spent studying games and discussing tactics.

Day three was a great day, a day of rest, spent once again studying games. Day four actually saw some of the team getting into the second round, not through winning I hasten to add. Once again, day four saw us doing a lot of more game studying.

Day five, you wouldn't credit it! The two veterans from the team, namely Sgts Clarke and Hogan got through to the third round of the doubles. Once again, I hasten to add, we luckily didn't have to play to get there and were quickly elminated by some equally old codgers. As a team, however, our spirits remained high and even if we didn't win, we learnt how to lose with dignity.

The gladiators consisted of:

Sgt (Mick) Hogan
Sgt (Nobby) Clarke
APtes Baker
Squire
Cummuns
Wood
King
Simpson

BASKETBALL

Officer in Charge Capt P L Freegard RAOC

Assistant Cpl N R Langton RAOC

For basketball players within the College the past year has been an extremely quiet one. The first occasion to celebrate happened on our return from the summer vacation. To our delight the DOE had completely replaced the gymnasium floor. This left just one problem - to move the college assemblies out of the gym and into the sports club. With the help of the RSM this has been done. But what about the sport?

Unfortunately the college has been rather short of co-ordinated tall people, consequently players for the basketball team have been few. A number of shorter people, however, have discovered some unknown talent and at the end of Spring term 1982 there appeared to be the nucleus of a squad. In view of the limited experience of most of the players training has been concentrated on basic drills such as "layups" and "jump shots". Some of the squad still had trouble dribbling the ball without looking at it and it was only when Capt Freegard placed a bench in the way did the apprentices attempt to concentrate on where they were going instead of bouncing the ball.

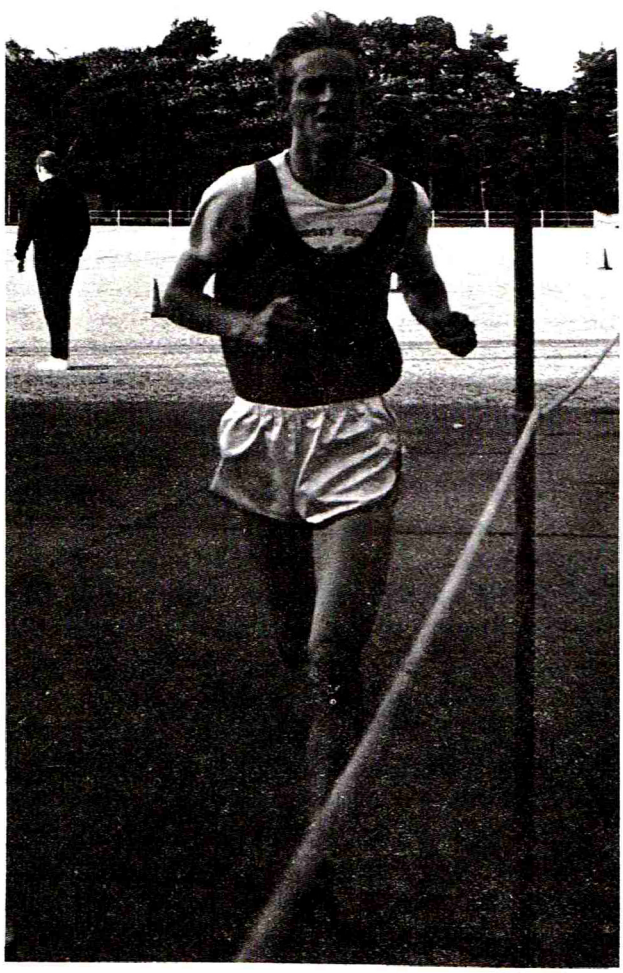
It is hoped that some new tall and keen players will be joining the college over the next two terms and will also be interested in playing basketball. If this is the case there is considerable scope for the game within the College. However if this does not happen there can be little hope of any serious competition with teams of other Apprentice Colleges and the game must remain at a 'training' rather than competitive level.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

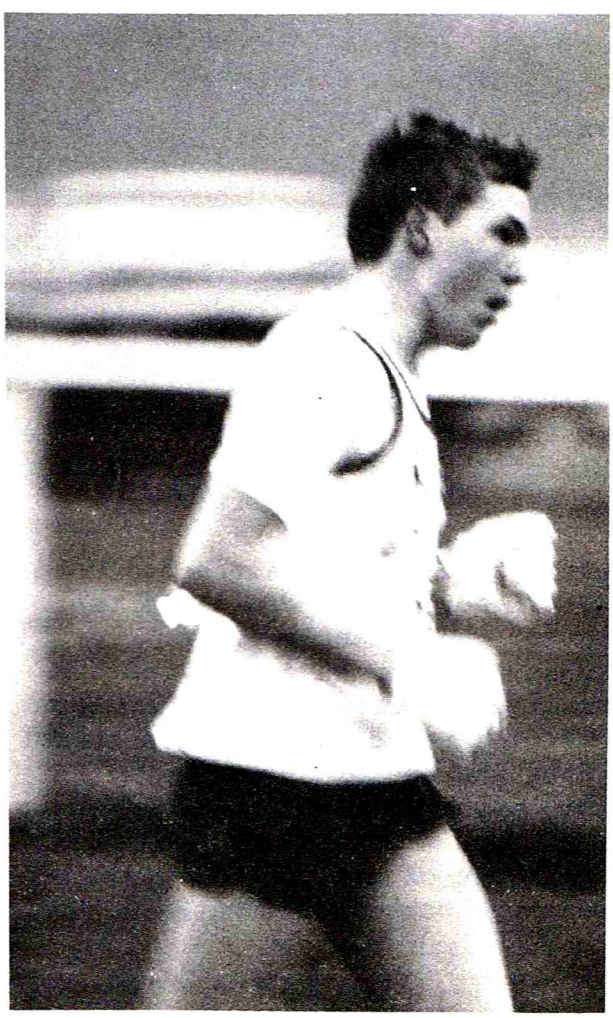
Officer in Charge Capt C G Hanlan RAEC

Assistant Cpl D A James RAOC

The past season can only be described as highly successful and has not only revealed some very promising runners indeed but a very strong squad! This was dominated in the winter term by a certain APte Lonnen whose running ability was the despair of opponents and envy/inspiration to the rest of the squad. His quality was revealed in the Army Relay Championships at Rushmoor in November when he was overall 14th in this event combining juniors and seniors in one field. Alas, Lonnen departed at the end of the winter term and is now no doubt, the pride of some Cross-country Officer in BAOR. Fortunately for the College a worthy successor was found in APte D Cameron who despite his tender years has established a formidable reputation for himself in the SEDIST Junior League (being overall individual winner). His finest hour (well, 30 minutes!) was at the Army Championships at Tweseldown where he was Junior Army Minor Units Champion. The College team did extremely well to reach this particular event, having qualified as SEDIST Junior Minor Units Champions at Blackdown. The



APte Lonnen winning the College Cross Country Cup (the Furness-Gibbon) Winter Term 1981



APte Cameron winning the Army Junior Cross Country Championship Spring Term 1982

team at Tweseldown consisted of APtes Turtill, Cameron, Iles, Maiden, Coward, Martin, Hartley, Stanton, Taylor and Ross. The team were runners up in this event to the very strong Jnr Inf Coy, Scot Div. Weather conditions were most unpleasant and the course resembled a motor bike scramble circuit.

On a more familiar, but equally gruelling course at Blackdown the College team won the RAOC Junior Minor Units Championship. This complemented the win by the Senior Trg Centre team which the inexhaustible Cpl D A James, my invaluable cross country assistant and coach, being himself an experienced marathon runner.

The College were runners up in the SEDIST League to the Major Unit ACC



The two outstanding cross country runners of 1982 cross the finish together at the end of the Spring Term Inter-Company competition - Turtill and Cameron both of Benghazi

App College team, but were only narrowly beaten mainly due to having to field weakened teams during Spring camp at Fremington. The prizegiving for the league was held after the final fixture of the season at the Apprentice College and Lt Col Gane of the ETS awarded the prizes. The photograph shows the College team together with members of staff who have contributed to the smooth running of four, College hosted, events this season.

The inter-coy cross country events for the Furness-Gibbon trophy were dominated by the B Company teams although the opportunity to compete in such a large field is an enjoyable one for most apprentices and also serves as an indicator of potential cross country runners, hiding their lights under bushels!

RECORD OF MAIN EVENTS

Army Inter-Unit Cross Country Relay Championships at Rushmoor
(Saturday 7 November 1981)

APte Lonnen 14th overall and 2nd of Junior Major Units.

RAOC Cross Country Championships at Blackdown (Thursday 21 January 1982)

RAOC App Coll WON Junior Minor Units, APte Cameron 1st



The CO launches the 1981 Winter Term Inter-Company competition
Winner APte Lonnen (Brunei Platoon)

SEDIST (ZONE 1) Cross Country Championships at Blackdown
(Thursday 4 February 1982

RAOC App Coll WON Junior Minor Units
APte Cameron 1st

Army Junior Units Cross Country Championships at Tweseldown
(Wednesday 17 February 1982)

RAOC App Coll runners up to Jnr Inf Coy Scot Div.
APte Cameron Army Junior Champion

Inter-Company Cross Country
(Furness-Gibbon Trophy)

Winter 1981 -
Winning Platoon - Brunei
Winning Company - B
Spring 1982 -
Winning Platoon - Benghazi
Winning Company - B

SEDIST League Fixtures

RAOC App Coll runners up to ACC.
APte Cameron individual winner



Back row (left to right)

Lcpl John APtes Mackie Coward and Taylor. Cpl James APtes Ross, Stanton, Lcpl Woollaston

Front row: (left to right)

APtes Iles Cameron Turtill Hartley James

DINGHY SAILING

Officer in Charge Capt P Scott RAEC

The sport of dinghy sailing continues to gain in popularity in the college. 15 apprentices have sailed regularly at Hawley Lake in all conditions, ranging from the balmy days of summer to gales and sleet. Ice breaking was introduced at one point this winter!

Ten apprentices were awarded the RYA Elementary Dayboat Certificate, after a one week course organised by Mrs V Potter. Capsize drill was enjoyed by all, and several apprentices attempted wind surfing. This activity was enjoyed greatly by spectators.

The College Sailing team participated in three regattas. APte Leslie (helm) and APte Garrick (crew) gained 6th place in the ASA Junior

Championships. The same team achieved 5th place at the RAOC Inter Unit Team races held at Netley. At the RAOC Individual regatta, APte Lang gained 4th place, APte McShane was awarded the Nicol Trophy for the best junior helm and Mrs T A Glen won the Crew's Race.

This has been a most successful year on the regatta scene, but more important, 15 apprentices have gained enjoyment and challenge from sailing, which hopefull will encourage them to continue sailing when they join the adult Army.

OFFSHORE SAILING

Officer In Charge Mr J F Watson

Assistant Mr M F Johnson

Undoubtedly 1981 proved to be one of the most successful we have ever experienced.

Immediately after Easter leave we took part in the RAOC Offshore regatta. We were fortunate in having available a second yacht. Major Pat Dixon RAEC, a member of the education wing, agreed to enter his own 32' yacht "Skarloey" thus enabling us to put two crews into this annual event. Both yachts, our own "Thunderbolt" and "Skarloey" raced on the first day (Saturday 9th May) but a minor disaster overtook Thunderbolt after the first race and instead of enjoying a dinner and social evening Mr Johnson and Mr Watson made up and fitted a workable replica of the broken coupling. On Sunday the college raced in "Skarloey" while "Thunderbolt" licked her wounds and prepared for the planned trip to Plymouth the following day.

Annual camp was to be held in Tenby but it had been decided to sail "Thunderbolt" to Plymouth and to utilize the fine sailing waters in the South West to enable as many apprentices as possible to gain experience "offshore".

During the camp period 12 apprentices were "put to sea" and we visited Fowey, Dartmouth, Weymouth, Lymington and finally returned to Gosport. Having returned home we immediately set about preparing the yacht for the ASA Offshore Regatta to be held in June. Once again the weather favoured the larger yachts - blustering winds and choppy seas do not suit our small (23') sloop, we managed to finish all races but I'm afraid we couldn't claim any line honours.



Aboard "Thunderer" in the USA
APtes Jones, Mills and Broom

The four apprentices who joined the permanent staff on this occasion had

mixed feelings as to whether or not they would wish to repeat the experience. Better times, however, we just around the corner. The College had been invited to take part in the annual RAOC/RAPC Baltic Regatta throughout the third week of June. A party consisting of Lt Col K E Curtis, Mr M F Johnson and apprentices Mills, Skipton and Jones headed for Kiel in the college minibus. Two interesting days were spent at the Ordnance Depot, Viersen, before the long drive north to Kiel and the serious business of racing. There were six passage races spread over five days. It was hot but there was little wind so that a great deal of time was spent at sea. We were placed 7th out of a fleet of 12 matched yachts. A most worthwhile trip and excellent sailing in the wonderful cruising waters around the Danish Islands.



"Thunderer" alongside in Fisherman's Bay, USA

Yet more exotic foreign waters awaited us in the latter part of July when the college took part in exercise "American Thunderer". The Corps yacht "Thunderer" had been sailed to Newport Rhode Island USA in the International Double Handed trans-atlantic race by two members of the RAOC SA. The yacht was to be sailed back to UK in a series of legs by different crews. We were allocated the second leg which was within the magnificent Chesapeake Bay. Mr Watson and Mr Johnson took a party of three apprentices on this "sail of the century". We finally tied Thunderer up in the very heart of Washington DC with each member of the crew agreeing that they had enjoyed a wonderful experience.

These then were the highlights of the Offshore Sailing year but of course do not tell the whole story. 18 other apprentices were introduced to the demands and excitement of offshore sailing on a daily basis within Solent waters on the college yacht "Thunderbolt".

Having, during the past few days, put the yacht back into the water after her "lay up period" we now look forward to an equally rewarding season in 1982.

MODEL MAKING / ART CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

Assistant Mrs Souter

1981 began badly with the hobby room being put out of action by an electrical fault. This limited the work of the hobby until Easter when the fault was finally rectified. Thereafter the hobby went from strength to strength.

Though numbers are smaller than in recent years the enthusiasm and dedication has grown. All aspects of the hobby have been successfully tackled this year. The Art side has once more been looked after by Mrs Souter, while Capt J P Inman has taken a keen interest in the War-gaming.

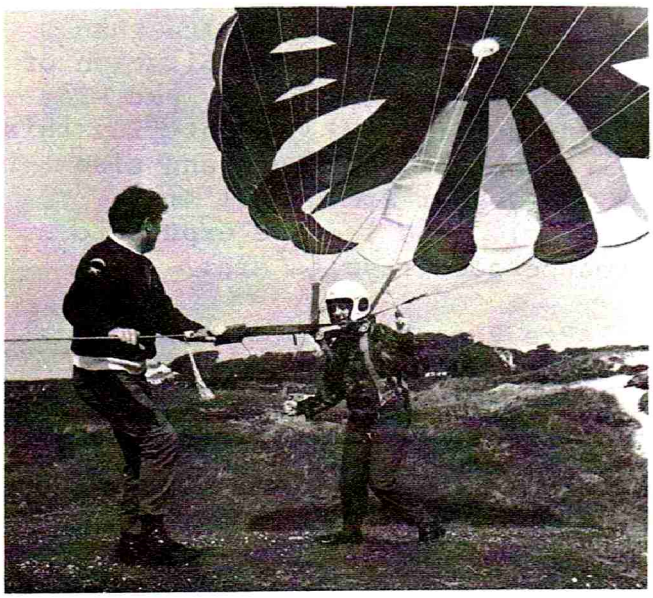
The wargaming part of the hobby is affiliated to the Army Wargames Society.

PARASCENDING

Officer in Charge Major G D Beaumont RAEC

College parascending in 1981/82 has varied with the weather. At annual camp high winds precluded almost all ascending. Thus the activity featured in the photograph became the "order of the day".

The weekly excursions to Weyhill Airfield, Andover, however, were much more successful. Some 1200 ascents were made in the full year and a number of apprentices progressed to self-release and canopy maneouvres from 800-900 ft.



A WRAC colleague being exercised in tethered canopy control at Penally by WO2 (CSM) Finish, former CSM of A Company

It was decided not to expose our ascenders to the very high standards now prevailing in the National and Army accuracy championships, in which the target is at 10-cm (4 inch) disc. To have entered a team would have meant concentrating exclusively on some 6-8 apprentices, a course contrary to our policy of trying to put every boy in the College into the air.



Ian Bunyard, son of OC A Company, undergoing the same fate

On a personal note, I was responsible for introduction parascending to the College in 1974. The Unit has since gone from strength to strength and has become an important focus for the sport within the Army. Most important of all, successive intakes of apprentices have enjoyed cheap and effective air experience.

Intructors also have come and gone, the latest WO2 Finch leaving to spread the ascending word in BAOR. I, too, leave at Easter to form a new Club at Depot Para and Airborne Forces. The College club I leave in the capable hands of Sgt Scott who is already a sports parachutist and has taken readily to our variation on the sport.

SHOOTING

Officer in Charge WO2 (CSM) M A Bloomfield RAOC

Assistants WO2 (CSM) D M J Rooke RAOC

Sgt D J Fox RAOC

Cpl R D Rainey RAOC

The sport of shooting used to take place every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, but due to the re-vamping of the College training programme shooting only happens on Thursdays. This has obviously taken its toll on the standards achieved but it has by no means stumped the enthusiasm of the lads who have opted to undertake the sport.

Last year the boys were entered for the South East District Small Arms Meeting (SEDSAM) and made a credible account of themselves even though they had to depart from the College summer camp some six days earlier. Two notable shots for this meeting were:

ASgt Purcell
APte Eagle

This year, however, we expect to achieve even better results than last year due to the inspiration of Cpl Rainey who has really put his heart into it. We are entering this year's SEDSAM once more and also JASAM (Junior Army Small Arms Meeting). The lads we expect to produce good results are:

APte Rees
APte Eggleton

Both are from Arakan Platoon whose Platoon Sergeant Nobby Clarke is a notable shot himself.

SKIING

Officer in Charge Capt R A C Eccles RAOC

PRE SEASON BUILD UP 1981

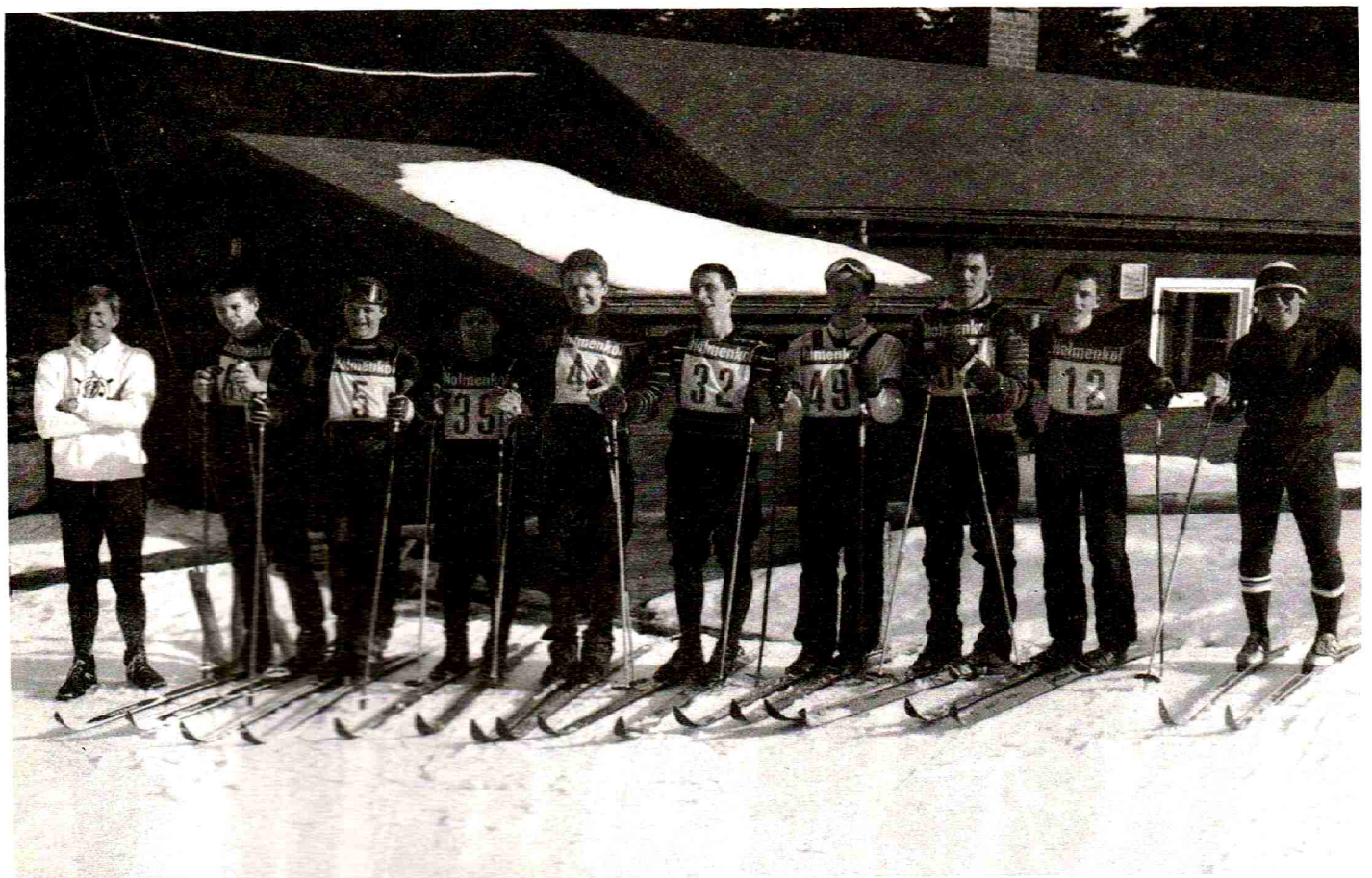
Word was passed of a ski meeting to be held at the beginning of the Winter Term 1981. Multitudes of apprentices appeared with thoughts of glory. The problems of fitness, cold weather and financial expense were put to them. The multitude dwindled to a mere 25, who were then taken to the Dry Ski slope at Aldershot and put through their paces. Capt Eccles and Sgt Gatley worked them for a full afternoon until 16 emerged as either competent skiers or showing good natural balance and an aptitude for skiing.

EXERCISE "SNOW CROSS MINOR"
6-12 February 1982

The first major trial came in the form of Exercise "Snow Cross Minor". This exercise organised by HQ Scotland involved two weeks arduous cross country ski training in the Harz mountains of West Germany.

The party, which comprised of Capt Eccles with APtes Tomkins, Bennett, Schofield, Hortop, Allen, Armstrong, Hayward-Wills, Redman and Hawkins, made the journey to the Harz by coach. On arrival the accommodation was found to be an old German ammunition factory with 60 men to a room. The food, however, was good and there was plenty of hot water.

The training programme was kept demanding and interesting. Snow



Snow Cross Minor. The College team prior to the 10 km race. Major Forbes, Silberhutte Commandant, is on the left

conditions were fair to icy, but with plenty of sunshine. Each day was spent on skis progressing to longer and longer distances. A series of races were undertaken which results with APte Tomkins as individual winner out of 50 apprentices and the RAOC Apprentices College team coming second out of five teams.

Evenings contained a series of lectures and films pertaining to cross country skiing and winter survival. There were also entertainment films and nights out in the local village.

The College mid-course break was taken at Bielefeld. Hosted by Corps Vehicle Company and ex A Company CSM Finch, the apprentices enjoyed a visit to another part of Germany.

EXERCISE "SNOW PLOUGH"
1-13 March 1982

Exercise "Snow Plough" was held at the RAOC Ski hut in Nethybridge, Aviemore, Scotland. It comprised of one week's downhill ski training and the second week in participation of the Army UK Ski championships.

Sgt Gatley undertook the training week with APtes Redman, Armstrong, Allen, Hawkins, Stevnson, Margison, Russer, Wright and Hortop. In difficult conditions the lads did well to achieve a very reasonable standard. Capt Eccles joined the part for the race week. The College was squeezed into second place by the Queen's Depot, with APte Allen taking the 'Tonanti' Trophy for the fastest apprentice.

Capt Eccles won the RAOC individual prize with Capt Freegard not far behind. Final seedings after all these races placed APte Margison 99 and Armstrong at 106; very commendable from a field of over 250.

SUMMARY

The College had a good ski season achieving notable results in both downhill and cross country skiing. All the apprentices worked hard and pushed themselves to their limits. In fact Hortop pushed himself so hard that he passed his limit and, alas, broke a leg.



Army Ski Championships, Aviemore 7-13 March. Capt Eccles, centre, with RAOC Apprentices College 'A' team to his right: APtes Redman, Armstrong, Allen and Hawkins. 'B' team right - Stevenson, Margison, Russer and Wright D C

SOCCER

Officer in Charge Capt B J Johnson RAOC

The 1981-82 season began with good intentions. Early September evenings saw several college trial matches, when some 80 players were seen and from which a squad of 40 was chosen. The spread throughout the College was very good, with several of last years players still available and many promising first termers.

With additional help from LCpl John serious training began, skills were improved and tactics practised. Football was granted the status of a college sport and EMA.

On 15 October 1981 the College played their first match, a SEDIST Cup match against B Company ACC Apprentices College. With the best side we could muster we came out eventual winners by 3-1. Outstanding performances were given by Walton, Woodman, Gooden and Snowdon.

This saw us into the second round, this time against D Company ACC. This was a hard closely fought game

that we lost 2-1. It was during this match that McIntosh, one of our good defenders was injured. An injury to his back has kept him out of the game all season.

The District League competition was soon on us and we were able to produce good A and B sides. On 29 October 1981 not only did we take on Junior Guards A and B XI but also entered a team for the Recruit Intake Cup and were drawn to play Junior Para. The effort of putting out three XIs meant that we beat Guard A, lost to their B and beat Para in an exciting game 6-5. It was during this game that all the skills of Baker, the determined tackling of Dolan and the daring saves of Wytt were noticed.

November was a poor month for the club. Weakened by fourth term players not being able to play because of trade training and third terms through Battle Camp and ELT we lot most of our games. Concluding with great games against RAMC 'B' and Para 'A' in the league meant that we finished the A and B leagues in 3rd and 4th place. It was rather disappointing and not truly representative of our true potential.

The season began again in January 1982 this time with League Cup and Army Cup competitions. It soon became apparent that the loss of six first XI and four second XI players (on posting to adult service) was not going to be compensated by new term's recruits. We duly lost more games than we won. Our much weaker teams finished bottom of their leagues. This is by no means any reflection on the skillful football played by both teams. The College came up against older players from units with a far larger population of players to select from.

Special mention must be made of some of the regular players who worked so hard during this part of the season. They are Thomas, Dolan, Williams, Greenwood, Redman, Baker, Harrison, Hawkins, Copping, Snowdon and Gooden.

On the internal scene the inter-platoon competition got underway in January. Both companies were split into two leagues, each platoon playing each other once. Some enthusiastic matches were soon in full flow. It was not until March that the full league results were known.

A COMPANY

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Arnhem	3	3	-	-	31	3	6
Alamein	3	2	1	-	16	15	4
Arakan	3	1	2	-	10	16	2
Ardness	3	-	3	-	15	38	-

B COMPANY

Bruneval	3	3	-	-	15	8	6
Burma	3	2	1	-	13	7	4
Benghazi	3	1	2	-	13	10	2
Berlin	3	-	3	-	6	16	-

The semi finals were between Arnhem and Burma and Alamein and Bruneval. Alamein almost shocked Bruneval but eventually lost 5-2. Arnhem after a nail biting game just beat Burma 4-3.

This led up to the final, Arnhem versus Bruneval which had the makings of a good hard match. But in the end it was the more skillful side of Bruneval who cruised to any easy 7-1 win. The Commanding Officer presented plaques and medals to both sides.

B Company came out winners in the inter company festival match by 6 goals to 2.

At the end of term all first team players and regular second team players were presented with their colours.

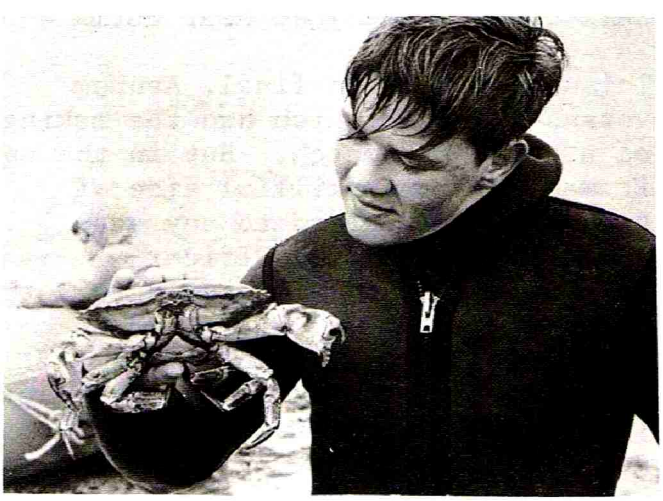
SUB AQUA CLUB

Officer in Charge Capt A Barnes RAEC

1981 was another eventful year for the College sub aqua club with an expedition to Cyprus cancelled at the last minute but a highly successful trip to the Outer Hebrides in August.

The club began with its training programme based on the experience gained previously with the exception that we now use the impressive facilities of the Royal Engineers swimming pool - not to mention sauna - for practical weekly instruction. Our theory requirements are very kindly taken care of by Mrs Power who comes to instruct on Monday evenings. Preliminary open water diving again has continued by kind permission of HMS Vernon and the club has spent several sunny afternoons diving at Gosport.

Our August expedition to the Isles of Lewis and Harris in the Outer Hebrides was a huge success. Ten apprentices took part and a joint services flavour was added by the welcome addition of Flt Lt Baillie RAF and two representatives from the Guards Depot. Two weeks of diving around the rugged coastline of these islands was both exhilarating and



"You're supposed to cook it first!"
APte Martin (Arnhem)

exhausting but perhaps a fitting climax to the visit was locating and diving on the wreck of SS Stassa in Loch Rodel. SS Stassa was damaged on rocks in a storm in 1968 and made for the safety of Loch Rodell but unfortunately sank in about 60 feet of water. The wreck is almost intact, complete with cargo, bridge and rigging (but no



"All together now - Abide with me"
Flt Lt Baillie



An Apprentice College Snorkel Players Re-union. APtes Sneddon (Aden), Dene (Bruneval) and Elliott (Aden)

propellor) and is one of the best divable wrecks in Britain. The journey to Loch Rodel is almost an expedition in itself but the opportunity to visit such a remote, unspoilt and beautiful area was not to be missed.

Another wreck dived upon was the

unfortunate Iolair which sank on 1 January 1919 with the loss of 230 servicemen returning from the First World War. This dive always evokes chilling thoughts even on the warmest day and sunlight filtering through the green water seems to encourage, rather than dispel, imaginary, eerie wraith-like presences.

Other dives were carried out around the coast after a period of familiarisation with the waters at Bayble Bay - where crabs and escallops are found. No one who dived at the northern most tip of Lewis could forget the staggering beauty of the underwater cliffs and grottos. Capt Barnes wont forget either catching and losing his first ever lobster.

The club moves from strength to strength both in popularity and expertise and with another member of the fair sex 2Lt Snow WRAC joining Mrs Debbi Power, the members have doubled the amount of attractive scenery to look at.

VALETE COLLEGE LEAVERS

SPRING TERM 1981

RAOC

Staff Clerk

Burns W D
Murray E E
Russell R A

Supply Specialist

Swain R G
Toole D

Supply Clerk RAOC

REME

Vehicle Mechanics

Blake T R
Campbell M L
Crookall A
George D A
Harrison D R
Hayter A G
Lewis D G
Millington C W S
Parrott A S
Sparrow C R
Stoter J R
Tibbles M A
Unsworth P N
Walker S G
Williamson N L

RM

Appleby C D
Goodwin S J
Harrison T K
Humphreys P
Langton M
Leng G R
Tyrrell P F
Wallace E

Clerks

Dodd G J
Kearsey G C
Kerr W T
Paterson A J

Armourers

Hetherington S
Skelton C B
Staff P K
Stern P A

Electricians

Phillips G S
Phimister G

SUMMER TERM 1981

RAOC

Supply Specialists

Berryman T D
Brookes W
Broom J W E
Meek J
Murray A S
Perrott D J

Staff Clerks

Evans A S
Royle T J
Sullivan N J

Calder P E
Clegg J A
Crombleholme B
Douglas S P A
Doy A G
Franklin P
Guy T M
Helm S
Hodson C G
Howells M S
Kelly D J
Lake P J
Leatherbarrow P
Malcolm W E G
Phillips A D
Richards P F
Scott A S
Scott G D
Taylor C T
Timmins M A
Todd A
Wood S
Toomey M
Tulley C R

Supply Clerks

Bebbington J F
Chambers P
Grant H J
Hicks R
Hood M A G
Preston R
Sanderson I S
Reeder S N

REME

Vehicle Mechanics

Bayliss K W
Bell B G
Butler K S
Carter R L
Chambers S
Charlesworth I M
Cooper S M
Cumberpatch M
Eddington P
Frizzell M R
Heronsby-Smith G
Hooper R C
Hughes P D
Jones M
MacIndoe S
MacTaggart I M
Maratheftis A
Martin R
Martin W
Mawe C V
Mew J R C
Norman G
Parker P I
Pearce C F
Prosser P
Purcell D A
Russell D S
Silvey M A
Simons I J
Varney N L
White R A
Williams M A
Wing P A

Armourers

Ashton T H
Burgess S M
Cartwright A
Conn J C
Ford J J
Harman G A
Jones M C
Noy N A
Spencer S A

Electricians

Brunton I D
Goode S A

Gunfitters

Ball V J
Ellison A P
Stott K P

Instrument Technicians

Benton S A
Dubber A J

Recovery Mechanics

Galloway A C
Heath P
Shirley C
Williams O N
Wilson K I

Clerks

Head M J
Hill A
Lee D A
Macdonald A I

Aircraft Technicians

Harper A J
Thomspon D A
Turner J M

Metalsmiths

Evans R
Jones P C
Pearson R
Smith M G

Storemen

Haines C J
Porter C S
Stobbs D A

Driver

Bryan J

Not yet allocated

Lovelock G T
Roberts D G

WINTER TERM 1981

RAOC

Staff Clerk RAOC

Bellamy I D
Bridgeman A F T
Copper C J
Cunningham J
Gentle S M
Gibbs D S
Gibson D C
Hoyle P A
Lonnen D G
Martin D A
Mason C D
McShane A T
Rattan M K
Sargent P D
Spinks A G
Thompson R M
Woollatt A J

Special Specialists RAOC

Blackham P
Bollestry M
Collins T D
Crawford N A
Currie S
Davis D J
Doyle D P
Eagle J R
Elsey J M C
French J S
Grist P D H
Howard J C
Humphries A J
Jones J S
Laing D
Lamb M J
Lowres D R
McInally P
McIver D M
Mitchell A G
Munday K M
Nutt S P
O'Grady G V
Paton R
Peacey S J
Perkin C M
Pilgrim M P
Rutherford S G
Scott R G
Shipton K B
Tams A S
Thornhill M D
Walsh S P
Willcox M J

Supply Clerks

Abel M I
Camilleri P N
Collins T K
Corish C A
Coultas P D
Davies S J
Gartside N D
Harrison A R
Jenkins S G
Lethbridge S
Mathias J L
McMahon D T
O'Rourke P
Parrish A B J
Savage M A
Slight C J
Spratt W J
Thompson M
Walton S P
Woodman A M

Vehicle Specialist

Jennings L A
Bentley W G

REME

Vehicle Mechanics

Cowling L J
Hutton S C
Sneddon C G

Metalsmith

Gillespie P G

Gun Fitters

James B C
McGowan D R

Aircraft Technicians

Elliott J A
Preston I M

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RAOC

Staff Clerks

Fazackerley S
Johnson P W
Stephen J
Williams D

Supply Clerks

Bowden I
Clark A P

Kinster C W
McIntosh C H

Leslie A D

Garrick I G
Gore T S

REME

Gunfitters

Cawte C W
Dilley D B
Hall M R
Heap S M
Hepburn C G
Mulligan K J
Roberts S W
Russer P L E
Smith N C R
Thornton P W A
Wilson T
Riddell P K
Ohloblyn S A

Storemen

Hawkins S A
Patterson C E

Electricians

Alexander A C
Clement F M
Deakin P J
Harland P R
Jackson N W
Miller C R
Price A E
Stewart P A

Armourers

Maiden I P
Panter D R

Metalsmiths

Gray A M
Greenwood D M
Stevenson G J

Instrument Technicians

Moore R A
Redman A
Siddall M R
Simpson D S
Turtill G E

Drivers

Campbell R
Margison K
Perryman K R

Clerks

Best N A J
Jones P A
Stokes J A
Thomas A P

TAIL PIECE



General Travers talking to arguably the most important men in the College. L to R: Lcpl Belford, Cpl Nichol and the kitchen manager, Ssgt Russell.



This was to have been our cover picture. The best Passing Out Platoon of the of the year! December 1981