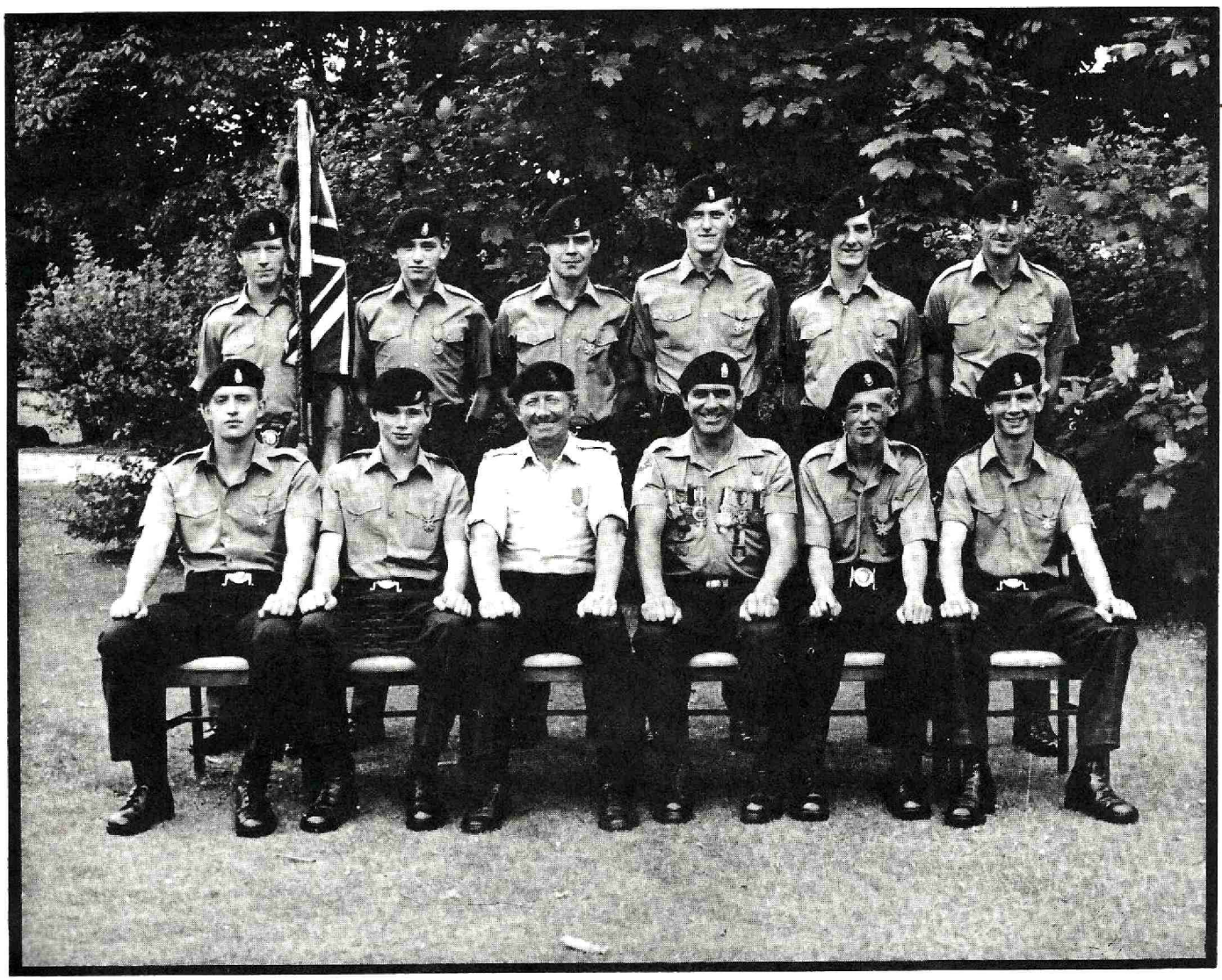
The Thunderbolt

Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College



December 1979 Issue No 10

The Thunderbolt

JOURNAL OF THE
RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

Front Cover:

The Nijmegen Marchers 1979. Ardennes Platoon.

Rear: APte Thomas APte Fox ACpl Pow APte Stoodley ALcpl Bennet ASgt Biggs

Front: APte Turner APte Prime Capt T I Bunyard REME Sgt J M Clarke RAOC
APte Sambrook APte Martin

Article appears on page 8.



Lieutenant Colonel K E Curtis RAOC

Commanding Officer RAOC Apprentices College

FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

This magazine is about young men, and what they can achieve by enthusiasm, hard work and a sense of pride in their chosen profession. It highlights the many challenging activities that have taken place in the last training year.

Success is our objective, but there can only be one winner and our aim is to introduce and encourage our apprentices to take part in as many personal and team challenges as possible to develop their characters and determination.

I and my Permanent Staff are proud of the Apprentices achievements this year and they have won many major military and sporting competitions. We have taken our share of the increased strength in the Junior Army and I would like to thank publicly the civilian and military Permanent Staff of the College who have borne the brunt of the extra work involved, and the many Headquarters and agencies who have made our job easier.

The College has again endeavoured to help members of our community less fortunate than ourselves. This has been done by assisting in local hospitals, old peoples homes and mostly schools of handicapped children. Our activities have spread from Cumbria to the south of England. On the financial side, we have raised nearly £3,000 for charities and more important, given young men the opportunity to help in community projects. Of the many letters received by the College was one from a Headmaster of a handicapped children's school in Cumbria which ended by saying:

"It gave me great pride to meet young men who were not only polite and well behaved, but by their active help and mixing gave so much pleasure to the severely handicapped children in my school".

There must be few occupations which give so much satisfaction, sense of achievement and reward than that of supervising and training young men. Despite the popular cry about the youth of today, we find the standard of Apprentices joining us is high. They respond well to training, and on the whole are highly motivated. Obviously, we lose a few but this is due mainly to the rigours of military life and, of course, the standards we must set.

May I close by thanking the parents, guardians and friends of our Apprentices who give so much valuable support and wish them, our Apprentices and the staff of the College, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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EDITORIAL

Scott's words in his beloved Manchester Guardian that comment was free but facts were sacred was indeed a fine aim for his newspaper. There can be little doubt that it would also provide the right kind of aim for any successful magazine, assuming of course that the Editor could call at any time on the expertise of research and legal departments. Alas, College magazines can never be made of such stuff so mistakes do occur from time to time. For all of these the Editorial Board tenders its sincere apologies and can only crave for the indulgence of sympathetic readers. We do try to get it all right on the day.

This edition is to be put to bed, as the professionals would have it. We can only pray that our facts are sacred and comments are free. From now on it's fate is in the hands of the Printing and Reproduction Branch, Central Ordnance Depot Donnington, to whom we are ever indebted for the time, trouble and effort they spend on our behalf. Their skill and expert knowledge must always take pride of place in the production of our College magazine. May we conclude, as last time, by expressing our thanks to all who have assisted in the hard task of preparation - typists, photographers, contributors, material arrangers and proof readers. Without each and every one of you there would simply be no magazine.

STAFF LISTS SEPTEMBER 1978 -AUGUST 1979

	WINTER TERM 1978	SPRING TERM 1979	SUMMER TERM 1979
COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS			
Commanding Officer	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC	Lt Col K E Curtis RAOC
Second in Command	Maj R T Arliss RAOC	Maj R T Arliss RAOC	Maj R T Arliss RAOC
Adjutant	Capt P J Taylorson RAOC	Capt P J Taylorson RAOC	Capt P J Taylorsor RAOC
Padre	Rev M R Ryall RAChD	Rev M R Ryall RAChD	Rev M R Ryall RAChD
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO1(RSM) P Mackey RAOC	WO1(RSM) P Mackey RAOC	WO1(RSM) P Mackey RAOC
Chief Clerk	WO2(SQMS) R Connelly RAOC	WO2(SQMS) R Connelly RAOC	WO1(SSM) A Claydon MBE RAOC
G Clerks	Cpl M R Murphy RAOC	Cpl M R Murphy RAOC	Cpl G J Ward RAOC
		Cpl G J Ward RAOC	Lcpl T J Pettitt REME
		Lcpl T J Pettitt REME	
HQ COMPANY			
College Training Officer	Capt W G F Hayes REME	Capt C P T Powrie RAOC	Capt E G Walcroft RAOC
Asst College Training Officer	WO2(CSM) T J Miller RAOC	WO2(CSM) T J Miller RAOC	WO2(CSM) T J Miller RAOC
Training Clerk	Cpl G L B Simpson RAOC	Cpl G L B Simpson RAOC	Sgt G L B Simpson RAOC
TRAINING WING			
Skill at Arms	Ssgt M A Bloomfield RAOC	Ssgt M A Bloomfield RAOC	Ssgt M A Bloomfield RAOC
	Sgt L L Cook RAOC	Sgt L L Cook RAOC	Sgt L L Cook RAOC
	Sgt R Reynolds REME		
	Sgt C Wolfe RAOC		
External Leadership Training	Ssgt J H Green RAOC	Ssgt H J Green RAOC	Ssgt H J Green RAOC
	Sgt L C Thwaites RAOC	Sgt L C Thwaites RAOC	Sgt L C Thwaites RAOC
			Sgt G Edwards RAOC

	WINTER TERM 1978	SPRING TERM 1979	SUMMER TERM 1979
Physical Training	SSI C J Tofield APTC	SSI C J Tofield APTC	SSI C J Tofield APTC
	Cpl J Edwards RAOC	Sgt J Edwards RAOC	Cpl P Ritchie RAOC
	Cpl P Ritchie RAOC	Cpl P Ritchie RAOC	Lcpl D Woollaston RAOC
	Lcpl N R Langton RAOC	Lcpl N R Langton RAOC	Lcpl N R Langton RAOC
		Lcpl S Hawkins REME	Lcpl S Hawkins REME
Military Training	Cpl W I Bull RAOC	Cpl W I Bull RAOC	Sgt R G Howell REME
	Cpl C E Raynor RAOC	Cpl C E Raynor RAOC	Sgt C Wolfe RAOC
	Cpl S Jenkins REME	Cpl S Jenkins REME	Sgt R Reynolds REME
			Cpl W I Bull RAOC
			Cpl R Bullion REME
			Cpl S G Jenkins REME
			Cpl T J Watson REME
Projectionist & Aids Store		Lcpl T I Evans RAOC	Lcpl T I Evans RAOC
BURSAR'S DEPARTMENT			
Bursar	Capt (Retd) W Playle	Capt (Retd) W Playle	Maj (Retd) G H W Neale
WRVS	Miss P Riddell	Miss P Riddell	Miss P Riddell
SRN	Sister A Corner	Sister A Corner	Sister A Corner
ADMIN WING			
Admin WO	WO2(CSM) C D Woollard RAOC	WO2(CSM) C D Woollard RAOC	WO2(CSM) C D Woollard RAOC
Admin Cpl		Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC	Cpl J Hazeldine RAOC
Armoury		Cpl P R Clint RAOC	Cpl P R Clint RAOC
Provost	Sgt J H Thomas RAOC	Sgt J H Thomas RAOC	Sgt J H Thomas RAOC
		Lcpl A Jones RAOC	Cpl J G Dixon RAOC
		Lcpl J G Dixon RAOC	Lcpl M A Holt RAOC
Catering			
Kitchen Manager		Ssgt R A Connor ACC	Ssgt R A Connor ACC
		Sgt S T Larkin ACC	Sgt S T Larkin ACC

	WINTER TERM 1978	SPRING TERM 1979	SUMMER TERM 1979
A COMPANY			
Officer Commanding	Maj J A Calbreath REME	Maj I F Mills REME	Maj I F Mills REME
Second in Command	Capt L P Kelman RAOC	Capt L P Kelman RAOC	Capt J K Hardcastle RAOC
Company Sergeant Major	WO2(CSM) B N Brace RAOC	WO2(CSM) J Finch RAOC	WO2(CSM) J Finch RAOC
Arnhem Platoon	Lt I S J Cassidy RAOC	Lt M D Wood RAOC	Lt M D Wood RAOC
	Sgt R G Howell REME	Sgt F J Keogh RAOC	Sgt F J Keogh RAOC
Arakan Platoon	Capt A Ward RAOC	Capt A Ward RAOC	Lt K E Ferguson REME
	Sgt P W Wilkie RAOC	Sgt P W Wilkie RAOC	Sgt P W Wilkie RAOC
Anguilla Platoon	Lt P C Harris RAOC	Capt A R L Jaggers REME	Lt K G Marshall RAOC
	Sgt P W Daniel REME	Sgt R G Howell REME	Sgt P W Daniel REME
			Cpl C E Raynor
Aden Platoon	Lt C F Nisbet RAOC	Lt C F Nisbet RAOC	Lt C F Nisbet RAOC
	Sgt N P Botfield RAOC	Sgt N P Botfield RAOC	Sgt N P Botfield RAOC
Alamein Platoon	Capt A R L Jaggers REME	Capt A R L Jaggers REME	Capt A R L Jaggers REME
	Sgt F J Keogh RAOC	Sgt P W Daniel REME	Sgt S P Bradley REME
Ardennes Platoon	Lt D D Matheson REME	Capt D D Matheson REME	Capt D D Matheson REME
	Sgt C Wolfe RAOC	Sgt J M Clarke RAOC	Sgt J M Clarke RAOC
B COMPANY			
Officer Commanding	Maj E Champion RAOC	Maj E Champion RAOC	Maj E Champion RAOC
Second in Command	Capt M E Parsons RAOC	Capt M E Parsons RAOC	Capt M E Parsons RAOC
Company Sergeant Major	WO2(CSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO2(CSM) B A Hosband RAOC	WO2(CSM) B A Hosband RAOC
Bruneval Platoon	Capt D A Major REME	Lt M Wise RAOC	Lt M Wise RAOC
	Sgt R Reynolds REME	Sgt C J Taylor REME	Sgt C J Taylor REME
	Cpl A J Pascoe RAOC	Sgt D M Bevan REME	
Brunei Platoon	Capt C P T Powrie RAOC	Lt I S J Cassidy RAOC	Lt I S J Cassidy RAOC
	Sgt J W Starkey RAOC	Sgt J W Starkey RAOC	Sgt J W Starkey RAOC
Benghazi Platoon		Capt T I Bunyard REME	Capt T I Bunyard REME
		Sgt G H Mack RAOC	Sgt G H Mack RAOC
		Cpl A J Pascoe RAOC	

	WINTER TERM 1978	SPRING TERM 1979	SUMMER TERM 1979
B COMPANY - contd			
Burma Platoon	Lt B N Groves RAOC	Lt B N Groves RAOC	Lt B N Groves RAOC
	Sgt G I Ogden RAOC	Sgt G I Ogden RAOC	Sgt J Squires REME
Balaclava Platoon	Lt M G Evans RAOC		Capt C P T Powrie RAOC
	Sgt G H Mack RAOC		Sgt D M Bevan REME
			Cpl E C Leach RAOC
Berlin Platoon	Lt M Wise RAOC		
	Sgt C J Taylor REME		
EDUCATION WING			
Senior Education Officer	Maj P A Easton RAEC	Maj P A Easton RAEC	Maj P A Easton RAEC
Instructors	Capt B F Kane RAEC	Capt B F Kane RAEC	Capt B F Kane RAEC
	Capt P J Lewis RAEC	Capt P J Lewis RAEC	Capt P J Lewis RAEC
	Lt B Flaherty WRAC	Lt B Flaherty WRAC	Lt B Flaherty WRAC
Civilian Instructors	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith
	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield
	Wng Cdr (Retd) P W Hope	Wng Cdr (Retd) P W Hope	Wng Cdr (Retd) P W Hope
	Maj (Retd) G Forrest	Maj (Retd) G Forrest	Maj (Retd) G Forrest
	Maj (Retd) G B Lane	Maj (Retd) G B Lane	Maj (Retd) G B Lane
	Mr M F Johnson	Mr M J Johnson	Mr M J Johnson
	Mr W Waddington	Mr W Waddington	Mr W Waddington
	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson
	Mr P Heap	Mr P Heap	Mr P Heap

PASSING OUT PARADES 1978-1979

The Winter Term Pageant and the parades of the Spring and Summer terms of the past year have continued to live up to the very high standards this College sets for such occasions. Our Christmas Pageant has been acclaimed as a tremendous success even from the severest of dramatic critics. The precision of drill standards, the smartness of bearing and turn-out and the pride of performance have all been sufficient testimony to the exacting preparatory work accomplished by both the apprentices and the permanent staff. Words of high praise have flowed from the mouths of Inspecting Officers, the parents of apprentices and the many visitors to our ceremonies.

Even the RSM has been known to nod his approval - praise indeed!

Our Inspecting Officers over the past year have been:

Winter Term 1978

Major General M Callan CB
Director General of Ordnance Services

Spring Term 1979

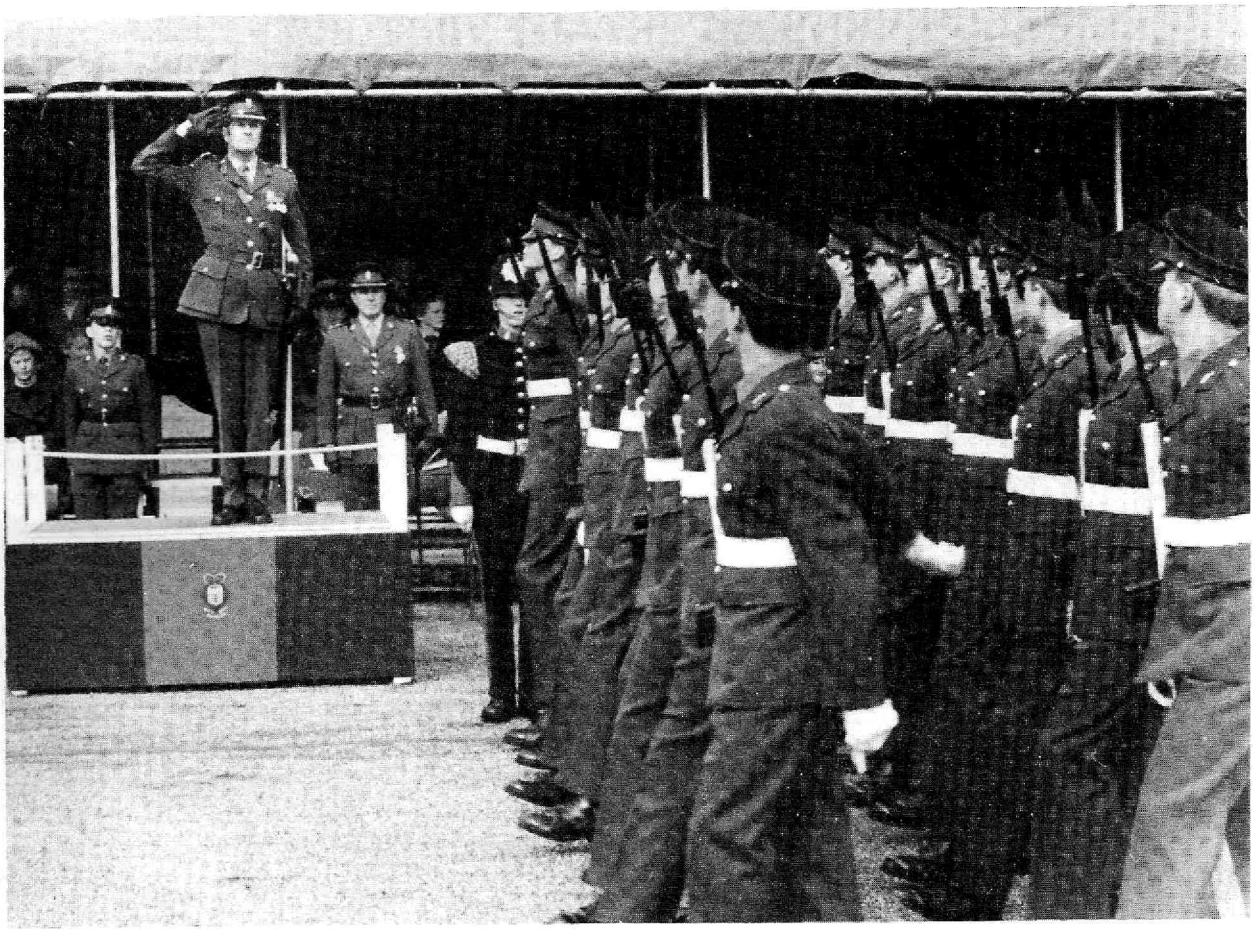
Brigadier R W Thornton
Commandant COD Donnington

Summer Term 1979

Brigadier M J Short CBE ADC
Commander RAOC HQ Training Centre



Major General Callan inspecting Term Leavers. December 1978



Brigadier Thornton taking the Salute. April 1979



Brigadier Short taking the Salute. August 1979

VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS

During the year since publication of the last "Thunderbolt" magazine, the College has had its fair share of visits from Senior Officers. Notable amonst these were the following:

General Sir Richard Worsley KCB OBE
Quarter Master General

Lieutenant General Sir George Cooper KCB MC
General Officer Commanding South East District

Major General M Callan CB
Director General Ordnance Services

Brigadier D M Woodford CBE
Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff South East District

Brigadier M J Short CBE ADC
Commander RAOC Training Centre

All the above officers were introduced to the various aspects of College training and also visited the Apprentices' accommodation blocks, lecture rooms and the Amenities building. A large number of Apprentices were formally presented to our visitors who all remarked on the smart bearing and self-confidence of the boys.

In addition to the above official visits by Senior Officers the College has also entertained numerous parties from Schools, Youth Employment Officers, Recruiting Officers and even parents who often made long journeys to call upon us.

The annual Fitness for Role Inspection was carried out on 19 June 1979 by Major General M Callan CB, the DGOS. This indeed was a most exciting inspection by the Director General of Ordnance Services and the College most certainly had to put its best foot forward. It is most gratifying to report that a very good report was obtained and all apprentices and Permanent Staff received high commendation.

TRAINING WING NOTES

Nijmegen Marches 1979

Since its conception, between the two World Wars, the annual marching "Festival" at Nijmegen has grown to the point where entries are limited to selected national contingents. The College was invited to take part together with the Junior Leaders Regiment RA, the Royal Green Jackets Junior Soldiers Company, the Royal Signals Apprentices and the ACC Apprentices. The College detachment was lead by Capt T I Bunyard REME (Benghazi Platoon Commander) and consisted of the following members of Ardennes Platoon.

Sgt J Clarke RAOC (Platoon Sergeant)
ASgt Biggs
ACpl Pow
ALcpl Bennett
ALcpl Moore
APte Martin
APte Prime
APte Stoodley
APte Thomas
APte Turner
APte Fox (Bicycle Orderly)

The team travelled by coach from Deepcut to Nijmegan with the ACC boys, who proved friendly, if somewhat vocal companions and joined the 5,000 strong military contingent which included Americans, Germans, Swedish, Swiss, French, Italian, Austrian, Belgian, Dutch, Luxembourg, Danish, Norwegian, Canadian and a lone brace of Argentinians.

The marches are not intended to be

competitive but a fierce rivalry exists between the military teams who are expected to finish in good order and most importantly all together. Each day's march is approximately 40 km (25 m) in length which may not seem too daunting to "officionados" of the sport but with 5,000 military and 17,000 civilian entries this inevitably means a 3 am breakfast and a 4 am start.

The first day's march covers much of the country north of Nijmegen covered by operation Garden - the ground assault phase of the Arnhem airborne operation in 1944. Although flat and somewhat drab the pave roads make marching tiresome, but the enthusiastic welcome, particularly through the villages, raised the spirit and took thoughts away from emergent blisters.

Anyone with energy to spare following the day's march could visit the city of Nijmegen or further afield. For example a party visited the Airborne Museum at Arnhem, and another group paid an educational visit to the cultural centres of Amsterdam.

The second and third days marches included probably the only hills in Holland and friendships made on the first day were forged in common adversity.. A growing number of blisters were treated at the highly efficient comfort stations manned by the Netherlands Red Cross, a pleasant interlude between the, at times, monotonous stretches of the march.



Bands and impromptu entertainments along the way ranged from village oompah bands to the steel band and formation limbo dancers of the Royal Netherlands Marines. Many teams, particularly the Americans, had their own theme songs or marching tunes. Among the more eccentric were the

Canadian Piper (whose repertoire was drawn more from the Rocky Mountains than the Highlands) and the massed "Evening Alls" of the Metropolitan Police.

The photograph shows the team - whilst still fresh - passing through one of the many villages. The disabled gentleman was one of many who completed the march despite very serious handicap - an inspiration to those feeling sorry for themselves with just sore feet.

On the final day the march stops 5 miles from the centre of Nijmegen and contingents then march in line abreast behind military bands through the streets lined with crowds - this year estimated at exceeding 100,000.

A saluting dias in the main square marks the end of the March - quite an experience saluting a bevy of NATO generals whilst festooned with flowers.

The cover photograph was taken on returning to Deepcut - each member of the team having been awarded the KNBLO (Royal Dutch League for Physical Culture) medal for completing the 100 mile march.

Finally, mention must be made of Capt D D Matheson, who did all the hard work prior to the march, arranging and taking part in all the arduous training without which the platoon would possibily not have succeeded.

EXERCISE LONG RIDGE by Sgt G Edwards

Our aim was to go to the French Alps and climb Mont Blanc. After weeks of getting ready all the kit and things needed, we were ready to go on 10 September 1979. We travelled by the College minibus, a Ford Transit. At 1630 hrs we departed Deepcut and arrived in Dover at 2015 hrs, leaving on the Dover to Calais Ferry at 2100 hrs. After a pleasant 2 hour trip we arrived in Calais and got ready for the long drive to Chamonix. The weather was not too good with a thick mist down. Capt Walcroft drove first with the going slow, down to 30 mph, but we drove through the night stopping off for coffee when we could. We arrived in Chamonix late on Tuesday 11 September. Luckily the shops were still open and we bought a few things before we went to the camp site where we unloaded the kit from the minibus and put up the tents, ACpl Miles prepared the evening meal. When all the tents were up we were ready for a good meal and had a lovely stew and plenty of bread which we had bought in town and some wine as well. After the long journey we all felt tired so off we went to the tents for a long sleep.

Wednesday, 12 September. We woke up at 0815 hrs with the sun shining through the tents. We all got up and had a good breakfast. Then it was time for fitting of crampons for the boots - a long job but one which has to be done properly so they do not come off when you are on the ice, which could be dangerous. Then on to the great Bosson Glacier to practise ice axe techniques. The lads did well and worked very hard on the glacier.

Thursday, 13 September. Weather warm and sunny. We had a good breakfast then went into Chamonix to collect provisions for the climb. At 1130 we were ready for the long task ahead of us. We drove down to La Fayet to catch the train up the first part of the great mountain. We reached the end of the railway line ready for the start of the climb. After one big push through the milling climbers, we were off the train with our kit and a few minutes later were ready for the off.

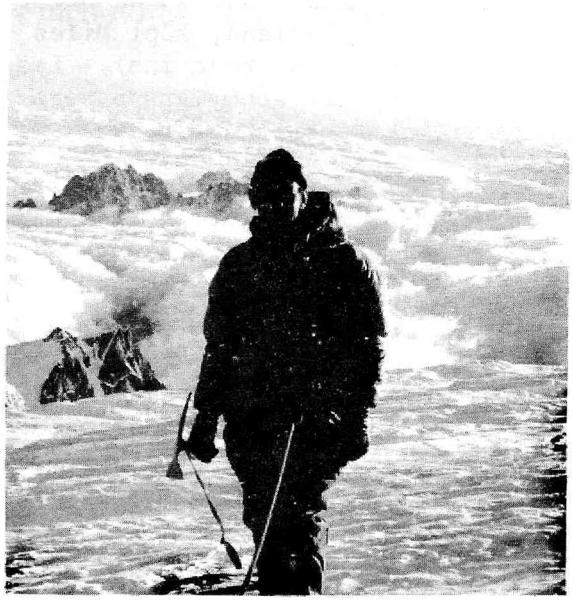
I led the way up to the first hut as I had done many years ago. We were

heading for the Tete Rousse hut which would be our first stop off and our place for the night. We arrived at Tete Rousse and everyone was feeling fit and longing for a nice "cuppa" and some food. We made a quick study of the map and discussed the plan for our ascent of Mont Blanc. Afterwards we enjoyed a good night's sleep.



ALcpl Day climbing in a crevasse on Bosson Glacier. Sgt Edwards on the safety rope

Friday 14 September. Weather not too bad with no clouds. A good breakfast and then outside to practise our ice axe drills before we climb. Now we are ready to go onto the next stage of our journey, a hard part to do because we must cross the Grand Couloir. We all got over safely, (it was not too bad) and then we went up and up the long, dangerous Goutter Ridge - I led slowly and very carefully. The view was breathtaking but the little crosses on the rocks where some poor climbers had fallen to their death were off-putting as Les Thwaites and I had seen before, but we pressed on. We climbed for three hours and eventually reached the Goutter Hut, a rather nice sight to see at 12,000 feet, which sleeps about 65 people uncomfortably. We had a good cup of tea but most of us us were suffering from the effects of altitude, myself being the worst.



Capt Walcroft on top of Mount Blanc at dawn

I just had to go and lie down on the benches inside the hut and hope that the headache would go away, but sickness started to come as well. I am sick right through the night and think this is the end of the road but must fight on. No one had any sleep because of the horrible fumes, too many people in such a small space, and a lot of rowdy French climbers.

Up at 0100 to be sick, outside it is snowing and I don't think anyone is going anywhere but by 0230 the weather is good and people are getting ready to go up to the top. We get ourselves ready, I am still feeling sick but the fresh air will do me good. Something to eat and drink then fit the crampons and we too will be on our way but ALcpl Batches, otherwise known as "Rocky" comes up and says "Someone has taken my boots" so we searched all over

for his boots and finally he found a pair that looked like his own now we are ready to go. A quick check of our headlamps and equipment and it is Mont Blanc all the way. Outside to rope up, we split ourselves up on to two ropes. Sgt Les Thwaites leading one group consisting of himself, ACpl Day, ACpl White and Capt Walcroft as rear man and I, Sgt Geoff Edwards leading the other group (APte Sutherland, ACpl Miles with ALcpl Bates as rear man). Les led his group off as my group were still trying to sort our rope. We finally got going 30-40 minutes behind the other group. The snow was nice and crisp and we went up and up and all you could see were bright lights in the sky which looked like stars but I knew from past experience that these were the lights from head-lamps of the people in front. Up and up we went, the air getting thinner with each step and then up and over the Dome Mirage.

We had plenty of rests and still felt sick but on and on to the Vallot Hut where we dropped off rucksacks. Then up and over a large cornice and up a steep peak and over the other side. We could see people on the summit and we knew that the other group had reached the top and we would be next. We met the other group as they were coming down. Our sickness was gone and we were feeling good. Capt Walcroft said to us that two more false summits and we would reach the top. Up, over and along an ice and snow ridge and we were THERE. We had done it! The wind was blowing at us and all the clouds were below and it was so cold on our hands, but over to our left a beautiful sight the great Aug du Midi piercing right up through the clouds with two pinnacles just staring at us. The wind was so cold and it was time to go down and return to the Vallot Hut as soon as possible to pick up our rucksacks. Down we went in a dream like manner but watching every step as we went. The Vallot Hut reached, we went down and down to the Goutter Hut. Our knees and all our joints hurt but we were all as pleased as punch that we had all done it. At last we reached the Goutter Hut. The other group was already there, nice and fresh with big smiles on their faces drinking and eating but we soon joined them. A few hours rest and we were ready to go down, back along the Goutter Ridge. Sgt Les Thwaites led the way down but there were so many people coming up to have their go at Mont Blanc so we let them pass when we could. Down we went to the Tete Rouge hut and past the hut on our way to the start of the railway line and the beginning of the long walk because we had missed the last train, but not to worry because when we got down to Les Hoches we had a good beer and a very large meal.

After a day's rest we went out climbing on Bosson Glacier and had a few climbs on rocks and then prepared for the long journey home, but WE had done it (so it had to be a satisfying homeward journey).

'A' COMPANY

OC — Major I F Mills REME

Company 2IC — Captain L P Kelman RAOC

and later — Captain J K Hardcastle RAOC

CSM — WOII J Finch RAOC



Back row: *Lt K G Marshall* *Sgt J M Clarke* *Sgt N P Botfield* *Sgt R Reynolds* *Sgt P W Daniel* *Sgt F J Keogh* *Sgt S P Bradley* *Lt D C Inshaw*

Front row: *Capt N D Wood* *Capt A R L Jaggers* *Capt J K Hardcastle* *Major I F Mills* *WOII (CSM) R J Finch* *Capt D D Matheson* *Lt C F Nisbet*

The past year has been a busy one. We have had many changes in the 'A' Company staff, a super pay rise for all ranks and the usual variety of successes for the apprentices.

The College year started on 11 September 1978 and we received 97 recruits into the Company in the form of Arakan, Aden and Ardennes platoons. They and their senior platoons have "done us proud" in the past three terms.

The notable happenings of the Winter term were the RAOC Training Centre bazaar, the Blackdown 5 competition and the College Skill-at-Arms camp.

The Bazaar is an annual event which is held in aid of charity and involves all the units of the Training Centre. However the College acts as host unit and this year part of the task fell to 'A' Company. The event was a notable success and raised £1000 in support of the Commander's Welfare Fund.

The Blackdown 5's is an innovation aimed at involving the Youth Clubs, Scouts, Guides and Cadet Forces of

the local community is a series of competitive events. Held in December 1978, the events were an assault course, a shoot on the .22 range, a general and local knowledge quiz, an obstacle course and a command task. Lt Mal Wood took on the challenge of organising the events and managed to control some 120 youngsters with panache and diplomatic skill. The Apprentices hosted the teams, each of two girls and 2 lads and became totally involved in the support of their groups. An excellent day was had by all.

The Skill-at-Arms camp was very much reduced due to the cancellation of ranges, but Lt Arthur Jaggers pulled out all the stops and produced an interesting shooting programme resulting in wins for Aden Platoon in the falling plate and Arakan Platoon in the inter platoon competition.

The College Cross Country was held in October and Aden Platoon continued the 'A' Company tradition by winning the Platoon Cup.

The Christmas festivities were on us in no time at all after a very busy term. Lts Arthur Jagger and Tony Ward got another pip to become Captains and continued their morale-boosting "Two Ronnies" act in their new rank. Additional celebrations had to be fitted in for these promotions and also to bid fond farewell to CSM Bernie Brace, posted on promotion to CVHQ, and to the OC, Major John Calbraith REME who returned to the "brain factory" in Shrivenham. We also said farewell to Arnhem Platoon who gave a superb display of drill during the Christmas pageant. We wish them the best of good fortune in their adult service, but more of them later in the Platoon notes.

On the civilian staff side we said goodbye to Mrs Nancy Vipond and wish her well. Mrs Alma Terrey joined us and now helps all the Officers on Staff duties with English, as well as doing their typing. Mrs Pat Black also joined us to fill the gap left by Mrs Joan Eldridge who had left a month before. Welcome to the fold girls!

The Spring Term started in bitterly cold weather on 5 January with a new OC, Major Fraser Mills REME and a new CSM, WOII Jim Finch. By the 9th January they had learned enough of the ropes to welcome in the new Arnhem Platoon of 26 potential RAOC tradesmen and 6 REME. We also welcomed Sgt Nobby Clarke who joined Lt Doug Matheson in keeping Ardennes Platoon on the "straight and narrow"

The recruits in Arnhem Platoon made an early impression by being the top 'A' Company team, in third position, in the College Cross Country. As none of the Permanent Staff can remember any platoon outside 'A' Company winning this competition, we can't make any comment other than to say we won the Company Shield.

The Company Camp at Tregantle Fort brought the usual mixture of extreme weather conditions. The Royal Navy from HMS Raleigh were again very helpful, providing a range of facilities from tins of coke to abseiling rope and beer pumps. Platoon activities covered abseiling, commando courses, map reading, local visits and waterman-ship. This last activity was under the ever watchful eye of the College Chief Clerk, WOII Bob Connelly who had "escaped" from CHQ for the week. During the Camp, the Commanding Officer arrived to present Lt Mal Wood with his third pip and he joined Capt Doug Matheson, also recently promoted, on the promotion ladder.

On return from Tregantle, we went into limited training for the College Skill-at-Arms Competition. Under the expert eyes of Capts Jaggers and Ward, and ably assisted by Lt Colin Nisbet and Sgt Fred Keogh, the Company excelled and made a clean sweep of the prizes, both in the Apprentice and Permanent Staff

competitions. The 'A' Company Officers achieved the fastest time of the day in the falling plate semi-finals, but the 'A' Company CSM and Sergeants' beat them in the final.

The term ended on an excellent note with a superb collection for the White Lodge, the local Home for disabled children. Much more is written about this collection in other parts of Thunderbolt. However, with tremendous enthusiasm and a genuine concern for those less fortunate than ourselves, the Apprentices and Permanent Staff of the Company strongly support this very worthwhile cause.

The Spring Term Passing Out Parade went well and we bade farewell and good luck to Alamein and Anguilla Platoons who, a week before, had held a very entertaining dinner night and cabaret. We also said goodbye to Mrs Deanna Ogglesby, our Company Clerk, and welcomed Mrs Sue O'Brien in her stead.

And so to the Summer Term.

Always the busiest term of the year, this was no exception. With the College Camp at Tenby, Platoon and ELT camps for Arakan, Ardennes and Aden Platoons and with Ardennes also going on the Nijmegen March, we were all kept on our toes. However, Lcpl Taff Evans joined us as Admin NCO to help out.

The College Camp is well reported later on, but on the Permanent Staff side, we had the pleasure of seeing Capt Logie Kelman relaxing at Penally after a year of extremely hard work as Company 2IC. There he handed his problems over to Capt Art Jaggers and then taught Brigadier and Mrs Short and the CO and Mrs Curtis, to fly his kite. We did replace the battered remnants before wishing him good fortune and successful flying in BAOR!

This early part of the Summer term saw additional movements among the Permanent Staff. Capt Tony Ward handed over the Arakan to Lt Ken Ferguson and he tearfully left for the land of LOA. Lt Kevin Marshall arrived to take on the new Anguilla platoon in early June. Capt Arthur Jaggers worked a 'flanker' to command the new Alamein Platoon because their song is the only one he knows, other than a few by Elvis! He handed his 2IC post to Capt Mal Wood for a short spell prior to Capt John Hardcastle rejoining the Army and taking permanent hold of this job after a round-the-world motor caravan trip. Welcome John.

We had two major individual successes during the term with APte Brash of Arnhem winning the Junior Army Golf Championship and APte Margison winning the Junior Army Skill-at-Arms. Congratulations to both of them. Another occasion of note was the excellent effort for charity when, in June, the Company collected £339 for the Army Benevolent Fund.

The end of term approached rapidly. Arakan won the Assault March competition and then joined part of Aden as term leaves in a most impressive Passing Out Parade. Good luck to them in their trade training and adult service.

So ended another successful year in the history of 'A' Company. We had our ups and downs, but the "ups" were winners by far and we look forward to 1980 being equally good or, if possible, even better.

ADEN PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt C F Nisbet RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt N P Botfield RAOC

Under the leadership of Lt Nisbet and Sgt Botfield, the platoon has had an extremely eventful year. After initial interviews and haircuts, the platoon rapidly got into the swing of training. The platoon team won the College cross-country event (although not by a large margin), APte Garland being one of the early apprentices home. The Skill-at-Arms camp was also most rewarding, the falling plates event being won by **Aden Platoon.**

with the better shots in Aden being selected as members of the College shooting team. ALcpl Duffield, together with APte Margison, scored very well. APte Margison later exceeding that by winning the Champion Army Apprentices medal at JSSAM later on in the year.

The College camp at Penally enjoyed far better weather than Tregantle (though not as good as last year) **with the OC away for most of the**



Aden at Penally about to tackle the "Command Tasks"

The platoon then took itself to Tregantle Fort, where APte Ferguson was perpetually worried that he would be assaulted by the ghost that was said to lurk there. This, of course, did not happen, but the platoon enjoyed the various visits even though the weather was bad for most of the week.

The CORPSAMS then came into being,

time assisting with the Parascending. APte Russell spent his time looking like a salty sea-dog alongside Capt Parsons on his dinghy.

The White Lodge collection took a fair amount of time but was very worthwhile, raising a great deal of money for the Spastics Home. Most of the Platoon total was raised by APte Greaves who did a fine job

jumping out in front of cars at the traffic lights and demanding money. This was followed by the Army Benevolent Fund collection later in the year which was just as successful. Perhaps the reason for the success was that Aden picketed the town centres.

And so to the passing out parade; the only person who was not available for that was APte David who broke his leg while Parascending. The year can best be described in the words used by many a Platoon Commander on end-of-term reports: "A good term's work, well done".

ALAMEIN PLATOON - SUMMER TERM 1979

Platoon Commander — Capt A R L Jaggers REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt Bradley REME

"Painting? I thought 'bull' was supposed to be out of the Army now, a thing of the past like short back and sides." This was one of the printable comments overheard from Block 37 on the 13 June 1979, the day after Alamein Platoon, 29 strong, had arrived at the College.

The pending visit of the DGOS on 19 September overshadowed the normally awesome initiation to service life and even the ritual shedding of hair and the ceremony of the black index finger took second place to preparation for the visit. Even the Platoon Commander was seen wielding a paint brush!

Sgt Howell was the caretaker Platoon Sergeant during this traumatic period, because Sgt Bradley was "enjoying himself" on a military training instructor's course at the RAOC Training Centre.

Although our block was not visited by the General it gave us the opportunity to personalize our barrack rooms and occupants of each room vied with others to achieve the best room.

The big day dawned and Alamein's demonstration of drill under the expert instruction of Sgt Botfield passed without a hitch.

The General also joined us in the field during an instructional period on camouflage and concealment. Although impressed with our efforts to camouflage ourselves and our equipment the DGOS could not conceal his dismay, when during lunch in the field he was served with what must have been the only tough braised steak in the container. Despite this the visit went very well and all agreed that our efforts were worthwhile.

On 13 June a volleyball competition, the first of a series of inter-platoon games, was organised by Arakan Platoon. Alamein Platoon acquitted themselves well by achieving second place. A good beginning.

Whilst the remainder of the College disappeared on half term leave from 21-26 June, Alamein, in company with the other two recruit platoons continued their training. This caused one or two murmurs of discontent but the platoon soon settled down to training with a zeal that augered well for the future.

During this period, having completed the necessary classroom instruction, Alamein were let loose in the Deepcut area with a map on exercise "Deepcut Doddle". APtes Weir and Woolley would, I feel, disagree that it was a 'doddle'. Having taken a wrong turning at the outset they were picked

up by the Platoon Commander when, after 1½ hours they had not returned. Soaked to the skin, they were negotiating the course in the reverse order. It should be noted that despite or perhaps because of this they have both improved to above average gradings in their map reading.

On 26 June under the capable supervision of Lcpl Evans, two football teams were chosen from the Platoon and a good game was in progress when a collision occurred between APtes Greenwood and Nesbitt, whilst going for a 50/50 ball. This resulted in APte Greenwood having a three day rest in bed with a badly bruised leg. He wasn't heard to complain however, for he was served all his meals in bed and escaped the regular pre-assault march training runs.

On Sunday 1 July, the platoon visited the SSAFA Aldershot Tattoo in the Rushmoor Arena. All had cheeky grins on their faces for Capt Jaggers who was officiating at the gate when they arrived, having "volunteered" to assist. It was a very hot day and the display, which included a splendid grand finale of the Charge of the Light Brigade, was well attended and gained additional funds for SSAFA's worthy cause.

The Platoon were provisionally allocated to trade at the SPSO's interview on 4 July. All were provisionally allocated the trade of their choice and providing hard work is applied on educational training during the coming terms there should be no disappointed faces on the SPSO's retest in 1980.

Alamein Platoon, or to be exact, half of the Platoon were detailed to act as a working party at the Army Physical Training Centre, Aldershot, from 18-25 July. Sgt Bradley provides the details:

"The 15 men of the Platoon were employed clearing away kit after each seperate display had been performed. This was hard work which, in one case, involved carrying a trampoline the length of the Gym and back. The first half of the work was spent on many hours in rehearsals. The last three days were open to the public after the "powers that be" had decided the entire display was fit for the public's consumption.

The children of several schools were the first to be treated to a gymnastics bonanza and they really enjoyed the show judging by the enthusiastic applause only children can generate. The relatives and friends of the participants watched the show the following day. On the final day Major General Callan was in attendance, along with other high ranking officers.

The members of the Platoon did an excellent job and were congratulated on a job well done by Lieutenant Colonel Bruce, Commanding Officer of the APTC and an ex-Commanding Officer of the RAOC Apprentices College."

Since arrival the Platoon has been training, not just the usual programmed fitness training which is demanding enough, but gradually building up from two miles to an eight mile run in full kit in preparation for the Company Assault March Cup competition on 31 July. We even had our own flag kindly sewn for us by Mrs Jaggers and unfurled and presented to us amidst enthusiastic clapping and cheers, by Capt Jaggers. Our flag now accompanies us on all inter-platoon competitions.

And so it was on 31 July that, with flag leading, we set out on the Assault March competition, now reduced to four miles but incorporating the assault course at the end and carrying rifles and full kit.

Despite having the largest Platoon which led to difficulties in maintaining control on the narrow cross country tracks the Platoon acquitted itself well and everyone,

except APte Poole who was exempted with ingrown toenails, completed the course. The only casualty was the Platoon flag which suffered a six inch rip from an overhanging branch.

Middle Wallop Air Day (related by Sgt Bradley)

"On 3 August, "Alamein Platoon went to Middle Wallop for the annual Air Day. The weather was extremely hot and sticky but it did not deter the thousands of people who turned up. The Platoon had a walk round and viewed some of the magnificant displays of aircraft and engines and also spent a few pence on the many side-shows spread about the place. Several members of the Platoon were seen wandering around clutching footballs, Babycham, mint sauce and cans of beer which they had won on a few of the stalls.

At 1400 hrs the Air Display commenced and some of the members of the Platoon were wondering if they had picked the right trade or if they could change it to Air Technician or even Pilot.

One of the displays which went down well with the Apprentices was a motorized hang-glider, which to my way of thinking was cheating, however the pilot handled the glider with great expertise. Unfortunately the Platoon had to leave before the end of the Air Show but they thoroughly enjoyed their day out."



Spring 1979. Alamein at Bovington Tank Museum. "There's a tank under there, somewhere".

On Saturday 4 August, Alamein visited the Imperial War Museum in London. It was a hot sunny day and after a tour of the museum the platoon members went their own way in search of presents for parents and girl friends at the end of term. Well, that was the idea, anyway. Most caught the train back to Brookwood laden with records and other presents for themselves.

On return to camp we had a small party to say farewell to the Apprentice NCOs who were leaving Alamein at the end of term and to present them with a tankard. Those leaving are Lcpls Bradbury, Williams and Davey, and our best wishes go with them and thanks also for assisting us through our first term.

End of term awards were presented by Mrs Curtis, wife of the Commanding Officer on 6 August.

Congratulations to APte Walker for his award of the Nockles Cup for the best recruit in Skill-at-Arms training and APte Hargrove on winning the Best Recruit in 'A' Company award.

On 9 August the senior platoons passed out of the College. Prior to their parade the three recruit platoons present a demonstration of College training.

Alamein's contribution was a gymnastics and skill-at-arms display. The high standard achieved for this demonstration was a credit to all concerned and many favourable comments were passed by parents and friends who watched. A memorable and satisfying conclusion to Alamein's first term at College.

ANGUILLA PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt K G Marshall RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt Daniel REME

The 12 June turned out to be a momentous day for 27 fresh-faced youths. It was the day that they had chosen to become another batch of battle-hardened, seasoned soldiers - or at least they thought so.

After much 'to-ing and fro-ing' these 27, who had suddenly become 25, were ready for their first term as young apprentice privates. It was not long before the characters had well established themselves in the platoon and with the help of such fine Apprentice NCOs as ASgt Biggs, ACpl Bain, ALcpls Loyton, Bracegirdle, Karas and Saxon, the 'sausage machine' swung into action.

As for notable achievements during the first term we found it hard to attain our fair share. Our finishing last in the summer Assault March competition was made slightly less onerous by the fact that colours for Tennis were presented to APtes Muir and Yoxall. Also congratulations go to APtes Grundy, Hirst and Knight for representing the College at Soccer. APtes Doyle and Muir have proved themselves in the heavyweight league by representing the College (and Training Centre) at Rugby.

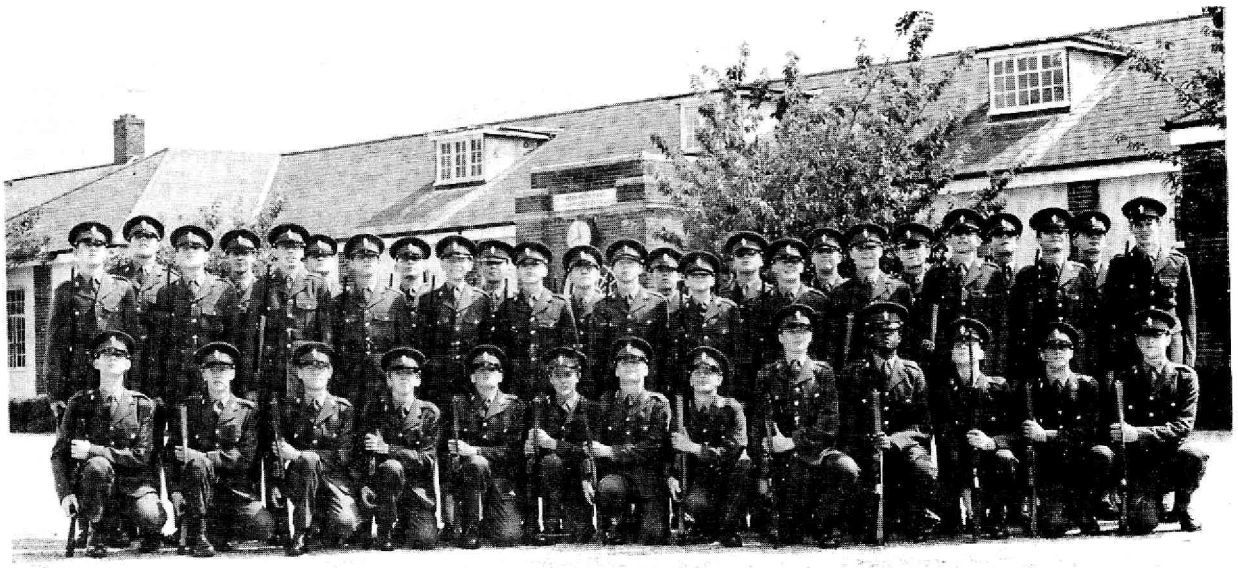
As we come to the end of the term we look forward to the Winter term and the courses that follow. APte Doyle has been selected to go on a civilian Outward Bound course along with APtes Hirst, Giles and Taylor, who will be canoeing the canals of England. APtes Bobbett and Stanley have struck lucky and will be sailing in Cyprus

later on in the term.

Finally, congratulations must go to APtes Cook, Grundy, Hirst and Smith who have been selected for promotion to Lcpl for next term. Well done!



Anguilla (1978-79) passing out April 1979. Capt Jaggers commanding.



Anguilla 1979-80

ARAKAN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Capt A Ward RAOC

Platoon Commander — Lt K E Ferguson REME

(Summer 1979)

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt P W Wilkie RAOC

WINTER TERM 1978

Arakan Platoon consisting of 33 Apprentices arrived at the College on 12 September 1978. Most of those arriving soon received their induction to service life by a visit to our friendly barber. Looking more like soldiers they were organised into groups and were soon acquainted with the layout of their new home for the next 12 months. Prior to final documentation two found the strain of service life too hard and decided to leave.

With the able assistance of the Junior NCOs the Platoon were soon to be seen marching around the barracks in some semblance of disorder. This was soon to change under the watchful eye of Sgt Wilkie.

On 27 September they were given their initial SPSO interviews in respect of trade allocation. However, this was only a short introduction and a further re-test was to take place in their final term, indicating that a high percentage required to improve their academic qualification.

By now most of the teething problems had been sorted out and the Platoon were progressing well in Fieldcraft and Minor Tactics, Skill-at-Arms Training, Military Law and Physical Training.

Prior to half term the Platoon had a combined 24 hour exercise with Aden and Ardennes Platoons. The object of the exercise was to introduce members of the Platoon to living under field conditions. I can assure you that the Army has changed and the Apprentices were soon accommodated in bivouacs. The following remark was uttered by APte Coates after his first impression of a very minor exercise, "I was glad to get back to barracks although I did enjoy myself on the exercise".

I told you the Army has changed. When they start enjoying training we must review the training syllabus.

Before we had time to settle down again the platoon were soon to be pressing civilian clothes in preparation for half term. Somehow we have got our priorities wrong. The Acceptance Parade should come first. "I hope they still like it here". Their Acceptance Parade went very well considering they had only been in the College seven weeks. Those parents who were fortunate enough to attend remarked on how smart they looked.

Half term was soon over and the Platoon with the rest of the College were very involved in Pageant rehearsals for the end of term. By now the Platoon were becoming very proficient in all aspects of military manning and were well up to standard.

At the College Skill-at-Arms camp the Platoon achieved some encouraging results which resulted in Taylor and Margison being nominated for the College Shooting team. The Platoon were able to support the College in most activities some are as follows:

Football	-	Williams T, Williams C D, Lee. Whitmarsh, Stamfield
Squash	-	Prowse, Dodson
Cross-Country	-	Coates, Hughes

The end of term was soon upon us and we unfortunately must bid farewell to ASgt Hough, ACpl Foster and ALcpl Cains whose efforts throughout the term resulted in a very successful first term for the platoon.

Spring Term 1979

The Spring term started in earnest on 8 January 1979. With most of the JNCOs leaving the Platoon we were in a position to promote those deserving this recognition from within the Platoon. Our "Best Recruit" ALcpl Nicholson was promoted to this rank prior to the end of the Winter term. He was soon to be joined by ALcpl Lee, Williams T and Prowse, the latter joining the new intake, Arnham Platoon.

Due to unforeseen circumstances REME Technical Training Phase 1 had to be cancelled therefore the College Training Officer, Capt W S F Hayes, suggested as a challenge, considering the conditions, that the Platoon attempt the "South Downs Way". As a result Exercise "Southern Dis-Comfort" was born. With no previous training and in terrible conditions we were congratulated all round for beating the South Downs Way.

Shortly after returning from Exercise "Southern Dis-Comfort" we were busy again preparing for a Platoon exercise. This was a three day period and was primarily used to confirm all aspects of Fieldcraft and Minor Tactics taught. The exercise proved beneficial to all and considering the amount of noise made from the various pyrotechnics used "a good time was had by all".

On return we were again preparing for half term leave.

The second half of the term saw us off to Devon for the Company Camp at Tregantle Fort. This was more of an adverture type exercise and the Platoon were introduced to such activities as canoeing, abseiling, Commando assault course, map reading and watermanship. The highlight of the camp was the inter-platoon "Round the Ramparts" race. The Platoon were well prepared, especially during a practice run where APtes Waack, Vickers, Nicholson, Parkins, Callingham and Davey provided a lot of 'muscle'. Unfortunately and to the Platoon's disappointment it had to be cancelled due to the weather.

Summer Term 1979

The now well known Arakan returned safely from leave to make their mark on another term. In the first couple of weeks ALcpls Nicholson and Prowse were promoted to ACpl and APtes Waack and Parkins were promoted to ALcpl to fill the gaps created by the previous term's leavers.

A Company athletics team was soon organised to compete against 'B' Company in the Aldershot Stadium. Although the competition was lost, much 'face' was saved by a popular win in the Tug-of-War by an 'A' Company team comprised of the Arakan 'heavies' plus one or two extras. The College camp followed and the two weeks spent at Penally were thoroughly enjoyed.

After returning to Deepcut the machinery ground onwards towards the half term break and was interrupted only by the RPC3 drill test which the platoon took and passed with consumate ease.

The final half term was approached with some trepidation by the whole platoon as trade tests and final SPSO interviews loomed closer. In the end, however, everyone was pleased with the careers offered. It wasn't long though before the

Platoon were packing for their week in North Wales on ELT camp. The



Davey, Callingham, Waack and Nicholson - the 'heavies' of Arakan ...

camp proved to us that map reading in the mountains is slightly more difficult than navigating from Block 10 to the NAAFI Shop.

It seemed as though we had not been back five minutes before we were off again to the Lake District for our Platoon camp. Walks in the Lake District, visits, command tasks and a free day added up to a most enjoyable week which most of us slept off in the Bedford on the road back to Deepcut.

Our return was heralded by the end of term rush, with parade rehearsals, kit cleaning and postings at the front of the boys' minds. One exception was the inter-platoon



..... heavily outweighed!

assault march competition which was more than just another run, as Arakan had been simmering ever since the result of the previous one. On the day, feelings throughout the Company were intense and these reached a peak as the last teams raced in. Although the victors, Arakan, humbly accepted the trophy, feelings ran high for days afterwards amonst the 'also ran's'.

At this point in time the platoon is fast approaching the final week, the Parade, their pass-out party and a well earned leave.

ARNHEM PLATOON

Platoon Commander Captain D M Wood RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt F J Keogh RAOC

Spring Term

Arnhem Platoon started in the Spring term with a raw recruit platoon 29 strong. By 11 January 1979 the platoon had all arrived and started work. On our first run as a platoon we had a few pains and a couple of falls but after that things began to settle down and we slowly began to learn everybody's names and we started to work as a team.

On Friday 13 January 1979 the training programme began. The first week included a lot of talks from the Padre, CQMS, PJRC, as well as the first Drill, FMT, MR and PF lessons. It was all pretty hectic and took a bit of getting used to!

On 11 February we had a 24 hour exercise to cover basics of living in the field. This involved pitching the tents, generally organising our camp defensively and camp cooking using small cookers. The night map reading exercise was most instructive! The exercise the next morning started a little too early for some, but all were wide awake when the 'enemy' attacked. The morning's work consisted of target indicated exercises and movement such as the leopard crawl and kitten crawl. It was all enjoyable but everyone was glad to return to a comfortable bed.

In February our recreational training began, and on 3 March we set out for Tregantle Fort for our Company Camp. In spite of the weather most would agree that the high spot was rowing and canoeing training in a harbour near Plymouth. There was time for relaxation in the Royal Marine's swimming pool and in Plymouth. (Who decided to close all the shops on that day?)

Arnhem also came third in the cross-country which was very good for our first term. APte Smith was awarded the cup for Best Recruit, APte Drury got College colours for football and APte Day got College colours for hockey and table tennis. APtes Smith, Drury and Williams all got promotion to ALcpl. The College football team won the Army League and another cup. They were trained by Lcpl Langton. Finally, our Platoon Commander was promoted to Captain at Tregantle.

Summer Term

After a nice holiday we returned for Summer Term. By now the platoon was down to 25 strong. There were 24 but APte Roy got a re-badge to the RAOC as a Staff Clerk.

We had the Athletics Meeting soon after we returned from the break, where we had people in the platoon in virtually every event, Calder ending third in the 1500 metres and ACpl Pow winning the javelin and coming second in the Long Jump.

The College summer camp in the second half of May included a three day exercise, an eight mile cliff walk, command tasks, visits to Tenby and Pembroke, water skiing, sailing and canoeing - all very enjoyable. On our return APtes Day, Saxon and White were promoted to ALcpl.

At the end of July we had our Platoon camp, at Altcar. Back at Deepcut, we were soon preparing for the Passing Out Parade and the end of our second term at the College.

Just before the end of term the Company held its Assault March competition and Arnhem Platoon did excellently to come second. It was a great result and since Arnhem took 24 people round and the winners had only 14 to get around the Platoon felt they had achieved the best result.

ARDENNES PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Captain D D Matheson REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt C Wolfe / Sgt J M Clarke RAOC

Ardennes Platoon has come a long way since 12 September 1978 when 31 fresh faced young RAOC lads turned up eager but apprehensive. There are only 24 now, all battle-hardened veterans of the College, and here's how:

Winter Term

The term soon got under way with the 24 hour exercise which introduced everyone to the joys of living in the middle of a dark forest with mosquitos for company. The most memorable part was the soup last thing at night which could have been used for re-plastering the block with the inclusion of a little less cement if it did not set first.

On the social side, the platoon performed well in the Company sports evenings and was in first position at the end of play - until the rules were changed. Though we did not win the 'Oscar' for our performance in the Company Theatre Night, the demonstration of 'bulling' and 'battle PT dancing' was most amusing and went down well with everyone except the Platoon Commander who was 'persuaded' to join in. The Platoon outing to London to see Ipi Tombi was enjoyed by everyone except APte Stoodley who had never seen a semi-naked woman before.

Our act for the end of term pageant was a demonstration of the incredible transformation which takes place in the standard of drill over one term. The Platoon were to march over the drill square in a complete shambles but after Sgt Wolfe ripped his hair our and shouted a bit more they were to march smartly off. Needless to say there were various unkind comments along the lines of "I can't see any improvement" or "they were smarter marching on than marching off" but this was pure jealousy on the behalf of others.

Spring Term

We finally got rid of Sgt Wolfe who moves on to higher things with 1 Combat Supply Battalion in Germany. We wish him the best of luck and congratulations on his promotion.

In his place arrived Sgt Clarke who rapidly got used to College life when we went straight away down to Brown-down Camp for a long weekend's military training with Aden. Unfortunately heavy snow called a halt to our long awaited battle AFTER we finished digging in and the Platoon Commander narrowly missed being lynched after telling everyone to fill the holes in again.

The next highlight was Tregantle Fort which provided an introduction to the old Lancashire custom known as eee-el-tea. The abseiling was much enjoyed in particular and the look of fear on various faces had to be seen to be belived. In spite of the efforts of Sgt Wilkie everyone got down safely and without being forced in any way most said they enjoyed it and would do it again. The Marine's confidence course drew much the same comments and in spite of the weather the camp was a great success.

Next on the timetable was a visit to the County Police HQ and included was a demonstration of precision bus driving on the way there. Our driver showed us how to modify the rear end of an Army bus using only one stout fence post. The visit itself was most interesting, particularly the control room and the map showing road accidents in the area over the year - a very sobering sight.

The last major event of the term was the College Rifle meeting in which Ardennes came first in the team SMG and fourth overall. APte Neale performed particularly well and had the top individual SMG score.

Summer Term

This proved to be the most hectic term of all, almost half the time being spent away from Camp. Training began quickly for the Nijmegen Marches until summer camp began.

Though the weather at Tenby was disappointing, we were luckier than most and the 3-day exercise run by Capt Lewis, otherwise known as El

Gringo, went without a hitch. The parascending and canoeing were much enjoyed but regrettably the abseiling and sailing were abandoned.

After a short stay in camp it was off to ELT Camp in Capel Curig, followed by a week near Nottingham on Nijmegen March training. After a shortened half-term break the training continued with a walk along the South Downs way.

When the marchers went off to Nijmegen the rest of Ardennes remained behind to carry out a project at The Grange, a home for mentally handicapped children near Hindhead. Everyone worked very hard and by the end of the week the garden had been levelled and a splendid fence built around it.

The last absence from camp was the Platoon Camp at Marchwood which gave the triumphant Nijmegen Marchers a chance to nurse their blisters, though the strain had been too much for Sgt Clarke who had to be put out to grass for a week to recuperate.

Overall it has been a successful year particularly for the sportsmen, the platoon being represented in virtually all College teams. In particular the following must be mentioned: ASgt Biggs for winning the Sportsmen's Cup, ALcpl Hodson for excelling in sailing and winning the College sailing cup, ACpl Pow for bettering the 1977 Army Junior Javelin distance, gaining full football colours and performing well in other athletic events. Almost the entire College tennis team was provided by the platoon and finally, almost a third of the Corps of Drums were also from Ardennes!

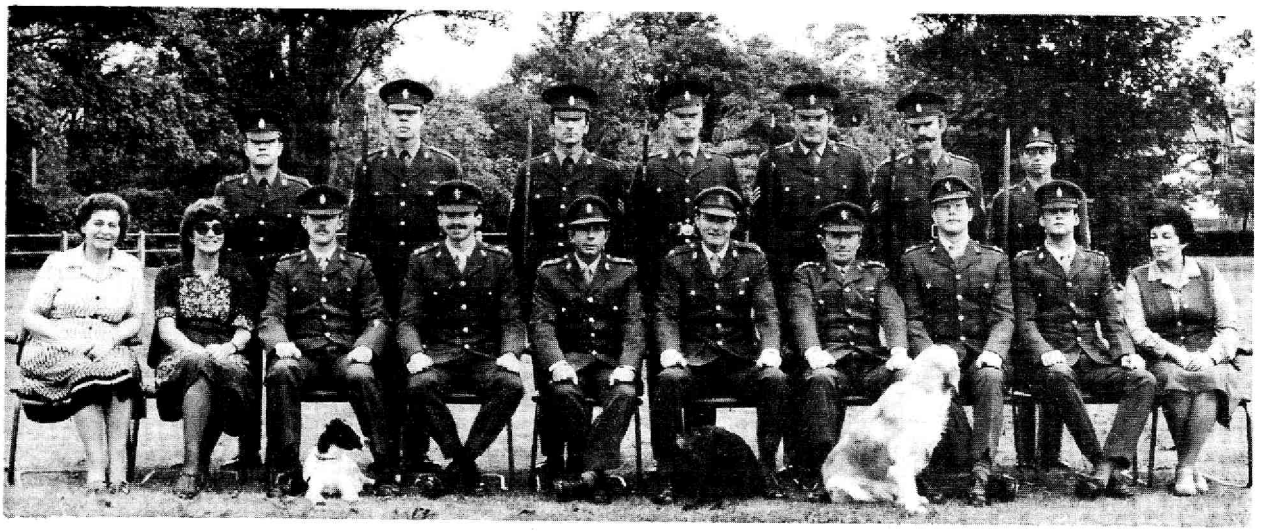
And so on to the final term with long-awaited trade training. It has been a busy year but the end is now in sight. Let's hope our drill is better for this pageant than it was for the previous one!

'B' COMPANY

OC Major E Champion RAOC

2IC Captain M E Parsons RAOC

CSM WO2 (CSM) B A Hosband RAOC



Standing:
Sgt D Carlin Sgt D M Bevan Sgt J W Starkey CSM B A Hosband Sgt S Squires Sgt G H Mack Sgt C J Taylor

Seated:
Mrs E Binnion Mrs D P Wood Lt I S J Cassidy Lt A Shepherd Capt M E Parsons Major E Champion Capt T I Bunyard Lt I B Biddle Lt B N Groves Mrs S Bell

Dogs: Spike 'Cassidy' Penny 'Champion' Flax 'Bunyard'

Each year the Company is subjected to a large number of changes in Permanent Staff and 1979 has been no exception. Capt Major and Parsons have left for Germany, Lt Evans for an emergency tour in Northern Ireland with the Gordon Highlanders and Lt Wise the wastelands of Yorkshire. We are never quite sure what Capt Powrie is up to because he has, in addition to being Brunei Platoon Commander, been Training Officer, Adjutant and stand in for 2IC. He does leave in January for the ATOs Course. Sgt Ogden accepted his posting to Hong Kong with very good grace, fully realising that we all have to endure hardship postings from time to time. We shall just have to ensure that he returns to the College when his tour finishes. We have many newcomers including Capts Jelly and Bunyard, Lts Biddle, Shepherd and Redwood. Sgts Squires and Bevan have not only joined us but successfully completed the Pirbright All Arms Drill Course, no mean achievement for REME tradesmen. Sgt Carlin and Cpl Leach come from CAD Kineton, Cpl Leach also having completed the Pirbright Course. We welcome them all, together with their families, to the College.

On the training side we had a very successful camp at Tregantle Fort in Cornwall during February during which we zeroed most SLRs and enjoyed the bracing Cornish air and Royal Navy hospitality of HMS Raleigh. Hopefully, when we return in February 1980, we shall be able to renew

friendships once again.

RMAS have offered us vacancies to join them on exercises in the Eifel Mountains in Germany and in Cyprus. The lads who have been lucky enough to participate have all enjoyed themselves enormously and we have every hope of continuing this type of attachment. A number of senior lads also went to Germany for a month to act as enemy for 6 Field Force which now seems to be an annual event. Driver training at the Army School of Mechanical Transport is going very well and the majority of senior RAOC lads have the opportunity to obtain a group 'A' licence with a few qualifying as HGV 3 drivers.



Ex QA Sister Miss McDougal-Clark being helped in her garden by APtes Emerton and Roberts of Bruneval

Past members of the Company will be pleased to know that we continue to enjoy the cross country runs over the G1 Training area. Fitness is given a high priority within the Company, particularly when we are at camp.

The Company cricket team proved too



APtes Gore, White and Peake (Berlin) at work at Brookwood Hospital



Members of Burma enjoying a card game with Mr Smith (ex-cobbler RAOC)

strong for 'A' Company which enabled us to enjoy a very comfortable victory.

Character training has featured largely in the life of the College and the Company have, once again, been involved in the collection for White Lodge on Grand National Day when almost £2,000 was collected. APte Brown collected over £35 to win the award for the highest individual collection. In addition the Company deployed throughout Sandhurst and Crowthorne on a Saturday in October to collect for the Army Benevolent Fund. Many minor tasks to help folk in need have been carried out and our photographs show:

On the social scene a very successful

Bar-B-Q was held for all Permanent Staff in July followed by a further party in November. Platoon parties are held for term leavers but it remains very much a close secret where all the girls came from. The OC is constantly told that they are from the village but he and the CSM continue recceing without success.

BALACLAVA PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt I S J Cassidy RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D G Bevan REME

Platoon Corporal — Cpl E C Leach RAOC

Following a hectic and very wet summer camp the platoon staff began to prepare for the new recruit platoon. The Apprentice NCOs were briefed and took over their rooms and finally only one thing was lacking, the recruits themselves! On 12 June 1979 they arrived from all over the country in various modes of transport to begin a new career, in a new place, with new friends.

It soon became evident that they had settled in well and were beginning to enjoy their new lives. ASgt Evans and ACpl Tompkins ran a tight ship and things ran smoothly. Within a week four boys had gone home, but they were despatched without fuss and everyone else was happy. Within the rooms, competition was carefully, but positively, encouraged, with ALcpls Sheldrake, McKinney and Stewart trying hard to gain an edge.

It was now becoming evident what a good spirit and potential the platoon had. A 'celts' versus 'anglos' football game (the 'anglos' needed reinforcing due to the number of 'celts' in the platoon) revealed a wealth of soccer talent. Even now it is fairly evident that ALcpls Robinson, Day, Ptes Murray and Shanks will play for the College. In other sporting activities, both Bell and Ramsay are promising distance runners, Malcolm was the East Scotland 110 metre hurdle junior runner up and Newlands, Buchanan and Harding are all good Rugby players.

Training proceeded well with all students being responsive and mastering most subjects quickly. Everybody passed off the square in front of the Training Officer, indeed they were the only platoon to stand fast when 'A' Company recruits were fainting left, right and centre. The culmination of training came with Exercise 'First Blood', a 24 hour affair, sleeping out at night and doing an eight mile forced march from Minley Wood to Deepcut along the Basingstoke Canal path. A great deal was learnt by all, everybody had a chance to fire their weapons and if the march seemed hard at the time, everyone finished with a feeling of achievement.

The final activity the platoon took part in was the passing out parade. This took the form of a section attack demonstration. Although this was an activity usually taught in term 2, the training programme was amended slightly and three weeks hard training put in. The final result was an impressive attack, carried out on the centre of the square, the finale to the recruit display, drawing a standing ovation from adulatory parents and spectators.

The term was rounded off by the following awards and presentations. ALcpl McKinney was promoted to ACpl, and the following Apprentices were promoted to ALcpls - Buchanan, Canavan, Day, Newlands, Malcolm and Robinson. ALcpls Malcolm and Robinson gained athletic colours. Finally, ALcpl Robinson was awarded the best recruit award.

The only sad thing to report are the losses that the platoon have had to suffer. Sgt Bevan, Cpl Leach, ACpl Stewart, ALcpls Sheldrake, Canavan, Day and Malcolm will move to take over recruit platoons. But on the other side of the coin the whole platoon can look forward to three weeks hard earned leave, Sgt Taylor and a new term as the Corps of Drums platoon.

BERLIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt I B Biddle REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D M Bevan REME

Berlin Platoon started on 11 September 1979 with the usual histrionics that precede the first night of a new show. The audience, or in this case, each recruit, was carefully, if covertly, vetted by the platoon commander who was lurking near the tea urn on the pretext of scrounging sticky buns.

Wednesday was the platoon's first day in the Army with, at this stage, lots of bewildered, if still hopeful faces. The platoon sergeant and platoon commander began what was apparently an endless round of interviews and 'informal' chats. These were cunningly designed to gain the recruits' confidence and thus to spot potential 'stars' at an early stage.

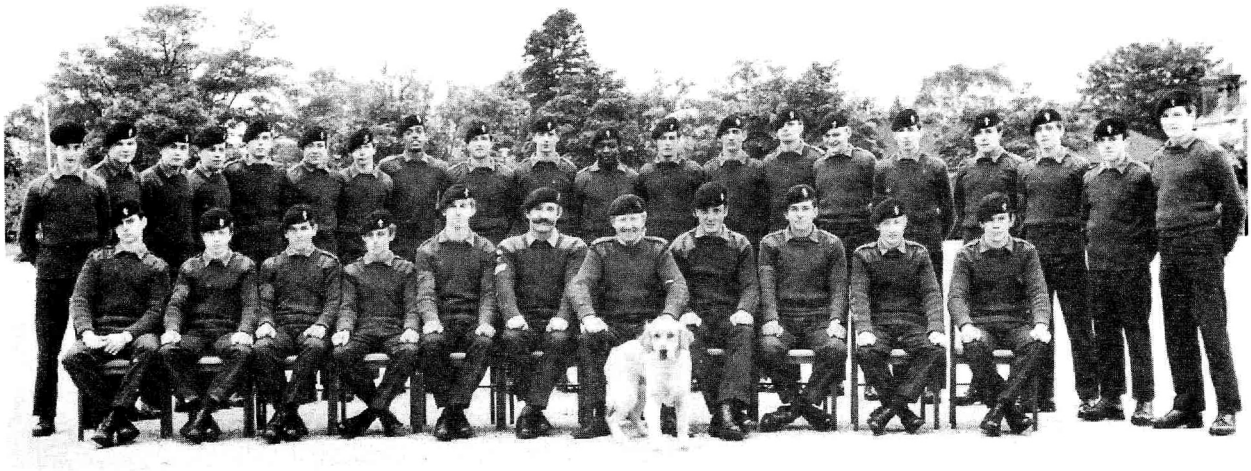
Although the platoon permanent staff are still absolutely convinced of the correctness of their psychology this talent spotting did not seem to work. The unlikeliest people began to shine and some early hopefuls failed to start. By day three at least half the platoon were homesick. This disease, common I should think to all boys' units, quickly spread and soon virtually all the platoon were wandering around with a faraway look. Time eventually healed all and, as the boys made new friends, they began to settle down and start work as a platoon.

It is still very early in the term to write at length about platoon activities. However, with the help of Sgt Bevan and the Apprentice NCOs, I am sure that next year's article about Berlin Platoon can only be a recital of a tour de force.

BENGHAZI PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Capt T I Bunyard REME

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt G H Mack RAOC



Back row

Aptes Betts Wallbanks Mann Lumley Batterham Mee Scarborough Sutherland
ALcpls Forbes Goodacre Brown APtes Chivers McWinnie ACpl Oliver APte Newton
ALcpl Sheldrake APte Davies ALcpl Johnson APtes Newbury and Burns

Front row:
ALcpl Hand ALcpl Stimpson ALcpl Williams APte Martin ACpl Lowbridge
Sgt G H Mack RAOC Capt T I Bunyard REME "Flax" ACpl Miles ALcpl Bates
APtes Barker and Greville

Spring Term 1979

Benghazi Platoon joined the College in January 1979, to be joined shortly afterwards by their Platoon Commander. The metamorphosis - from bewildered civilians to keen, tough, alert but at times equally bewildered apprentices had begun. Apprentice NCOs associated with the platoon in its early days have since left the College - to be replaced slowly by our own 'home grown' NCOs. A great deal of credit for the speed with; which the platoon adapted to College life must go to these young NCOs. Elsewhere in the magazine appears a poem produced by ASgt Fyvie, which, for those well up in the vernacular, sums up the first difficult weeks in the College.

Talented sportsmen quickly make an impression and following Sgt Mack's example the first success came to our cross country runners. The College team ended a successful season with a fine win in the Army Junior Cross Country. APtes Bates and Sutherland were members of the team, the award of an Army Champions medal after only a few short weeks indicated no lack of spirit and determination. These characteristics have now become a trademark - Bates and Sutherland along with ACpl Miles recently took part in a successful expedition which climbed Mont Blanc, the full account of which also appears elsewhere in the magazine.

The Company Spring camp at Tregantle Fort is remembered most for the

assault march, sadistically planned by Capt Parsons and including probably the only vertical road in the British Isles. The sight of ACpls Lowbridge and Oliver repairing the grass verges of the fort, with 17 GCE 'O' levels (not including horticulture) between them and the rampart race which, although Benghazi Platoon did not win, they ran stylishly, carefully avoiding the new repaired gass verges. Range work and an interesting map reading course completed the training phase and a day of competitions against HMS Raleigh. Finally, a popular choice for the Best Recruit was APte (now Cpl) Oliver.

Summer Term 1979

A bright new start in the shape of APte Betts - the Great Gonzo - appeared at the start of the Summer Term. With no previous experience, but obviously a tremendous amount of lonely efforts Betts produced some fine running at cross country and athletics - an inspiration to many others to do the same. The coming cross country season will give our talented runners their opportunity to repeat the 1978 success. The emphasis would appear to be centred on running, but other sports and activities are well supported by members of the platoon. Our footballers, ALcpl Johnson, APtes Batterham, Chivers and the injury prone but ever cheerful ALcpl Goodacre have given good account of themselves. APte Mann has crewed and instructed during the many sailing events held in the past year and ALcpl Sheldrake was a member of the highly successful College shooting team.

It was during the summer term that the platoon had the opportunity to display talents of another sort at College Camp in Tenby, Platoon Camp in the Lake District and the White Lodge collection. Tenby is well documented and the general opinion was that the camp was highly successful, the platoon star on this occasion being ALcpl Forbes, a mean water skier of considerable ability.

The Platoon camp at Irton Hall School combined an element of outward bound type training with the small project to help the school. Irton Hall is a residential school for handicapped children, set in beautiful grounds a few miles from Wastwater and the very centre of the Lake District National Park. A tented camp in the grounds was the platoon base and led by Sgt Edwards an exciting day's walking, climbing and scree running was spent in the Great Gable area. A day was spent on forestry work for the school, over an acre of woodland was thinned, the wood stripped and stacked ready for fencing.

The same evening, under ACpl Miles, a group from the platoon erected a barbeque in the children's sand pit and invited the staff and the children to a party. Despite the efforts of the platoon commander to incinerate the steaks and a number of apprentices, an expert in the shape of Cpl Ballentyne ACC was engaged as technical advisor and judging by the reluctance of the children to leave it was a successful venture.

It is not easy to express all the feelings of sympathy or pity which we all at sometime felt - it was extremely gratifying to see both children and Apprentices relaxing together and making friends.

The departure from Irton was a tearful affair but the visit left a very deep impression on us all. As a result of the work done at the school the whole platoon was awarded the West Shield for Community Work and APte Batterham was unanimously elected to receive this trophy. Earlier in the term, during the street collection for the White Lodge Home, another outstanding community effort was made, in particular by ALcpl Brown and APte Mee, who collected £50. The source of some of this largesse was an old ladies Bingo

Club and the Bookies Shop following the last race. Fine examples of initiative and 'extortion'.

In an attempt to credit as many members of the platoon with all their achievements the attempts at reducing the rabbit population of Berkshire by APtes Newton and Wallbanks should not go unnoticed. Rabbits still sleep safely in their warrens but the cat population has decreased by one.

APte Greville has been in great demand as one of the more tuneful members of the Corps of Drums playing at Mess and Sports events.

The platoon has grown in confidence in its first two terms and has started the final term which will include ELT Camp and another platoon venture. The theme must be simply "keep up the good work".

BRUNEI PLATOON

Platoon Commander — 2Lt J E S Redwood RAOC

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D Carlin RAOC

Corporal — Cpl E C Leach RAOC

Brunei Platoon was formed again in Autumn 1979, this time with baby REMEs under the intrepid leadership of 2Lt Redwood and Sgt Carlin. By the end of the first week three characters who would never make soldiers had left and the rest of the platoon settled down to the hard slog of being a recruit.

After three weeks, individual characters are now standing out, especially APte Collins who, every time he opens his mouth, puts his foot in it. He will learn!

The platoon is a mixed bunch who are average on the whole, with some, like APte Evans, who are hard workers and others who have still to realize that they are in the Army and not at school.

All we can do now is to try to lick this lot into shape and wait for the results.

BURMA PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt B N Groves RAOC

Platoon Sergeants — Sgt Ogden RAOC

SSgt Johnson RAOC

Sgt Squires REME

Cpl E C Leach RAOC

Winter Term 1978

The recruits arrived on 10 September 1978 and totalled 36 REME Apprentices. Since a large proportion of them came from northern areas (anywhere north of Watford) their language problem was the first of many that

platoon staff had to overcome. Early training proved too strenuous for some and the platoon started to drop in numbers. By the end of term Burma platoon numbered 30.

The first term saw changes in platoon staff when Sgt G I Ogden left on a course and was replaced by Ssgt Johnson who came on loan for a month from Training Battalion and Depot. This change made little difference to the platoon and they settled down well to their first of many changes in platoon sergeants.

Platoon training in the field culminated in a two day exercise on the local training area. This exercise was enjoyed more by the ANCOs who endeavoured to use every piece of blank ammunition they could.

The platoon took part in the end of term pageant by producing APte Washbrook who played the part of Miss P Riddell superbly.

Spring Term 1979

All the boys returned fresh ready to start another term's training as they were no longer recruits. After Lt Groves returned from his arduous skiing, Burma Platoon moved to Penhale Training Camp for a week in lieu of REME Technical Training. A good week was had by all and all the boys enjoyed learning to abseil under the instruction of Sgt Edwards. The only arguments that arose were between Lt Groves and Sgt Ogden on deciding who would be the first to do the abseil. It was eventually decided by RHIP (Rank Has Its Privileges). Sgt Ogden won. The only other event of this camp was ALcpl Stevens and his intrepid squad getting lost on a map reading exercise.

By half way through Spring term Burma Platoon numbers had dropped to 29, where it remained, as three boys left to take up other jobs including one to the police force.

Promotions were now coming in thick and fast and by the end of term the platoon Apprentice NCOs were ACpl Blackhurst, ALcpls Dancy, Stevens, Moore, Fordham with ACpls Tompkins and Bissell with recruit platoons.

Summer Term

Summer term was noticeable for the change in platoon Sergeants, namely Sgt Ogden RAOC who was posted to Hong Kong and replaced by Sgt Squires REME. This posting was very upsetting for Sgt Ogden who had only done three years in the College and felt that he wasn't quite the permanent appendage that everyone else thought he was.

A great time was had by the whole platoon at Summer camp. The platoon even enjoyed wallowing in thick mud and having their tents blown down in the Priscilly mountains. We returned early to Penally only to go back to Passchendaele to take down the tents. A task at which APte Youle showed great promise.

After our return from the Somme, we started to prepare for the passing out parade and end of term parties. By now Sgt Squires had taken over and soon departed for the favourite course of all, the All Arms Drill Course. Cpl Leach replaced Sgt Squires and was with us until the end of term and suffered all the preparation for passing out.

In conclusion the platoon had representatives in all major College sports, namely:

ACpl Fordham	Cricket/Hockey
ASgt Blackhurst	Football
ALcpl Moore	Football
ACpl Tompkins	Football
ALcpl Dancy	Rugby
ALcpl Stevens	Rugby
APte Youle	Rugby
APte Johnson	Cross Country
APte Dance	Shooting

APte	Hall	Shooting
APte	Grout	Shooting
APte	Kaines	Shooting

APte Dowell used to represent the Training Battalion and Depot at Badminton.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Education Officer — Maj D G Edwards RAEC

The College Education Department has three clearly defined aims which it seeks to achieve both theoretically and practically. The Army rightly demands higher standards educationally for the modern soldier. Particular Corps tradesmen must be trained wisely and efficiently if they are to be successful at their jobs. The individual has to be encouraged to further his qualifications at any level thought suitable in order to equip him for both soldiering and citizenship.

It is all so simple to claim that every effort is made to achieve those aims. However, success or failure can only be measured in the cold light of statistics. During the year covered by this magazine some 123 apprentices have been successful in the Royal Society of Arts examinations Stage 1 and 28 have gone on to reach Stage 2 standards. 54 apprentices have added GCE qualifications to their records. The success rate in trades, mathematics, science and office studies is most commendable especially in the high gradings obtained by some of our apprentices. It would appear therefore that this department can claim to be playing its part in the efficient performance of potential leaders, tradesmen and craft apprentices.

The Department continues to control all hobby activities throughout the College. Some 25 hobbies have been functioning during the year, on the whole with great success. A wide choice of activity is offered ranging from Art to Model Making and from Liberal Studies to the care and maintenance of cars and motor-cycles. Accounts of many of these are detailed elsewhere.

In the official reports on educational work in the College, scant attention is paid to the essential jobs done by the civil servants who back up the task of the Educational Staff. The smooth running of the department is due, in no small measure, to Mrs Bonta, Mrs Fielden, Mrs Copley and Mrs Binnion who all help ensure that the department functions efficiently.

The Educational Staff itself has undergone changes. Major P A Easton RAEC, the Senior Education Officer, has left to take up his new appointment as Deputy Commandant, No 2 Resettlement Centre, Aldershot. The Department owes a great debt of gratitude to Peter for all his sterling work. Major D G Edwards RAEC has replaced him as Senior Education Officer and Lts Barnes, Manuel and Scott have joined the staff as RAEC instructors.

The formidable task of fitting well over 200 new apprentices into the 'educational' system now faces the department. One thing is certain - the same dedication, expertise, care and understanding will be diligently practised despite all the 'bulging' classes.

COLLEGE PRIZEWINNERS 1978 - 79

The boys who win prizes each term are the top 20 (or so) boys of a College some 300-400 strong. To be included in this select few is no mean feat and it has long been thought that more attention should

be paid to their achievements. Admittedly their names are engraved on the trophies they win and they take home with them replicas and other prizes to remind them of their moments of triumph. But it is felt that a more widespread record is needed. Henceforward, therefore, in this magazine, will be published the names of all prizewinners during the year under review. The lists covering September 1978 to August 1979 are printed herewith.

PRIZEWINNERS - WINTER TERM 1978

Award	Rank	Name	Platoon
The Nockles Cup - Skill at Arms	APte	Kaines	Burma
Recruit PT Cup	APte	Saunders	Bruneval
Crawford Tankard (Best all round Shot)	APte	Stotan	Berlin
MacDonald Shield (for perseverance)	APte	Burnett	Alamein
McEwan Shield (for endeavour)	ACpl	Powley	Anguilla
West Shield (for community service)	APte APte	Adams Evans	Berlin Berlin
EDUCATION PRIZES			
English	ASgt	Simpson	Alamein
Maths	ASgt	Hough	Arakan
Science	APte	Russell	Alamein
Office Organisation	ALcpl	Crow	Arnhem
FORM PRIZES			
A1	APte	Allison	Aden
A2	APte	Ujvari	Anguilla
A4	APte	Russell	Alamein
B1	APte	Roberts	Bruneval
B2	APte	Waite	Brunei
B3	APte	Emerton	Bruneval

PRIZEWINNERS - SPRING TERM 1979

RECRUIT AWARDS			
The Nockles Cup - Skill at Arms		Caulder	Arnhem
The Recruit PT Cup		Bates	Benghazi
Best Recruit A Company		Smith 717	Arnhem
Best Recruit B Company		Oliver	Benghazi
EDUCATION			
The Toc-H Cup (Best Scholar)		Peake	Bruneval
MILITARY TRAINING			
The Maule Cup (Military Proficiency)		Douglas	Anguilla
The Sergeants Cup (Best all-rounder)		Powley	Arnhem
The Hayes Cup (For External Leadership)		Baker	Burma
SPORT			
The Sportsman's Cup (Best all-round sportsman)		Adams	Bruneval
Robinson Shield (Cross Country)		Adams	Bruneval
Radley Cup (Orienteering)		Prowse	Arakan

PRIZEWINNERS - SUMMER TERM 1979

Award	Rank	Name	Platoon
RECRUIT AWARDS			
The Nockles Cup - Skill at Arms	APte	Walker	Alamein
The Recruit PT Cup	APte	Cook	Anguilla
Best Recruit A Coy	APte	Hargrove	Alamein
Best Recruit B Coy	APte	Robinson	Balaclava
EDUCATION			
The Toc-H Cup (Best Scholar)	APte	Brown 587	Arakan
MILITARY TRAINING			
The Maule Cup (Military Proficiency)	ASgt	Comfort	Aden
The Sergeants Cup (Best all-rounder)	ASgt	Blackhurst	Burma
The Hayes Cup (For External Leadership)	APte	Bent	Brunei
CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY			
The West Shield (Community Service)	APte	Batterham	Benghazi
The St Albans Cup (For Initiative)	APte	Baker	Burma
SPORT			
The Sportsman's Cup (Best all round sportsman)	ASgt	Biggs	Ardennes

ATHLETICS

Officer In Charge Capt T I Bunyard REME

The 1979 Athletics season started with the Inter Platoon selection meetings, followed on 9 May by the Inter Company match. B Company emerged as the winners of the track and field events with A Company taking the Tug-of-War.

Following the success of the College cross country team, the principle aim of the Atheltics team was to win the Army Junior Championship. How close they came will be seen, no excuses are offered by an examination of individual performances reveals no lack of effort on behalf of all team members - and reserves.

Four athletes achieved Army qualifying standards at the College meeting and another three beat the 1979 best championship performance. ASgt Biggs being particularly noteworthy with a time of 17.0 seconds for 110-m hurdles a full second inside the Army Junior qualifying time.

The Travers Clarke meeting followed on 10 May which offered the opportunity to compete against senior athletes. Although the College team produced no event winners, a number of improved performances were evident. APte Burns was awarded the Junior Solder Trophy with an improvement of 5-cm on the high jump. With over three weeks to the Zone 1 Championships team training, in particular for the technical events, took priority. The availability of Aldershot Stadium meant that first string athletes entered the Zone 1 event with confidence.

Not misplaced as the College emerged as winners of this event, not without a period of surprise following a re-run of the 4 x 100-m relay. The first attempt, on a wet, slippery track, being a scene of carnage, multiple disqualifications and 5th place for the College. The second attempt saw APtes Ferguson, Brown, Adams and ASgt Ahmed win a thrilling race and thus the meeting. Other good performances at this event were APte Johnson (Burma Platoon) 1500 metres, APte Johnson 800 metres, APte Jones Discus and APte Youle Shot, all with best performances and Army Junior qualifying times and distances.

The arrival of the Recruit intake produced talent in the shape of Malcolm, Robinson and Bell at hurdles, sprints and distance plus a number of others with good potential for the 1980 season.

The final of the Army Junior Championship was not the triumphant finale to the season the team had hoped for. In a close finish the College finised 3rd, behind teams already defeated at the Zone championships. This despite yet more personal improvements and fine wins by Brown (Long Jump) and Youle (Shot) with second places by Jones (Discus) and Adams (400 metres). The relay team sadly did not pull off another last gasp win.

The Army Junior Individual Championships, Junior in this instance being under 21, saw ASgt Biggs again prominent in hurdling, finish in 4th position against very strong opposition. This was the highest placing in the Individuals.

The final Army Competition was the Army Open (Senior and Junior) single event championships; two competitors per event. Burns and Rome tried hard but were slightly overpowered in the High Jump, Biggs and Malcolm ran well to 4th place in the 110 metres hurdles. This last event demanded high qualifying standards, to even reach a final being a fine achievement.

Congratulations are due to ASgt Biggs on the award of the "Sportsman's Cup" and no less than 16 athletes for the award of College colours. Just rewards for determination.

Among the summer intake a number of athletes of promise have emerged, notably APte Henry, Herefordshire Junior cross country champion and a few "heavies" to boost our throwing events.

The aim must be to have a well balanced team by the start of the summer term in 1980, to improve on what has on the whole been a successful and enjoyable year for our athletes.

CRICKET

Officer in charge — Capt M D Wood RAOC

Assistants — Wing Cmdr P W Hope RAF (Retd)

Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)

Once again your reporter must record the disappointments we in the College Cricket Club experienced in the opening weeks of the 1979 season. Having discovered during 'nets' at the Aldershot Indoor School in the Spring Term that we had three outstanding prospects in Fordham, Saunders and Prowse, our hopes ran high for a really successful season.

Then came the disruptions caused by military training, athletics and, of course, the College summer camp. Our first game, the opening round of the Army Cup, was played immediately the players returned from Penally and, almost inevitably, we were defeated. Before we were able to recover from this distress and to improve our cricketing skills, we were involved in the DGOS Cup. We managed to account for No 7 Field Force Ordnance Company with little bother, thanks particularly to fine performances by Fordham (51 not out and 3 for 18), Prowse (5 for 30) and Goodman (2 for 14). Then we met our 'seniors' from the RAOC Training Centre and we were comphrensively beaten by 130 runs to 62. However, we learned so much during that game by seeing at close quarters the technical skills and limited-over expertise of such renowned cricketers as our own Capt Wood, Major Cowell and SSgt Thomson. Our results in subsequent games reveal how well we learned our lessons that afternoon.

The AAC Arborfield came along to our attractive ground at Deepcut and we bowled them out for a mere 58. Again Fordham and Prowse led the attack with four cheap wickets each. We had little difficulty in reaching that easy target when Stanfield, already beginning to show signs of becoming a good wicket-keeper, scored 29 and Flynn a fluent 22 not out.

Poor weather and cancellations by various opponents caused us to miss fixtures in the heart of the season but nothing went wrong with our game against our traditionally strong rivals from the ACC Aldershot. We scored 127 for 7 in the 25 overs allowed and dismissed our opponents for 78. Good performances on this occasion came from the inevitable Fordham (25 runs) and an emerging star, Batterham (29 runs and 5 wickets).

The following weeks were consumed by our domestic competitions. B Company beat A Company by 30 runs in a game of fluctuating fortunes. This game was noteworthy because Saunders returned to the cricketing fold from driver training and Keymer impressed with a studious 18 runs. A week later we had the 'blood' match between the Apprentices and the Permanent Staff which, not surprisingly to those of us who knew the height the cricketing stature of the Apprentices had now reached, the former won. Indeed had it not been for the intervention of our new Bursar, Major Neal RAEC (Retd), it could have been a massacre of the 'old-uns'. Particularly pleasing were the performances of Stanfield (27 runs), Saunders (15 runs and 3 wickets), Batterham (not out and 3 wickets) and Prowse (4 wickets).

This account would not be complete without mentioning that Fordham and Prowse represented the College in an Army Under-19 team against AAC Arborfield in a double-innings game towards the end of the season. How creditably they performed. This was a game in which there were probably several Army players of the near future and Fordham (with scores of 48 and 44) and Prowse (3 for 33 in 8 overs) were by no means dwarfed by their distinguished team colleages and opponents.

The following apprentices represented the College during the season: Flynn, Stanfield, Fordham, Goodman, Prowse, Miles, Lumley, Batterham, Skepper, Clarke, Buxton, Drury, Keymer, Jones, Fox, Achew, Sutherland, Mee, Newbury and Saunders. Of these Fordham, Prowse, Stanfield and Batterham were awarded colours.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Officer In Charge Capt P J Lewis RAEC

Summer 1979

The 1979 cross country season has been the best in the history of the College, The College achieved the grand slam of victories winning the South East District Championship and the Army Junior Minor Units Championship.

The Cross Country Club has been very strong this year with considerable talent in depth. This has been of considerable use as one or two of our first team members suffered injuries prior to the Army Final.

The team took part too in the South East District League coming in overall third position but first of the minor units. There were times when as many as 20 runners from the College took part in league races. Members of the College also represented the Depot and Training Centre RAOC and Apprentices Rose and Martin were members of the team that came third in the RAOC Corps Championship.

The following runners represented the College first team during the season:

APte	Coates	Arakan	Capt
APte	Adams	Bruneval	Vice Capt
APte	Johnson	Burma	
ALcpl	Smith	Arakan	
ASgt	Ahmed	Burma	
APte	Hughes	Arakan	
APte	Rose	Anguilla	
ALcpl	Shaw	Anguilla	
APte	Martin	Ardennes	
APte	Bates	Benghazi	
APte	Sutherland	Benghazi	

Though these runners represented the first team and won honours for the College there was a host of other runners not mentioned who always ran well and gave of their best and acted as in inspiration to those a little better than themselves.



Junior Army Minor Units. Winners Cup

Back row:
APtes Bates Rose Shaw Smith 44

Front row:
APte Sutherland Capt Lewis
APtes Adams and Hughes



Army Minor Units Cross Country Trophy

APte Coates (Team Captain) receives the trophy watched by APtes Adams (Vice Captain), Hughes and Rose

Winter 1979

As usual with cross country running, we got off to a slow start for the new season, with many recruits not having run since leaving school three months ago. With the example of the senior boys, however, the new lads soon got going and began to improve.

The College entered a team into the SEDIST Junior Cross Country League, in which many of the local junior units take part. The runners from some other units are older (and larger) than our own lads and we did very well in our first race, held on 27 September 1979 at St Omer Barracks in Aldershot, by the ACC Apprentices College. The race was won by REME Arborfield, who have boys up to 19 years old, and the College team was led by APte Bell, who ran exceptionally well to finish 7th against some high class opposition. His running over the last mile was very strong and he was supported by good runs from ALcpl Calder and APtes McGill, Woodman and Harrison. The rest of the team also ran well, with the orienteers, map reading their way round as well! Much of the administration has been done by Cpl Hladkij, newly arrived from Dulmen, who will also strengthen our permanent staff team.

Our first senior fixture, as a part of the Training Centre team, was a $5\frac{1}{2}$ mile race on Wimbledon Common. Several team members were still feeling the effects of the summer break but Lt Shepherd and Cpls Hladkij, Hawkins and Woollaston finished well up on a large and high class field, led home by Ssgt Harrison, second in the Army Championships last year.

A promising start to the season from both teams, with the prospect of good results to come, especially when the stars of the senior platoons (notably the all singing, all dancing, Benghazi, groomed by the impressible Capt Bunyard), are available to compete. We certainly have the potential to build strong teams for the big races in February and March next year.

DINGHY SAILING

Officer In Charge Capt M E Parsons

This year has seen the resurrection of dinghy sailing after a lapse of two years. Of the 15 apprentices who volunteered only two dropped out. I am happy to report that the remainder were successful and were presented with a certificate of competency (RYA Elementary) by DGOS.

The exchange of our old GP 14s for two Bosuns took place with Donnington last month. This has geographically placed two Bosuns in the area in which they are most used and the apprentices are sailing the class of boat generally used by REME/RAOC sailing clubs. The training syllabus is that of the RYA publication G4/78. This has standardised our method of instruction and should the keen apprentice wish to advance further in adult service he will be well placed.

Our main drawback this year was the weather. We have on three occasions asked the Royal Engineers to break the ice to enable us to launch the boats at Hawley Lake! Add to this the gusty conditions which are common to inland sailing, the apprentices found the experience quite educational.

The College went to Tenby in Pembrokeshire, for the annual camp. This is a good sailing area with much interest. The area is generally exposed which can curtail sailing in small boats and boys

again experienced by heavy winds. However, sailing was safe and enjoyable and despite the adverse weather conditions the aims set at the beginning were achieved. The only boat to capsize was the OIC's "Flying Dutchman" complete with CSM Hosband!! (Well, somebody had to demonstrate the "method" of righting a capsized dinghy - RYA approved of course).



The Flying Dutchman - as a class the fastest single hull dinghy in the world

Helm: Capt M E Parsons
Crew: Lcpl N R Langton

Tenby 1979

Our aim is to motivate the beginner in his desire to sail - racing can generate such an attitude. The inter-unit regatta proved to be the ideal springboard from which they can develop into Corps helmsmen.

Two teams represented the College in the RAOC Inter Unit Regatta, both produced excellent team racing and were a great credit to the College. Indeed they had a special presentation by Major General M Callan for winning so many races. Well done!

Pride of place this year must go to ALcpl Hodson of Ardennes Platoon, winner of the Nicol Trophy for Young Soldiers at the RAOC Individual Regatta at Calvert Lake, Bicester. Altogether a very impressive trophy and just reward for all the hard work. Well done!

GOLF

Officer In Charge Lt Col S Schofield Royal Sigs (Retd)

Golf practise has continued throughout the year with great enthusiasm, but, with one notable exception, without very much ability. Much time has been spent on the sports fields trying to get hold of the basic principles and much more time has been spent in the ditches, forests and bunkers of the Army Golf Club Aldershot trying to put those principles into practice. The trials and tribulations, however, have all been worthwhile because of the exception mentioned above. This was APte A S Brash of Arnhem Platoon who, on 20 July 1979, won the SE District Junior Championship with a score round the Army Golf Club Aldershot of 81. As this event was open to entries from all over the country, Brash's achievement makes him the Army Junior Golf Champion 1979-80. The following article was published in the local press of Brash's home town:-

"Alan Sutherland Brash has lived all his life in Haddington near Edinburgh. He joined the Army in January 1979 as an Apprentice at the RAOC Apprentices College in Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey. He hopes to become an RAOC Staff Clerk.

Alan's father is a Club golfer and it was with his father's set of clubs

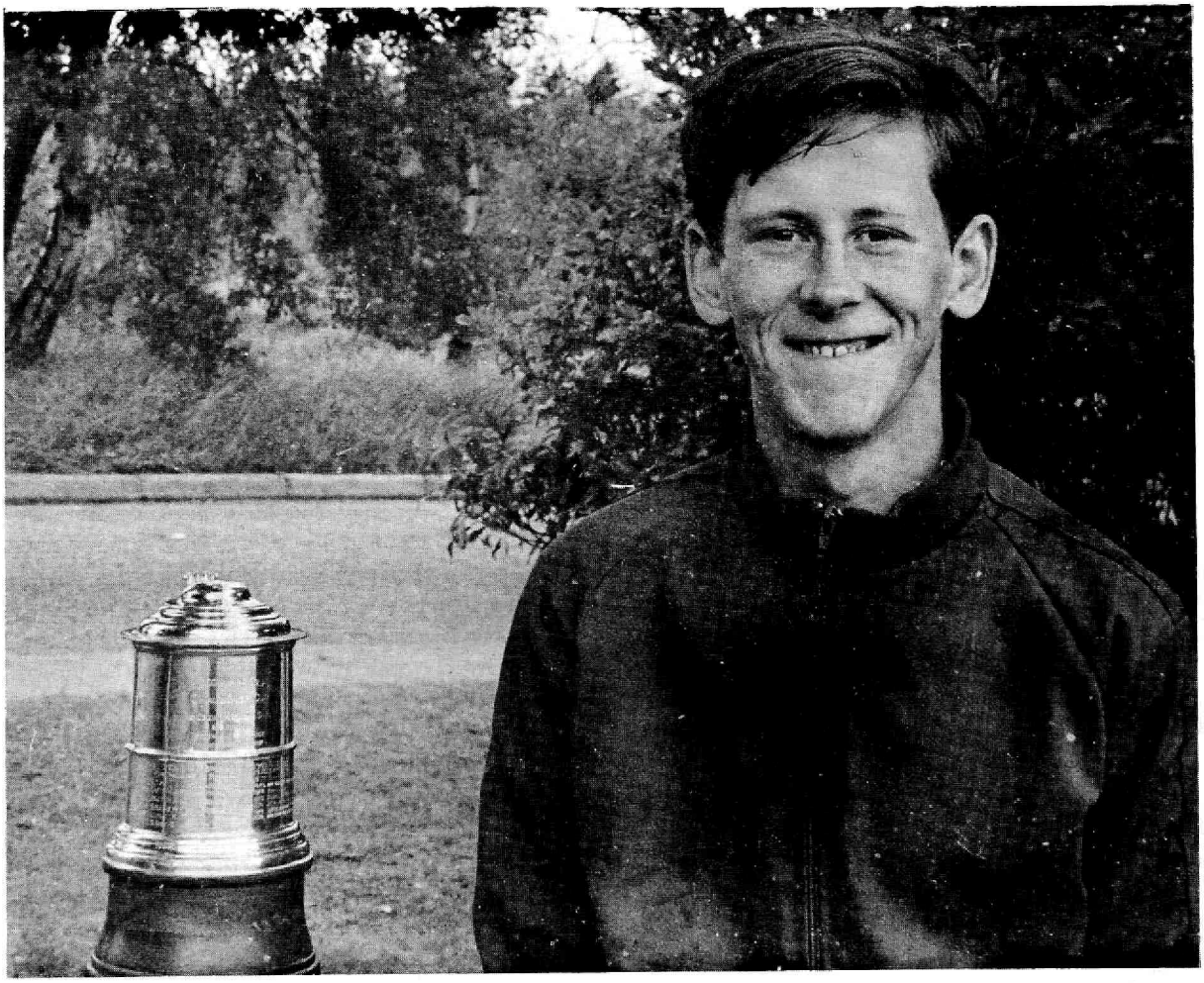
that Alan first began to play. He began to take golf seriously from the age of 12 onwards. However, he is largely self-taught, by individual practise and by reading golf instruction books. He has never had lessons from his father or any other golfer.

He was fortunate that near his home is Amosfield Golf Course, the course of which his father was a member. Alan used to practise on the course, sometimes by joining it half-way round before he became a member. Later he joined the club and began to play with other members. He did at one time want to become a professional golfer but realised he would never be good enough. He has a handicap of 8.

Having left school in May 1978 he at first worked as a green keeper on the Amosfield Course as part of the Work Experience Programme (an element of the then Government's job creation scheme). However, he did not feel that the job offered much in the way of prospects and so he decided to join the Army.

Since being at the RAOC Apprentices College he has done Golf as his sport two afternoons a week. The Officer in charge of Golf is Lt Col (Retd) Schofield, a member of the College's Education Department and an ex-Captain to Wentworth. Together they practise, with the other golfers at the College, at the Aldershot Military Course.

On Friday 20 July 1979 Alan took part in the Army Junior Golf Championship and won the trophy."



APte A S Brash, Army Junior Golf Champion, with the SE District Junior Golf Championship Trophy

OFFSHORE SAILING

Officer In Charge Mr J F Watson

Assistant Mr M F Johnson

The Offshore Sailing season started during the Easter leave when four members of the permanent staff took part in a six day trial cruise in cold blustery conditions which limited activities to Solent Waters. This trip was really in preparation for the long sail to Tenby in South Wales for summer camp.

Nine apprentices and three members of the permanent staff crewed the boat on the 384 mile trip. It was a very varied voyage during which we encountered the full spectrum of British spring weather, gales, dense fog and sunshine.

On returning from camp we were involved in a tight schedule of offshore regattas. The weekend of 9-10 June we took part in the first RAOC Offshore regatta which included the naming ceremony for the Corps new yacht "Thunderer" and I am sure that everyone in the College wishes her every success in her sailing.

On Saturday 16 June we once again took part in the famous "Round the Island" race. After our success in this race the previous year we were really looking forward to this event. We did well! We collected our tankard! We finished ninth in our class - ninth out of 370 yachts without IOR and .... we finished tenth overall out of a start of over 600 yachts.

The next weekend - 23-24 June found us competing in the ASA Offshore Regatta. We won first prize in Class II and collected a cup and two more tankards.

During July we loaned the yacht to the RAOC T&AVR and we introduced 15 T&AVR soldiers to offshore sailing in the Solent. Several qualified members of the Garrison have used "Thunderbolt" during the season, in fact she has been fully utilized and this season, to date, has logged over 1,200 miles.



Off Start Point en route for Tenby. Helm Mr Johnson

Crew APtes Fordham Cooney Dowell

Undoubtedly the highlight of this season is yet to come because in October we are off to Cyprus with 16 apprentices for 14 days to sail train in "Lady Heather", the Cyprus Services Sailing Club's 36-foot "Nantucket Clipper" and perhaps in the next edition of this magazine we shall be able to recount the blue skies and warm seas while you left behind here endured the rigours of the British autumn.

PARASCENDING

Chief Instructors — Capt B Kane RAEC

Instructors — Lt C Nisbett

Sgt P Wilkie

Miss A Kane

In October 1978 we gathered together some 45 potential parachutists. Due to the continuing restrictions on the use of Andover Airfield, parascending has once again this year been confined to Sunday only. This, together with the demands of rigorous training gradually reduced our numbers to some 20 enthustiasts.

Although hampered by an exceptionally bad winter and a delayed spring, training progressed. In addition to learning all the many ground tasks each parascender had to become proficient at turning, braking, stalling, stall-turning, oscillating and counter-oscillating their canopies prior to progressing to targeting.

Through June and July all accent was on preparation for the National Championships and a series of competitions was held to select teams. On 15 July a match was held with 1/3 Training Regt RE which the College, using only apprentices, won handsomely. At the beginning of July we acquired a Parafoil 252; although a number of senior apprentices have flown this advanced canopy there was insufficient time to bring them up to national standards so they continued to use the round canopies.

It is a pleasure to record that Lt Nisbett and Miss Kane both qualified as instructors during the year and that Ssgt McLean is almost ready to take his examination. Parascending Colours were won by ASgt Turner, ASgt Waite, APtes Izzard, Shepherd and Cadet Curtis.

The 1979 National Parascending Championships. This year's championships were held at Grantham, Lincolnshire on 25, 26 and 27 August. The College entered two teams. The 'A' team, using paracommander canopies were all under 18. The 'B' team using our new, square, parafoil canopy had to be radically revised just prior to the Championships due to the injury to the club Chief Instructor and the illness of WO2 Finch.

29 teams entered the competition, including one from France and one from Holland. Despite very high winds, this year saw the highest ever standard, the three top scoring individuals each recorded a series of 'dead centres' actually landing on a 10-cm target on descents from between 1000 and 1600 feet. A jump off had to be held to decide the ultimate winner.

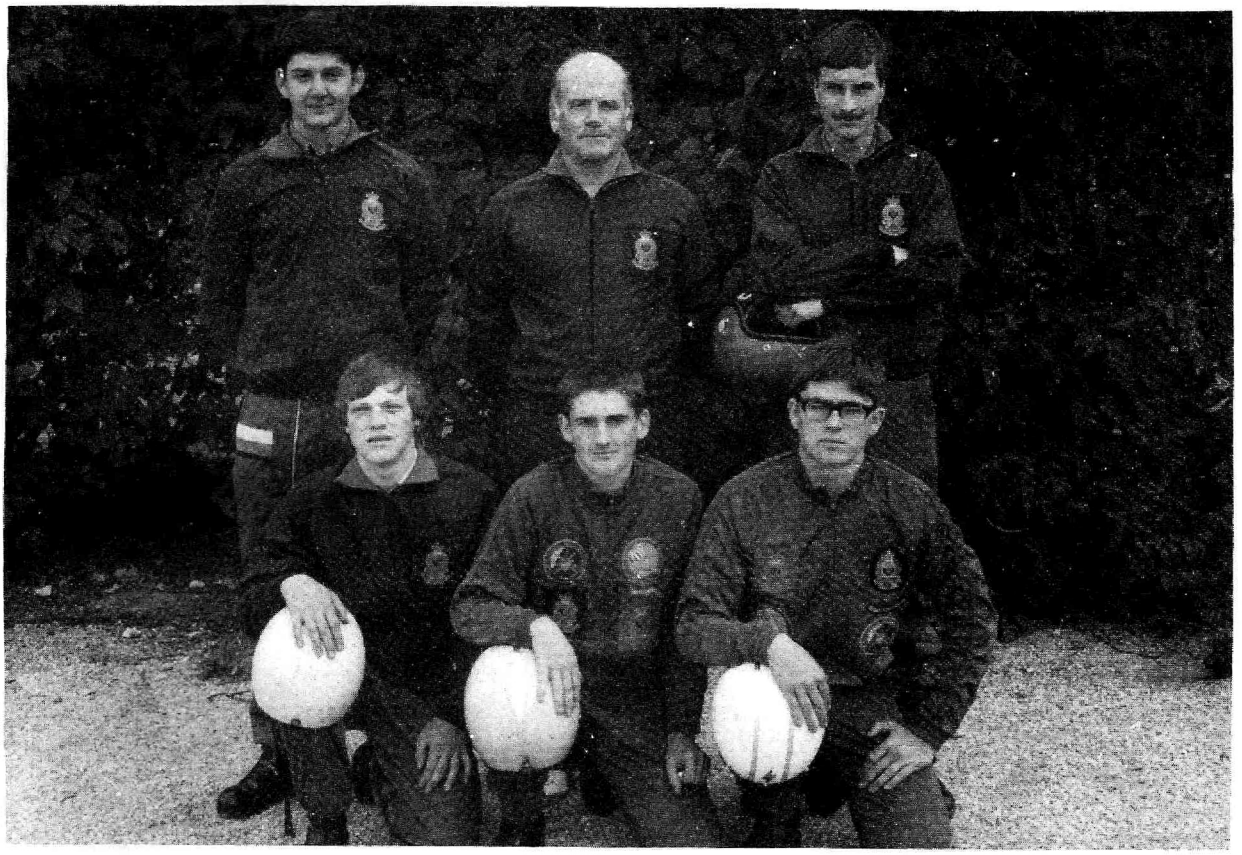
Our College teams, despite suffering under the disadvantages of not having a single competitor who had competed in the championships in previous years, acquitted themselves well. In the Championships proper the College 'B' team were 8th and the 'A' team came 11th. In the Army Championships, held in conjunction with the Nationals our teams excelled. Sgt Wilkie became the Army Individual Champion and the 'B' team were runners up in the Army

Championship, being narrowly beaten by 1st Bn The Green Howards.

The young 'A' team reached 4th place in both the Army and the 'round canopy' competitions just ahead of their old rivals 1/3 Training Regt RE.

TEAM A	TEAM B
ASgt Turner RAOC	Lt C Nisbett RAOC
ASgt Izzard RAOC	Sgt G Wilkie RAOC
Cadet Curtis	Lcpl Pettitt REME

Lcpl Pettitt has now progressed to free-fall parachuting.



Back Row: Lcpl Pettitt Capt Kane Lt Nisbett
Front Row: Cadet Curtis ASgt Turner APte Izzard

COLLEGE RUGBY 1978/79

This was unfortunately a very poor season for the College team, but I am glad to report a great success for many individuals. The team produced a fine set of backs, ASgt Sutcliffe, ASgt Ahmed and APte Turner gaining good reports on the Army Junior trials and ASgt Powley was good enough to be selected and play four games for the Army Under-19 side at fly-half. Alas the forwards would have been better playing a non-contact sport such as soccer, they were more delicate than porcelain and showed the aggression of a cornered lemming. Only ALcpls Aberdeen and Dancy showed any promise and their sterling efforts were squandered due to lack of support. The team was losing so heavily that the team retired prematurely from the league.

Towards the end of the season two

mixed Permanent Staff and Apprentice sides took part in the Bruce-7s. The 'A' team got through to the semi-finals and narrowly lost to the Depot side 14-12. Two excellent tries by Mike Ahmed in the second half brought the team within two points of victory after a bad start. Sgt Geoff Edwards broke away to score a try which was disallowed seconds before no-side. The 'B' side also played well to reach the semi-finals of the plate competition. This team contained more Apprentices and despite their enthusiasm were defeated by a more experienced side.

Despite the disappointments there were many rewarding individual displays throughout the season. Sgt Geoff Edwards had an Army trial, both he and Cpl Steve Jenkins played regularly for Aldershot Combined Services, Lts Iain Cassidy and Barry Groves, Ssgts Taff Bloomfield and Alf Connors played for the Blackdown Rugby Club. However, perhaps the saddest loss to the College was that of Cpl Taff Pascoe who was posted to BAOR and now, fully fit, is playing a good standard of Rugby once more.

SHOOTING

OIC Capt A R L Jaggers REME

2IC Capt A Ward RAOC

Assistants Lt C Nisbett WO2 (CSM) Miller Sgt Keogh

Training started earlier this season than last. Grouping and zeroing were carried out during the winter months of 1978. The faint hearted soon dropped out but the more interested shots perservered throughout the cold, and invariably wet afternoons spent on Ash ranges and gradually standards improved and we were firing the more complicated shoots that were to form the programmes for competitions beginning in April 1979.

The first of these were the REME Skill-at-Arms meeting held on Ash Ranges from 29 April-4 May. Three teams were formed for the meeting, two Apprentice and one Permanent Staff team. Those teams selected were:

Apprentices

APte	Dance	Burma
APte	Kaines	Burma
APte	Margison	Arakan
APte	Neale	Ardennes
ALcpl	Duffield	Arnhem
APte	Sheldrake	Arnhem
APte	Tingay	Arnhem
APte	Grout	Burma
APte	Hall	Burma
APte	Moore	Aden
APte	Garland	Aden
APte	Smith	Arnhem
APte	Atherton	Arnhem
APte	Williams	Arnhem

Permanent Staff

Capt	A R L Jaggers
Lt	C Nisbett
Sgt	Keogh
Capt	A Ward
WO2 (CSM)	Miller

Our earlier start to training this season paid off and results were a great improvement on last year.

Results were as follows:

Champion Junior Soldier
APte Atherton 3rd

Champion Class C SMG
APte Sheldrake 3rd

Falling Plates Match
App College PS 3rd

Pistol Tiles
App College PS 2nd

Team Snapshooting Match
Appr College PS 3rd

SMG Individual
WO2 (CSM) Miller 3rd

Pistol Stage 2
Capt A R L Jaggers 3rd

Following immediately after the REME meeting came the RAOC Corps meeting held also on Ash Ranges. Fortunately the RAOC combined their meeting with the ACC and our diet of "cheese sarnies", haversack rations from our cookhouse, was replaced by excellent well cooked meals seated at tables.

This 'home cooking' had a marked effect on our shooting standards. An Army not only marches on its stomach it also shoots on its stomach (most of the time anyway).

The following achievements are worthy of note:

Young Soldiers Inter Unit Rifle Match 2nd

Inter Unit Pistol Team Match 2nd
App College PS

Inter Unit Pistol Tiles Match
App College PS Winners

Apprentices Individual Rifle Match
ALcpl Duffield 1st
ALcpl Williams 2nd

REME Trophy (Awarded to the highest scoring non RAOC Apprentice)
ALcpl Duffield

Individual Pistol Championships Cup
Lt C Nisbett Runner Up

Corps 30 Pistol
Capt A R L Jaggers Winner

Summer Term

All sports afternoons and additional days were spent preparing for the culminating point of our shooting season. The Junior Soldiers' Skill-at-Arms meeting (JSSAAM 79) held on Pirbright Ranges from 22-25 July 1979. Scores in practice on both SMG and SLR were extremely encouraging and hopes of achieving our aim of winning the Apprentices College Championships were justifiably high. Our expectactions were raised even higher on the first day of JSSAAM 79 when scores for the first SMG details were published showing our scores to be amongst the highest.

This pattern was reflected in the IRAQ Cup (ETR) with APte Margison scoring a personal best of 136 (his final position was 8th overall in this match). We were brought down from the clouds however when it became evident that whilst half the team were excelling themselves, the other half were having "off" days.

The scoring system at JSSAAM follows the Bisley format, whereby, in each match, a team is awarded one point for each team beaten and at the end of the final stage of the penultimate match, the Hotchkiss Cup (SMG), we were leading our nearest rival AA College Chepstow by one point in the Apprentice College Championships. All that we now required was a good score in the final team match, the Team Snapshooting Match to consolidate our position. This was not to be and after a disastrous Team Snap Match, despite having a higher aggregate score (3486½ to 3444) our final position was 2nd in the Apprentices College Championships, ONE point behind Chepstow.

Notable individual performances were as follows:

Junior Soldiers SMG Championships

APte	Dance	Burma	6th
APte	Margison	Aden	24th

(220 entries)



APte Margison, the Champion Army Apprentice, receiving his gold medal from the C in C UKLF General Sir John Archer KCB OBE



The College Shooting Team after the RAOC Meeting

Standing: *APte Moore APte Dance ALcpl Williams Sgt Keogh WO2(CSM) Miller Capt Ward Lt Col K E Curtis Capt Jaggers Lt Nisbett ALcpl Garland ALcpl Duffield APte Hall*

Kneeling: *APtes Sheldrake Neale Margison ALcpl Smith APtes Grout Atherton Tingay and Kaines*

IRAQ Cup (ETR) Rifle Stage One

APte Margison Bronze Medal 8th

(226 entries)

Green Howards Cup - Rifle Stage One

APte Grout Burma 22nd
Bronze Medal

Apte Neal Ardennes 41st

(226 entries)

Junior Soldiers XXX Cup - Stage Two Rifle

(The top 30 from Stage One Rifle)

APte Margison 10th

JS Service Rifle Championship

(The aggregate of Stage One and Two)

APte Margison 15th

Champion Army Apprentice

APte Margison Gold Medal

College Team Placings

SMG Team Championship 5th out of 19

Minor Unit Championship 5th out of 10

SOCCER

Officer In Charge Capt M D Wood

Coaches Lt B Groves
Sgt Wolfe
Sgt Ogden
L/Cpl Langton

Last year's soccer season was a successful one for the College. In the leagues the 1st XI came fourth in Division 1 and the 2nd XI were Champions of Division 2. The 2nd XI were presented with their championship medals by Brigadier Kendrick, the Chairman of Army Youth Soccer. They thoroughly deserved them and the football they played made them worthy champions.

In the cup competitions our teams were knocked out of the Army competitions in the early rounds, but in the District League Cup the College team won through to the final and defeated the RAPC Juniors 3-2 in a nail-biting match. This trophy, called the Collins Cup, together with the 2nd XI Championship Trophy is now in the College Guardroom and the two together are visible proof of a good football season for the College.

At Easter a team from the College took part in a National Association of Boys' Clubs 5th International Football Festival in Liverpool. Although the team was knocked out of the competition after their four group matches it was good experience for them all. The standard of opposition was very high with many continental sides drawn from thoughout Europe competing.

The successful team in the Collins Cup Final was:

ALcpl	Blackhurst	Burma
ACpl	Ahmed	Bruneval
APte	Rome	Brunei
APte	Wood	Bruneval
APte	Roberts	Bruneval
APte	Harper	Benghazi
APte	Stanfield	Arakan
ALcpl	Drury	Arnhem
APte	Donaldson	Anguilla
ALcpl	Gamblen	Anguilla
APte	Jennings	Anguilla
ASgt	Powley	Anguilla



Standing: *Day Drury Ahmed Gamblen Jennings Blackhurst Folwell Rome Harper Pow*

Sitting: *Shepherd Powley Langton Capt Wood Stanfield Donaldson*

TENNIS

Officer In Charge — Lt B N Groves

Assistants — Mr W E Smith

Sgt Daniels

L/Cpl Langton

The 1979 season presented some real headaches for the coaching staff. It was not possible to start really serious training until late June and this proved to be a serious handicap in so far as competitive tennis was concerned. Once again the Club had no lack of applications for membership from the new apprentices many of whom joined to learn all about the game and eventually thoroughly enjoy playing it.

In the Junior Army Championships APte Courtier reached the 3rd round of the competition before being defeated after a hard tussle. Bearing in mind the limited time for training and coaching, to do so well against a competitor already well-established from last season, was no mean achievement. Groves and Courtier also reached the 3rd round of the Junior Army Doubles.

The Junior Section of the RAOC Championships was dominated by Apprentices Bell and Yoxall who contested the final. After a splendid battle Bell ran out the eventual winner. The

Doubles award was carried off by Apprentices Courtier and Groves so all in all the Club could well be proud of its competition record.

It is hoped that a much earlier start can be made next season making full use of the College and Depot courts.

Let us hope that the College could possibly produced another Army Champion. This particularly short season, due entirely to College camp commitments, certainly showed what could be achieved with methodical coaching and practice sessions.

HOBBIES

Angling

Now that the rest of the Army has caught up with the College and recognised angling as an active sport the demand for "waters" has increased considerably.

We are fortunate in being able to use Mytchett Lake every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon although, regrettably, numbers are limited. There are far more applicants than the club can accommodate.

An innovation this year has been the weekend trip to Hekton as guests of the Fleet Air Arm. The station angling club took some of our members for a day's wreck fishing from Falmouth. We were ill-equipped for such a venture and our 15-lb b.s. lines were useless against conger and ling. Even the skipper's 50-lb bs line was snapped by a particularly large one.

I am pleased to report that we have been able to rectify our deficiencies and now possess boat reels equipped with 50-lb b.s. Dairn line.

Summer Camp proved disastrous for recording catches. The weather was very poor and the heaviest fish caught was a dog fish of $2\frac{1}{2}$-lbs. Only one day was good enough to allow fishing outside the Haven.

Riding

Riding has had a poor year. Though seven keen Apprentices have learnt a lot about stable management and horse handling, the bad Winter and sick horses have combined to reduce the amount of actual time on horseback to very little. This has meant that relatively little progess has been made.

The Apprentices, however, have not been idle. They have learnt about looking after and grooming horses in a practical manner and would agree that it is all hard work.

Table Tennis

1978-79 was the first year that the College had ever entered teams in the Aldershot and District Table Tennis League. As beginners our teams were placed in Divisions XI and XII both of which divisions contained teams of a high standard. In Division XI the A team was near the top all year and at the end of the season they won promotion.

This season, as a result the A Team is in Division IX. The regular players in the A team were APte Mellor (Anguilla), ALcpl Gamblen (Anguilla) and APte Fox (Ardennes). The B Team finished the season in mid-table. The regular players in this team were ASgt Powley (Anguilla), APte Bostock (Anguilla) and ACpl Day (Arnhem). Other players used by the team were APte Sales (Alamein) and ACpl Starbuck (Arnhem).

Art/Model Making

Art and model making has again proved a popular hobby this year, with an average of about 25 Apprentices per term in the activity.

Mrs Souter has been of great help in raising the standard of the art work produced, while Capt Matheson REME, has taken an active interest in the modelling side.

The club has widened its activity by including war-gaming. About ten apprentices have taken part in games ranging from Medieval to ultra modern. The activities of this part of the club are such that there have been many spectators, who have avidly watched the 'generals' commanding their forces, passing the odd remark as to their view of the commander's ability.

CORPS OF DRUMS

The College Corps of Drums ceased to be an extra-mural activity when Balaclava Platoon became the Band Platoon. Sgt Taylor REME, who organised the extra-mural activity consequently became Balaclava Platoon Sergeant. Bell lyres were added to the band at his request to improve the repertoire and help from the RAOC Staff Band arrived in the form of Cpl Burton and Cpl McElligott. Their assistance and knowledge has been most welcome.

The new look Corps of Drums has now a promising sound. Soon they are to appear at Hindhead Carnival and at Donnington, where they will Beat Retreat. More bookings are sure to follow.

To past members of the Corps of Drums many thanks for all the hard work put in and to the new boys "stay with it - we'll get there in the end".



Sgt Taylor leading the Corps of Drums past the Saluting Base at Hindhead, Surrey. The occasion was the opening of a fete at the Grange Home for handicapped children

LETTING IT ALL HANG OUT

By Capt E G Walcroft RAOC

Although it is not generally realised in the Army, motorcycling is a recognised Army adventure training pursuit. The Army organises and runs motorcyle trials and enduros consisting mainly of cross country riding (but not flat out 'scrambling' and always enters a team in the highly prestigious International Six Days Trial. There are, however, many other types of motorcycle sport- road racing, speedway, sprinting, scrambling, motorball (football on motorbikes!), grass track and hill climbs.

I regularly compete in road races but in the sidecar class, and this article is designed to explain the intricacies of sidecar road racing, and how to become a sidecar racer if you so desired.

Sidecar Road Racing

Sidecar road racing consists of a group of motorcycles with side cars attached, crewed by a driver and a passenger, racing each other around a proper tarmacadamed race track such as Brands Hatch. It is probably one of the most exciting spectacles to be seen in motor sport today, with the type of outfit, and the antics of the crew providing enough excitement to keep the crowd glued to the action.

The Outfit

Modern road race outfits are very different from the motorcycles and sidecars seen on the road today. The outfit still has three wheels, but generally has 10 or 13-inch mini wheels varying from 5 to 10-inches in width. The overall height of the outfit is under 2-feet 6-inches, with the driver kneeling behind the the engine and the top half of his body crouched over it. The sidecar is a small tray, wide enough for a body to lay in but only about 4-feet long. My outfit has various pieces of fibre-glass 'fairing' around it to cut down the wind resistance and the fibre-glass sidecar wheelarch also contains the petrol tank. The fairing also doubles as an advertising hoarding with "Royal Army Ordnance Corps" and the Corps badge on the right hand front of the outfit.

The Crew

The driver and passenger must work in complete harmony; each has his job to do. Failure to do it can mean death to the crew. The passenger does the recognisably hard work. It is his job to keep the outfit from turning over and to keep the single powered wheel in contact with the ground. The outfit must be kept under power through a corner - without power there is virtually no steering. On left hand bends centrifugal force tends to lift the sidecar wheel, and so the passenger leans as far out of the sidecar as possible to keep the wheel on the ground. On a right hand bend the back (powered) wheel lifts and so the passenger must climb out of the sidecar and lean out past the rear wheel to keep it in contact with the ground. On the straight the passenger lies in the sidecar to create less wind resistance - with a 4-foot long sidecar a 6-foot passenger finds bits of him dangling!

The driver controls the speed and braking of the outfit. His job is to get the outfit as quickly as safety will allow around the circuit. On the straight there are no problems but cornerning is another matter. He must consider when to brake (if he brakes violently when entering a left hander after the passenger has

moved out of the sidecar, the passenger will be thrown from the sidecar, into the path of the outfit - this, when done at 80 mph, tends to ruin his whole day). The driver must regulate the speed through corners so as not to tip the outfit, as no matter how far the passenger leans, it is always possible to drive fast enough to negate his actions. Finally the driver must choose the 'line', the quickest way through the corner, deciding whether to keep the outfit fully under control, or to slide the rear end, to line it up for the exit of the corner.



The author taking Cpl W Hill round the Graham Hill Bend at Brands Hatch

How to start racing

First of all a prospective racer must join a motor cycle club which is affiliated to the Auto Cycle Union (ACU) - the governing body of motorcycle sport in Great Britain. The Club will issue him with an application form to apply for a road race licence. The completed application form together with a doctor's certificate and £3, when sent to the ACU, should result in the prospective racer or passenger becoming licensed to compete in road race meetings. The licence must be produced at every meeting in which he takes part.

Next he must equip himself with a helmet (with ACU approval stamp), a pair of leather gloves, a complete one-piece ACU approved leather suit and a pair of leather boots (running shoes if he is the passenger) must be purchased at a cost of probably not less than £140.

The outfit will cost more. The cost of the outfit depends upon the type purchased. A Yamaha GP 750 cc, 160+ mph and acceleration to match will cost at least £6,000. £2,000 would buy a 1000 cc Imp engined outfit, or Mini Cooper 'S' engined outfit, or an extremely competitive Japanese engined mount. For as little as £350 he could buy an old 100 mph twin-cylinder engined outfit, which whilst not a world beater, gives the chance to race and gain experience.

Meetings can be entered by applying to the organising club and paying the entry fee of approximately £8 per meeting. He then has to find a transporter and travel to the meeting.

At the Race Track

The prospective racer may now have a licence, an outfit, a passenger and have arrived at the meeting having secured an entry (which, incidentally, also covers the necessary insurance), but he still will not necessarily race. Both his outfit and personal equipment plus licence, will be intensely scrutinised by the official scrutineers for serviceability and safety before he can go out for the official practise session. In practice the crew must complete three laps of the track and satisfy the Clerk of the Course that they are a competent crew. Then they can race.

As the first corner of the race leaps towards you, your engine roars, the brakes and tyres squeal their protest and the passenger 'lets it all hang out - you know you are in a race".

THE WAY WE SPEAK

By W E Smith Esq

What is accent? There can be little doubt that one of its major elements is pronunciation. However, it should be borne in mind that whilst this is the most obvious, there are other important factors which require attention - intonation, vocal quality, diction and rhythm or pace. Suffice it to say that accent is both horizontal, which simply means that it is rooted in geographical areas, and vertical since it operates at class or social levels. The wise man studies it assiduously, for it has much to offer to his thinking, and the fool confuses it with 'dialect' which is a totally different aspect of language and communication.

Accent, unfortunately, is still the great divider or perhaps the sign of division. It only needs a person to speak and his audience immediately begins to classify him. Instant judgements are made, consciously or unconsciously, on his social status, birthplace, personality, character or even his temperament. Prejudice, experience and association run amok. Similarity of accent between speaker and listener produces immediate sympathy whereas any differences act as instant warnings. Friendships can be cemented on the one hand but made extremely difficult on the other.

Accent cuts deep. If one attacks it then he strikes at what is most precious to any human being - his home, his parents and his upbringing. We all become slaves of prejudice and ere long 'Snobbery' takes over.

The nation's need for 'spoken literacy' is far greater than its need for voice production, elocution lessons, or any other forms of acceptable accents.

All of us need the greatest power of language of which we are capable. We must all strive to be articulate, accent or no accent, for it is by this means we shall attain the power of thought. And that, after all, is what education in speech and writing should all be about if we are to hold any sort of position in society. Foremen, managers, executives and leaders of men need the ability to speak tolerably fluently and accurately in simple straightforward English. Language experience must come from the mouth and the ear as well as through the eyes.

It matters little whether a speaker

uses a Manchester, London or Cornish accent. All that does matter is that he employs an acceptable pronunciation. It can only be that if he uses what some would call an 'educated' London, Manchester or Cornish speech. Simply, that means we can all understand him clearly for all his words are in the right place at the right time, accent or no accent. Variety is the spice of life and differences in pronunciation not only add colour to an often dreary backcloth of language but also constitute the very stage on which English is built.

Talking well and talking 'proper' are not the same. Speaking well and speaking 'swell' are two quite different things. A fool may talk 'proper' but only a wise man speaks well.

TAKING STOCK

Non Sumus Qualis Eramus

(We Are Not Now What We Once Were)

Lcpl J Blackhurst

I joined the Army on 12 September 1978 and came to the RAOC Apprentices College, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.

When I first arrived and saw the place from the bus stop I was not impressed, as it is an old place. The hardest part was during the first three to four days when we had to collect all our kit and get to know each other.

There was many a time during those days when I wondered what on earth I was doing in the Army and wanted to get out, but I decided to stick at it. One reason was we went on a weekend camp at Browndown in Portsmouth and we had a great time practising map reading, fieldcraft and tactics.

What made it really worthwhile was my first stripe which I got on 26 October 1978 at the beginning of my first half term.

During those first six weeks I learned to do subjects like drill, map reading, military law, FMT and, of course, PT. As time passed I got better and more experienced in military subjects. We also went to other camps such as Fremington, Penhale and Capel Curig in Wales. That was hell! We walked for miles every day. It was just a few weeks before we went on ELT camp I was rewarded for my hard work during that term as I got my second stripe.

The highlight of the year was the annual Summer camp in Tenby (Wales). It was here that we practised all subjects taught in the College and it was 'magic' to say the least. Also in our third term we started NBC and First Aid.

It was also in our third term that everything my platoon and I worked for came true as I got my third stripe and also passed my RPC 3 drill test.

I passed out of the RAOC Apprentices College on the 9 August 1979 and ended a most enjoyable year at the College.

APte Dowell

Burma Platoon was part of the September 1979 intake. The first day and night all were nervous as everything was new to us, but, after a few days, we were settled in and

the Army kept us too busy to be homesick.

The first six weeks were spent on basic training in Drill and FMT. After leave it was more drill, etc. In the second term we had our first big camp. It was the 'B' Company camp at Tregantle Fort where we did canoeing, visited an RAF Base (yawn!), did a six mile bash, abseiling, shooting and a map reading exercise. We then returned for a welcome break at Camp and the rest of our time was spent practising for RPC 3 Drill and First Aid.

We then embarked into our third term which meant that we were seniors as we were REME. The main objective of the last term was to improve our education sufficiently to obtain the trade we wanted and to raise our drill up to the high standard which is required for our RPC 3 and, more important, our Passing Out Parade.

The main College event of the year was Tenby Summer camp which is in Wales and is situated near a very popular holiday resort. This camp was a welcome break from the College and its surrounding areas. We participated in such activities as water skiing (for most people ie Dancy, it was underwater skiing), also there were Command Tasks and Stretcher races which were hard but fun, especially for Hughes who was the casualty. After this it was practising for POP which went off very well and, in my opinion, it had been a very hard but rewarding year at the College.

ALcpl D G Stout

The first day at the Apprentices College was strange. I didn't have a clue where I was going. I was like a dog on a lead being taken to documentation, hair cuts, kit collection and to the canteen for dinner. It was different meeting people from different parts of the country, everybody was shy and a bit apprehensive. The first time there was a real conversation was after lights out. This seems to happen with all recruit platoons now. I first noticed this when I became a room NCO myself. I left the room after lights out and when I came back they were all chatting away. The Apprentice NCOs in the block were fair the first two weeks we were there to let us settle in, then they started disciplining us. It got harder and harder after that until the end of our first term. To start with we had no privileges; we had to earn them.

When we started our training programme we had to get to our lessons five minutes early, and properly dressed, half the time I wondered why I was in the Army.

The first time we were allowed out was one Saturday afternoon. We were all like little kids going to a circus. We were given a five mile radius and were told to get to know the area. Getting on for half term we were getting to know the routine, we were all more like soldiers. The morning before we went home on leave all the recruit platoons did their Acceptance Parade. It was the first time I had performed in front of a crowd.

When I went home on leave I found all my mates working and had new mates who I didn't know. This happens with the majority of people in the Army as I discussed with some of my mates here. The leave wasn't too bad but on the main leaves I wanted to get back to Camp, at least you have got something to do here instead of sitting down watching the TV at home all day.

When the senior NCOs passed out at Christmas, six people from my platoon were chosen for promotion. They were all ex cadets but when they tried to run the platoon no-one took any notice of them. The discipline dropped, the standard of the platoon dropped. I, myself,

realise it is hard to try and tell your mates what to do. We were getting 'riftings' left, right and centre, then we pulled our fingers out and got down to work. We didn't need the NCOs in the block except to march us about the place from lesson to lesson.

The Permanent Staff seemed to be hard on us when we were first here, but I've got used to it and its a whole lot easier. I think I can speak for everybody in this. A lot of the old Permanent Staff have left since I've been here but that is expected. You can get on well with the Permanent Staff if you work hard in all your training.

The Apprentices complain about the food here and some have the right to complain because an odd potato might not be cooked, but it annoys me when they do complain because they still go up for seconds. The food is good considering the number that have to be catered for.

The recruits these days don't have the same attitude as in recent terms. They don't attempt to think for themselves. There are a few who won't have any discipline when it comes to Apprentice NCOs telling them what to do because they are almost the same age. They seem to treat them like they would treat prefects at a school. The recruits seem to be getting smaller in size and younger looking. I think Apprentice NCOs should have the same powers as the Permanent Staff NCOs with Apprentices.

The standards of the College have dropped slightly; it could do with bucking up a bit. We do have quite a few camps here which deal mainly with adventure training which is all good team work. Perhaps we need one or two more.

On the whole though it is a good place and I'll probably miss it when I pass out at Christmas.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR, NOS ET MUTAMUR IN ILLIS

By WOII (CSM) B A Hosband

The above, I am assured, reads "The times are changing and we must all learn to change with them". My apologies to the Commanding Officer for this slight case of 'plagiarism'.

"I would like you to write a short article for Thunderbolt", said the 2IC, "by this afternoon"!! As my experience in the field of journalism has been somewhat stymied by filling in sick reports, charge sheets, etc, I hope my thoughts on past and present experiences in the College will suffice.

Having spent some considerable time in the Junior Leaders Battalion (as it was then called) between 1966-71 I thought that life in the College may have changed on my return here in 1978. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find that apprentices joining today with countless 'O' and 'A' Levels, undergo just as demanding a training programme as they did years ago. At our Company and College Training Camps throughout the year we discover a wealth of hidden talent. Lads who prove to be first class mountaineers, sub-aqua experts, long distance runners - not to mention CSMs who prove to be particularly adept in 'righting' Flying Dutchmen in particularly heavy seas!! As a CSM in the Company I feel it important that all of us should try and involve ourselves in as many activities as is possible. By doing so and by leading by example we must surely motivate the minority of lads who tend to 'hang back' so that at the end of their time here they become

first class soldiers and sportsmen.

As will be evident, a tour in the College passes all too quickly and I find it surprising that not enough volunteers are found. Admittedly the hours are long and weekends are full of activities organised, not only for military training, but on the sports field and to assist local civilian groups as well. The latter not only enhances the Army image but more important proves very rewarding.

It would be unfair to single out any particular platoon or personality in this article because as a Company it is important that we all work toward one common aim - that of training potential NCOs/WOs for adult service and in that I feel we certainly succeed.

VALETE

COLLEGE LEAVERS

WINTER TERM 1978

STAFF CLERKS RAOC

APte Bloomfield N J
ALcpl Brown K A
APte Bunn M
ACpl Coole D
APte Crackett J A
ALcpl Crampton M F
ALcpl Crow G D
APte Curtin M J
APte Deacon M J
ASgt Donoghue S J
APte Goodwill K
APte Harvey N G
ALcpl Heath J D
APte Kelly A W J
ALcpl Kendall A C J
APte Middleton G J
ASgt Phillips G
APte Pool T D
APte Sanders N
APte Smith R G
APte Stotan C
ALcpl Swann S A
APte Watton M J

SUPPLY CLERKS

APte Bellamy-Wood R
ALcpl Brooks A J
ASgt Hicks A J
ALcpl Howlieson K I
ALcpl Jones M D
ALcpl Leach J D
APte Mobley K J
APte Sheriff S F
ALcpl Symon J W
APte Thomas M
APte Wallace M N
ALcpl Ward A D
APte York J E

SUPPLY SPECIALISTS RAOC

APte Adams S J
APte Agass S K
APte Black M A
APte Blyth R W
ACpl Bostock A S
APte Bradshaw C D
ALcpl Breen B N
APte Broadbent V D
APte Brookes D A
APte Bullen K M J
APte Burton I
APte Cherry W H B
APte Childs D J
APte Clark J G
APte Clissold K F D
APte Clough L
ALcpl Cook P S
APte Duncan J W
APte Elliott A
APte Evans C W T
APte Firth M G
ALcpl Gill N P
APte Graham J R
APte Grimwood N T
APte Hawes R M
APte Hay J
APte Hiscott D H J
APte Holmes N A
ASgt Horseman M
APte Jackson G
APte Johnson P S
ALcpl Jones M
ASgt Lindley A
ALcpl Mason G
APte Maxwell J D
APte McMahon S K
ALcpl Milicevic D
APte Millhouse D C
APte Millward P
APte Mitchell R A P
APte Murphy M S
APte Newband B P
ALcpl Norton M P
ALcpl Nutt C J
APte Oram J A
ALcpl Pettitt K A
APte Robinson C J
APte Rowley P D
APte Ruscoe S J
APte Scanlan R T
APte Seymour M A
ASgt Starbuck C W
ALcpl Stebbings D M
APte Strong R
APte Strother J W
ASgt Sutcliffe S D W
APte Tanner J S
ACpl Ward C J
APte Wigg A
APte Wilson B W
APte Wilson P C
ALcpl Wilson S A

CLERKS REME

APte Brooker C A
APte Mays S P
APte Oates T A

APte Parkinson P A
ALcpl Robinson P J
APte Thomas R W

STOREMEN REME

APte Morrison D M
APte Reed M B
ALcpl Webster A I

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

APte Carter N J
APte Cassidy M
APte Clarke R J
APte Coates C
ACpl Collins P A
APte Donnan S A
APte Gillies K A
ACpl Green G A
APte Heywood P L
ALcpl Hoe M J N
ASgt Holroyd D R
APte Hornsey A S
ASgt Hough C R
ALcpl Lynch D P
APte Martin I S
ALcpl Ronaldson D L
APte Russell W R
APte Sailes A D
ASgt Simpson S
APte Smith T B
APte Tweedy G R
ALcpl Woolford M

SPRING TERM 1979

SUPPLY SPECIALISTS RAOC

APte Alexander D
ALcpl Eden N L M
ACpl Hetherington S D
APte O'Neill A
APte Tinkler N S

STAFF CLERK RAOC

ALcpl Burnett M

SUPPLY CLERK RAOC

APte Macdonald G
APte Young C D

CLERKS REME

APte Smith C

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

VEHICLE MECHANICS

APte Aberdeen B
APte Bostock K R
APte Clarke K P
APte Cotton J
APte Davey G J
APte Day J K M
APte Dickson D D
ALcpl Dixon G
ALcpl Douglass D G
APte Evans A A
APte Fudge W V
ALcpl Gamblen S V
ALcpl Gilbertson J C
APte Jennings S P
APte Johannsen P
APte Leving V M C
APte O'Connor R L
APte Priestley I J
APte Rose C
APte Ross D J
APte Rossington D E
APte Sansom M
ALcpl Shaw J P
ALcpl Smith B D
APte Stephenson R A
APte Still A M B
APte Ujyari C
APte Ward A S
APte Watson K D
APte Wiscombe D S
APte Young M S

ARMOURER

ACpl Budding D J

ELECTRICIANS

APte Donaldson S A
APte Fitzpatrick P K
APte Mellor G R J
ASgt Powley S A
ACpl Rimmington P J

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS

APte McArthur
APte Renton-Cooper C D

RECOVERY MECHANIC

APte Scott D M

METALSMITHS

APte Smith M I
APte Warren W A

SUMMER TERM 1979

SUPPLY SPECIALISTS RAOC

APte Abram A
APte Bartram A M
APte Baxter G A
APte Betsworth P P
ALcpl Brown R A
APte Domm P J
ACpl Harper S A
APte Heaps P J
APte Murray N P
APte Nelson K N
APte Pratt R L
APte Procter A E
APte Roberts G L
ALcpl Saunders P J
APte Wood M T

STAFF CLERKS RAOC

APte Jennings H
APte Peake S P

SUPPLY CLERKS RAOC

APte Adams M R
ACpl Ahmed M L
APte Emerton C D
ASgt Fyfie S G
APte Gore N I
APte James G A
APte Sangster K C
APte Smith B E

DRIVERS

APte Clint M W
APte Kendrick
APte King I
ALcpl Pettener G

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

VEHICLE MECHANICS

APte Bates D A
ASgt Blackhurst J A
ALcpl Boyton K
ALcpl Bracegirdle L
APte Buxton P
ASgt Comfort A P
APte Conquest C T
APte Dance M K
ALcpl Dancy J
ALcpl Davey V P
APte Davis K
APte Ferguson S G
ALcpl Garland K J
APte Goodman T D
APte Grout S W
APte Hughes C A
APte Jessiman W
APte Johnson N G
APte Jones P A
APte Khan M A
APte McKee A J
APte Meehan T P
APte Miles R D
ALcpl Moore A W
ACpl Nicholson M
APte Norton N P
APte Olive S J
ALcpl Parkins A M
APte Russell G J
APte Spinner P M
APte Stephens B I
ACpl Tompkins N
APte Vickers C C
APte Viney N A
APte Williams C R
APte Youle A P

ELECTRICIANS

ACpl Bissell M I
APte Callingham R
APte Dodson F E
APte Partridge I M
APte Taylor N
ALcpl Waack A C
ALcpl Williams T

ARMOURERS

APte Moore N D
ASgt Nichol S D

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIANS

APte Griffin A P
APte Hall M J
APte King D A
APte Morgan S I

METALSMITHS

APte Dowell M J
ALcpl Duffield S R
ALcpl Stevens P A

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS

APte Coates
ASgt Prowse A J

AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS

APte Baker J A
APte Brown N E
APte Flynn S J R
ACpl Fordham J
APte Gregory P A
APte Hughes A
APte Kaines S E
APte Margison S
APte Newman R J
APte Stanfield R P
APte Taylor P J
APte Williams C D

STOP PRESS

A rush report of Exercise "Autumn Wind"

Exercise "Autumn Wind" was an adventure training expedition designed to provide a small party of Apprentices with the opportunity to undertake offshore sailing in Mediterranean waters.

The following is a day to day account of the exercise by APte Atkinson and APte Boyd.

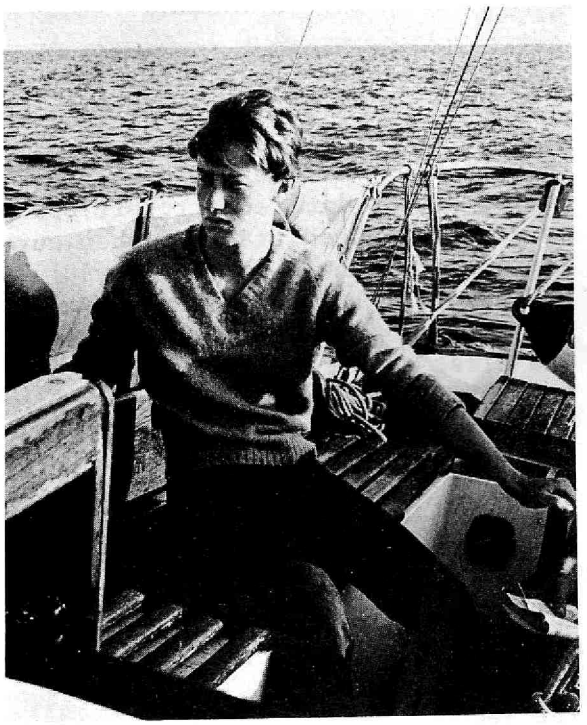
Our adventure started at 0330 hours on Wednesday 24 October 1979 when three members of the permanent staff and seven Apprentices boarded one of the last remaining Britannia's in service, bound for Cyprus. It was thought the exercise would be cancelled due to limited aircraft space so we were indeed grateful when our friendly Britannia touched down in RAF Akrotiri 1200 hrs Cyprus time.

The first day at sea was meant to be just familiarization, but once aboard the 'Lady Heather', a 32 foot, five berth, clipper yawl, we soon settled down and had a very enjoyable day's sailing. Her top speed was about five knots, and, although she proved to be quite a 'wet boat' top side, she was very easy to handle in rough weather.

The second day began with an early morning swim outside Akrotiri harbour. At 0930 hrs we were under sail again,



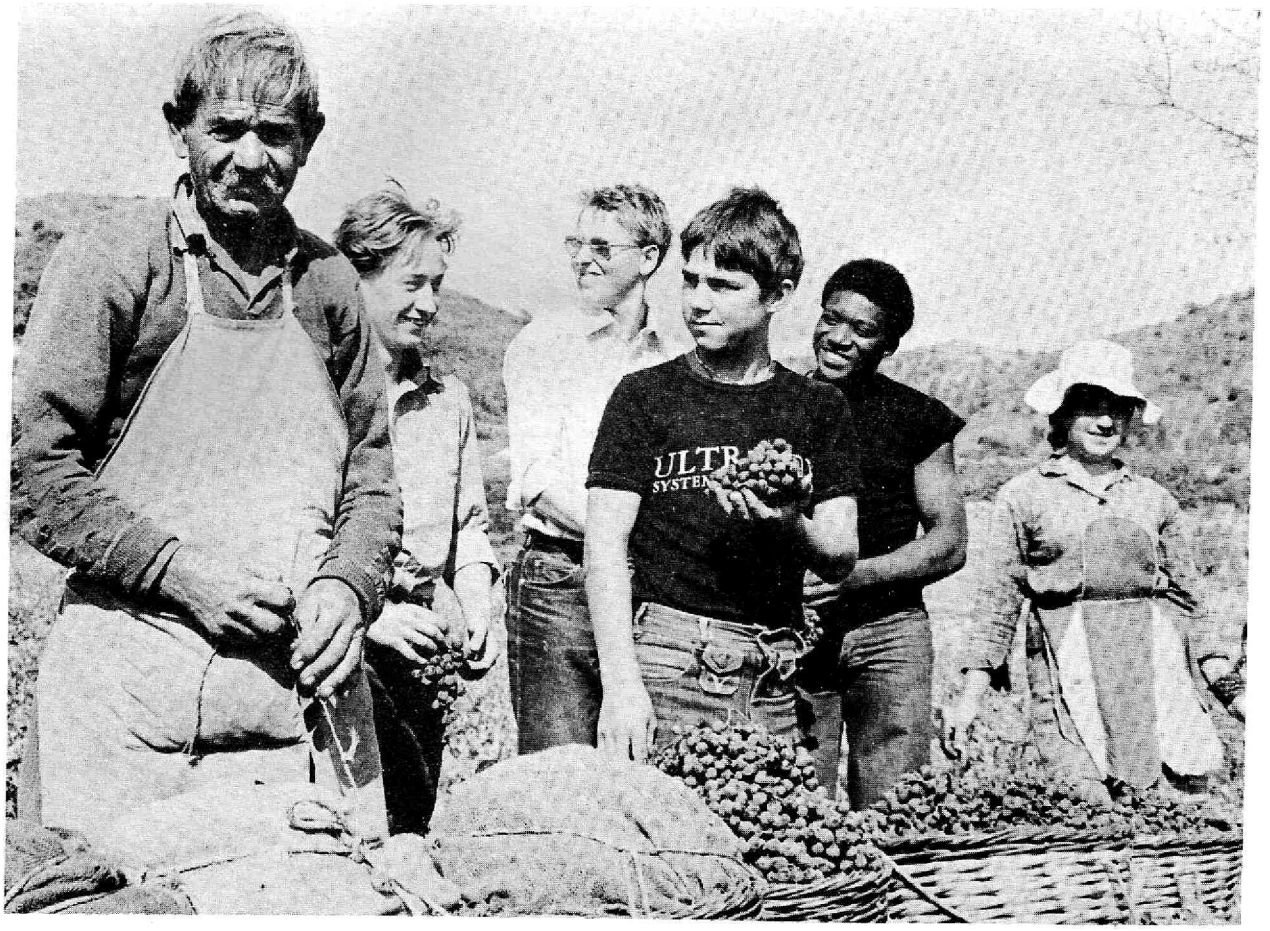
Mr M Johnson, APtes Boehm, Davies, Newton, Atkinson and Mr J F Watson



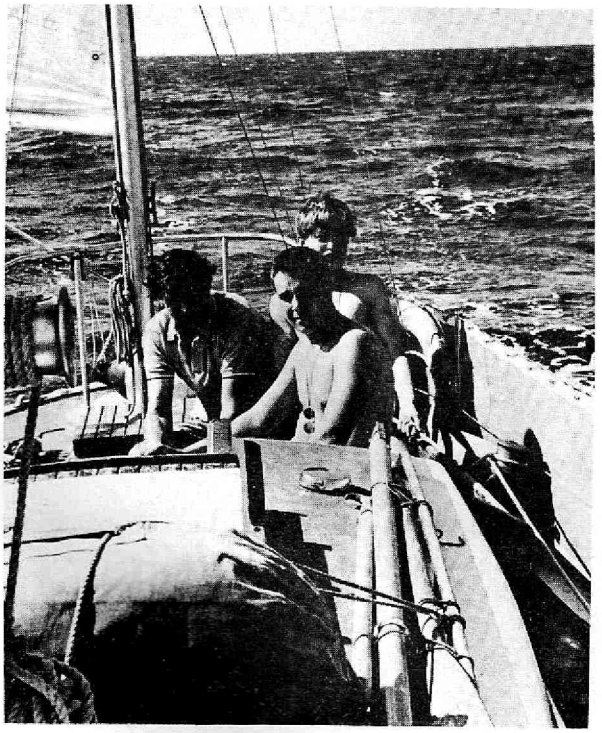
APte Barker

making our way westerly along the coast. Because the prevailing winds are westerly the going was fairly rough. APte Boehm spent most of the voyage leaning over the side looking a greenish colour. Apprentices Barker, Brown and Atkinson spent most of the morning dozing below. Clearly, they found the rocking movement an inducement for sleep! Mid afternoon we turned around and with the wind directly behind and all three sails up, we skimmed home in record time.

On day four we decided that a trip to Troodos, in the mountains, would be an excellent way of seeing the terrain, the villages and the people. We were not disappointed and stopped many times. Capt Parsons took several photographs of us with some of the locals gathering grapes. A stop in Limassol, to sample some coffee and



APtes Barker, Boehm, Atkinson and Brown. Grapes by the basketful.



APtes Davies and Barker

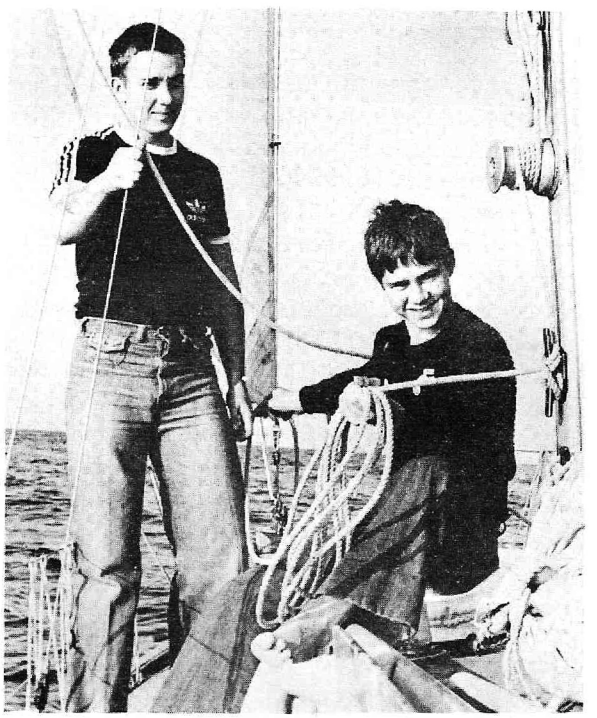
buy some souvenirs, finished a perfect day.

Day five was our attempt to reach Paphos. Capt Parsons and Mr Watson, accompanied by Apprentices Barker, Atkinson and Davies left Akrotiri Harbour at 0200 hrs to try and cover the 45 miles before dark. I should explain that the harbour at Paphos is extremely dangerous for night entry and it was for this reason that we turned back at 1600 hrs, not having made sufficient progress. We did, in reality, easily cover the distance but because of prevailing winds we were constantly tacking. The trip back to Akrotiri was very fast and enjoyable and we soon forgot our disappointment.

On day six we set off for Paphos by road. It was another opportunity to have a close look at this historic island and stop at all the beaches



Mr J F Watson and APte Davies

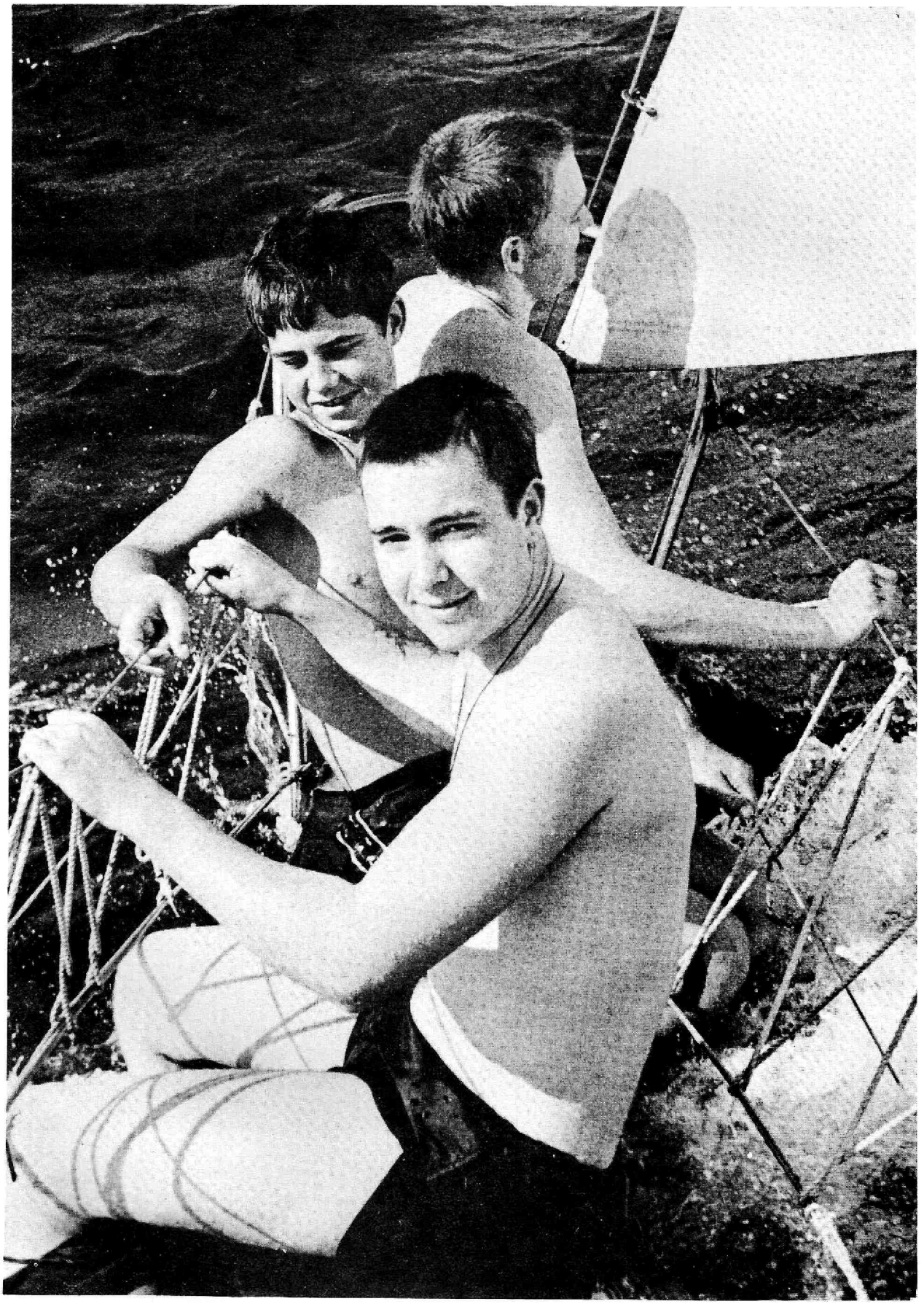


APtes Davies and Atkinson

on the way for a quick dip and an ice cream. (I wonder if Aphrodite would approve).

Our final day on the sea was one to be remembered. It was rougher than it had been previously but quite safe for "Lady Heather". However, as a precaution our skipper selected the more experienced sailors and we started off for our last sail with Apprentices Barker, Boyd, Atkinson and Brown. We sailed for three hours and every minute held excitement.

The exercise, from our point of view, was the experience of a lifetime. We have savoured the atmosphere of the island and sailed on the warm waters of the Mediterranean. None of us have a year's service in yet!!



APtes Boyd, Atkinson and Davies