The Thunderbolt

The Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College

Summer 1973 Issue No4

The Thunderbolt

THE JOURNAL OF THE
RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

Front cover:

A/RSM D Hillborn is presented to the Queen by the Commanding Officer Lt Col Mathews. Next to the A/RSM is the College Adjutant, Capt D M M Stobie, and beyond him the College 2IC, Major E C Goodson

FAREWELL BY LT COL R. MATHEWS RAOC

Concluding his speech at the Prize-giving on 11 April 1973, Lt Col Mathews had this to say:

".....Before I close, and if you will bear with me a little longer, I would like to say a few words about my four years at the College. Firstly, I would like to say to parents and guardians, that as far as I am concerned, there is nothing wrong with the youth of today. There are bound to be one or two who fall by the wayside, but that is life. It is unfortunate that publicity is given to the wrong type. This is a pity, for there are so many good youngsters. My time with the College has been occasionally disappointing and frustrating but mostly filled with successes and enjoyment. This appointment has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and one of the best I have ever held in the Army.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Permanent Staff for their support and loyalty. Although it is wrong of me to pick out individuals, there are several with whom I have worked with closest, and would like to thank in particular. They are Major Goodson, my Second in Command, Major Stobie, my ex Adjutant, Major Richmond. the SEO, Captain Playle the Admin Officer, RSM Dorning, CSM Maule of 'B' Company and the civilian lecturers whose advice I have frequently sought. Of course, there are many others but they are too numerous to mention.

Finally, my thanks to all apprentices for their enthusiasm, spirit and for filling my life with so much challenge and variety. I wish you all in the College the best of luck for the future."

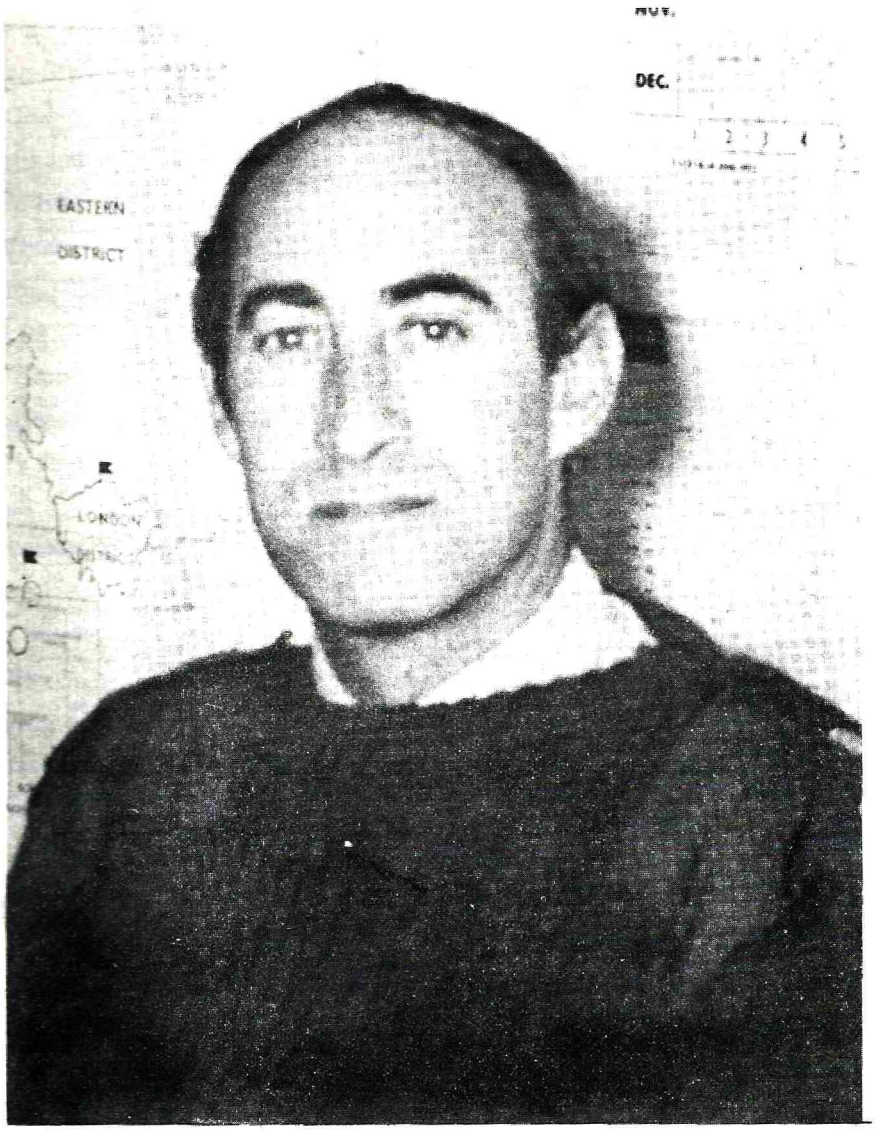
Lieutenant Colonel R Mathews RAOC
Commanding Officer, RAOC Apprentices College
June 1969 - May 1973

FOREWARD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

As your new Commanding Officer it gives me great pleasure to be able to contribute a short foreword to this most excellent College magazine.

I'm sure you will all wish me to thank Lt Col Mathews for all that he has done for the College in the last four years. Not only has he held his appointment for longer than any of his predecessors but the number of boys at the College reached an all time record during his tenure of office. I know he leaves with great regret. However we will be in close contact with him in his next appointment as OIC RAOC Manning and Records and look forward to seeing him whenever he can find a few days to visit us.

The next two years will see a number of changes in the College as a result of the raising of the school leaving age. It will be a challenging time, both for permanent staff and the boys. I'm sure that all will rise to the challenge and that the College will continue to maintain its fine tradition of providing the RAOC, REME and Intelligence Corps with soldiers of high calibre



The Commanding Officer
RAOC Apprentices College

Lieutenant Colonel P Vickery RAOC

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STAFF LIST APR 72 - MAR 73

College Headquarters	Summer Term 1972	Winter Term 1972	Spring Term 1973
Commanding Officer	Lt Col R Mathews RAOC	Lt Col R Mathews RAOC	Lt Col R Mathews RAOC
Second-in-Command	Maj E C Goodson RAOC	Maj E C Goodson RAOC	Maj E C Goodson RAOC
Adjutant	Capt D M M Stobie RAOC	Capt D M M Stobie RAOC	Capt A H Wilson-Ing RAOC
Admin Officer	Capt (Retd) W Playle	Capt (Retd) W Playle	Capt (Retd) W Playle
WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS
Chaplain	The Rev S I Magee MA CF	The Rev S I Magee MA CF	The Rev J C Vernon BSc CF
Assistant Adjutant			Lt C N Dyer RAOC
A Company			
Officer Commanding	Maj F L M Foy RAOC	Maj F L M Foy RAOC	Maj F L M Foy RAOC
Second-in-Command	Capt D M Braithwaite RAOC	Capt M J Duff RAOC	Capt M J Duff RAOC
Valon Platoon	Lt A F Gibson RAOC	Lt A F Gibson RAOC	Lt G Cox RAOC
Baker Platoon	Lt G S Atherton RAOC	Lt G S Atherton RAOC	Lt A A Leger RAOC
Gordon Platoon	Lt B G Bowman REME	Lt B G Bowman REME	Lt B G Bowman REME
Mulcahy Platoon	Lt P Q J Hough RAOC	Lt P Q J Hough RAOC	Lt R A C Eccles RAOC
Williams Platoon	Lt C C Burrow RAOC	Lt J K Hardcastle RAOC	
Steevens Platoon	Lt R W Bicknell RAOC		
Mathew Platoon	Lt J K Hardcastle RAOC		
B Company			
Officer Commanding	Maj J M C Kimmins RAOC	Maj J M C Kimmins RAOC	Maj J M C Kimmins RAOC
Second-in-Command	Capt H A Dickson REME	Capt M R Beer REME	Capt M R Beer REME
Body Platoon	Lt E B C Aitken RAOC	Lt H G Denton RAOC	
Richards Platoon	Lt J B Gunson RAOC	Lt J B Gunson RAOC	Lt H G Denton RAOC
Hill Platoon	Lt S M Hicks RAOC	Lt S M Hicks RAOC	Lt S M Hicks RAOC
Parsons Platoon	Lt K Fisher RAOC		Lt R Rook RAOC
Cutforth Platoon	Lt A D Bentley RAOC	Lt A D Bentley RAOC	
Watts Platoon	Lt P Carter RAOC	Lt N C Smith RAOC	Lt N C Smith RAOC
Mathew Platoon			Lt C C Burrow RAOC

C Company

Officer Commanding		Maj K E Curtis RAOC	Maj K E Curtis RAOC
Second-in-Command		Capt C Brogden RAOC	Capt H G Heap RAOC
Rowcroft Platoon		2Lt M Blatherwick RAOC	2Lt M Blatherwick RAOC
Steevens Platoon		Lt J R Hughes RAOC	Lt J R Hughes RAOC
Mathew Platoon		Lt C C Burrow RAOC	Lt C C Burrow RAOC
Horne Platoon		Lt C J O'Leary RAOC	Lt C J O'Leary RAOC
Parsons Platoon		Lt K A Fisher RAOC	
Swiney Platoon		Lt L M Wood RAOC	Lt L M Wood RAOC

HQ Company

Officer Commanding	Capt M D Clarke RAOC	Capt M D Clarke RAOC	Maj C R Brogden RAOC
Second-in-Command			Capt I F Sharp RAOC
OIC External Leadership	Capt T Douglas-Hill RAOC	Capt T Douglas-Hill RAOC	Capt T Douglas-Hill RAOC
OIC Term Leavers		Capt R W Bicknell RAOC	Lt J K Hardcastle RAOC
Platoons			

Education Department

Senior Education Officer	Maj H W Richmond RAEC	Maj H W Richmond RAEC	Maj H W Richmond RAEC
Military Lecturers	Maj G H W Neal RAEC	Maj G H W Neal RAEC	Maj G H W Neal RAEC
	Capt D G McKeon RAEC	Capt E J Childs RAEC	Capt E J Childs RAEC
	Capt M W Barton RAEC	Capt M W Barton RAEC	Capt M W Barton RAEC
	Lt I Coleman RAEC	Lt C A Norcross RAEC	Lt C A Norcross RAEC
	Lt A G Thomas RAEC	Lt A G Thomas RAEC	Lt A G Thomas RAEC
	Lt G A Page RAEC	Lt G A Page RAEC	Lt G A Page RAEC
		2Lt C J Martindill RAEC	2Lt C J Martindill RAEC
Civilian Lecturers	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield	Lt Col (Retd) S Schofield
	Maj (Retd) G J Forrest	Maj (Retd) G J Forrest	Maj (Retd) G J Forrest
	W/Cdr (Retd) P W Hope	W/Cdr (Retd) P W Hope	W/Cdr (Retd) P W Hope
	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith	Mr W E Smith
	Mr M F Johnson	Mr M F Johnson	Mr M F Johnson
	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson	Mr J F Watson
	Mr W J Waddington	Mr W J Waddington	Mr W J Waddington
	Mr A C F Legg	Mr A C F Legg	Mr A C F Legg
	Mr P Heap	Mr P Heap	Mr P Heap

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief Maj H W Richmond M A RAEC

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

Photographic Editor Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)

In this, our fourth issue, we are continuing to use the same format which we started last year since it appeared to meet with the approval of most critics. We are also persevering with last year's design for the front cover for exactly the same reason. Our only major change, in fact, has been in the method of pictorial reproduction which we hope will make some improvement on last year's rather disappointing results. For this, we have been fortunate to have had made available to us the professional services of the Ministry of Defence (OS 14) for the production of half-tone negatives. We are very much indebted to this MOD Branch and would like to record here our gratitude to Mr Hussey and his staff for their willing co-operation and help.

It is the photographs in a magazine of this sort which create the most interest and have the longest-lasting value. They also provide the biggest headaches! We would rather, much rather, have properly captioned photographs linked by only a few continuity words than any amount of unrelieved text. But if the photographs are not up to standard then not even the most expert printer can reproduce them satisfactorily, as last year's issue proved. We would appeal, therefore, to all contributors - particularly platoon commanders and hobbies leaders - not just to record on film as much of their activities as possible, but to concentrate on producing photographs which are balanced in design, sharp in focus and correctly exposed. We know that most contributors have to rely a great deal on the efforts of private photographers with basic equipment, but most camera owners should be capable of the standards we require. If any help is needed then the Photographic Editor, Major Forrest, is always available to advise, to help with materials and equipment, and, whenever possible, to provide experienced cameramen. If the task is beyond his resources, he is also in a position to enlist professional assistance from outside. There can be no excuse, therefore, for any lack of good photographs in the future.

In March of this year, the MOD, in its wisdom, once again changed the title by which junior members of this unit are to be known. Previously, it was Junior Private (J/Pte), Junior Lance Corporal (J/Lcpl) and so on. Now it has to be Apprentice Private (A/Pte), Apprentice Lance Corporal (A/Lcpl) and so on. Even, we understand, those apprentices in REME who have no rank are to be referred to as Apprentice Privates and not as Apprentice Craftsmen as one would expect (though this is under review). In any event we have attempted throughout this publication to standardise on A/Pte, etc, irrespective of parent Corps. We know we will probably be wrong but one has to take a decision sometime..

We cannot close this editorial without mentioning the impending departure of Lt Col 'Bob' Mathews after four years as Commanding Officer of the College. The resurrection of the "Thunderbolt" in 1970 was his 'brain-child', and so we have a particular and personal reason for recording his departure. By the time this magazine is issued, Lt Col Paul Vickery will be CO, but at the time of writing he has not yet taken over. We believe there is to be a handing/taking over

parade on 24 May. We believe there will be dining-out/dining-in nights in both the Officers' and the WOs and Sergeants' Messes. We know there will be high jinks round and about for some time.

We hope we may be able to cover some of these events by way of 'Stop Press' news. Meanwhile, and in case we don't get the chance again we would like to congratulate Colonel Mathews, firstly, on his promotion; secondly, on his posting to be OIC RAOC Manning and Records; and thirdly, on the completion of four highly successful years as Commanding Officer of this College. We wish Godspeed to him, his wife Michelle and to his family.

As usual, the printing of this magazine has been in the hands of the Reproduction Branch, Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington, many members of which are ex-apprentices of this college. This is a task they do voluntarily and we appreciate it very much indeed. We would like to take this opportunity of expressing our sincerest thanks to WOII Jones and all his staff.

VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS

VIP Visits

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

September 1972
Lieutenant General Sir Frank King, KCB, MBE.
Deputy Commander-in-Chief United Kingdom Land Forces

October 1972
General Sir William Jackson, KCB, OBE, MC
Quartermaster General Designate

October 1972
Lieutenant General Sir Allen Taylor, KBE, MC
General Officer Commanding South East District

March 1973
Lieutenant General Sir Terence McMeekin KCB, OBE
General Officer Commanding South East District

All the above senior officers were given conducted tours of the College as part of their one day official visits to the RAOC Training Centre at Deepcut. They visited the Apprentices' accommodation blocks, the Amenities building including the Kon-Tiki and Judo club rooms, the NAAFI Canteen and, of course, the College Restaurant.

Many apprentices were introduced to each of the Generals who all remarked on the smart bearing and self-confidence of the boys to whom they spoke. They also particularly commented on the excellent facilities now provided for the boys in the Amenities Building and Kon-Tiki club room.

In addition to the above official visits by individual senior officers the College was also called upon to give a demonstration of anti-riot drill to the Defence Supply Committee of the Ministry of Defence. This Committee is an inter-service panel of some 20 high-ranking officers from the Navy, Army and Air Force as well as senior Civil Servants from the MOD who periodically visit installations and units from the three Services in order to gain a better understanding of current activities, plans and problems, etc.

The College demonstration was given by the Senior Platoon and, as usual, was considerably enlivened by the activities of the 'rioters', (supplied by the Recruit platoons), who always manage to drop a few bags of flour towards the spectators as well as into the demonstration platoon. On this occasion the cries of anguish from the OIC Rioters, supposedly shot as the ringleader, (as a last resort of course), were so realistic that one of the more senior Civil Servants was overheard to ask if the lad had really been shot!

Inspections

The College has received three official Inspections during the year:

November 1972 - Our Annual Fitness for Role Inspection was carried out on 8 November

1972 by Brigadier D H Davis, ADC, Commander RAOC Training Centre. With his staff he inspected all aspects of College administration and training to see whether we were carrying out our Charter correctly. A very good report was obtained.

December 1972 - On 5 December 1972 the Inspector of Army Physical Training, Colonel E S Newport, TD, carried out his annual inspection of Physical and Recreational Training in the College. He spoke informally to many of the apprentices and the instructors and saw them at work in the gymnasium and on the sports fields. We are pleased to mention that, again, we achieved a good report.

February 1973 - On 14 February 1973 the College was visited by Major General A R Cornock, OBE, the Director of Quartering for the Army. He was, of course, particularly keen to see the condition of the elderly accommodation blocks and the restaurant facilities. We hope as a result that the College is given some priority in the Army's rebuilding programmes over the next few years.

Press Visits

The College has also received two important visits by the Press in the last few months. The first visit, in January 1973, was officially sponsored by HQ South East District at Aldershot, and again included all RAOC units in Deepcut. The visiting party of 20 included several well-known defence correspondents from the leading national dailies and London evening newspapers as well as correspondents from regional newspapers intent on obtaining 'local boy makes good' stories. The idea of the visit was, however, to give the correspondents the chance to meet the Corps at work and to enable them to see and speak to as many RAOC soldiers and apprentices as possible.

The second Press visit was on 7 February 1973 by Mr Michael Litchfield, a well-known reporter for the "News of the World" who had previously trained in the Corps at Deepcut as a National Serviceman. After a tour of the College, Mr Litchfield took tea in the Kon-Tiki Club with a number of apprentices who no doubt provided him with their ideas of life at the College now. We still await his article in "The News of the World".

Other Visits

The usual visits by parties of schoolboys and their Careers Masters from civilian schools located throughout the South of England, (although we have even had them from the Midlands and East Anglia), have continued throughout the year.

These schoolboys, normally about 15 years old and selected from those who have expressed an interest in the Services whilst at school, spend a complete working day in the College as our guests. They are given an opening talk by the College Second in Command describing the life and training of an apprentice in the College which is then followed by a conducted tour of the premises. They join our apprentices at PT and on the sports fields and after a free lunch have the thrill of a shot on the 30 metre range. They end their day almost as RAOC Apprentices, (by donning College track suits emblazoned 'RAOC Apprentices College' across their backs) and "have a go" over the Assault Course and Confidence Area.

In addition to the above visits the College has been 'Open House' to several boys in their mid-teens who have expressed an interest in joining the Army. Weekend visits to the College have been arranged for three such boys in the 1973 Spring Term alone. All three are now due to join the Regular Army in the next few months.

All such visits to the College are arranged by the local Schools Liaison Officers and needless to say we give all such visitors a thorough insight into life in the modern Army without bias or favour. We believe that such visits have an extremely good publicity and recruiting value.

Visits by Army Recruiting Officers and RAOC Recruiters

On 8 March 1973 the College was visited by some 40 Army Recruiting Officers and RAOC Recruiting Warrant Officers and Sergeants. These are the characters who first meet prospective recruits for the Army (and also perhaps their parents) in their local Army Careers Office. The visit was sponsored by the Corps Recruiting Adviser with the object of keeping all RAOC Recruiting Staff up to date with the current organisation and training in the College.

Also in March we hosted several officers and NCOs from each of the newly formed Army Youth Selection Centres at Corsham and Harrogate. Nowadays, all potential junior entry recruits are sent from their local Army Careers Office to one of these Centres where they spend two or three days being briefed on all the various Regiments and Corps in the Army and undergoing various aptitude tests. Before leaving the Centre boys are accepted by the Junior Unit of their choice or for which they are best suited. Alternatively,

they can leave the Centre after deciding against joining the Army.

We believe that it is vitally important to tell the prospective Junior recruit, and his parents, the whole truth and nothing but the truth on what life is really like when he joins a College such as this, for nothing is worse than having an unhappy boy at the College who feels that he was originally misled by the Recruiting Staff before he joined up.

For this reason alone, visits from the all important Recruiting Staff are always welcomed.

ACF/CCF Visits

We are also happy to report that over the last year we have been able to continue our support to our affiliated Cadet Battalion of the Army Cadet Force, namely the 1st Cadet Battalion of the Queen's Regiment based at Redhill, Surrey. For the majority of the year, because there have been over 500 apprentices in the College, we have had great difficulty in providing barrack accommodation for cadet units. However, they still keep coming back for more so whatever help we have provided has evidently been effective.

During the year we have also entertained a detachment from the Shropshire Army Cadet Force in weekend visits sponsored by the Central Ordnance Depot Donnington and also a detachment from the Oundle School Combined Cadet Force.

We are genuinely delighted to be able to help these our friends in the cadet units for of course we have received many recruits from them.

Passing Out Parades

Over the past year many hundreds of parents, relatives and friends have enjoyed visits to the College to see one or more of the three Passing Out Parades.

Really splendid ceremonies have been held on these occasions despite the weather which has somehow never quite caused a cancellation of the Ceremonial Parade.

The number of apprentices on these parades during the year has always been well over 500 with up to 17 Platoons marching past. Each parade has, as usual, been commanded by the A/RSM and has lasted for approximately 30 minutes. Some idea of the weight of responsibility on the shoulders of these young men can thus be appreciated. During this last year each of our A/RSMs has probably commanded more men on an actual Ceremonial Parade than an adult RSM, even of an Infantry Battalion.

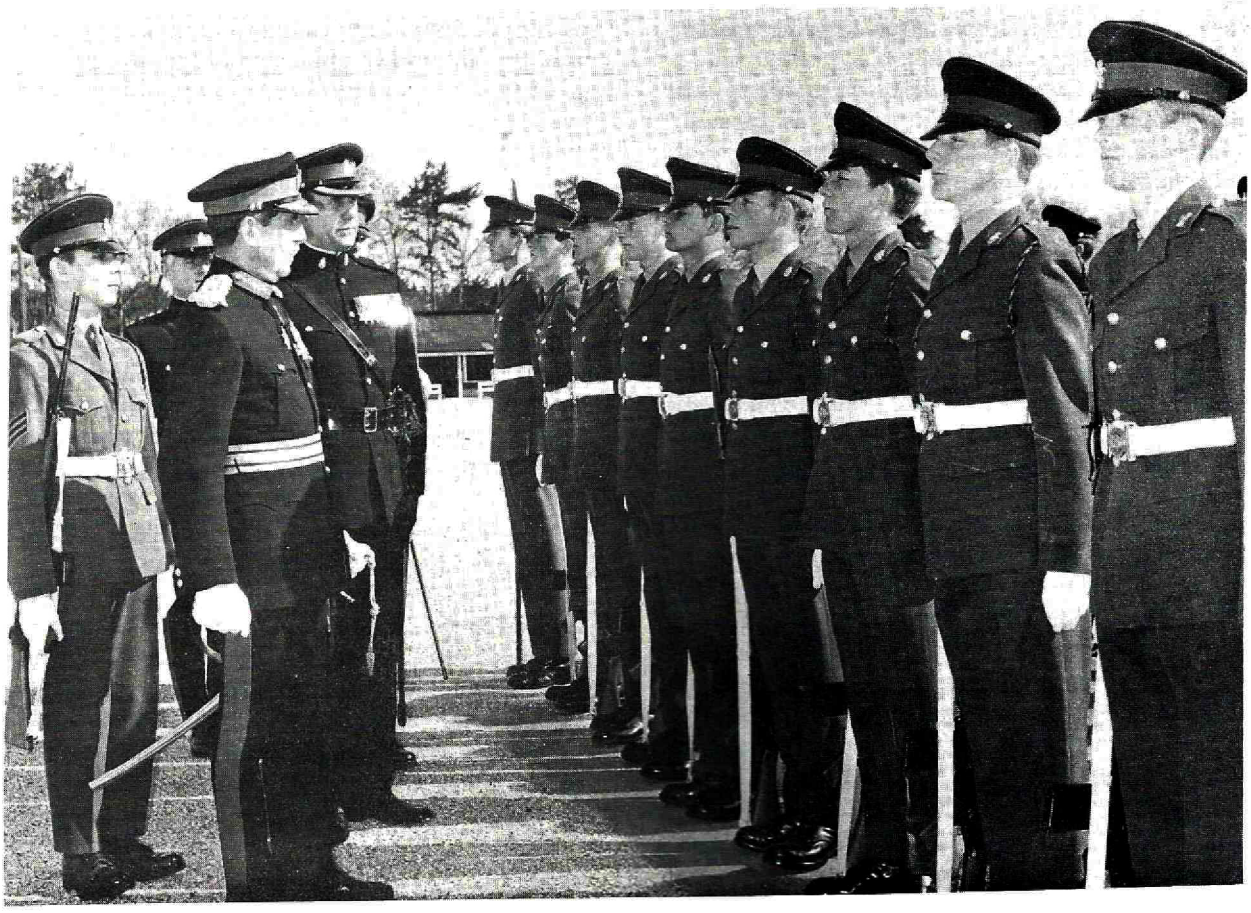
All of our Inspecting Officers paid tribute in their speeches to the extreme steadiness and precision of the apprentices on parade and to the exemplary and masterly control of these large parades by the A/RSM.

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

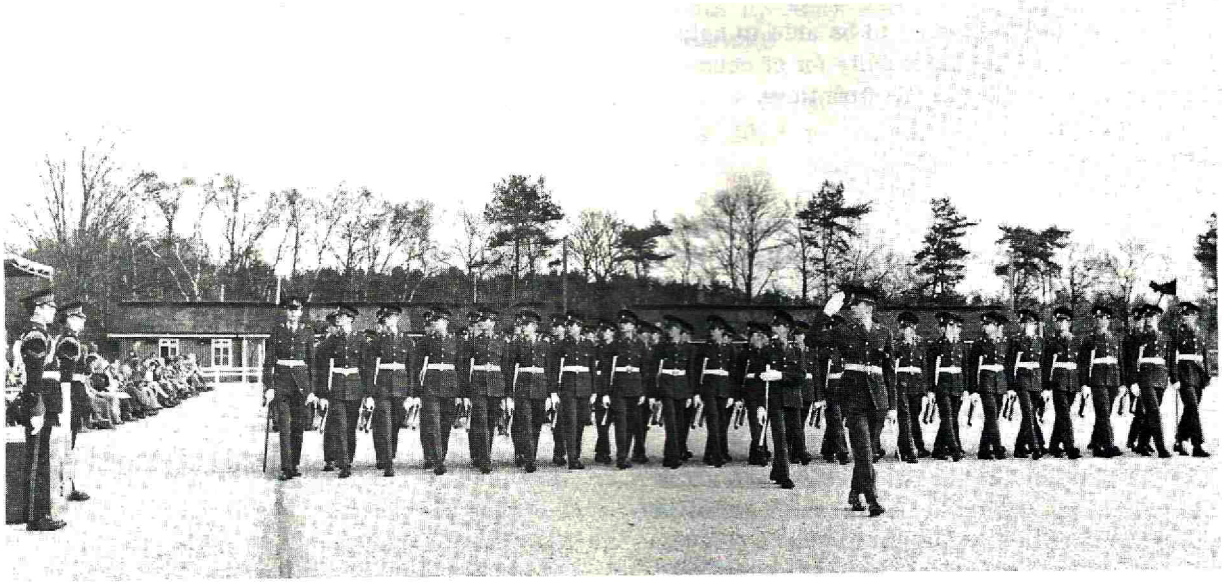
August 1972 - Major General C D Key MBE
Colonel Commandant RAOC

December 1972 - General Sir Anthony Read GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC
Quartermaster General of the Army

April 1973 - Major General J Sheffield CB, CBE,
Colonel Commandant RAOC



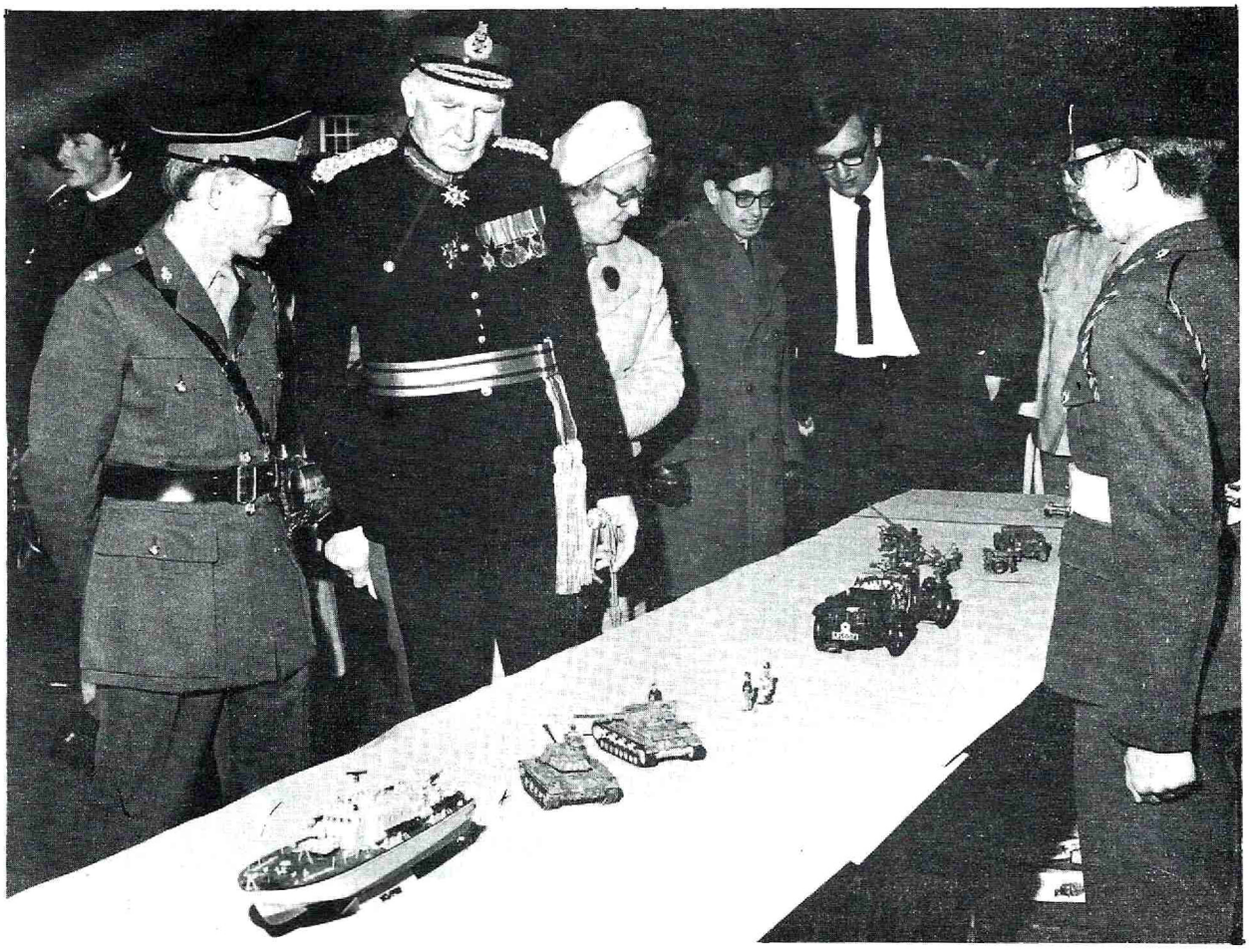
Major General C D Key MBE inspects the Passing-Out Parade



The Senior Apprentices march past

General Sir Antony Read GCB CBE DSO MC ADC on the saluting dias watching the display by the Corps of Drums

Lady Read receives a bouquet from A/RSM Scullion after presenting the prizes



Major General and Mrs Sheffield show much interest in the model-making section of the Hobbies Exhibition. Conducting is Lt A Thomas RAEC, the Exhibition controller, and explaining is Mr P Heap, OIC Model Making.

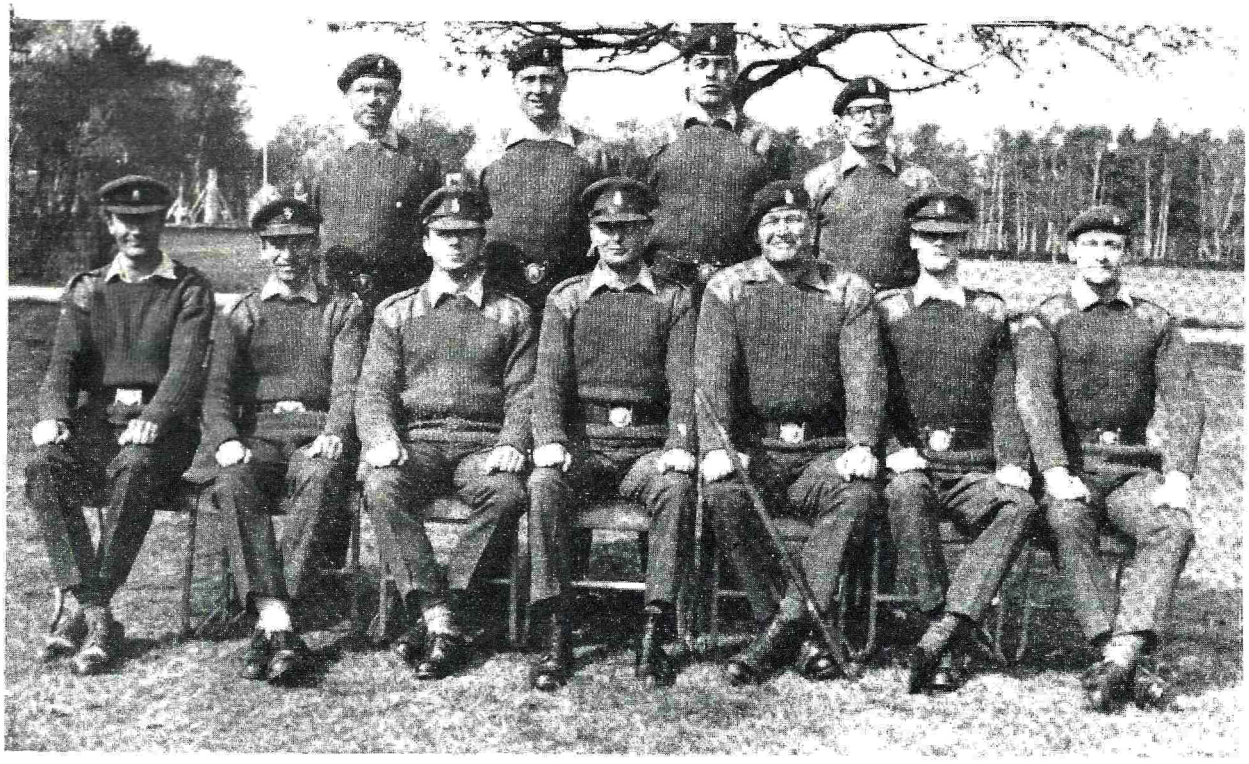
Mrs Sheffield presents the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess tankard to A/RSM Torr. In the background is Mr W E Smith, announcing the prize-winners for the 32nd consecutive term.

'A' COMPANY

OC Major F L M Foy RAOC

2IC Captain M J Duff RAOC

CSM WOII W G Black RAOC



A Company Permanent Staff

The OC writes:

"Having commanded 'A' Company for nearly two years I have had the opportunity to see at close hand modern youth from many parts of the country. All of them are products of our Welfare State and no matter how excellent and desirable the provisions of the state are they do little to engender the qualities of initiative, leadership, esprit de corps and self-reliance that we look for in the 'Soldier of the Seventies'. Many excellent young men have passed through the Company who would do much to restore the faith of older citizens depressed by those over publicised youths in many of our establishments of further education. Obviously not all of our recruits have come up to the standards we hope for and many have not lasted the course. But the vast majority have and will in time, make as sound and reliable soldiers as those in the past of whom we are so rightly proud. To most recruits our military way of life is very different from anything they have experienced before and I am always surprised to see how quickly most of them adapt to a new and more demanding way of life. The speed with which these recruits mature and develop is proof of both the material and the system. It is a pleasure to see the frightened boy recruit of only four or five terms ago confidently attempting such arduous and demanding tests as the Army Outward Bound course and in the majority of cases achieving good gradings.

Since the last edition there has been a considerable change-over of members of the Permanent Staff and the usual number of exercises and competitions have taken place.

The Company Second-in-Command will write on Company training policy, camps and personnel whilst the Company Sergeant Major will have his say on parades and sporting achievements. I hand over the Company in October to Major J H Rose RAOC on my posting to BAOR and look forward to meeting many ex members of the Company who must now be serving there.

The 2IC writes:

As one can see from the remarks made by the Company Commander, it is standard Company policy to get our apprentices out of camp as much as possible. There are many good reasons for this. Apart from the necessity to carry out military training anyway, it is obviously desirable to train in different environments. This not only improves training but is a great morale booster for the Permanent Staff and apprentices alike.

This training is split up into Company and Platoon Camps of one, or if we are lucky, two weeks duration. The programme is usually a combination of military and adventurous training, linked up with visits to various places of interest. Additionally, platoon 'weekends' out of camp are organised by the respective Platoon Commanders who can frequently be heard shouting down the telephone at friendly farmers or riding school instructors. The individual platoon notes will cover the finer details of these weekends but the point is made. The boys thoroughly enjoy these weekends and are given a superb opportunity to do things that they have never been able to do before, thereby broadening their outlook on life. Indeed, in some cases, much natural talent has been realized which will benefit the Service and the individual.

A further sphere of training is undertaken by Apprentices who have reached their peak educationally and for whom it is considered more profitable to pursue outside activities. These boys are grouped under Company headings and amongst other camps and outdoor activities they are put through the Para Battle School in the Brecon Beacons, Wales. As one may imagine this course is extremely tough and results in a good deal of self-analysis. Whatever the diagnosis may be, most participants very rapidly have any false illusions shattered.

Below you will see that many of the Permanent staff have left or are due to leave us but that there are very few replacements. This is due to the fact that the Company is now down to less than half the size it was in March 1972. We hope that those who have left enjoy their new postings and we welcome our new arrivals.

Departures

Capt D M Braithwaite	ANZUK Sup Depot Singapore
Capt R Bicknell	HQ Company
Lt A J Gibson	ATO's course
Lt P J Q Hough	ATO's course
Lt G Atherton	AYT York
Lt J Hardcastle	HQ Company
Lt H G Denton	'B' Company
Lt B Mobley	OOs course

Arrivals

Capt M J Duff	
Lt G Cox	
Lt R A C Eccles	
Lt A A Leger	(attached for Spring Term only)

Leaving shortly

Major F L M Foy	DADOS C Sups BFPO
WO II (CSM) Black W G	7 OFP BFPO 23
SSgt McGregor R	Ord Depot Hong Kong

The CSM writes:

We have been extremely successful at both Company and Platoon level in the sporting field since our last publication.

During Summer Term 1973 Williams Platoon was champion platoon in both the College Shooting and Athletics and Baker Platoon won the Tennis Cup. The Company won the Athletics, Cross Country, Shooting, Tennis, Cricket and Tug-of-War Championships. During the winter term we lost the Soccer and Boxing cups to 'B' Company who fielded excellent teams. We were all very pleased with the valiant efforts put up by both our sides who lost to the better teams on the day. To offset this, Gordon Platoon won the Inter-Platoon Basketball Cup under the able coaching of our own "Meadowlark", Sgt Kesson.

To show we did not waste all our time in the corinthian pursuits, we also won the College snooker team championship.

A/Pte Turner of Mulcahy Platoon won the Army Junior Cross Country title in January 1973 and is one of the Army's bright hopes for the future.

Up to going to press we have already won the Inter Company Orienteering and Mulcahy Platoon took almost every trophy in the Annual College Shooting Championships in March 1973. We have high hopes that the Inter Platoon Soccer Shield is going to end up in Mulcahy Platoon as they need only three points from their remaining games to secure it. Finally, on 3 March 1973 we won the Inter Company Hockey beating 'B' Coy 3-1.

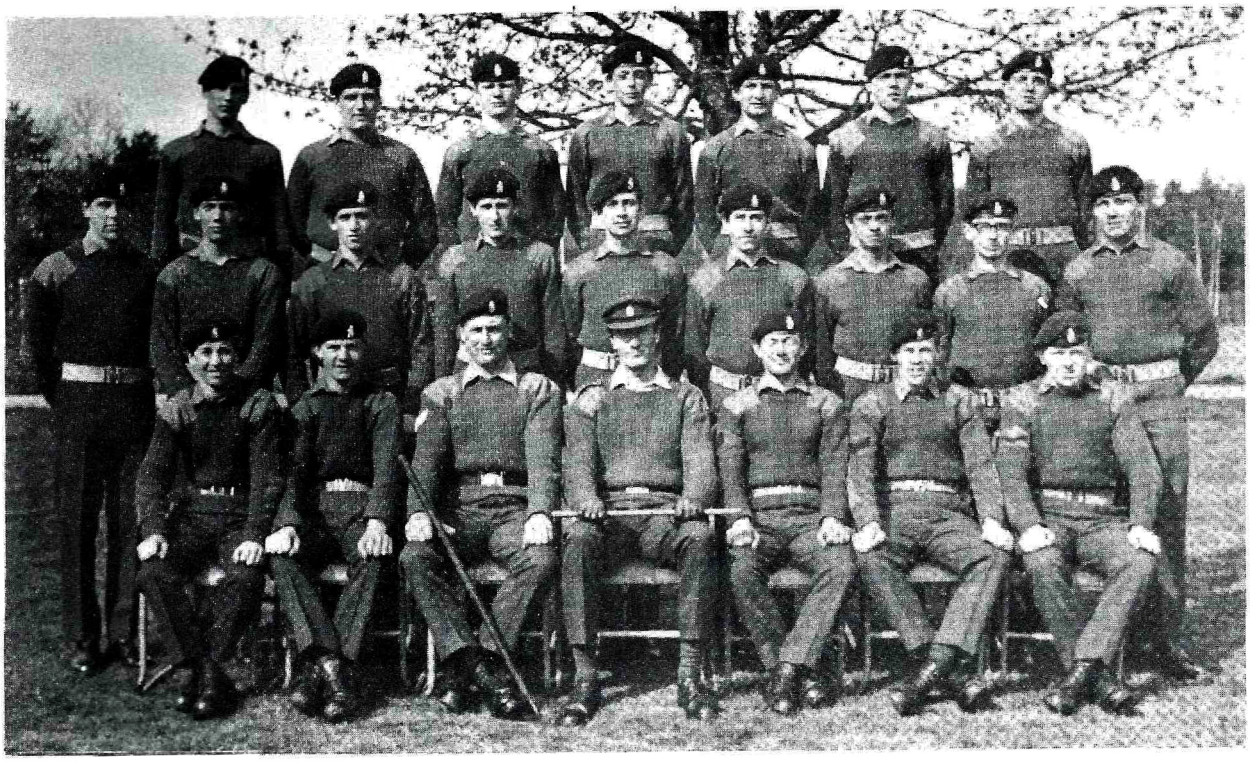
Baker Platoon, ably led by Sergeant Michael, paraded for the Army Commander General Sir Basil Eugster KCB, KCVO, CBE, DSO, MC, during the Winter term when he visited the College. We hope that he was impressed by their high standard. During the Summer term the Under Secretary of State, Mr Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, toured the College and took time to watch an Internal Security Demonstration laid on by Steevens Platoon. A/RSM Scullion, commanding the platoon, swiftly and unceremoniously dealt with the riotous assembly which had invaded the College square.

We have had two successful passing out parades both held in excellent weather. Although these parades satisfy the demanding eye of the CSM, it is nonetheless a sad occasion, as we see familiar faces depart to the rigours of man service.

BAKER PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt A A Leger RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt P Michael RAOC



Baker Platoon

Baker Platoon has had a year that has been full of changes. Lt Atherton left us at the end of the Autumn Term for 49 Army Youth Team, and Lt Leger from the Regimental Depot took over for the Spring Term only, before leaving the Army in April. Ten members of Mathew Platoon joined us after the Summer Term, and when A/Sgt Aitken, A/Cpl Kemp, A/Ptes Collins, Thompson, Mostyn and Smith left us at Christmas for man's service, four members of Gordon Platoon and one of Williams were added to our numbers. However, despite this rather large turnover of personnel the indomitable character of the platoon under the continual expert guidance of Sgt Michael has remained unchanged. A/Sgt Davidson has been promoted to replace A/Sgt Aitken and A/Pte Cannel has risen to A/LCpl Cannel.

Our fortunes in sporting activities have also been varied. Starting off the year with 14 College players (8 hockey, 2 rugby and 4 football) we came fourth in the Inter Platoon cross-country, reached the finals of the Inter Platoon football to be beaten by Williams Platoon, and won the doubles finals of the tennis championship with a fine effort by A/Ptes Ramage and West. At the end of the year we still have 11 players for College teams, 7 for hockey, 3 for rugby, and 1 for football, but our success on the football field has been hampered by the loss of all our best players, although A/Pte Lane always puts up a fine performance and is enthusiastically supported by A/Pte Clark. A/Ptes Eatch and Wilson, also put up fine performances in the platoon swimming team and with triers like A/LCpl Cannel in support managed to put us in third place. Two members of the Platoon, A/Cpl Kilby and A/Pte Baxter represented the College in the semi-finals of the Army boxing competition against the Junior Guardsmen at Pirbright, and put up a creditable performance.

With regard to evening activities and hobbies we are well represented in the model making class but to show that we are not entirely domestic A/Pte Palmer has shown promise in gymnastics and A/Cpl Bannett continues his enthusiastic support for Sub Aqua. A/Pte Bolton has also managed to create something good enough in woodwork to put in the College display.

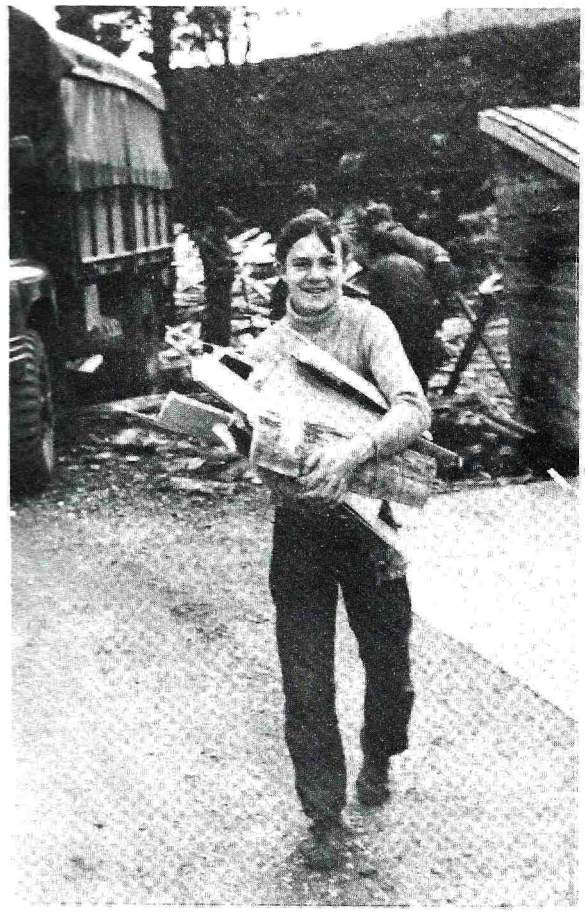
Academically A/Ptes Willis, Clements, Bolton, Blank, Clark and Palmer are struggling with CSEs varying from mathematics to woodwork and at the time of writing are sitting the first of the examinations. We wish them luck and also to A/Pte Wilson who seems determined to follow their example.

Other platoon activities during the year have been many and varied. Having distinguished ourselves at Drill, the platoon put on a drill demonstration for the Commander UKLF; a feat of which Sgt Michael is still very proud.

The College camp at Leek came and went and almost immediately a party was despatched to RAF Hullavington to help 16 Para Heavy Drop Company to prepare for a forthcoming NATO exercise in Denmark.

Following on from this a weekend pony trekking in the New Forest was called for, and in conjunction with Valon Platoon, many experienced their first jolting journey on a New Forest pony. This activity appealed to all, and in fact, due to popular demand, the expedition was repeated later in the year. However, on the second trip the weather was not so kind to us and train strikes enforced unusual travelling times, but despite this everyone enjoyed themselves - even A/Pte Bowles who was thrown from his dumb 'friend' when it got tired of walking. (Bowled over?)

Seventeen members of the platoon escaped to skiing in Rothiemurchus and returned, lean and



A/Cpl Kilby
Skiing at Rothiemurchus (?)

fit, having not only actually skied for four days but having taken part in an exercise with 24 OFP at Barnard Castle. Those left behind were due to go to the Company Camp at Sennybridge in February but national politics intervened and this event did not materialise. Instead the platoon became an accomplished enemy for Mulcahy and Gordon Platoons during field training in the local training areas.

A highlight of the Spring term for half of the platoon was a trip, or rather two trips, to RAF Odiham, who very kindly agreed to arrange a guided tour and an afternoon's flying. All ways of entering and leaving a Wessex helicopter were tried, even the precarious rope descent. At this point the author must mention the courage of A/Pte Bolton, second to last out, who survived even though he is reknowned for his failure to climb **up** a rope half the length. If only CSMI Bridges could find these hidden reservoirs of strength! Stick leader A/Pte Clark also very capably led a short map reading exercise, whilst the pilot performed some upper-air work, and guided his patrol to the exact pick-up point arriving dead on time for the finely scheduled helicopter return trip.

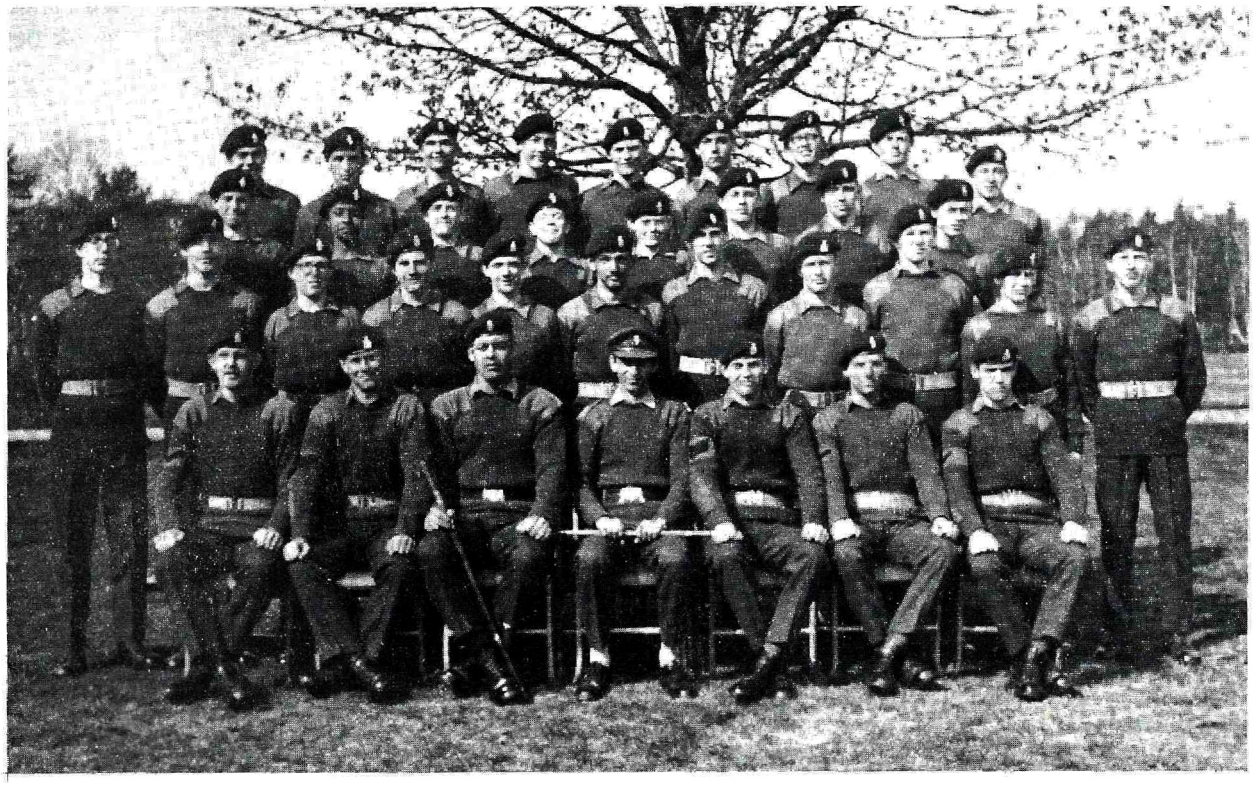
On a different note, the platoon has continued with its social work, painting old age pensioners doors, digging their gardens, doing their shopping and so on. I have noted a very willing attitude to do this service to the community, which one must respect and encourage. The social work takes place at weekends and Sgt Michael has a never ending list of jobs that must be done; sports and camps permitting.

As we near the end of the year the College Shoot is imminent and so are the RPC II exams. It is with complete confidence that I can report that the platoon will not disgrace itself in either event but will progress as it has always done, in a forceful, team-like and enthusiastic manner.

GORDON PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt R G Bowman REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt B Kesson RAOC



Gordon Platoon

Summer term was the Platoon's second term and was therefore devoted to continuation training. A very enjoyable Platoon Camp was spent at Hindleap Warren, a NABC camp site near East Grinstead. For a change the weather was kind and a very enjoyable eight days passed all too quickly. Even the anglers were able to indulge in their passion although it was noticeable that nothing but excuses were forthcoming when asked when they were going to be able to supplement our meagre rations. It was ever thus I suppose. Not being able to 'borrow' an expert from the ACC we were fortunate in finding an enthusiast in our midst. In fact A/Pte Preuss enjoyed it so much he decided to transfer to the ACC and is now busily engaged in baking doughnuts at Aldershot.

From the sports point of view we had a fairly miserable term slightly alleviated by the award of Army boxing colours to A/LCpl Eden-Winn and for a time at least we were able to bask in his reflected glory.

The weather for our Autumn Camp at Leek was unfortunately back to normal, for it rained every day. However, in spite of this, much first class training was carried out and the boys immensely enjoyed what was, for most of them anyway, their first attempt at sailing and rock climbing. True, there was a lot of apprehension and 'butterflys' before the absieling; however, everyone found it very exciting. Indeed a stranger eavesdropping in the Barrack room that night would have been excused for believing Everest had again been conquered. Perhaps it had!

The end of term brought us to the normal Christmas activities which were tinged with sadness mainly because of the number of boys due to leave and because of internal re-organisation which resulted in the platoon having to be disbanded.

However, the platoon party was a very jolly affair with only one, who shall be nameless, having to go under a cold shower because of his inability to mix the correct proportion of lemonade to beer. After a democratic vote the platoon elected to attend the West End show "The Dirtiest Show in Town" during the annual visit to London. This proved to be a most unfortunate choice however, and our feelings on the matter were heavily endorsed by the sight of row after row of empty seats.

The beginning of the Spring Term brought the usual crop of long-haired adolescents (soon to have their long hair cropped) seeking adventure and who were to form the new Gordon Platoon. A few weeks and numerous visits to the barber's shop have wrought a transformation and all are now settled in and sounding as though they have been at the College for years.

We were fortunate in finding some very good sportsmen in our midst and in fact at the time of writing find ourselves at the top of the College Platoon football league with enthusiasm running high. Whatever the outcome it will not be for the want of trying.

MULCAHY PLATOON

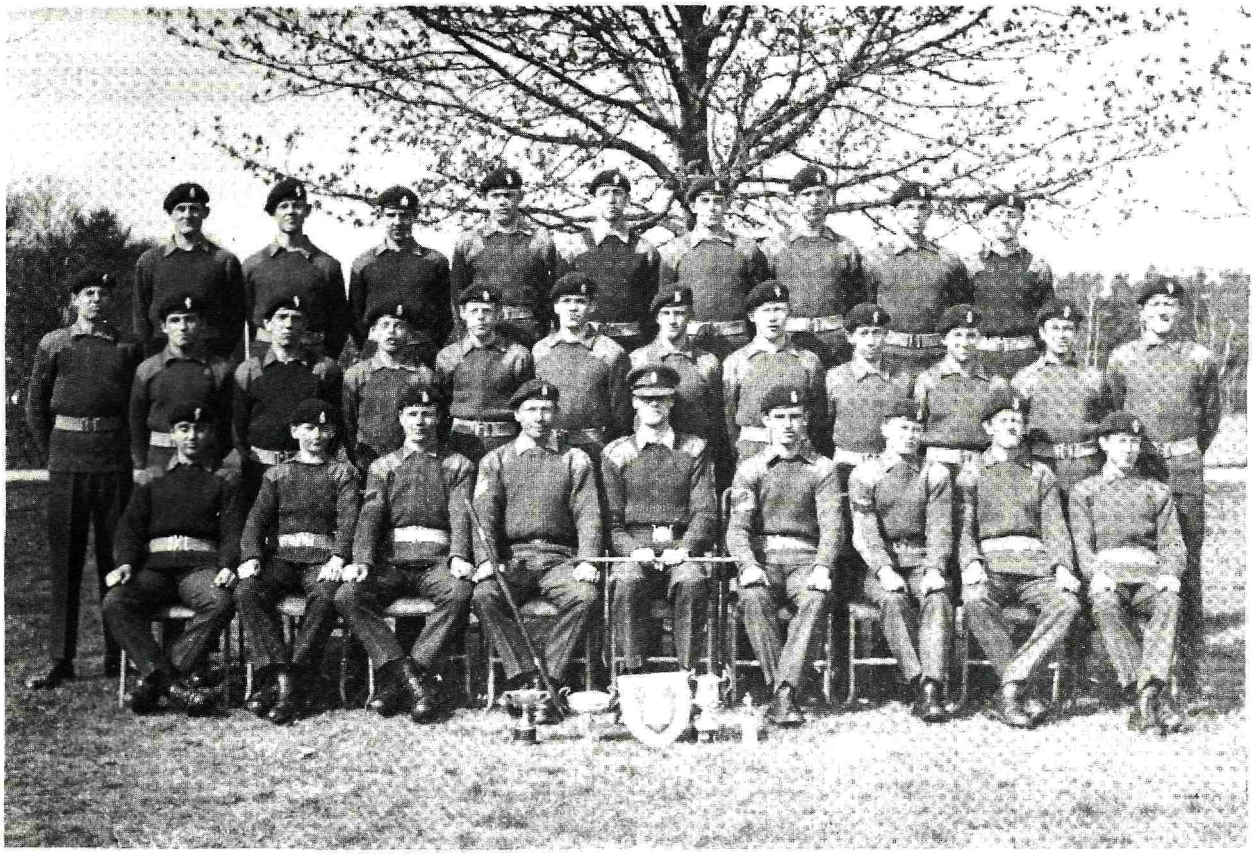
Platoon Commander Lt R A C Eccles RAOC

Platoon Sergeant SSgt R McGregor RAOC

SSgt McGregor took over the Platoon in earnest after settling in during the last few weeks of the Spring 1972 term. Once again the apprentices found themselves hard at it cleaning lockers, bulling boots and improving their general standard of turnout.

Relief from the dreary barrack blocks came with the autumn 10 day camp at Leek. Things began with a platoon exercise. Sections were able to practice battle drills while improving apprentice leadership. The bewildered expressions on some faces while trying to read maps meant that the next few days were spent on map reading. On range days apprentices were able to handle and fire both SLR and the SMG. On the recreational side sports played a prominent part, with film shows in the evening and a day out in Blackpool.

Two short exercises followed Leek at nearby Long Valley. The first, for three days, practised section battle drills including attack defence and ambush. The second was spent fighting a flu epidemic and bad weather.



Mulcahy Platoon

There were a number of visits during the Winter term, the most noticeable of which were to Ludgershall and Hullavington. At Ludgershall the apprentices saw a large variety of armoured fighting vehicles and in the afternoon were taken for a ride in an APC. At Hullavington they were shown how vehicles and equipment were loaded on to dropping platforms and the various sorts of parachutes they are dropped with.

As the end of term drew on A/Pte Linford organised Mulcahy platoon's sketches for the POP concert. Apprentices let off steam with jokes and impersonations aimed at the Permanent Staff and an amusing evening was had by all.

The Passing Out Parade went well and the platoon said goodbye to Mr Hough who departed for an ATO's course.

The apprentices returned for the Spring term to find Mr Eccles now at the helm under the ever watchful and guiding hand of SSgt McGregor. Early in the term a number of visits to London took their minds off home. The Motor Racing show displayed vehicles from an aero-engined car to electric go-carts. Madame Tussauds has been modernised to include two new rooms. The Trafalgar Room displaying a dying Nelson with two eyes (?) and the Battle of Britain room. The final visit to the British Commonwealth Institute gave the apprentices some idea of how much influence Britain had over the world.

The platoon has spent two Sundays at Henwick Manor Farm helping to run their Horse Trials. They organised car parking and were runners and fence judges. The mature and reliable help proved to be of valuable assistance. The platoon weekend in the New Forest was cancelled because of swine vesicular disease so it was spent at Henwick instead. The tents were set up in one of the fields near the farm and the weekend activity included riding, map reading and visits to Donnington Castle and motor cycle scrambling near Newbury.

Spring term's camp at Sennybridge was cancelled because the Apprentice College was put on 'stand-by' for the gas strike. Instead the Company Commander was left to his own devices and the platoons roamed over E1 and E2 training areas.

On the sports field Mulcahy Platoon is top of the College Football League with a good chance of winning. Our congratulations to A/Pte Turner for his impressive series of wins at Cross Country including the Army Individual Youth Championship.

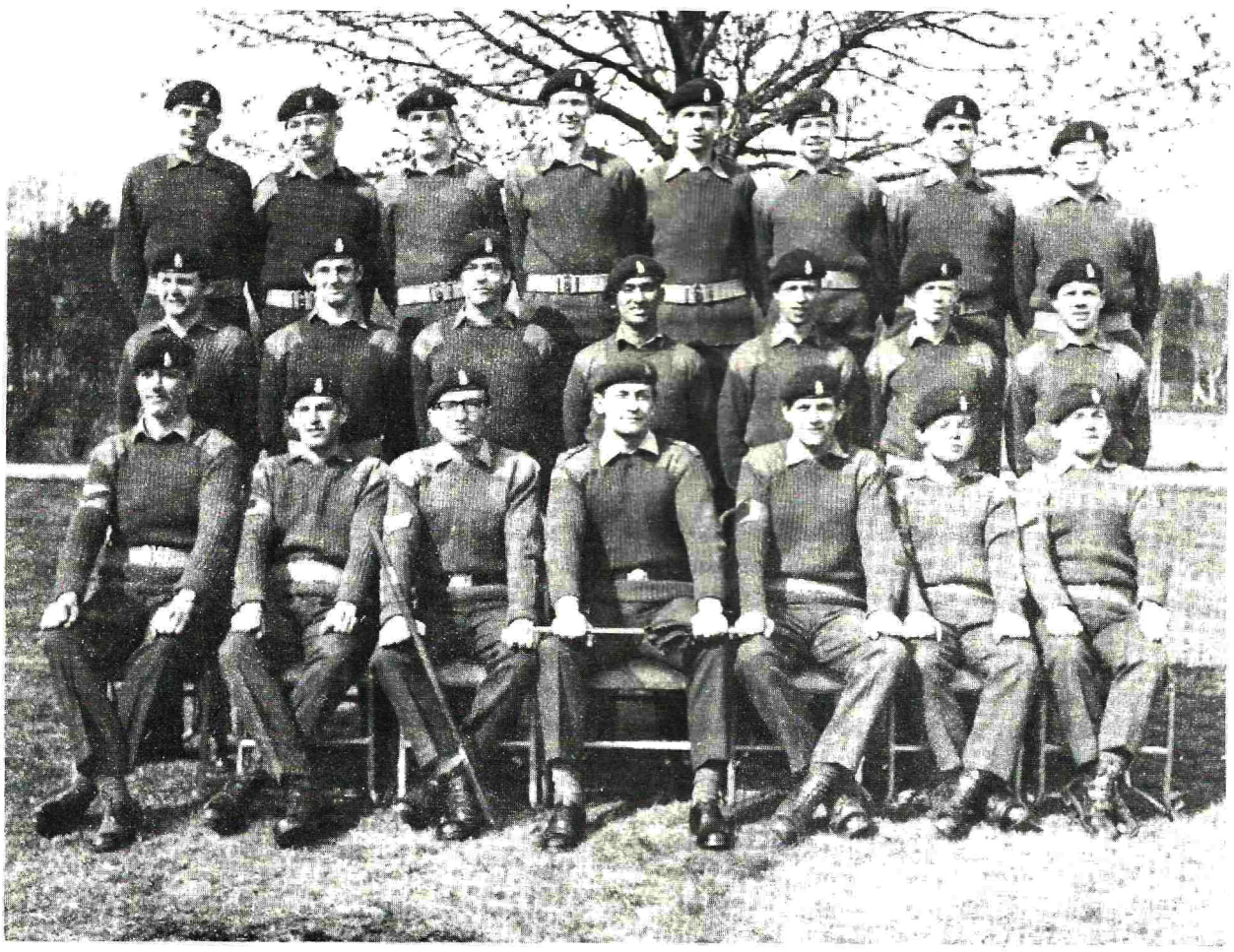
The College shoot proved to be a field day for Mulcahy, winning the Inter-Platoon championship. In the SMG Individual Championship A/Sgt Ormerod was first and A/Pte Edmunds was second. The Champion at Arms Trophy first A/Sgt Ormerod, third A/Pte Edmunds and fifth A/Pte Turner. Finally the team came runners-up in the Tiles knockout, thus collecting an impressive display of trophies.

As the end of term draws near apprentices are working hard for their CSE examinations and rehearsing for the Passing Out Parade. The final examinations for their RPC III must be taken before they depart on a much deserved three weeks recess.

VALON PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt G Cox RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt H A Thompson RAOC



Valon Platoon

A number of the Platoon Permanent Staff have changed since last year. Sgt Taylor handed over to Sgt Bell and now Sgt Thompson has stepped in as Platoon Sergeant. Lt Gibson has also left and the Platoon Commander is now Lt Cox who has joined the College from the Para Brigade.

Mathew Platoon was amalgamated with us last year and the platoon became quite strong on the sporting side. We have supplied a number of stars for various College teams; Jack for swimming, Beck and Kennedy for rugby and A/Sgt Sumner for hockey and basketball. A/Cpl Flinn also played well for the College football team and assures me that the College only lost the final because he could not play that day.

Valon has always been feared for the outstanding football teams they have put out over their time at the College. With A/Cpl Flinn and A/Lcpl Beresford who is also a College player, we proved our skill last season by winning the 'A' Company league. After a really hard final, in the College competition, we were narrowly beaten 3-2 by Richards Platoon.

Swimming was one sport in which we were confident of doing well and with A/Pte Kennedy to urge us on, the team went looking for victory in the College Swimming Gala held at Sandhurst. When the last relay came round we were in a most favourable position. Jack won the freestyle and we had only to do well to win the overall competition. Sad to say the team got a little over excited and one of them, who shall be nameless, entered the water half a second before the previous swimmer touched. Despite the fact that we won by over half a length and offered to accept a four second penalty, we were disqualified. We lost 24 points in one fell swoop, far too many to enable us to still win and our final position was fifth.

Another event in which we had a disappointment was the cross country. All the team did well and it was all a matter of awaiting the final totals. Unfortunately we found ourselves knocked into second place by a matter of a few points. We repeated ourselves yet again when we were beaten in the potted sports competition at Leek by only one point. Well, at least we won the table tennis championships and the 'A' Company basketball league.

The majority of the platoon had an enjoyable break when they joined together with Baker Platoon and went skiing in the Cairngorms. We stayed in the Rothiemurchus hut near Aviemore, a pleasant ski centre with a great deal of apres-ski activities. We did not have very much snow for the first couple of days but it did improve and a few of us got quite proficient with the help of the resident instructors. After such an enjoyable time it was quite a strain to get back into harness again on our return to the College.

The pony trekking weekends in the New Forest have become an activity to which we now look forward with great enthusiasm. We camp out beside the stables and go on organised rides of an hour's duration. Although everyone feels a bit sore in various places afterwards some of the boys go on as many as three rides in the weekend. The remainder of the time is taken up by exploring some marvellous walks within the New Forest and by visiting the game reserve and Lord Montague's famous car museum.

Garelochhead was one of the more enjoyable camps last year. The boys enjoyed working hard in the local exercise area and were intrigued by the dominating feature, a 2,350 foot mountain, which was referred to as the 'hill'. They enjoyed the other hard stuff even more, when we paid a visit to the Ballentine Whisky Distillery. This was an extremely educational and informative visit. (In Vino Veritas?).

One of the highlights last year was the visit to RAF Hullavington and RAF Lyneham. At Hullavington we were told all about the 16 Para Heavy Drop Company RAOC and the role of the Ordnance Corps within the Para Brigade was explained to us. At Lyneham the Heavy Drop Company had arranged for us to go for a short flight in one of the transport aircraft from which they do their heavy dropping. This aircraft is a large American transport called the Hercules C130. The flight had its amusing aspects and everyone roared with laughter at the expressions made by Lt Gibson when he was feeling ill. However some of us can not have looked that much better at one stage or another.

During the Winter Term A/Sgt Stocks won the 'Best All Rounder' Cup, A/Cpl Tait won the 'National Association of Boys Clubs' Trophy for Gymnastics and A/Cpl Flinn received the 'St Albans Cup' for initiative. A/Cpl Flinn richly deserved his award as he saved the life of one of the other members of his course on the schooner 'Captain Scott'. He dived over the side to rescue the other person when he fell overboard. This term both A/Cpl Tait and A/Sgt Sumner have attended Outward Bound Courses and attained good reports.

In all, Valon have done well and will continue to do so for the short time they have left. Next term Valon will be the 'A' Company recruit platoon and those who are left will be amalgamated into Baker Platoon. The spirit of the old Valon will live on however, through those who remain. May they set a good example and be proud to say that they were the original Valon Platoon.

'B' COMPANY

OC Major J M C Kimmins RAOC

2IC Captain M R Beer REME

CSM WOII G K Maule MSM RAOC

It is said that sporting successes for Companies go in cycles. If this be the case, 'B' Company's star has been in the ascendancy in 1972/73. We won the most coveted inter-Company trophy, namely the Inter-Company Association Football Cup. In this competition we drew 3-3 with 'C' Company and we beat 'A' Company in a very exciting deciding match. Richards Platoon won the Inter-Platoon League Championship.

We also won the Inter-Company Boxing Shield. This competition was fought before the establishment of 'C' Company and so it was a straight fight - no pun intended - between 'A' and 'B' Companies. The first half of the programme went well for the Company but the opposition won several fights in the second half and the match was decided on the final bout.

Our next major sporting success came in the Inter-Company Swimming Gala where Hill Platoon came first, Richards second and Parsons were third equal. Having three 'B' Company platoons in the first three places ensured that the Inter-Company Trophy came to us.

We also gained an impressive string of successes at the College Shooting Meeting with Watts Platoon winning the Tiles competition, A/Pte Gibb, Parsons Platoon, taking individual Championship and Richards, Watts and Hill Platoons taking second, third and fourth places respectively in the Inter-Platoon competition.

Hill Platoon added to their swimming success by winning the Inter-Platoon Orienteering Competition by a very convincing margin. Finally on the subject of sport, A/Lcpl O'Rourke, Richards Platoon, won the Army Junior Boxing Championship in his weight, the 48 kilo class.

The establishment of 'C' Company in September had the effect of reducing the other Companies from approximately 240 Apprentices in seven platoons to 140 in four platoons. This process of contraction caused considerable upheaval amongst the permanent staff at the platoon level in the Company, but our morale did not suffer.

On 21 January 1973 the Commander of the Training Centre, Brigadier D H Davis, ADC, presented Sgt Gardner with the GOC's Commendation for the prompt and efficient way in which Sgt Gardner administered First Aid at no less than four very serious accidents, civil and military, in the space of twelve months. The presentation was made in the presence of Mrs Gardner and all the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the College. It is of interest to note that Sgt Gardner has administered First Aid at two further accidents since the presentation; cynics are dubbing him with a somewhat sinister reputation.

From the point of view of the personalities in Company Headquarters, this has been a remarkably stable year, the only change being the departure of Captain H A Dickson REME to 35 Central Workshop, Old Dalby, and his replacement by Captain M R Beer REME. Captain Beer has continued to uphold the excellent traditions of his Corps and he, quite rightly, constantly reminds us of the vital role played by REME personnel in the life of the College.

CSM Maule has continued, for the eleventh year, to uphold the highest traditions of the British Army in the College and to leave his mark, not literally I am glad to say, on the numerous apprentices who pass through the Company.

Mrs Titmuss has proved herself to be the complete master, or should I say mistress, of the daily ration states, end-of-term administration, railway warrants and of what must be the noisiest office in the Garrison. Mrs Austin continues to type her way through piles of drafts with unerring accuracy and a conscientiousness which we would all do well to emulate. Mean-

while Mrs Esther Redman keeps the headquarters spotless and we all look forward to her delicate knock on the door which heralds a cup of coffee.

The coming year is going to be a testing time for the Company. With the change in the school leaving age and the advent of the one year course, we will find ourselves with a different type of apprentice to train. However, the end product must still be a soldier who has a trade and has gained all the academic qualifications within his ability. I am confident we shall meet this challenge.

CUTFORTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt A D Bentley RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt A D McIntyre RAOC

Summer Term 1973 saw Cutforth Platoon located in Block 8 Dettingen Barracks ready to start their RPC III term. A/Sgt Holroyd, A/Cpl Piechniczek and A/Lcpls Williamson, Tarr, Turner and Jones were the Platoon JNCOs.

At sport the platoon had mixed fortunes. In the College athletics competition the platoon came a close second to an 'A' Coy platoon. Our hopes of winning the cricket competition, however, were dashed in the first round.

The Summer camp on the Isle of Man was enjoyed by all. Sgt Sweeting's fishing expedition went down well and the fresh fish for breakfast were appreciated. The platoon's map reading exercise was successful and nobody really got lost. The RPC III Tactics examination was taken while we were at camp and obviously the sea air was conducive to sound tactical thinking because all members of the platoon passed this exam.

By the end of Summer Term, 95% of the platoon passed full RPC III and the remainder only needed one subject. A/CSM Craister passed out and A/Sgt Franks (ex Cutforth Platoon) was promoted in his place.

Winter Term started with the College Camp at Leek. The newly promoted A/NCOs had an opportunity to show their mettle. Unfortunately, A/CSM Franks became ill and was later medically discharged. The platoon was sorry to see him leave and they presented him with a silver tankard suitably inscribed. The members of the platoon who had yet to pass RPC III achieved this, while the remainder concentrated on preparation for their RPC II examination.

The College Cross Country Championship took place on the 30 September and Cutforth achieved a resounding victory. With high hopes of a double success, the football team reached the semi-finals only to be beaten by a superior team from Gordon Platoon. However, two members of the platoon, A/Cpl McCallion and A/Lcpl Tomlinson, were selected to represent the Company in their victory in the Inter-Company Finals.

The end of the Winter term saw the passing of the first Cutforth Platoon. Lt Bentley left to attend his OOs course amid fond farewells from the Platoon. In the Spring term Cutforth Platoon became amalgamated with their old rivals Hill Platoon under Lt Hicks and Sgt McIntyre.

HILL PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt S M Hicks RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt A D McIntyre RAOC

Friday 21 April 1972 saw the return of 35 members of Hill Platoon refreshed and eager to meet the challenge of a new term under the auspices of A/Sgt Hawkins. A/Cpl Slee and A/Lcpl Mason were fortunate to be still sunning themselves in Cyprus on exercise with the Paras. They returned two weeks after the beginning of term much the worse for wear!

The training programme was overshadowed by the planned visit of HM The Queen on 9 June, and many blissful afternoons were spent stamping the roads in the Depot on route lining duties. The actual visit proceeded with success and great restraint was needed by all members of the platoon to keep eyes to the front as the Royal procession drove past.

On the athletics field our efforts as a platoon were not rewarded with fame. However, certain individuals did well, namely A/Lcpl Mason who ran in the 400 metres and A/Bugle Major Davis who won the 220 metres. In the tennis knock out A/Lcpl Hulse and A/Pte Ede got to the semi-finals. Unfortunately the cricket team, captained by A/Pte Smith, fell at the first hurdle.

On 3 July the Company, with buckets and spades at the trail, set out for Jurby camp in the Isle of Man. The highlight of each day's training was a 1½ mile run to the sea for a swim before breakfast. Sgt Gardner showed us all the way and rushed into the surf invariably dragging in half the platoon with him. A Saturday night was spent in Douglas and we visited the TT Museum at the foot of Snaefell. A talent show was organised one evening during the Colonel's visit and A/Lcpl Hulse, A/Pte Barker and A/Cpl Slee are to be congratulated for their impersonations of Major Kimmins, CSM Maule and Lt Hicks respectively. Oscars (new word for a week's RPs) were awarded to all the cast!

The Winter term started on 4 September and we soon departed for Leek, that Mecca of the north so dear to the hearts of many! A/Sgt Slee took over from A/Sgt Hawkins and helped to guide the platoon through what was essentially a military camp with emphasis on the Platoon Advance to Contact and Attack. A/Cpl Tarwacki is to be congratulated on his success as the Platoon Commander's runner. A thankless task! We spent a night out in Manchester and the profits of the Belle Vue fun fair increased noticeably! A further camp was held in the term at Tregantle which those members of the platoon not on CSE exams attended, and an enjoyable time was had by all (please excuse this over-worked cliche).

The Summer term drew to a close with a platoon party organised by Sgt Gardner, to which we invited CSM Maule and said goodbye to A/Sgt Slee who goes on a RM Cdo Course with A/Ptes Bailey, Nicholson and Tydeman.

January 1973 saw the creation of the new Hill Platoon which included ex-Cutforth and ex-Body Platoon members. The total number in the platoon is now 45, which prompted the development of the old Kon Tiki Club into Hill Platoon quiet room to allow sleeping space for all 45 in the main block.

In the sporting world our prospects are extremely good and our chances of finishing in the first three of the Soccer League are high. A/Sgt McCallion and A/Ptes Hancock and Holmes regularly represent the College at cross country running with well deserved success. Our small bore shooting team is also doing well under the direction of A/Pte Hughes. At the time of going to print the platoon achieved a notable victory in the College Swimming Gala. The team was as follows:

A/Lcpl Burkhill (Captain), A/Sgt McCallion, A/Ptes Wake, Pendleton, Watson and Hancock.

Deserving of mention at this stage are the stars of the College Soccer XI, in particular A/Ptes Sutcliffe and Prince, whose form has been particularly promising.

On the military side the platoon attended camp at Trevol while the rest of the Company was billeted at Tregantle. This arrangement allowed the platoon to keep away from the

watchful eye of "you know who"! We have had one tactical weekend exercise on a local area which involved overnight moves in independent small groups over a distance of some 25-30 miles. All participants enjoyed this new freedom (complaints from the civilian populace are coming in daily). The majority of the platoon are now working towards their RPC II and performances to date indicate good results.

PARSONS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt R Rook RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt R Douglas RAOC

The present Parsons Platoon joined the College in the Autumn of 1972 as a recruit platoon with 'C' Company. Their first term was extremely busy and few competitions were entered. The only sporting event of note was Cpl Walls' fine performance in the College individual small-bore championship.

The Spring term of 1973 was a busy and interesting term with a great deal of competition and sporting activity. The term started with Parsons Platoon accompanying the rest of 'B' Company to camp at Tregantle. Highlights of the camp training were helicopter flights in both Sioux and Scout aircraft, seamanship training at Juniper Point and a map reading exercise on Dartmoor. Also at camp the platoon made a name for itself by winning the Company Inter-Platoon football competition, beating Watts Platoon 5-0 and Hill Platoon 6-1.

Early in March a platoon weekend camp was held in the area of Tweseldown Racecourse. The emphasis of the training was on map reading and small groups of apprentices could be seen at all times of the day and night throughout the weekend, making their way across Long Valley. It was fortunate that the weather was fine as many of the self-made bivouacs did not look too waterproof. A worrying moment during the weekend was when Hill Platoon attacked in the middle of the night and captured a large quantity of equipment plus A/Ptes Marshall and Dickson. Fortunately, both equipment and bodies were recovered without too much trouble and the end result was only a loss of sleep.

During the Spring term Parsons Platoon did quite well at sport. The platoon team came third in the Unit Swimming Gala after being disqualified in the last race. A/Cpl Wall did well to win the individual breast stroke award and A/Ptes Budd and Glenn swam well in the freestyle and back stroke races. On the football field A/Pte Low has played skilfully for both the platoon and the College, often for both on the same afternoon. A/Lcpl Jones, A/Ptes Crawford, Barraclough and Cole all played in the platoon soccer team but despite their skill the team did not do well. Perhaps a smaller goal or a larger goalkeeper is required. A/Pte Jones H played for the College rugger team throughout the term. Maybe he could be the new goalkeeper?

Altogether Parsons Platoon has had a successful first two terms and now looks forward to the Summer and RPC III. It is possible that the cricket team will do better than the soccer team did - if we can find a goalkeeper/wicketkeeper!

RICHARDS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt H G Denton RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt J E Jones RAOC

It is now over a year since Richards Platoon formed under Lt Gunson and Sgt Jones. In that year much work has been done and Richards Platoon has emerged as one of the finest, if smallest, platoons in the College.

In Summer term 1973 the platoon amalgamates with Hill platoon to form a new Richards Platoon, minus several long standing members such as Singleton - who goes to the term leavers platoon as an NCO, Donohoe, Langshaw,

McDonald, Maguire and Garbutt, who also leave for the senior platoon. So this Spring term is also the final term of the original Richards Platoon. I will now try to remember some of the more memorable events of the past three terms.

In the field of sports the platoon teams have won the 7-a-side cricket competition with outstanding displays from Colbourne, Stanford, Ward and Wilde. The football cup was won in Winter term by a strong side captained by Kelly. The swimming team came a creditable second in the Swimming Gala this term, thanks to some determined swimming from Lynam, Midgley, Caldwell, McDonald and Maguire. The team won the medley relay event, however, and gave Hill Platoon, the overall winners, a run for their money. The College shoot was another "near miss" (pardon the pun!) for Richards Platoon. Again we came second - not a bad performance for a platoon of 21, especially when 7 of the top 20 shots were from Richards - a standard no other platoons even approached. Noticeable 'at the top' were A/CSM Piechniczek, A/Ptes Singelton, Lynam, Jones and Maguire.

Perhaps the finest sporting achievement for the platoon was the winning by A/Lcpl O'Rourke of the Army Junior Boxing at 7st 7 lbs - a truly fine performance of which not only the platoon but the College is proud.

We have also had our problems with sport. Holroyd broke his leg in the semi-final of the football last term and Caldwell broke his ankle in another football match.

On the military training side the platoon has earned itself a very creditable pass at RPC III with some very good individual passes.

The platoon has also been on several camps, both with the Company and as a platoon. These have been to places such as Leek, Jurby (Isle of Man), Tregantle and several local weekend camps. All of these camps have been memorable in some small way beside the military training carried out. Who fell asleep and got himself locked inside an old deserted fort at midnight and who managed to climb a 14 foot sheer metal gate with barbed wire on top to get out of the fort? Who got lost on all 3 map reading exercises on one camp? Who found out that "Sir" wasn't lying when he said the mud in Long Valley, Aldershot, was 4 feet deep? Even the platoon staff got in the act with Lt Denton almost committing an indiscretion by throwing a civilian 'range-rover' and its occupants off Long Valley training area. Fortunately he recognised the driver as Princess Anne, who was competing in the Horse Trials at Tweseldown a quarter of a mile away, just before he was about to stop it. Sgt Jones demonstrated free abseiling down an 18 foot wall without a rope at Tregantle, an amusing but fortunately not too painful experience.

WATTS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt N C Smith RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt W Gardner RAOC

After a good first term Watts Platoon returned to find their platoon commander, Lt Carter, about to go to Manchester University and Lt Smith taking over as platoon commander. An injury to the latter meant that the platoon went to College camp at Leek under 2Lt P Heap, RA, TAVR. Useful training was done in sometimes inclement weather.

The weekend camp took place in a local training area. The climax of the exercise was a company night attack, which if not a complete success was at least more ambitious than normal.

The platoon has been well represented in the boxing ring throughout the Winter term. A/Lcpls Riley, Leigh, Tregidga, Anderson and Moffatt and A/Ptes Pearce, Barratt, Mullan boxed for the College on one occasion or more.

On the football field we did not fare so well. Under A/Pte Beard's leadership the team played hard till the final whistle and were generally worthy losers. At the end of the term we said goodbye to A/Sgt Hughes who has gone to Hong Kong as a Staff Clerk and A/Cpl Geeves who is undergoing training as a tailor. Ssgt Golding also left the platoon and went to HQ Company.

At the beginning of the Spring term Sgt Gardner took over as platoon sergeant. The Company camp at Tregantle was very enjoyable. A/Pte Ormrod nearly got drowned in a bog which provided considerable amusement on the trek on Dartmoor. In the potted sports the platoon won the basketball and deck hockey and provided most of the team which played for the Company against the Navy apprentices from HMS Raleigh.

In the Inter Platoon competitions this term the platoon has done reasonably well. The swimming was rather a disaster. We came last but one. We were also put out of the basketball. However we are still in the .22, came well up the top in the SLR and won the Tiles match. and after a bad start to the season have won the last six football matches.

The platoon is taking an active interest in social work by frequent visits to Brookwood Hospital. A/Sgt Wilde, of talent show fame, sings the songs while the remainder help with bingo.

Weekend camp this term was held in Long Valley. Map reading was the theme and fortunately no one got lost, even at night.

Members of the platoon represent the College at most sports, notably boxing (as already mentioned), rugger and judo.

EXERCISE "HIGHLAND FLING"

By Lt S M Hicks RAOC

The second invasion of the Celtic fringe commenced on Sunday 4 February 1973. With Haggi (is that the correct spelling?) at the high port, 35 members of 'B' Company drawn from Watts and Richards Platoons set off for ski training in the Aviemore area. Sgt Gardner, whose qualifications include the Scottish Language Course, went ahead to see if the natives were friendly and to take over the Lodge.

We then settled in at the Lodge which provided basic yet adequate accommodation. (name of author withheld by request) and the normal cuisine 'a la compo tin'! The party was divided between two instructors who ran the training each day. On days 1 and 2 everyone spent their time learning the basics on the nursery slopes below the 'Corrie Cas'. On day 3 we went up the ski chair to the top station where the conditions were extremely icy and not very good for learners. Then we were blessed with a fall of snow in the middle of the week which improved conditions both on the nursery slopes and at the top. The more ambitious members moved on to the 'Corrie Cas' and attempted to perfect their 'snow plough' and 'parallel' turns.

The daily routine was fairly flexible and in times of emergency when the cook went absent even the OC had to cook breakfast! We then set out for the slopes arriving at 1000 hours, where we stayed until about 1530 hours. The various amenities of the Aviemore centre, which include ice skating, swimming and go-karting, were also used on occasions.

The return journey again included a stay at at 24 OFP in Barnard Castle and then back after what, all had better agree, was an enjoyable two weeks away from Deepcut.

'B' COMPANY CAMP - WINTER 1973 - TREGANTLE

As we arrived late at night after a long and tiring journey, we found a large black moat commanded by high thick walls over which the wind howled, anything but inviting. Indeed, standing on the battlements with the dawn to see an icy sea breaking over weather-torn rocks far below was anything but warming. Fortunately, as the sun rose and we tucked into one of Cpl Andrews excellent meals, our spirits rose and we were able to tackle the day's training which, of course, started with - wait for it - DRILL! This was followed in the afternoon by the first of many trips to HMS Raleigh to use the wide range of excellent training facilities so kindly placed at our disposal.

A very interesting morning was spent demonstrating to the Navy how incredibly fit an apprentice is over their assault course, chased of course by evil permanent staff throwing thunderflashes to 'encourage' their individual teams. Nobody will forget the ropes - or rather the river (2° C) underneath them, as most people ended up there anyway.

Whilst on the subject of physical fitness, A/Pte Midgley managed to climb a pair of 14 ft gates after he had woken up to find that he had been left and locked in another old fort in the middle of the night. It is believed that he was helped over by the local headless ghost, as we all know he would never have managed it on his own.

I am sure that we will all remember the fine standards of professionalism and generosity displayed by the Royal Navy.

The programme for the Company during our stay at Tregantle was interesting and varied, including helicopter flights, seamanship training, marches over Dartmoor and even guided tours through dark passages deep below the keep of the fort.

Richards platoon was treated to a demonstration of free abseiling down a 20 ft wall by Sgt Jones, followed by a first aid demonstration of how to treat rope burns and sprained ankles on Sgt Jones by Sgt Gardner.

The Dartmoor exercise 'BREAKOUT', besides providing good map reading training, included an interesting lesson on meteorology, as we were shown rain, sleet, snow, hail (horizontal) and even sunshine. During the walk. A/Pte Ormerod disappeared up to his waist in a bog, so providing Watts Platoon with a demonstration of how dangerous Dartmoor can be and also a lesson on how to get out of such situations.

A very pleasant and instructive day was spent by platoons on exercise 'WALKABOUT', a test of map reading, mainly on roads, over many miles. Sgt McIntyre is still insistent that he knew where he was and what he was doing when he let A/Pte Gowers take him on a 10 mile walk between two points 5 miles apart.

Whilst at Tregantle, Lt Rook joined us from Hong Kong via various hospitals after badly injuring his hand. This lifted some of the weight of running Parsons Platoon from Sgt Douglas.

Perhaps the high point of the camp was the helicopter flights Captain Beer arranged for us with the Royal Marine helicopter squadron. A good time was had by all except the luckless few on the last day when mist prevented flying.

The CO came down for a day, part of which he spent with a rather embarrassed Major Kimmins looking for Watts and Richards Platoons on Dartmoor. In the end it turned out that the wrong grid reference had been given to the platoons by an officer who shall be nameless but is large and rides a motor bike.

The CSM got on with the Navy so well that he was made an honorary Fleet Chief Petty Officer.

The entertainments at Tregantle were ably run by the resident camp comedian who went under the code name 'Uncle Wilf' and was usually to be found either in the stores or the kitchen under a large white hat making curry. He also ran a regular cabaret every mealtime in the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Frequent trips for R and R were made to Plymouth and the HMS Raleigh cinema and much use was made of the HMS Raleigh sports facilities. A series of contests were played by the Company against the HMS Raleigh intakes, who were incidentally older and larger than our Apprentices. The results were very gratifying for the Company as we won the basketball and hockey, losing only rugby and soccer, a solid performance against such opposition.

In summary, we can say a truly enjoyable and constructive time was had by all, thanks to good administration, a varied programme, interesting location and, most of all, the high standards of enthusiasm and determination shown by the apprentices themselves.

JURBY CAMP - ISLE OF MAN

The gallant warriors of Cutforth, Hill and Richards Platoons, 'B' Company, left the safe repose of Deepcut for the front line on Monday 3 July 1972. There were, of course, the routine 'administrative errors' before the machinery of war could work to perfection. One subaltern, who shall remain anonymous, left the permanent staffs' beer ration on the bus at Euston. He suddenly

realised his mistake as the vehicle disappeared through the station gates and set off in hot pursuit across rush hour London.

The Company arrived at the Liverpool ferry and Major Kimmins went in search of the ticket office where he was asked by a group of youths if he was 'recruiting for the IRA?' The reply to this question will be submitted on request. We arrived at Jurby Camp, Isle of Man, after a ¾ hour drive from Douglas in the inevitably pouring rain. Our spartan week commenced in earnest next morning at 6.30 am when the Company paraded for a run of ¾ mile down to the beach for a swim. Masochists of the world unite! It must be noted that even the seals moved inshore to observe this weird activity of the earthlings.

Tuesday was rather overcast and consisted of a restricted map reading exercise on a mountain surrounded by mist for Hill Platoon, and tactics period for Cutforth and Richards. On Wednesday Brigadier Davis arrived and visited the Company on training in the field. On Thursday afternoon Hill and Cutforth made a joint visit to the Ramsey swimming pool where the hierarchy present had to fight for their lives when attacked by apprentices in their 'drown the permanent staff' role. Needless to say the area was vacated by all peace-loving civilians in seconds flat!

Thursday evening saw the entertainment highlights of the week with the 'B' Company version of "Opportunity Knocks". Lt Col Mathews honoured us by taking a seat on the panel of judges along with Eileen Jones, Major Kimmins and CSM Maule. The artists varied from the sublime to the ridiculous, but the eventual winner was A/Pte Wilde singing some Johnny Cash numbers on his guitar in a very professional manner. A/Pte Gowers, alias Frankie Howerd or PM Ted Heath came second and A/Cpl Slee and Co' in a portrayal of Company Orders came third.

Each platoon had a day's recreational activity which consisted of either a visit to the Snaefell Motor Cycle Museum or a fishing trip. The OC skippered the crew which boasted a 15 stone catch of fish. The Guinness Book of Records refuse to accept this and offer a reward for the name of the fishmonger concerned! Sunday saw a Permanent Staff v Apprentices football match where few shone and none escaped unhurt. It is reported that even the CSM was mauled!

The sad day of departure eventually arrived and apprentices were seen polishing dustbins and scrubbing the drill square. The return journey was uneventful to the point of absurdity.

PROJECT ON THE HAMBLE

The Guildford Home for Handicapped Children approached the College at the beginning of October and asked for volunteers to attend a project of 'self-help' on the River Hamble. This involved going down on a Sunday to a derelict RN Training School to strip the Church roof. The entire roof was to be taken in sections to Guildford to be positioned over a new swimming pool built largely by voluntary public contributions.

Elements of Hill and Watts Platoons were quick to take up the call, and on the first Sunday in October, sallied forth with shovels at the high port, under Lt S M Hicks and Sgt Goldine. They went down in two minibuses provided by the School and started to dismantle the roof. The hosts were so impressed with their industry that Hill Platoon were asked to return on the following three Sundays. Perhaps the attraction of free beverages appealed to the boys concerned! However, their efforts were appreciated enormously by the School, and all the boys felt proud of a job well done for those less fortunate than themselves.

'C' COMPANY

OC Major K E Curtis RAOC

2IC Captain H G Heap RAOC

CSM WOII W Godwin RAOC

The effect of raising the school leaving age to 16 resulted in a very large intake of apprentice recruits at the commencement of the Winter term in September 1972. The College share of these recruits totalled 217 who, in all shapes and sizes, duly arrived in the College on 12 Sep.

In order to accommodate such a large number it was decided to re-form 'C' Company after some four years dormancy. The next question was where they should be quartered, as certainly Dettingen Barracks could not cater for so many extra bed spaces. Fortunately, Alma Barracks, next door, was empty so these were rapidly redecorated and refurbished and with a considerable amount of 'self help' six barrack blocks were ready in time to cater for the 'invasion'.

On that glorious September day we formed up with six platoons, each with between 35 and 45 apprentices controlled by apprentice NCOs transferred from 'A' and 'B' Companies. Permanent staff of one Major, one Captain, one CSM for Company HQ and six Subalterns, plus six SNCOs for the platoons were dragged in from all corners of the globe. The original 2IC, Captain Brogden, came in with vast supplies of 'war' stories about his exploits of sailing the Atlantic, and the OC had plenty to tell about his six months on the dry land on the other side of the Atlantic.

Some of the original Permanent Staff have moved on; Captain Brogden has been promoted to command HQ Company and taking with him Sgt (now Ssgt) Ward from Swiney Platoon. Captain Heap came back from Northern Ireland to take over the 2IC's seat in what must be a record time for a handover/takeover of just 10 minutes.

The Winter term progressed and of course our original numbers fell as some boys found that life in the College was rather too strange and difficult to endure. The 200 boys who stayed with us were glad that they had, when our first camps in Tregantle and Black Dog turned out to be a great success, although young Gloster may not agree, having broken his wrist rather gloriously on the death slide.

The end of the Winter term saw the transfer of Parsons Platoon with Lt Fisher and Sgt Douglas to 'B' Company as it was necessary to balance strength to some degree. A/Pte Wickham was elected the Best Recruit of the intake and in this he must be applauded for earning this award among so much excellent competition.

Having been refreshed by the Christmas leave the five platoons returned to a vigorous training programme during January and February. A/CSM Turner was promoted from A/Sgt after completion of the Army Outward Bound Course.

Ssgt Golding took over the reins as Platoon Sergeant of Swiney Platoon from Sgt Sweeting who had filled the gap on departure of Sgt Ward. The hard work was rewarded by splendid weather and an interesting programme for the two long weekends spent at Fremington Camp in early March.

Although during Winter term we made little impression on the College sporting achievements the body building and fitness training has now begun to bear fruit as this Spring term has drawn to a close. Among our many achievements are:

Inter-Platoon Soccer League Winners
Rowcroft Platoon

Inter-Platoon Basketball Winners
Swiney Platoon

Inter-Platoon Small Bore
Rowcroft are in the last four of the competition.

Individual Orienteering Winner
A/Cpl Rusbridge

Unfortunately, as the life of the Company is to be terminated at the end of the Summer Term 1973 we are to lose Mathew Platoon at Easter and the remaining four platoons will be passed on to other Companies in August. Before then we

intended that the College will feel our presence in all competitions as we shall certainly go out with a bang.

Finally, it must be recorded that our Officer Commanding for the first seven months, Major K E Curtis, has left us for the Food Technology Course. He handed over to Captain Heap who in turn handed over the 2IC's chair to Lt O'Leary from Horne Platoon.

Its taken us eight months to show,
That from Junior Leaders, Apprentices grow,
And these final lines are no idle jest,
Our last term together will prove we're the best

HORNE PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt C J O'Leary RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt S C Bonta RAOC

The day had arrived at last. On 12 September the 'new boys' would start arriving. The Permanent Staff, most of whom were 'new boys' also, waited with bated breath to meet their new charges. Steadily, all day, the recruits trickled in; some fat, some tall, some big, others not so big, long hair, short hair, Geordies, Scouses, Jocks and Cockneys, all as varied as one can imagine, except for one thing - they were all mine - Horne Platoon.

"I wonder if I could get a posting back to the Marines" I mused, as I drove back to the Mess much later that evening. We, the Platoon and I, had just had our first confrontation and I don't know who was the more nervous. I think they won by sheer weight of numbers, but it was close.

For the next week or so that Platoon were jabbed, shorn, measured, talked to, shouted at, until everyone was quite tired of the whole affair. However, the training began to take shape and we were all soon beavering our way through the programme. Our first football match was played and lost, the first of many unhappy games. Things looked a little grim but there was still the half term break to look forward to and the Platoon Camp at Tregantle.

The Acceptance Parade came and we were accepted, much to the delight of the many relatives and friends who turned up and much to the relief of a hoarse and footsore Sgt Bonta.

Later, in November, we were to be found in Tregantle Fort. Before we had even settled in on that dark and misty evening, there were rumours of ghoulies and ghosties, etc, and only the brave or the thirsty dared venture out before day break. We were blessed with good weather and even managed a quick dip in the sea one afternoon - much to the disgust of A/Sgt Robinson. Other activities included a shipborne tour of Devonport docks, the scramble course at Bickleigh - our first ever victory at anything - and half a day on the confidence area at Pier Cellars.

Feeling much refreshed, bar the never ending stream of passing out parade rehearsals, the latter part of term passed quickly. As part of the College Christmas Day celebrations we went up to London to see Peter Cook and Dudley Moore in "Behind the Fridge" at the Cambridge Theatre. However, most of the platoon seemed more interested in the seedier delights of the West End and a lot of the subtle humour was lost. Most people remember the trip for one reason or another. A couple of days later, after the Passing Out Parade, parents came and took sons home looking and behaving very differently from three months previous - all the effort had not been in vain.

Spring term arrived all too quickly and soon we were all engaged in our intensive training week. Bullets on Ash Ranges, boats on Hawley Lake, blanks on G2 and bruises on the Guards Depot Assault Course were all good fun but tiring work, so most people were happy to settle down into the routine programme once more. Then, what I thought was impossible happened - the football team won a match. They all insisted it was skill but I believe the church parade the weekend before had something to do with it! Anyway, it was the first of four consecutive wins and over 20 goals.

As the term went on our results got better in inter-platoon competitions. Ninth in the swimming and fifth in the Orienteering, the latter being a commendable result over a difficult course.

Early March saw us in Fremington, North Devon, for the Company Camp extended from four days to six because of a rail strike. The weather was glorious and amongst other things the camp consisted of a day's walk across Exmoor, a visit to the Fording Trials Branch at Instow and an Inter-Platoon Assault Course competition which we won convincingly. In all, a very pleasant camp which we look forward to visiting again in the future.

Spring term draws to a close. We have survived with but few casualties along the way. In term three we see our first NCOs promoted from the original intake, Crombie, Ingrem and Knott, and in the future we shall no doubt see more. Two terms down, four to go. But not for me, for I move on to new pastures. Some other lucky individual will see the Platoon through to the bitter end. I hope he has as much fun as I have had.

MATHEW PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt C C Burrow RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt E A Furneaux - Harris RAOC

Mathew and Sons Ltd

Shareholders report on Mathew and Sons Ltd

A few words from our Managing Director, Rabbi T Burrow, Esq:

Mathew and Sons Ltd was formed in September 1972 as a subsidiary holding of 'C' Company. Many people have inquired as to what exactly Mathew and Sons Ltd are doing. The Company Sergeant Major does so regularly. However, despite fierce competition from other organisations, both military and para-military (for example, Rowcroft Incorporated, The Sweeny Todd outfit, Cat Stevens and our old friends Round the Horne) we have emerged as the largest and youngest holding in the Company. This I am sure gives

members of the board and shareholders alike the assurance that the firm is happy, healthy and living in Block 37.

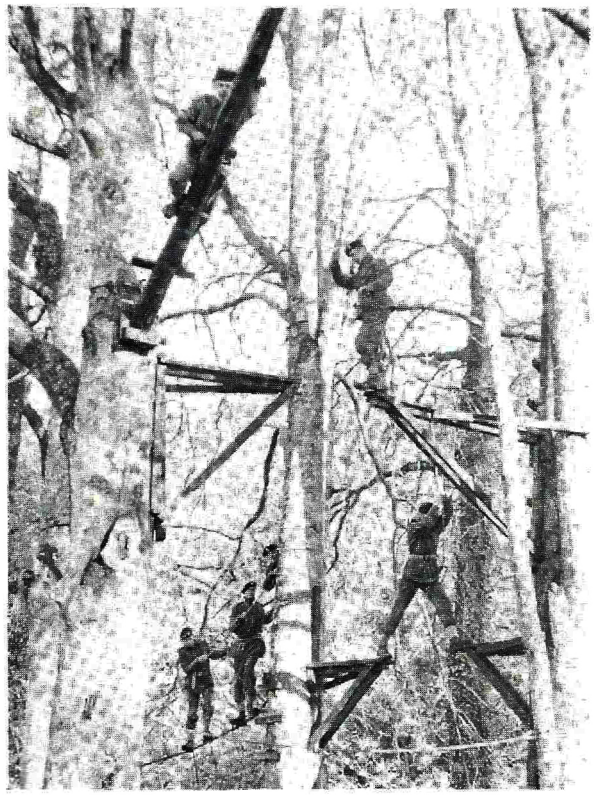
Now a few words from one of the workers:

To fill in that rather vague picture given by our Gaffer, I will now attempt to provide a few details. In September 1972 forty of us who arrived at the College from all over the country were placed into Mathew Platoon and without boring the reader with all the details about the problems of arriving and getting adjusted to College life, I will say that most of us did not know what had hit us. We were chased around by the Junior NCOs and Sgt Furneaux-Harris seemed to be in evidence all the time. The hardest thing to get used to was getting up early in the morning to do block jobs. Having to march everywhere in a squad and keeping the fires going was hard to. Well, I could go on and on.

One of the best things about the College was the sport; we seemed to be having games three or four times every week. We played inter-platoon soccer, basketball and cross country. Drill, drill and more drill, then the Acceptance Parade and off on half term. Quite a lot of parents came down to the Parade. It is one of those occasions when you have your friends and parents watching you on parade and everyone does their best not to muck it up.

After half term we went to Devon on our first Platoon camp. We lived in a great big marquee which eventually blew down in a gale; we then took up residence in a barn. It was great fun really, we spent the Friday at the Wessex Bde Depot with a platoon of Junior Infantry who had been in the Army the same time as us. We had an assault course competition and went shooting on their 30 metre range. They beat us at shooting but in the afternoon we got our own back by beating them at soccer in all three matches.

On Saturday we went to the Outward Bound School at Ashburton and did a 'confidence area' - more a 'frightening area' if you ask me! The Sunday was Remembrance Day and so we paraded at a little village church. By the way they stared at us, they couldn't have seen any soldiers since the war; one old man told some of us about when he was in the 'Home Guard'.



The Frightening Area!

At the end of the Winter term we had a College Christmas Day which started with rum-laced tea in bed, brought by the Platoon Commander and Sgt Furneaux-Harris. After Christmas dinner we went up to London to see 'No Sex Please, We're British'.

Spring term was less eventful than the Winter term; stands to reason really when you have been in for one you are no longer a 'sprogg'. The best part of the second term was the Company Camp at Fremington in Devon. We are going back there again next term with 'B' Company. It should be great because there were birds everywhere!

In Summer term we are going to join 'B' Company. Sgt Furneaux-Harris is leaving us and Sgt McIntyre has been giving us steely-eyed looks; they say things are going to be different.

What a pity!

ROWCROFT PLATOON

Platoon Commander 2Lt M Blatherwick RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt F Green RAOC

Once upon a time, in about September 1972, 37 little boys arrived at a sinister group of buildings in deepest, darkest Deepcut. They all had one aim in life - "To become soldiers".

As they arrived, singly and in pairs, they were shown into a big hall where a big man with a mean voice shouted at them to queue up behind a table. Sitting behind the table was another man but he was nice and kind. He told them a number and that they were in Rowcroft Platoon.

Yes, folks, Rowcroft Platoon is once again a living platoon and is now part of 'C' Company.

Sgt Green and A/Sgt Mandley quickly set to with the recruits and it was not long before toe caps were gleaming and belt brasses glistening, Platoon Commanders included!

After the initial few weeks the task of getting physically fit was embarked upon - cross country runs being the order of the day. All thoroughly enjoyed these trips around the countryside, even if the enjoyment did stem from the sight of the Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant on their chinstraps.

Early on in the Winter term it became apparent that there were the makings of a very good football team to be found in the Platoon. This proved true and we had a very good term eventually getting knocked out of the College competition by Valon Platoon in the semi-finals. Congratulations are due to all the team on some excellent performances but special mention must be made about A/Cpl Minshull and A/Pte Jenkins who scored 29 goals and 27 goals respectively. Although we did not fare quite as well in the inter-platoon basketball competition we did have reasonable success in the table tennis competition winning the singles and failing in the semi-final of the doubles. Well done A/Ptes Paton, Wright and Wickham.

Towards the end of term Rowcroft, along with Horne and Parsons Platoons, savoured the delights of Tregantle Fort on Exercise "Cornish Gnome". The exercise proved to be a great success with visits to HMS Jupiter Point, for a trip on a Royal Navy whaler around the Naval dockyards at Plymouth, and the confidence area at Pier Cellars. The afternoon at Pier Cellars was very enjoyable and, thankfully, free of injuries. After the confidence course had been completed the whole platoon volunteered to go for a swim in the harbour; but only after being ordered to do so!

As our first term came to a close it was dominated by the rehearsals for the Passing Out Parade to be taken by the Quartermaster General. To watch the platoon on the actual parade it was difficult to believe that they were, in a military sense, only 'six weeks old'. After the parade came the prizegiving, when A/Pte Wickham was awarded the Best Recruit Trophy.

With that, the Winter term ended and all left on a very well deserved Christmas leave.

We started the Spring term minus A/Sgt Mandley, who had passed on to man's service, but plus A/Sgt Turner who had joined us from Parsons Platoon. The first few weeks were spent settling in again but we soon changed this and we soon changed this and moved out of camp onto the training area at Jack Pond Hill. The exercise was mostly concerned with attacks, patrolling and defence although the monotony was broken by an assault boat race across Hawley Lake and an assault course competition at Pirbright. Rowcroft beat Horne in the assault course. You can't win them all!

Soon afterwards half term reared its very welcome head, and A/Sgt Turner was promoted to A/CSM. A/Cpl Wallis was promoted to A/Sgt and A/Lcpl Minshull moved up the ladder to A/Cpl.

Working on the premise that a fully occupied man is a happy man, as soon as we returned from half term, preparations began for a camp at Fremington near Barnstaple. This camp was a long weekend affair from the 9th to the 12th March and we shared the barracks with Horne Platoon. Fortunately we were blessed with excellent weather and the trips to the Fording Trials Branch at Instow, near Barnstaple, and across Exmoor were all undertaken in brilliant sunshine. This camp was, without a doubt, the

most enjoyable so far but this must, in the main, be attributable to the weather.

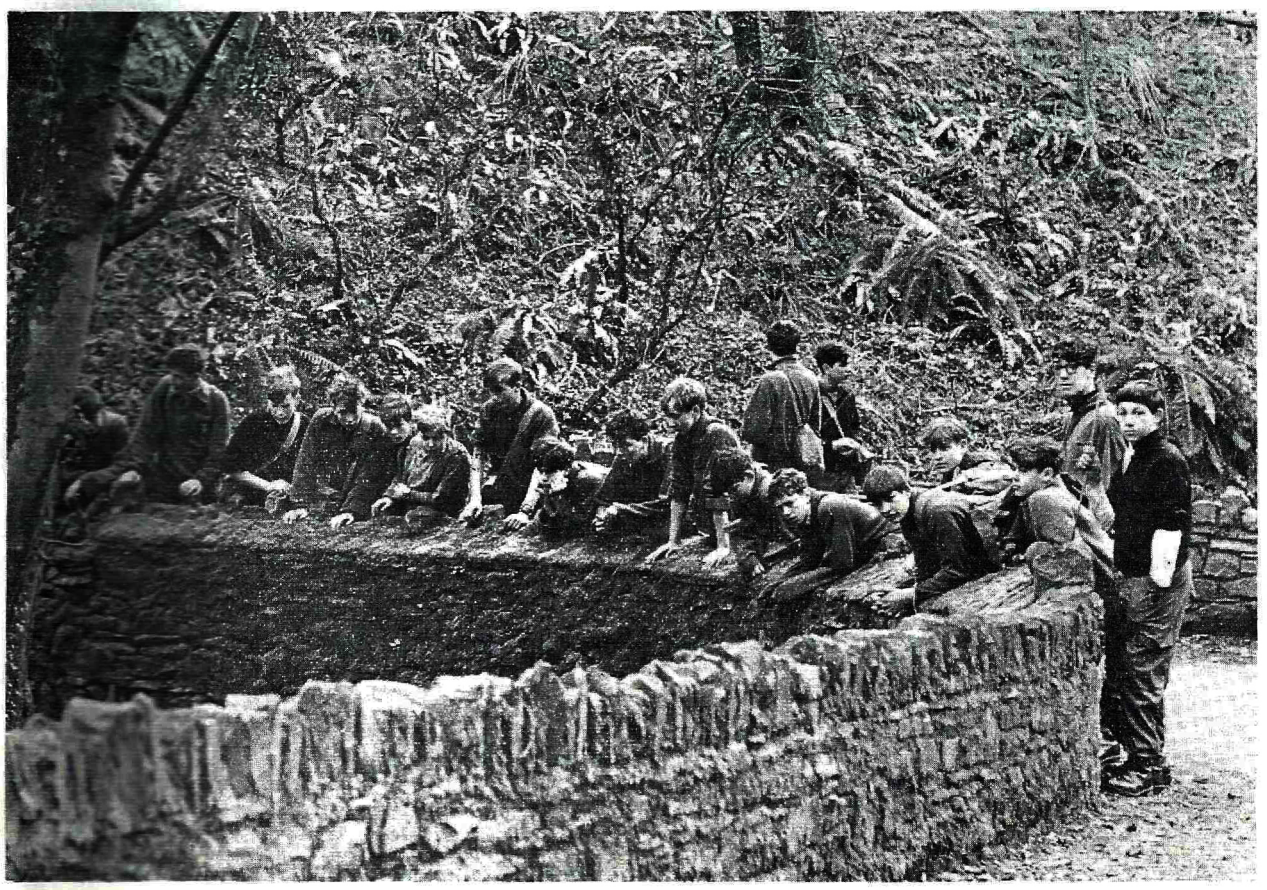
Our return from camp heralded the start of the many sports competitions which are to take place over the next term and a half. As we go to press we are leading the College football league, doing very well in the small bore shooting competition and on our way to repeating our showing of last term in the table tennis. The College full bore shooting competition and orienteering competition are to take place shortly - we have great hopes in both.

All in all we have made an auspicious start in a new company and we have every intention of continuing and even improving as we become "older hands".

STEEVENS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J R Hughes RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt J Taylor REME



Steevens Platoon "take 5" during a walk over Exmoor

On 12 September 1972, to the gentle murmuring of Sir John Steevens turning in his grave, the platoon of his patronage reformed and took its place in the equally recently constituted 'C' Company.

After what was loosely described as a haircut, the bewildered recruits set about their chosen fate, the first event being the issue of articles of clothing affectionately referred to as 'BD' trousers. Size had little to do with the issue and it was noticed that few recruits were venturing outside their blocks for fear of being seen. The garments, it appears, were impregnated with an anti-gas agent that reeked like dead camels! The platoon was detectable at 500 metres up-wind!

All forms of de-odorization were attempted - salting, hanging them outside in thunderstorms, even spraying them with Eau de Cologne.

A/Cpls Briggs and Le Page help A/Ptes Hill, Palin and Jones with their map-reading at Fremington

However, it was all to no avail, except perhaps for the two sailors who followed us around Plymouth while we were down at Tregantle.

Having been kitted-out and shown the difference between blanco and shoe polish, the remainder of the year was squandered in a futile attempt to correct the badly laid surface of Dettingen Barracks Square. The standard of surface reshaping progressed from the vaguely impractical, to the totally impossible! However, interspersed with sessions of musketry, simple navigation and 'living rough', the newly arrived inmates soon settled down to their new way of life.

High spots in the platoon's performances and activities so far are numerous, and range from A/Pte Crawford's record leopard crawl of 3½ miles, set up whilst at Barnstaple (!), to A/Pte Matthew's being invited onto the stage at the "Pyjama Tops" after a commendable heckle. However, sporting success has so far eluded us, and in the athletic field we serve the noble purpose of 'offering good opposition'. It is quite possible that this situation will change as the age disadvantage diminishes, but the platoon enjoys its sport whether winning or not, and anyway, old habits die hard!

The future for Steevens Platoon sport looks distinctly mechanical. The 'small but dynamic due' of Lt J R Hughes and Sgt C J Taylor have cars high up their priority list, and with the prospect of free tickets to watch their platoon commander attempting a revised form of hari kari in his racing car, things look bright.

SWINEY PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt L M Wood RAOC

Platoon Sergeant SSgt M Golding RAOC

Swiney (which is pronounced Sweenee and has nothing to do with pork) Platoon came into being at the beginning of Winter Term 1972 under the control of Lt Wood and Sgt (now Ssgt) Ward.

The original manpower of the platoon is now a taboo subject as elementary subtraction would disclose the number who fell by the wayside. The present size of the platoon is 31 including the A/NCOs. The small size of the platoon explains, or at least provides an excuse for, not doing too well at inter-platoon football and other large team games. In fact, we have one or two very good footballers in the platoon, but when you are only 5' 4" or less it is harder to win tackles.

Still on the sports teams A/Pte Potter has led our basketball team to the final rounds both terms, and we feel that there is a good chance of winning the Inter-Platoon Shield this time.

We also beat the rest of the Company in the Swimming Gala. The whole team did very well,

Lt Wood

but a special mention is deserved by A/Pte Wilson, who showed that odd legs do not prevent you from becoming a very fast swimmer. Lt Wood also swam, but the least said about that the better.

A final word on competitions; after the first day of the College Shoot we are all wondering what the booby prize would be. Reports that our A/Sgt McClennan had a low score due to a physical deficiency are not true; it was his foresight that he lost.

Military training has also had its ups and downs starting with our visit to Tregantle Fort last term. A/Lcpl Stevens had the up and A/Pte the down. A/Lcpl Stevens had his hair up on end after spending a sleepless night in the old Guardroom imagining the sound of drummer boys and rattling chains, whilst the down of A/Pte Gloster was definitely not imaginary. Having had a demonstration and detailed briefing on how to go down the death slide at Pier Cellars he proceeded to let go half way down and demonstrate a belly flop on dry land. His broken wrist has now completely healed, although he swears he will never go down a ..... death slide again. The remainder of the platoon thoroughly enjoyed this camp and we hope to return in the near future.

Our next major camp was in Spring term, when we went to Fremington near Barnstaple in Devon. The accommodation there was first class and the thought of returning to Deepcut did not appeal.

Most of the training involved map reading and route marches and A/Pte Hall surprised everyone by leading the platoon at a cracking pace up a 1 in 4 hill. We also visited the REME Fording Trials Unit and, as well as seeing a frogman and a waterproofed Landrover, went for a ride in the bay on a Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle. Someone said at the time it was the first BARV (local dialect for bath) some of the lads had been in all term!

Our tactics and fieldcraft training had succeeded in turning us into cold blooded soldiers, but were hoping to warm up in the summer months.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

OC Major C Brogden RAOC

2IC Captain I F Sharp RAOC

CSM WOII P D Pheasant RAOC

Headquarter Company has seen several changes this term. Major C Brogden has taken over command of the Company. Capt I F Sharp has recently arrived from Germany and has taken over as 2IC of the Company (vice Capt M D Clarke who is retiring and joining our sister Corps in the Australian Army). We all wish him 'Bon Voyage' and good luck to him and his family in this new venture.

Headquarters Company performs a multitude of tasks, the main one being the practice of co-ordinating the College training, which includes the writing of training programmes and the

administration of the Specialist Training Staff. These instructors, who deal extensively with weapon training and nuclear, biological chemical warfare training, are headed by CSM P. D. Pheasant. The Company also has under command the permanent staff of the College other than those serving with Companies. This includes the unit messing, by no means a small feat as some 500/600 ravenous teenagers require feeding three times a day. The unit armoury and magazine is in the course of being refurbished and should be in good order for next term. Security of arms these days is of paramount importance.

The External Leadership Training and Physical Training Platoon also are part of the Company but this is the subject of an article featured later.

Last September we commenced a new experiment by having attached to us, for training purposes, all apprentices in their final term. This proved a success and in January, at the commencement of the new term, we went a stage further and all Term Leavers, other than those required by Companies to maintain their apprentice rank structure, were transferred to us for all purposes. Sixty three apprentices were transferred and these were formed into two platoons (A and B) under the command of Lt J Hardcastle. A great deal of additional work has fallen on CSM Pheasant as a result but he is coping well. The transferees are now known as Senior Apprentices and have been given privileges similar to those given to a regular soldier serving with his unit.

At the end of Spring term the Annual College Shoot took place. This involved two days of shooting on the modern electric target ranges and was run by the Company along the lines of other big shoots in the area. A separate report appears elsewhere.

Once the College shoot is over we will be getting down to the detailed planning of Exercise 'New Envoy' - a form of military tattoo held in Aldershot each year with the object of keeping the Army in the public eye. The RAOC has a large section and a display from the College is a regular annual feature. This year we are planning a static display, two miniature ranges, a cyclist stand, together with judo and trampolin demonstrations. The public will be able to participate in everything.

In September we go on our annual College camp for three weeks. It never stops! In our spare time we are re-organising the entire syllabus and preparing a master training programme for the new three term concept, due to the later school leaving age, which will start to a limited extent this September. By September 1974 it will be in full operation and all apprentices will be at the College for one year (three terms) only.

No article would be complete without reference to our civilian staff. This includes our ladies in the office, the assistant armourer and all the dining room staff. Without their help life would be very hectic indeed.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Officer in Charge Captain T Douglas Hill RAOC

The past year has seen the External Leadership Training Platoon settle into its stride and establish itself as an integral part of the College Training Organisation.

After a period of trial and error the system of including ELT as part of a non-examination course was evolved and is proving to be most successful.

Each term some 72 apprentices, divided into four groups, participate in ELT as part of their every day in-camp training. They are taught the rudiments of mountain navigation, camping skills and survival. Practical training includes basic rock climbing, ski-ing and canoeing. We are fortunate in having access to a climbing wall at the School of Physical Training, canoeing water at Pangbourne, and an artificial ski slope in Aldershot.

In-camp training is consolidated in a long weekend camp in one of the remoter areas of the country, normally Snowdonia or the Peak District.

Educational studies followed by these groups include a detailed survey of the area of the final camp which adds interest to the expedition and one group has undertaken the construction of our own climbing wall. This will come into use in

the near future and will enable the staff to teach basic climbing skills literally on the doorstep.

In addition to programmed training the platoon includes in its responsibilities special outdoor projects and preparation for Outward Bound Courses. Special projects have included ski-ing trips to the Hartz Mountains and to the Cairngorms, sailing and canoeing weekends at Calshot Activity Centre and 'Tall Ships' training attachments to the 'Malcolm Miller', 'Winston Churchill' and the 'Captain Scott'.

The new method of pre-selection and training for Outward Bound candidates has been borne out by the marked improvement in the standard of reports being gained from these courses. The apprentices are made fully aware of the challenge of Outward Bound before being selected and their response is mirrored by the gradings achieved.

From the beginning of the Summer term the platoon is to gain two more qualified instructors and this will enable us to widen our field of activities. Already written into the programme are four long weekend camps in the Rhinogs, two or possibly three teams in the Welsh 3000 competition and a walk of the 252 miles of the Pennine Way from Edale in Derbyshire to Kirk Yetholm in Scotland. These projects are in addition to climbing and canoe training.

There has been a mounting feeling of satisfaction within the platoon as its offerings have grown from small beginnings to the very wide variety of outdoor pursuits now available. The type of training has proved to be very popular with the apprentices and it is hoped that many of them will carry their new found interest with them into their adult service.

SENIOR APPRENTICE PLATOONS

Platoon Commander A & B Platoons Lt J Hardcastle RAOC

A Platoon Sergeant Sgt Walls

B Platoon Sergeant Sgt Patchitt

The first term of the Senior Apprentices Platoon is nearly over and it is time to reflect on the last 13 weeks.

No platoon training was carried out in the first six/seven weeks as all the apprentices were busy with trade training. However, those that had finished or not yet started undertook some signal training, map reading and a great deal of running around. We had an enjoyable afternoon on the Guards Confidence Area and as expected A/Pte Binks romped home first in our cross country race.

After trade training was finished a concentrated three week RPC II Course was arranged. On this we also took term leavers from the other companies. Some of the apprentices really amazed us with their performances and now the majority are holders of a full certificate.

After the RPC Course we went down to Tregantle Fort for two weeks, initially under the command of Capt Sharp, the new HQ Coy 2IC, and then under the command of the platoon commander Lt Hardcastle. A varied programme was arranged, including early morning runs and swims, map reading, a four day exercise and a recruiting visit to the Commando Ord Sqn. The map reading went off well but the majority are still arguing the distance of the lightship!

The highlight of the camp was Exercise Mid-March. On this the apprentices had to cover 130-150 miles on yellow and white roads. They carried four days rations, sleeping bags, etc, in bergens and lived under ponchos at night. I don't think many of them had a comfortable night's sleep the first night but it had the desired effect, the bashas were much better constructed from then on.

Blisters were the main thing on the apprentices' minds from day two onwards and by the end of the exercise A/Pte Warner had one that I am sure made medical history.

All enjoyed the exercise, especially A/Pte Holt who didn't stop telling us about the kind old lady who invited him in for Sunday lunch. Everybody was sorry to see the fort again particularly as they had to set up their bashas in the field outside until we could take over again from the TAVR.

We were all disappointed after the exercise to learn that the Commando Ord Sqn could not take us for the day on the Tuesday. We were all looking forward to doing assault landings on the beach and various other 'Rugsy Tugsy' activities. However, the Commandos did manage to fit in a lecture for us on the Thursday morning and as a direct result, we now have two budding 'cabbage hats' for them.

Reality was brought home to us on returning to Deepcut. We had not been back an hour when we were out fighting a heath fire. A week later we were being inspected by the GOC South East District. What with that, the College Shoot and Passing Out Parade rehearsals, the last two weeks of Spring term became rather hectic.

THE COLLEGE ANNUAL RIFLE MEETING - 1973

The College Annual Rifle Meeting was held at Ash Ranges on 27-28 March in glorious sunshine and was an outstanding success. All admin arrangements and the matches themselves went off smoothly; even the Salvation Army mobile canteen arrived on time.

Tuesday 27 March was spent in zeroing, practice shoots, the first stage of the SLR Match and the SMG Match. The second stage of the SLR Match and the Falling Plates Competition (Tiles) was held on Wednesday. There was the usual Pool Bull competition and the kitty built up to quite a sum before the 'mark' was located. There were eventually 11 winners who, on sharing the pool, received 81p each.

There was some consistent good shooting during the Meeting but the best rifle shot went unexpectedly to an 'unknown', A/Pte Gibb of Parsons Platoon who shot consistently well throughout the meeting.

The Falling Plates competition went down particularly well with many shouts of encouragement from the hundreds of boys watching. The finals were a close finish between the two teams and these were followed by a shoot-off between the winning team (Watts) and the permanent staff. As usual, the permanent staff got soundly beaten.

The Colonel's wife, Mrs Mathews, presented the prizes and afterwards received a bouquet of flowers from CSMI Bridges, on behalf of the apprentices. His sweeping bow was worthy of a movie film.

The final results were as follows:

Placing	Name	Platoon	Score
Best Rifle Shot - 'The Rifleman's Cup'			
1st	A/Pte Gibb	Parsons	148
2nd	A/Pte Draper	Swiney	116
3rd	A/Pte Lovell	Hill	114
Best SMG Shot - 'The SMG Cup'			
1st	A/Sgt Ormerod	Mulcahy	111
2nd	A/Pte Edmonds	Mulcahy	105
3rd	A/Sgt Wallis	Rowcroft	102
Champion at Arms - 'The Crawford Tankard'			
1st	A/Sgt Ormerod	Mulcahy	
2nd	A/Sgt Wallis	Rowcroft	
3rd	A/Pte Edmonds	Mulcahy	
4th	A/Pte Walker	Watts	
5th	A/Pte Brock	Hill	
(Tie)	A/Pte Turner	Mulcahy	

Tiles Match - 'The Falling Plate Trophy

1st	Watts Platoon
2nd	Mulcahy Platoon

The Champion Platoon - 'The Fullbore Cup and Shield'

Mulcahy Platoon	A/Sgt Ormerod (Captain)
	A/Cpl Conroy
	A/Cpl Rammage
	A/Pte Edmonds
	A/Pte Heddon
	A/Pte Marson
	A/Pte Parry
	A/Pte Taylor
	A/Pte Turner
	A/Pte Wallace
	A/Pte Howes
	A/Pte Bates

Mrs Mathews presents the Crawford Tankard to A/Sgt Ormerod - this year's Champion Shot

OPERATION "WHITE LODGE"

By the Rev J C Vernon BSc CF

On the afternoon of Saturday 7 April almost 300 apprentices from the College moved out from Deepcut on a four hour operation which, though planned with military precision, had a far from conventionally military objective. Our aim was to collect money in a massive house-to-house collection in Farnham, Fleet, Farnborough, Adlershot, Frimley, Camberley, Bagshot and Deepcut itself. The result of our four hours work was just over £950.

We were collecting for the White Lodge Centre, a day centre for spastically handicapped children at Chertsey. The centre provides the specialist educational and medical help that the children need, and is attended by about 90 children between the ages of one year and ten years from the North Hampshire and West Surrey area. The centre is partially supported by the local education and hospital authorities, but still has to find a large amount of money each year (approximately £10,000) from voluntary fund raising of one sort and another.

When it was first suggested that the College might help by running a collection, we were nearly all a little bit wary, being unsure of the reception we might receive at the doorstep, and also being ignorant of the needs and the problems of spastics. Apart from the money raised therefore, one valuable result of the collection was that we are all now much more aware of what spatiscity means.

The day itself went practically without a hitch. The weather remained dry, apart from a couple of very short showers, and by 6 pm everyone was back and the count had begun. Capt Bill Playle and his band of amateur tellers finished the count by about 9 pm, and the total came to £954.52p. When it was checked by the bank we were just 2p out!

At the Dedication service on Monday 9 April A/Pte Ryder-Bibby, champion collector with £8.81p in his tin, handed a cheque for £1000 to Mrs Ladd, the Secretary of the North Hants and West Surrey Spastics Group, on behalf of the College. The balance, bringing the total to £1000, had been found from RAOC Training Centre funds.

In all the collection was a very successful and satisfying operation for all concerned.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Education Officer Major H W Richmond MA RAEC

A busy moment in the Library

The education scheme for all apprentices aims at preparing them educationally for their military and trade training and for their future service in the Army. Emphasis is also given to development and individual education.

All apprentices are given educational diagnostic tests on their arrival in the College as recruits. These tests indicate the potential of the individual and highlight his educational strengths and weaknesses.

Each apprentice is then directed into a course of study the standard and content of which is considered to be best suited to his abilities and to the requirements of his training.

All apprentices devote 30% of their training time to education. The subjects studied include English (Communication Skills), Mathematics (Military Calculations), World Affairs, General Science, Woodwork, Geography, Social Studies and German.

Various tests of attainment are attempted by the apprentices as they progress. Some of the tests are internal examinations which have an importance only within the College but other examinations are set by external examining bodies and are as a consequence nationally recognised. During the year under review 495 pass grades were obtained in the Certificate of Secondary Education and 25 apprentices gained qualifications at the ordinary level of the General Certificate of Education.

All apprentices are required to follow a hobby or hobbies during their service in College. A wide range of choice is available, usually over 20 hobbies are operating at any one time and they range from Art to Angling, Pottery to Photography and Shorthand to Sub-Aqua Diving.

Some of the products of the hobby groups are of a high standard - in 1972 no less than 15 silver and bronze awards were won by individual

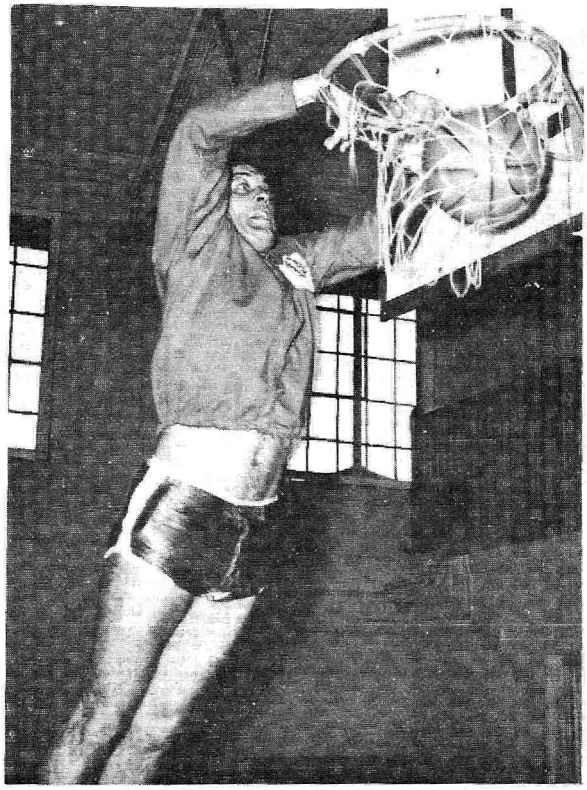
apprentices from the Art, Craft and Woodwork groups in the National Association of Boys' Clubs Art Festival. Since the last issue of Thunderbolt the three outstanding students and recipients of the Education Cup which is awarded each term are:

August 1972	A/CSM Sanders
December 1972	A/RSM Scullion
April 1972	A/Pte Ryder-Bibby

Between them these young men have gained a GCE pass and 13 CSE grades. They have now moved on to adult service well prepared educationally to meet the challenges and demands made on the modern soldier.

BASKETBALL

Officer in Charge Lt L Wood RAOC



The main event in the basketball calendar last term was an Inter-Unit Tournament at Harrogate.

Our first game of the weekend was against our arch enemies the ACC and as expected we lost, 41-24. The ACC were really in form and favourites to win the competition. After this defeat we did not give up and went on to beat the Kings 18-14 and the Light Infantry 30-20. We finished 7th out of 10 teams due to a general lack of form and a lot of bad luck. However, the team kept trying to the end, which is all we ask.

The Inter-Platoon competition, Winter Term, was won by Gordon Platoon of 'A' Company after beating Body Platoon 43-10 and Swiney Platoon 38-11.

This term two platoons from each Company and one from HQ Company went forward into a knockout final. The results were:

Parsons	3				
v					
Valon	26	Valon	19		
Mathew	6	v			
v		Swiney	23		
Swiney	10			Swiney	20
Mulcahy	12			v	
v		Mulcahy	13		
Hill	0	v		Mulcahy	16
		Senior B	10		

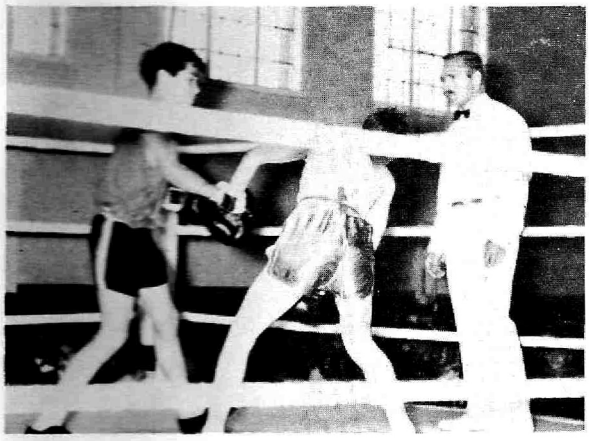
There were some very hard fought games and the final result was always in the balance. The last item of news from the basketball scene is the result of a trial we attended for the Surrey Association of Boys' Clubs. Out of the nine boys who attended Potter, Pritchard, Wootley, Bottomley and Ward were selected and the Kon Tiki team are first reserves as well.

BOXING

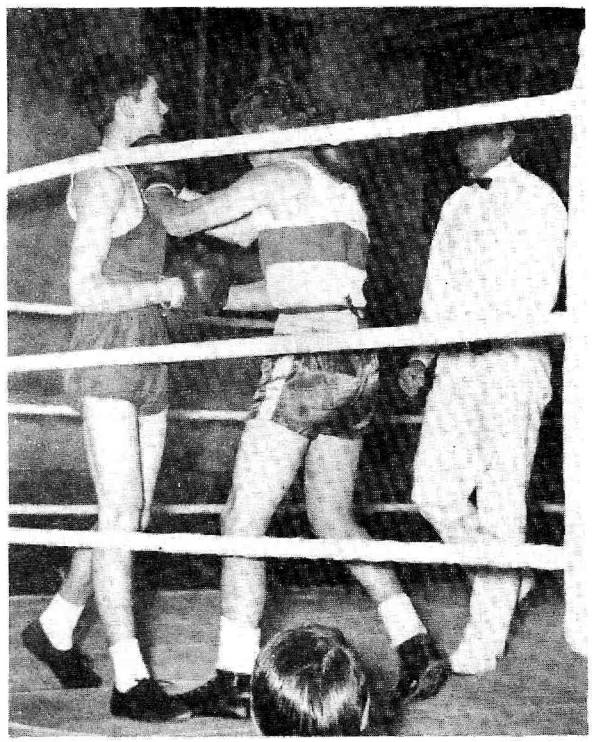
Officer in Charge CSMI Bridges APTC

We started off the season with the inter-company novices competition, from which was found a lot of new talent for the College boxing team.

Our first match in the Army Junior Championships was against the Junior Infantry Battalion Shorncliffe which we won by 9 bouts to 6. We then had a bye to the semi-finals where we were matched against the Junior Guardsmen's Wing; I am afraid we only won two bouts in this match, but the result did in no way reflect the evening's boxing and the scores were much closer than the result suggests. I would like to mention here the good season that A/Cpl O'Rourke has had. He boxed his way to the semi-finals of the NABC Championships and won the Army Junior Individual Championship at his weight. This has been one of the best seasons for the College boxing team and we hope to improve even further in the coming year with matches against civilian clubs as well.



A/Pte Anderson (left) in action against a Junior Infantryman



A/Pte Haycock in difficulty against a Junior Guardsman

CRICKET

Officer in Charge Major G H W Neal RAEC

Assistant Wing Commander (Retd) P W Hope

The 1972 cricket season was a fairly successful one for the College First XI but again we were disappointed in the Army Junior Cup. The team played very well in the early rounds and reached the semi-finals. On a wet and blustery day at Oswestry the team was beaten by the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion.

We were the hosts for the Army Junior Final between the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion and the Junior Leaders Regiment RE from Dover. The Infantry completely outplayed the Sappers and so our team had some satisfaction in having lost to the eventual winners.

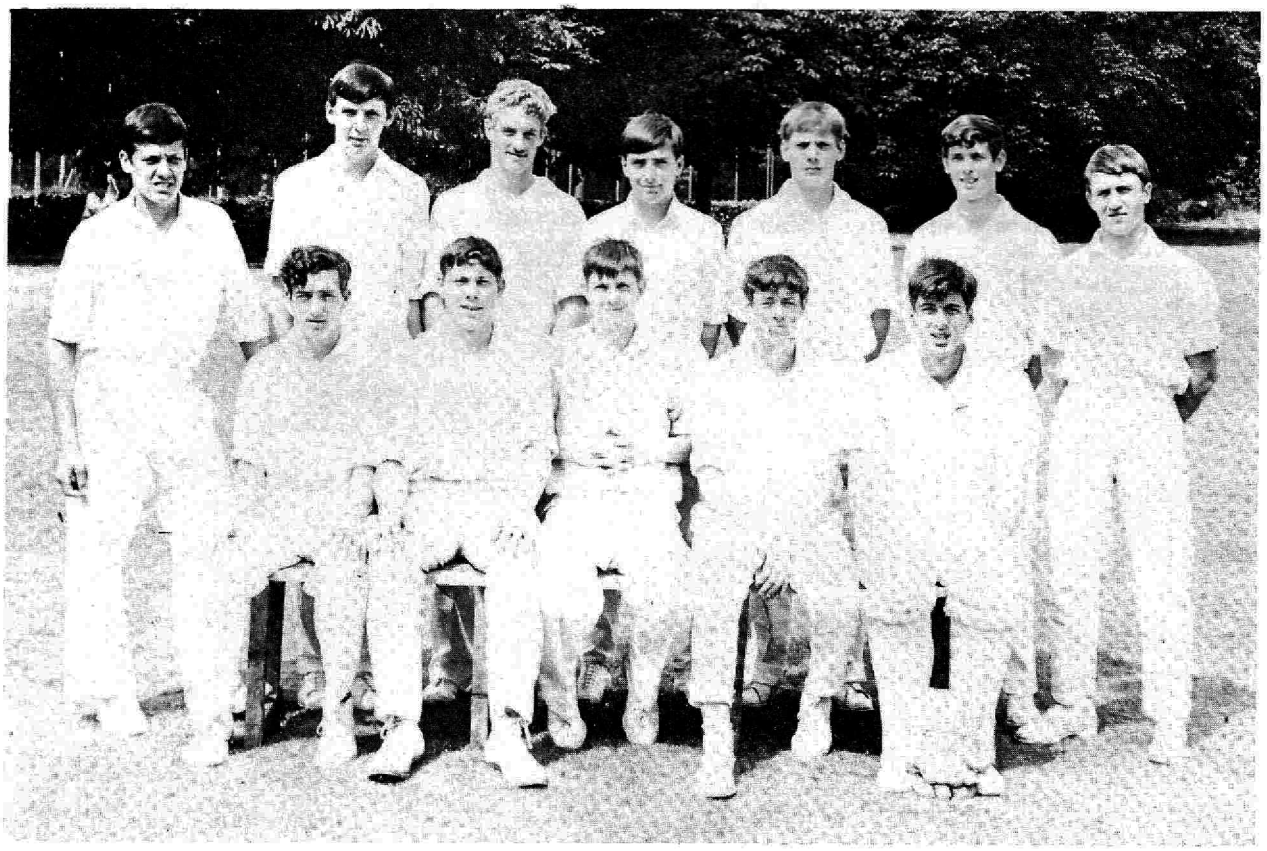
Our two matches against Collingwood School resulted in heavy defeats for the College but we were quite successful against other Army Junior XIs. During the course of the season we beat the RAMC (twice), the RCT, Junior Greenjackets

(twice) and the Junior Guards (twice). Hart skippered the XI and was our most successful batsman and bowler. Stanford, Ward and Webster had a nunber of good innings, while good bowling performances came from Webster, Binns and Ward.

The Inter-Company match resulted in a win by four wickets for 'A' Company.

The final match of the season was played against the Permanent Staff. The Staff batted first and declared at 133 for 3 wickets. The apprentices then proceeded to hit runs all around the field much to the consternation of the Staff. Wickets fell fairly regularly but the score continued to rise. The last wicket fell at last for 131 runs and thus the Staff gained their narrowest victory ever.

During the early months of this year our budding cricketers have been attending the Sunningdale Indoor Cricket School on Monday evenings. A full fixture list has been arranged against other units and local schools and in the first round of the Army Junior Cup we are drawn against the Army Apprentices College Arborfield.



Attard Hindle Binns Redgewell Colbourne Kennard Stray
Stanford Ward Hart (Capt Webster Hilbourne

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Officer in Charge Lt G A Page RAEC

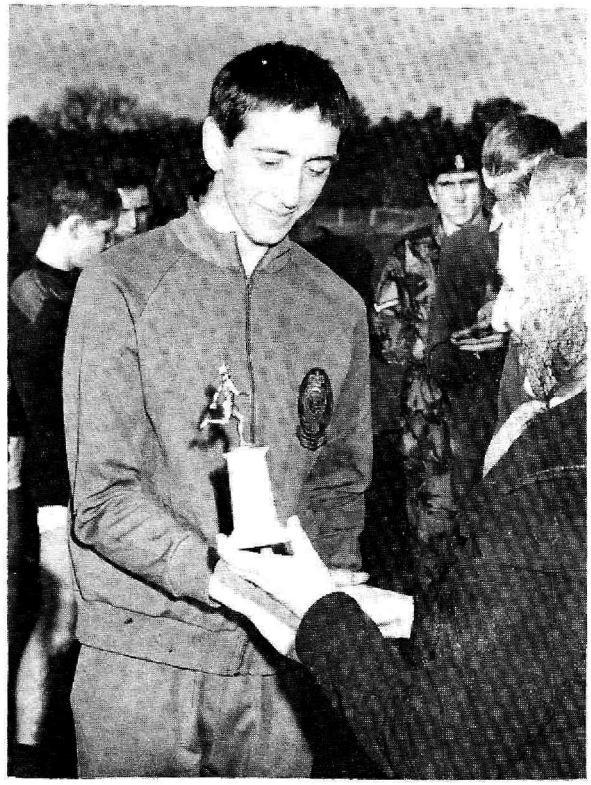
The cross-country team has had a very busy and quite successful season. Our senior runners have benefitted from a full season last year and this has been reflected in their results. We came 3rd behind the Junior Parachute Company and the Junior Guards and this was a creditable result. We did not manage to qualify for the finals of the Army championship and had to be satisfied with sending only one team member to the championships - but as you will see we sent the winner.

Next season we will have to build up a completely new team as our regulars for the last two years are now leaving. A/Sgt McCallion, A/Lcpl Lawrenson and A/Ptes Binks. Hancock and

McCallion, Binks
Lawrenson Turner Hancock

Turner have run regularly for the College and have put much effort into their running, we will be sorry to lose them.

A special mention must be made of A/Pte Turner. He has swept the board this season and became Army Youth Cross-Country Champion. Having been beaten by a whisker in the zone championships at Aldershot he went to Lichfield determined to revenge his narrow defeat. This he very competently did to become champion and to set a record time over the course. He has also won the SABC Senior race, was 5th overall in the REME championships and first junior home, and won the Training Centre Championship. He is certainly the most successful runner the College has every had. Congratulations!



A/Pte Turner receiving his award as REME Corps Junior Champion

HOCKEY

Officer in Charge Captain M R Beer REME

The team this season impressed one as being useful rather than brilliant, and consequently, our level of success was rather higher than might have been expected. One point of strength was that we had a good nucleus of experienced players who represented the College last season.

A/Sgt Sumner and A/Lcpl Attard alternated in the team captaincy during the League season. A/Sgt Sumner skippered all but one of the KO Cup competition matches. A/Lcpl Attard had this honour in the Final due to A/Sgt Sumner's absence on duty.

A/Pte Harris kept goal in most games, while A/Pte Kilby stood in as reserve in the quarter-final of the knock-out cup. A/Lcpl Cannell was a strong point in defence at right back, with A/Pte Carr on his left. A/Pte Jubbs developed a solid technique and a very useful scoop shot at left half. The defence was led by A/Sgt Sumner at centre half and A/Ptes Robinson and MacMillan alternated at right half. The forwards were A/Pte Clarke on the right wing, with A/Pte Edwards on the inside. A/Lcpl Attard led the forwards at centre forward and the left flank was manned by A/Pte Tracey and A/Pte Wootley.

In the South East District League the College XI's tally was:

Fixtures 8: Won 6 Lost 2 Drawn Nil

This put them 2nd in the final league placings. Our victories included ACC, RAMC, 'A' Coy (Arborfield), Paras, 'D' Coy (Arborfield), 'B' Coy

A/Pte Edwards A/Lcpl Attard (Vice Capt) A/Pte Wootley Capt M R Beer (Capt) A/Sgt Sumner A/Pte Robinson A/Pte Tracey
A/Pte Carr A/Pte Jubbs A/Pte MacMillan A/Pte Kilby A/Lcpl Cannell A/Pte Clarke

Absent: A/Pte Harris (Goalkeeper)
Sgt Furneaux-Harris (Team Coach)

(Arborfield), and suffered defeat at the hands of 'C' Company (Arborfield) and RAPC.

The 2nd XI played four matches but regrettably lost each one: however, they gained useful experience and it is their players who will form next year's 1st XI.

In the Cup matches we had a bye into the second round of the Junior Soldiers' competition where we met the ACC, a team we had beaten earlier in the League season. However, having only played two fixtures during the previous eight weeks, the College was short of match practice and after 70 minutes play in which neither side had gained any ascendancy, the score was 1-1. A further 20 minutes of extra time brought no further score and a further 10 minutes was played, again with negative results. The match thus ended in a draw.

A 'best of 5' penalty 'flick' competition was then held to decide who should play the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion from Oswestry in the semi-final. The College took their 5 flicks first but only A/Lcpl Cannell succeeded in scoring. Five players from the ACC Apprentices College then made their attempt. Two of them failed to project the ball inside the target and A/Pte Kilby made three good saves to give the College a 1-0 victory.

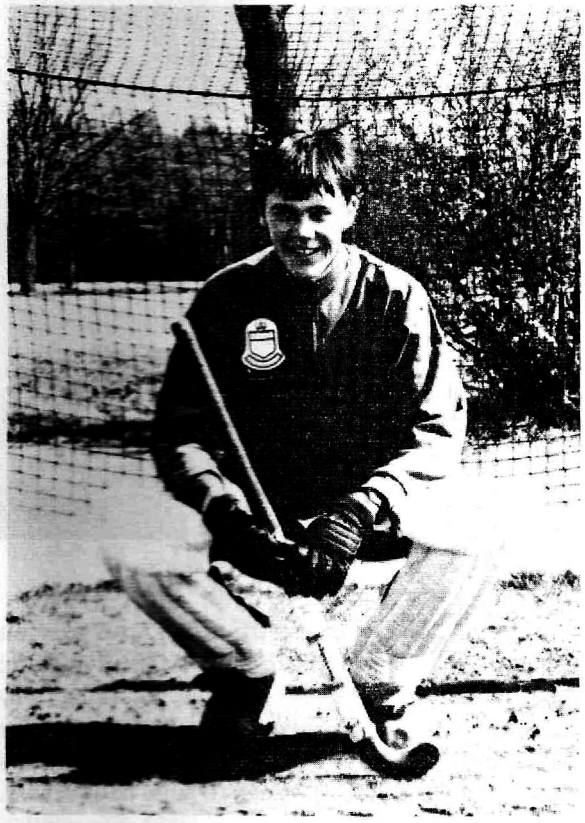
In the semi-final we entertained the Junior Leaders from Oswestry, a side about which very little was known, but who dominated the first 20 minutes until the College settled down and got into its stride. We were the first to score, just before half time, when a shot from A/Pte Clarke deflected off the goalie into the net.

Early in the second half the Junior Leaders equalised but soon after, a shot from outside the 'D' was intentionally let through by the goalie. It bounced off the post and Clarke was there again to finish the goal. The Junior Leaders kept up pressure on the College goal until the final whistle. However, good tackling by Carr, crisp clearances by Cannell, some courageous goal-keeping by Harris and some sterling hard work by skipper Sumner saved the day and the College were through to the final by 2 goals to 1.

On a sunny first day of Spring, the College faced the ACC Harrogate in the final on the Officers' Club ground at Aldershot.

This later proved to be by far the most formidable side the College is ever likely to

meet, boasting no less than four Army under-22 players. Harrogate's first goal came after 15 minutes from a shot that few goalkeepers would have seen, and for the rest of the half their well-drilled machine went to work on the College,



A/Pte Harris (Goalkeeper)

scoring no less than six goals and giving A/Pte Harris more work than he could remember ever having to do before.

The five minutes respite at half-time showed that the College team's morale was numbed rather than broken, and for 20 minutes in the second half they held off all further attacks by the Harrogate XI. Indeed they all but scored themselves when A/Pte Jubbs at centre-forward put a shot inches outside an almost open goal. The College defence, running itself into the ground with no sign of giving up the chase, still held on, but a penalty corner brought an unstoppable shot from a Harrogate forward, and this goal brought back some of the snap to our opponents game. They put in a further three goals before the final whistle.

In spite of a 10-0 defeat the team was congratulated by Colonel D Eagen, who presented the trophies, for their non-stop effort and their determination not to give up in the face of overwhelming opposition.

Finally we must mention that Sgt Furneaux-Harris left the College in May 1973 after three years as the College hockey coach. Players past and present will wish to thank him for his services and wish him 'Jolly Hockey Sticks' in his posting.

GRAYS INDOOR HOCKET TOURNAMENT

Match 1	Lost to Dormer Wells School	4-0
Match 2	Lost to Crown Woods School	3-0

The College was fortunate in being the only Army team this season to be invited to enter the competition. Both our opponents were well practised in playing on the correct sized indoor pitch, a fact that was very much to their advantage. In both games the College suffered from a failure to make full use of the sideboards.

The Dormers Wells team consisted entirely of Sikhs, who looked very impressive in their turbans and luminous number bibs. However, our team played well, and with more experience of this sort of hockey, should fare well in future tournaments.

ORIENTEERING

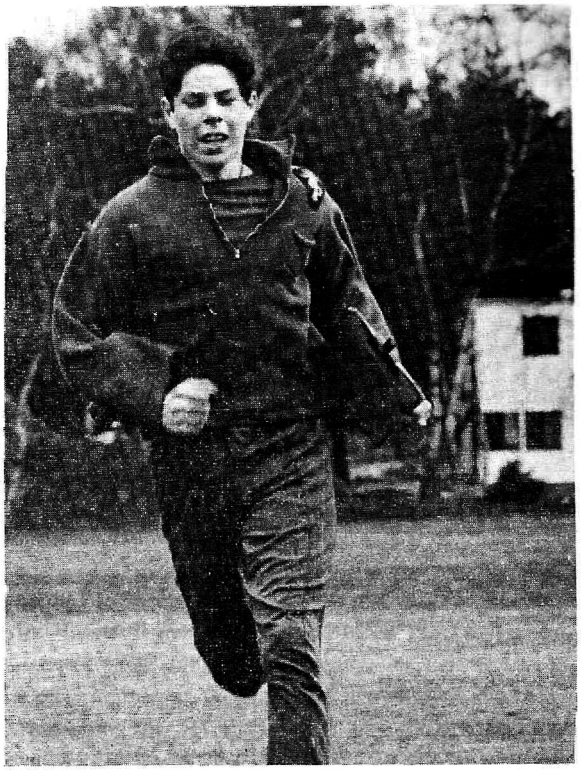
Officer in Charge Lt C. J O'Leary RAOC

This most valuable and instructive sport which has been strangely absent from the College sports lists until recently, is gradually becoming popular with the apprentices.

Although most boys had only partaken in the sport at platoon level as part of map reading instruction, it was considered that a second annual inter platoon event should be held during the Spring term with the hope of forming the nucleus of a College team. The date for the event was fixed for 31st March and the onus of organising the event was put on my shoulders. After some fast talking at the Printing Branch maps and event cards were made available.

A/Pte Knotts of Hill Platoon receiving his prize for the team event from Mrs Mathews

The course set was a test for all apprentices, although it was not particularly difficult in comparison to the average inter-unit course, it was about 7,500 metres with eight controls over Pirbright Common and G1 and G2 training areas. Each control was on a physical feature easily identifiable on the map, but perhaps not quite so obvious on the ground.



A/Pte Stansfield of Horne Platoon crossing the finishing line

The majority of competitors did well to visit most of the controls but only a small handful completed the course without obtaining any penalties. One of the controls was stolen for some devious reason, but fortunately this was discovered before too much chaos had arisen.

A/Cpl Rusbridge took the individual prize and Hill Platoon the inter-platoon trophy. Prizes were presented by the Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs R Mathews.

Inter-platoon competition result:

1st	Hill	
2nd	Baker	
3rd	Mathew	
4th	Gordon	
5th	Horne	
6th	Mulcahy	
7th	Swiney	
8th	Steevens	
9th	Rowcroft	
10th	Valon	
11th	Senior A	
12th	Watts	
	Senior B	Disqualified
	Parsons	
	Richards	

Inter Company competition result:

1st	A Company
2nd	C Company
3rd	B Company
4th	HQ Company

RUGBY

Officer in Charge Captain M J Duff RAOC

Assistant Cpl A H Rowlands RAOC

The 1972/73 season has unfortunately been rather disappointing. This remark is made, not so much because of match results, some of which have been very good, but more because of the way the team has let itself down on some occasions. There have been countless opportunities for try-scoring which have been wasted by not passing the ball, even in over-lap situations.

Having said that, there have been some memorable games in which the team played extremely well against strong opposition as the following results show:

1 Feb 73	v RAMC App College	Won	12-10
13 Feb 73	v Collingwood School (Combined Masters & Pupils)	Won	15-12
15 Feb 73	v ACC App College	Won	44-12

On Sunday 1 April 1973 we entered a team for a 7-a-side competition at Osterley RFC, sponsored by the Middlesex Association of Boys Clubs. We reached the semi-final but the team let Kingfishers School 'swoop' in for a try on the final whistle.

In March 1973 we were fortunate enough to be asked for the second year running to act as hosts to the England schoolboys (under 16) Rugby squad. This was a tremendous experience for our boys who supplied various forms of opposition during the three day training session held at the College. Once again Mike Davis (England and Harlequins) came down as team coach and was delighted by the energy and enthusiasm shown by the College squad during the training and by the hospitality in general.

Three weeks previously the England boys had drawn 8-8 with Wales in Cardiff (a game the Welsh should have won), and having left us on Wednesday 21 March 1973, went up to Twickenham to beat Wales 9-7 that afternoon (where they won against the run of play) scoring a beautiful try in the fourth minute of extra time.

We sincerely hope that we shall be asked to host the England boys next year.

By the 1973/74 season we shall have lost some of our best players and we hope that they will continue playing in their new units. The following are due to leave:

A/Cpls Brown, Rusbridge

A/Lcpls Burkhill, Stevens, Lawrence

We wish them all good luck in their new units.

However, we have a final game on Saturday 7 April against the Alton and Farnham colts during which we shall try out the nucleus of next season's team.

SOCCER

Officer in Charge Lt I Coleman RAEC

Although not too successful in terms of 'glitter', the College soccer teams nevertheless enjoyed a full and thrilled-packed season.

Both 1st and 2nd teams managed to finish 3rd in their respective leagues which was a commendable effort considering we were never able to call on a fully settled side due to the normal military and trade training commitments.

The boys did, however, achieve some distinction in the indoor 5-a-side competition organised by the Surrey County Association of Boys Clubs. Having beaten all comers in the district finals which were held at Epsom. The team then travelled to Guildford for the county

The triumphant five-a-side squad

finals and after a thrilling evening of non-stop soccer came out the victors, when they beat an old enemy, Meadow Sports Club, in the final by 4 goals to 2.

After a good win against 'J' Company AAC Arborfield in the first round of the Army Junior Cup, hopes were high as we travelled to Dover to meet the Junior Sappers in the next. Alas it was not to be, for we were soundly thrashed by a very good team indeed by 9 goals to 0.

The ever-popular, annual, Apprentices versus Permanent Staff match can always be relied upon to produce an exciting and entertaining game and this year proved to be no exception. It was a hard, fast game, with no quarter asked or given and with the whole College urging the boys on it looked as though, leading by 1 goal to nil with only 15 minutes left for play the apprentices were heading for their first ever win. Two smartly taken goals however by the Permanent Staff centre forward, CSM Black of A Company, (who changes his code annually for this game) the second of which came in the dying minutes, gave the Permanent Staff victory and the apprentices the feeling that they were robbed. Naturally enough it was the poor old referee's fault. If it achieved nothing else, however, it brought home the point that a game is never won - or lost - until the final whistle.

As the season drew to its end, hopes were high for a unique double, for the team reached the finals of both the League Cup and the South East District Junior Cup. In the event we were to do a Leeds United and come away empty handed, for we were beaten in the League Cup by the ACC and the South East District final was lost by 4-2 to 'B' Company AAC Arborfield.

This latter game was played at the Aldershot Stadium in front of a good crowd, but 'cup nerves' spoilt what had promised to be a cracking game and once again it was a story of missed chances. It would not have been an injustice had the College been four goals up by half time. As it was, only one chance was converted and the College ran out the losers by 4 goals to 2.

The College squad:

Colbourne, Stanforth, Ramage (A), Ramage (R), Stray, Ormerod, Wickham, Kennedy, West, Mitchell, Roberts, Crouch.

The season ended on a personal high note for two of the team, Wickham and Ramage, who were honoured by selection for the Army Youth Team versus the Royal Navy. Unfortunately Wickham was forced to withdraw at the last moment because of injury. However, he will still be with the College next season, and it is hoped he will have better luck.

SQUASH RACQUETS

Officer in Charge Lt S M Hicks RAOC

The training of a regular group of enthusiastic players has been hampered due to the decreased court time available. This is a result of the fact that Squash is classified now as a sport only and not a hobby as well. Also, one court at the College has been out of use for a considerable length of time with renovation work.

Nevertheless there are one or two encouraging players: namely A/Pte Burgin of Richards Platoon who has mastered the basic skills and and in time could make a competent player.

TENNIS

Officer in Charge Lt S M Hicks RAOC

A closely fought inter-platoon doubles knock-out competition took place during the summer term, which reached a climax with the final on 27 July 1972 between Baker and Steevens Platoons. Baker won convincingly, mainly due to the effort of A/Pte West who was selected to play at an Army Junior coaching session in Aldershot at the end of autumn term.

Unfortunately the College VI was defeated in the Junior Units knock-out competition by the RAMC Apprentices College.

ART CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr A C F Legg

It is interesting to watch artists' inclinations wheeling and turning like flocks of birds.

The frieze on which we had intended to embark was frozen indefinitely when Miss Lucy de Mauny came to delight us with the charm of Origami. Soon after, the room was full of magnificent paper concoctions - mobiles everywhere.

We also welcomed Captain E Childs who dabbled in plastics and later produced for us a bottle beautifully studded with mosaic tiles.

Mrs de Mauny's seed studies were a popular new departure rivalled only by her pasta pictures which were much admired and particularly appreciated by the mice who went so far as to remove them, piece by piece.

Sketching, water colouring and oil painting continued concurrently with the more novel art forms, and four boys passed GCE 'O' level in art. We entered eight pieces in the Surrey Association of Boys' Clubs Art Festival and returned with one silver and seven bronze awards.

Charcoal by A/Pte McKie

The Sketching and Water Colour class under the supervision of Mrs and Miss de Marney

Part of the Oils class with A/Pte McKie (left) and A/Lcpl Jones

ANGLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Sgt R Sweeting RAOC

It is with mixed feelings that I realise that these are probably the last notes I will write on the activities of the Tight Lines Angling Club.

During almost three years of my association with the Club, I have seen it grow from seven members to, at the start of the spring term this year, 37.

Angling is now firmly established as one of the College activities, so much so, that members spend at least two afternoons per week, attempting to coax tench, roach, perch, carp, rudd or anything else that swims to taste their maggots and worms.

The 1972-73 season has again been somewhat disrupted by camps and it was with difficulty that we eventually managed to get in the requisite number of competitions.

The eventual winner of the Tight Lines Trophy was A/Cpl Henderson of 'B' Company, with runner up A/Pte Arden in close attendance. Third place was occupied by A/Pte Edworthy.

Our usual Big Game Exercise again took place on the last weekend of September, but without the notable success of previous ventures. Barny Arden took a nice whiting but as far as shark were concerned, the score was one only and being modest, I propose that the captor remains anonymous..

Beach fishing was also a 'washout' in more ways than one, and it was with dampened hair, clothes and spirits that we returned to the camping site.

Our thanks are extended to Cpl Dick George, who was our driver on that occasion and piloted the old 4-tonner both ways from Deepcut to Falmouth, and all he had to show for it was aching shoulders, a sore rump and a pint of clotted cream.

Our thanks are also extended to Ssgt Townend and his catering staff, who throughout the summer months, provided us with packed meals, which enabled us to fish as long as the light lasted.

Now, as far as I am concerned, all this is over, and by the time this goes to print, I shall be fishing waters nearer home in the North of England.

I wish my successor, Mr Bill Waddington, the best of luck. I wish the Club members all the good fishing they can get, in fact, 'Tight Lines'.

Finally, I leave you wish this thought in rhyme:

Here is a burning question,
The answer's all I wish,
Are all anglers liars?
Or is it only liars that fish

REPORT ON EXERCISE BIG GAME

By Sgt R Sweeting RAOC

The exercise, involving two permanent staff and 10 apprentices took place during the period 29 September to 2 October 1972. Its main objective was a day of deep sea fishing for shark off Falmouth.

The party assembled at 0800 hrs on Friday 29 September and after loading stores, equipment and provisions, set off for Falmouth, arriving at the camping site after an uneventful journey 1835 hrs.

Saturday morning was crisp and clear with a fresh south east breeze when, after breakfasting and packing lunch, we arrived to board our two boats, 'The Woden' and the 'White Heather'.

Here, the party split into two groups, Cpl George taking five apprentices on the 'Woden' while I took my five onto the 'White Heather'.

An abundance of mackerel provided both bait and sport and shortly after 1100 hrs balloon floats were set as the boats drifted with the tide and wind, shark lines baited, waiting.

In the meantime, three deep sea boat rods were set up and although there was a heavy drift, a few whiting fell victim to them, including a 3-pounder, caught by A/Pte Arden. Mackerel still continued to come aboard until the skipper called a halt.

It was not until 1600 hrs that the only shark of the trip fell victim to my rod. It proved to be a Blue of about 45 lbs but as it came aboard we discovered that it had created a problem by completely wrapping itself up in four other lines. The resulting tangle took some 20 minutes to unravel and as we were due in at 1800 hrs the session was brought to a close at 1645 hrs.

The sorting and gutting of some good quality mackerel took up the best part of half an hour on the way in, while great amusement was gained from the squabbles of following flocks of gulls as they were fed with some of the smaller specimens.

Sunday afternoon was spent in beach fishing and 'rock scrambling', amid constant rain. The only thing proved was that the bass were conspicuous by their absence.

Provisional 'dates' took seven of the apprentices to town in the evening, especially when the weather showed signs of clearing. However, the rain came on again later but did not stop Cpl George, myself and the other three boys from taking to the beach again.

Once more our efforts were 'fishless' and wearily we returned to camp and coffee at 2330 hrs.

Monday morning was dull, cloudy and cold when we rose, breakfasted and prepared food for the journey back to Deepcut.

Camp was struck and all stores were stowed by 1000 hrs and after collecting our mackerel and whiting from Mr Harvey's freezer, we set off.

During the previous day, two prisoners escaped from Dartmoor, and as a result road blocks were frequently encountered along with the accompanying questions and comparison with 'mug shots'.

We arrived at Deepcut, tired and hungry at 1915 hrs. The exercise was at an end.

BADMINTON

Officer in Charge Major E C Goodson RAOC

Assistants Lt C C Burrow RAOC

Cpl I N Nonis RAOC

The College Badminton Club continues to flourish and now has about 20 members. Ably coached and practised by Cpl Nonis, who has recently joined the Permanent Staff, we are once again in the position of being able to take on outside fixtures and in this respect we recently had an enjoyable Sunday match against the Parkside Badminton Club from Aldershot. As some of our senior members leave the College shortly it is, however, evident that we must constantly endeavour to attract new faces.

Congratulations from all members to Cpl Nonis on his recent selection for the Army and Corps teams.

CANOEING

Officer in Charge Lt N C Smith RAOC

Assistant Sgt Michael RAOC

This year there has been no canoe making. The 'ox' mould which has given sterling service has really seen it's last days. New members learn the principles of canoe making when it is necessary to repair them.

Winter term canoeing continued until November at Guildford until it became too cold. The purchase of ten wet suits will enable us to continue all through the winter in future.

The climax of the season was undoubtedly the Open Army White Water Racing Championships held by 8 Signal Regiment at Richmond, Yorkshire on 26 November 1972. Lt Fisher who has run the Canoe Club as successfully for the past two years (and has recently been awarded his Army Canoe Colours for being in the Army team at the Inter-Service Championships) was in charge of the party. Results were not spectacular but A/Pte Lovell, Lcpl Peters and A/Pte Lynch successfully completed the course (which was more than some of the competitors achieved). They were placed 22nd, 29th and 31st out of 34 who finished.

At the present time canoeing continues at Guildford twice a week and there is a possibility we will soon be able to canoe on the Thames at Pangbourne. Canoeing weekends will come more into their own in the summer term, but one very pleasant weekend has already been held on the Thames at Lechdale in Gloucestershire.

The canoe Club is now about 20 strong which is really too many for one instructor. However we are probably having another instructor posted to us soon, and as Sgt Michael is now preparing to take his Instructors test, the boys can expect more frequent canoeing next term.

CORPS OF DRUMS

Officer in Charge Captain A H Wilson - Ing RAOC

WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC

Sgt C J Taylor REME

During the past year the Corps of Drums has continued to give displays of Beating Retreat at fetes, school sports days and on formal military parades at various Corps units. They have been good ambassadors of the College and judging by the way they are received, and the letters of praise which follow an event, their performances have been much appreciated.

Within the College the Corps of Drums plays a very important part in providing music for the parades and rehearsals which lead up to the Passing Out Parade, and without their help, it is sure that the present format of the parade would not be possible. The efforts of all past and present members of the Corps of Drums are much appreciated by the organizing staff, whose job is made much easier by the keenness and enthusiasm shown by all involved.

Spring term this year sees a complete change in the membership of the Corps of Drums. Apprentice Drum Major Pickless and Apprentice Bugle Major Davis both leave the College after serving with the Drums for their entire time at the College. They have with confidence paraded before many distinguished persons - including no less than Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Prince Philip during their visit to the RAOC Training Centre last May.

The provision of equipment and uniforms for the Corps of Drums is no mean task; it involves acquiring, from many sources, various items which are used to continue the tradition of clothing its members in the ceremonial uniform of the RAOC at the turn of the last century. Indeed, part of the uniforms now worn bear the makers name and the date of 1901. For the maintenance of these uniforms we offer our thanks to a member of the civilian staff, Mrs Young, the wife of Drum Major Young of the RAOC Staff Band, who amongst her other duties alters uniforms made for 6-ft soldiers to fit 5-ft boys.

Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps Fete 1972

With the majority of the Corps of Drums provided from 'C' Company, we look forward to more performances around the country. Engagements to date include Bicester, Birmingham, Didcot and Camberley and it is sure that the high standards set by the previous members will be continued by the 'new lads',

The best drummer award this spring term goes to A/Pte Hollingshead who with A/Sgt Sanders-Fox, Winter term's best drummer, have spent many hours teaching our 'new lads' the art of drumming.

CYCLING CLUB

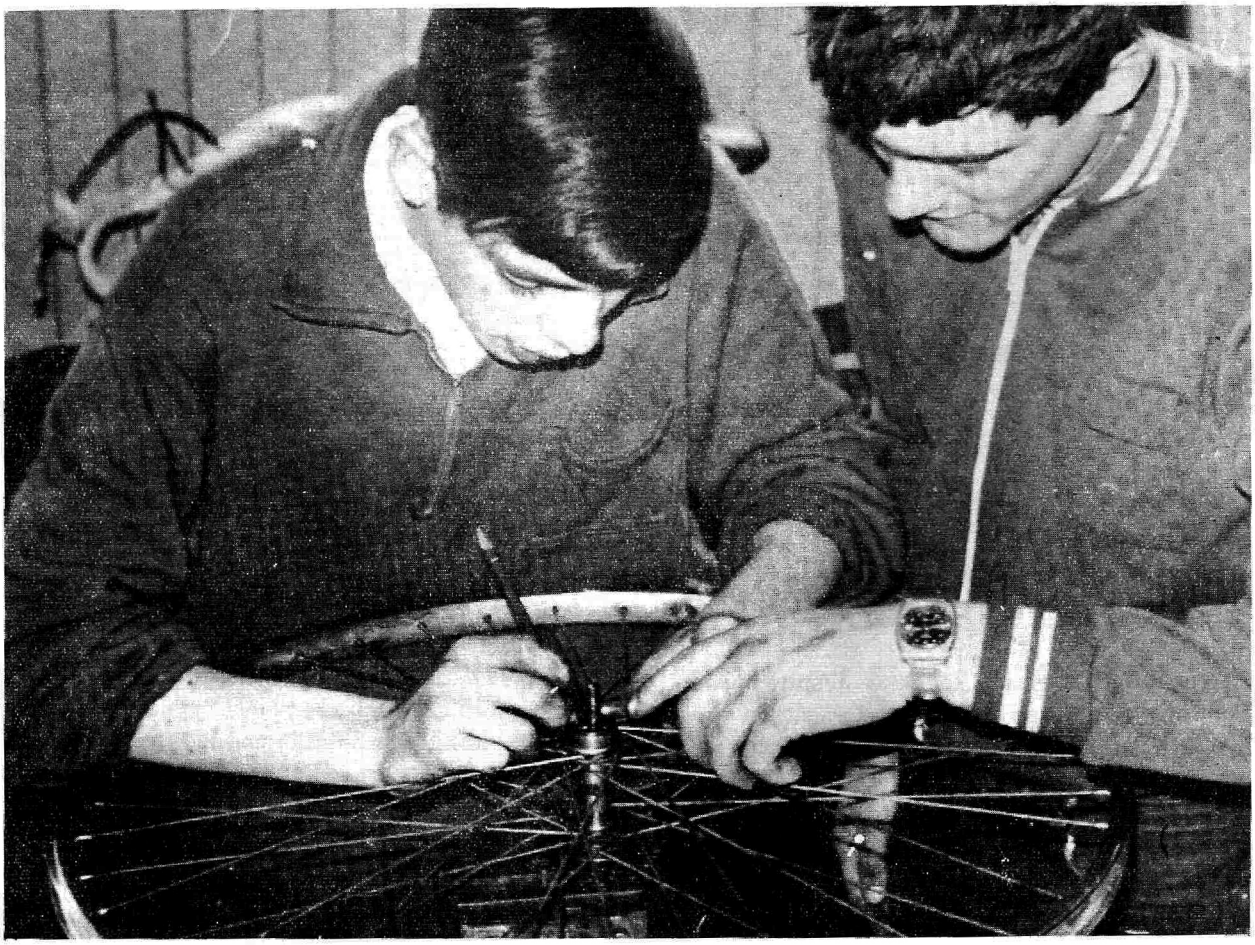
Officer in Charge Lt C A Norcross RAEC

Assistants Sgt Toland

LCpl Proctor

Since our rather poor performance in the season May-June 1972 much has changed to raise the morale of the club, not least of which is the move to a more spacious clubroom and the purchase of five new racing machines by the Nuffield Grant.

Winter Term 1972 was spent putting together bicycles and on general maintenance. The number of bicycles on the road rose from four to 13 in addition to the five new machines.



A/Pte Carpenter and A/Pte Borrett re-assembling rear wheel spindle

Spring term has been a busy time for the members of the College Cycle Club. The time spent on maintenance had been well spent, as over the weekend of the 27-28 January the Club embarked on one of its more ambitious projects, a 'jaunt' from Deepcut to Shorncliffe and back, a total distance of over 200 miles. The weather stayed kind and apart from two punctures the ride was trouble free. The only problem arose attempting to curb the enthusiasm of Apprentices Billson, Turner and Baker who insisted on outdistancing the accompanying permanent staff.

In March the Club went down to the depot of the Queen's Division for a friendly fixture between junior units where, in view of the small amount of training at this stage of the year, our team did quite well. Special mention should be made of A/Pte Turner who rode 10 miles in 26 minutes 10 seconds to take joint first place in a field of 40.

The Club now looks forward to summer term during which a number of events are planned including the Army junior 15 mile road time trial to be held here at Deepcut on 3 June.

A/Pte Carpenter: roller training session

JUDO CLUB

Officer in Charge Lt M W Barton RAEC

Assistant Cpl George RAOC

The club continues to exist despite opposition and problems in various forms. We have lost the end third of our original Judo room and, consequently, we also lost the floor space for our third mat. It is also difficult to guarantee a quorum on any sports parade due to the calls and 'attractions' of fatigues and/or other activities.

In spite of all this Cpl George continues to give excellent service and enthusiasm to the club. On the training side the School of PT (South) at Bulford have been most helpful. They have arranged two courses run practically for this College alone. Unfortunately, the first one was marred by most of the course personnel going sick. The second course took place 9-13 April with eight club members in attendance. Our thanks to Capt Palmer APTC and his staff. Gowers, Cureton, Little (a brief comeback) and Morton (a man to be watched!) paid a visit to the Middlesex Sports Centre on 24 March and although

no cups or shields were brought back, it was agreed by all concerned that that afternoon had been most useful.

Leigh, Gowers, Cureton and Morton have maintained their standards and should gain a lot from their Judo course. In addition, some of the newer members of the club have settled down and should deserve a comment next time.

'New Envoy' is now approaching and six members of the club can expect to be thumped around by energetic school children. Look out for the headaches!

A/Ptes Leigh *Cowan* *Walker* *Richardson*
A/Ptes Douglas *Cpl George* *Gowers*
A/Pte Cureton

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

Officer in Charge Mr W E Smith

Drama Club

The College Drama Club has now been firmly established by those theatre lovers already in the Literary and Debating Society together with some real enthusiasts who have recently joined the ranks. It may have had 'Revival' as its main inspiring theme, simply because there has always been the example of past College activities in this field, but it is now probably true to say that the seeds, which were well and truly sown last year, are beginning to bloom and flourish.

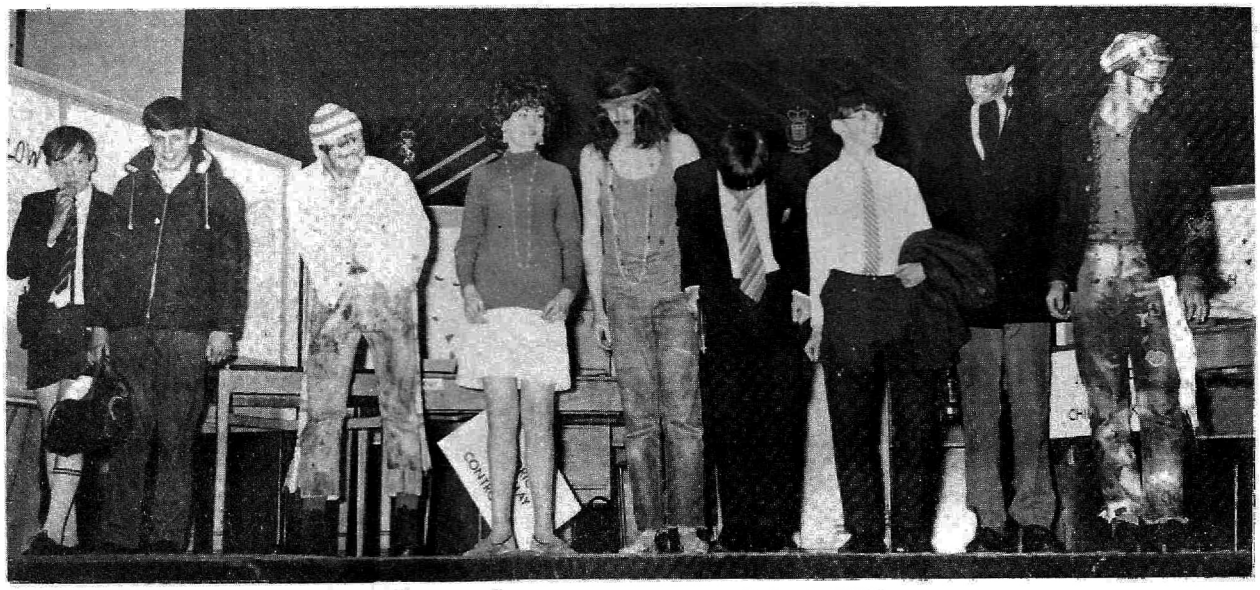
The winter term of 1972 was taken up with play reading and making a suitable choice for entry in the 1973 Army Drama Festival. After much trial and error a selection was made and the real serious work of preparation commenced. This was continued throughout the early part of

this year and the play "What Weather!" by A E M Bayliss had its opening performance towards the end of April.

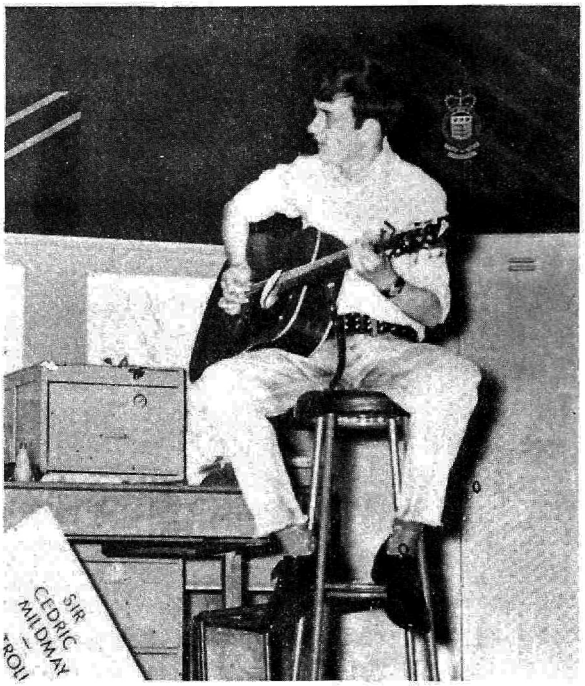
A/Ptes Keast, Cotton, Frodsham, Murray, Atkinson, McClung and Burns made no mistake in showing that what others could do they could do better. A/Lcpl Redgewell, playing the part of Sir Cedric Mildmay, was as grand a senior civil servant as the best of them, and A/Pte Gowers, a real entertainer if there ever was one, had the audience 'rolling in the aisles'.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the efforts and enthusiasm of the club. Even a casual 'drop in' on club nights was sufficient to become affected by the true spirit of out-and-out enjoyment. There seems to be no holding the members now. The smell of grease paint is in the air and the lure of the stage is overpowering.

The Drama Club is tremendously indebted to Wing Commander Peter Hope for all his support and encouragement and also to Lieutenant Lawrence Wood, a newcomer to the club, who has rendered invaluable assistance.



Curtain Call - Variety Show - 2 April 1973
A/Ptes McClung Burns Cotton Murray Gowers
A/Lcpl Redgewell A/Ptes Keast Atkinson Frodsham



Pop guitarist: A/Pte Wilde

"What Weather"
A/Lcpl Redgewell and A/Pte Murray

THE IDEAL APPRENTICE

By A/Sgt M Vodden

I think it was Benjamin Disraeli who once said that to achieve something by doing nothing was the reality of a boy's idea of manly virtue. It would indeed be interesting to know what he might have said had he been able to gaze upon an apprentice boy soldier of the RAOC in 1973 about to complete his training course in a college designed to equip him with all the necessary qualifications for "manhood" in the rank and file of the British Army.

From the very outset college life is all 'go'. There is so much to be done and apparently so little time in which to do it. The business of learning to be a soldier, tradesman, scholar and last, but by no means least, a 'man', would appear to be a full enough life for any boy and most certainly not for the individual who prefers to do nothing. I must confess I have found it to be very exacting and, on occasions, almost trying.

Now that it is almost all over I can afford to look back, certainly not 'in anger', but with the utmost satisfaction, pride of achievement and even amusement. It was all well worth while for I have done things which I have never in the past had opportunities to do. I have gained qualifications which somehow had passed me by during my schooldays and, what is probably more important, I have on the whole thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Of course no system is ever without its critics. It is only right and proper that those who have been on the receiving end for some two years should have the chance to hit back on occasions. There have been many times when I questioned the 'system' which, I must confess, had me puzzled to say the least. It seemed strange that to become a trained tradesman seemed to occupy but a little of my time in comparison with the time I spent on military and educational training. Naturally, I would have preferred to learn a trade over a much longer period and a great deal earlier in my course, but the 'system' dictated otherwise. Then, too, I often wondered about 'compulsory hobbies' which seemed to me almost a contradiction in terms. No doubt the powers that be had their reasons.

Perhaps what I have enjoyed most of all has been the opportunity given me to make many new friends, to play an active part in camping, adventure training exercises and to visit new places and see strange but interesting sights. I don't think I shall ever forget my experiences in Cyprus when I took part in "Exercise Gabro". The endless round of every conceivable sporting activity gave me the means of making myself fit and healthy and also to become quite proficient in my particular interest which has always been orienteering.

I have never been quite sure what is meant by the expression the 'ideal apprentice'. The Commanding Officer might describe him as 'the jewel of great price'. Perhaps the RSM might refer to him as being a boy who does exactly as he is told to do. Then again, a platoon sergeant might say that his best lad needs to be 'a goer'. I don't know that I have been any of these things - at least I have tried to do my best and as my service in the college draws to a close the authorities can be proud of one thing - I shall leave a happier, more confident and experienced boy than I was when I began life in the college. I hope I have gone some way to being described as an 'ideal apprentice'. At any rate I now know that nothing ever comes easy in life.

OFFICER MATERIAL ?

By Mr W E Smith

The 'ideal' officer does not exist. If he ever did, then any attempt to describe his qualities would be inevitably a dangerous and difficult compromise between the ideal picture in the imagination and the translation of that image into the cold realities of everyday life. However, there is, and surely must be, the 'right' kind of officer - the 'right' man for the job of holding the Queen's commission.

To define the 'right' kind of personality for any aspirant to such exalted office is no easy task. Many men with obviously striking personalities are abject failures; yet some who seem devoid of character are instant successes. Perhaps it would be reasonable to suggest that there must be one obvious and necessary qualification - that of vitality. Should this be lacking in an officer then surely he has no power to inspire those whom he seeks to lead. "He is a born leader" is an age-old cliche but "He is a man of tremendous vitality" is a meaningful expression of real virtue. A sense of humour is another necessity in the commission business. Soldiers, like children, can be unpredictable and often infuriating creatures as any good RSM would soon have you know. Amusement, rather than righteous indignation, is a safer and certainly a less trying approach to the problems and minor mishaps of the many. However, a sense of humour does not imply a capacity for telling innumerable jokes. TI The officer's and soldier's ideas of what is funny are very often totally opposed. The officer must be prepared to unbend a little and laugh even when he is certainly not amused.

Perhaps the greatest of all assets of the real officer is his capacity for instilling complete trust and understanding. His men must have complete faith in him and he in them - the one is no good at all without the other. Examples must be set which can and should be followed. The real art of leadership depends to a large extent on the willingness of the leader to become, on many occasions, a good follower. Reasons, points-of-view, and even 'excuses', however trivial, must be listened to and the only possible outcome of all this will be a sense of fair play. Justice, indeed, must be seen to be done.

Of course there will inevitably come the real moment of decision as any war service veteran will tell you. The man must measure up to the task. He must never allow himself to be found wanting. Friendly advice or assistance is at a premium on such occasions. The 'right' officer becomes a 'lonely' man. But if he is to be the 'right' man for that emergency then responsibility will not be shirked and snap judgements will be reinforced by depth of character, trust and honesty. Such is the real stuff of which good officers are made. They are not necessarily born with it. Education, too, has no little part to play, but only when that very word attains its true meaning and implication. Basic qualifications in 'O' levels and the like may be the order of the day and rightly so if sophisticated weapons, equipment, stores and ammunition are to be known and understood. Reasonable administrative ability alone would demand such standards. But these standards must never be looked upon as the be all and end all. Sound education is a far cry from such mundane and pedestrian skills and the acquisition of such utilitarian standards can only be 'acquired' in the real art of living and experience.

The question is often asked, "How long does it take to make a good officer?" The stock answer should be "A lifetime". The real officer never stops learning even to the day of his retirement from service. And even after that he goes on and on and on - how many of our good officers retire to become eventually the pillars of their own environment? Human nature does not readily accept a person for what he pretends to be - it wants to see what he is in the background of civilian life and the local community. Yes, truly, the wise man is never too old to learn.

In conclusion it must always be remembered that the 'core' of an officer's job is the same as it always has been. General William T Sherman summed it up nearly one hundred years ago when he lectured his officers thus:

> "To be good officers . . . you must come into absolute contact with soldiers, partake of their food and labours, share their vicissitudes, study their habits, impress yourself on them until they realise that you not they possess more book knowledge than they, but that you equal, if not surpass them in all the qualities

MODELLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

The past year has again seen many change in the modelling Club. The amalgamation of of Model Railways and Modelling broke up after Sgt Parkhouse left and Lt Hough took over Model Railways in its own right.

Sgt McIntyre left in the summer for the realms of pottery. He was replaced by the very capable Sgt Wall.

The size of the club has risen dramatically to over 70. To help cope with the extra numbers the club has been fortunate to have Lcpls Isaac and Long join.

The increase in numbers has also led to a higher standard of modelling, some of the recruits being particularly keen.

All in all it has been a very good year.

MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Officer in Charge Lt R Rook RAOC

Since the last issue of Thunderbolt, the Model, Railway Club has undergone several changes, not the least of which has been its emergence from under the wing of the Modelling Club. It is now a fully fledged Club in its own right, with its own club room and equipment.

After leaving Mr Heap's charge, the club was taken over by Lt Hough who put in a lot of time in building up a working circuit. Unfortunately, this circuit had to be broken up when the club moved into the old guardroom and so at the beginning of 1973 a working layout did not exist.

Under the able supervision of Sgts Tyerman and Jones, a new model railway is taking shape, but the prohibitive cost of model trains and track restricts the scope available. Problems have been experienced with damp affecting both rolling-stock and track and it is hoped that the onset of dryer weather will make maintenance easier.

The model railway club has had a busy year and looks forward to producing a first class layout before the winter of 1973.

MOTOR CLUB

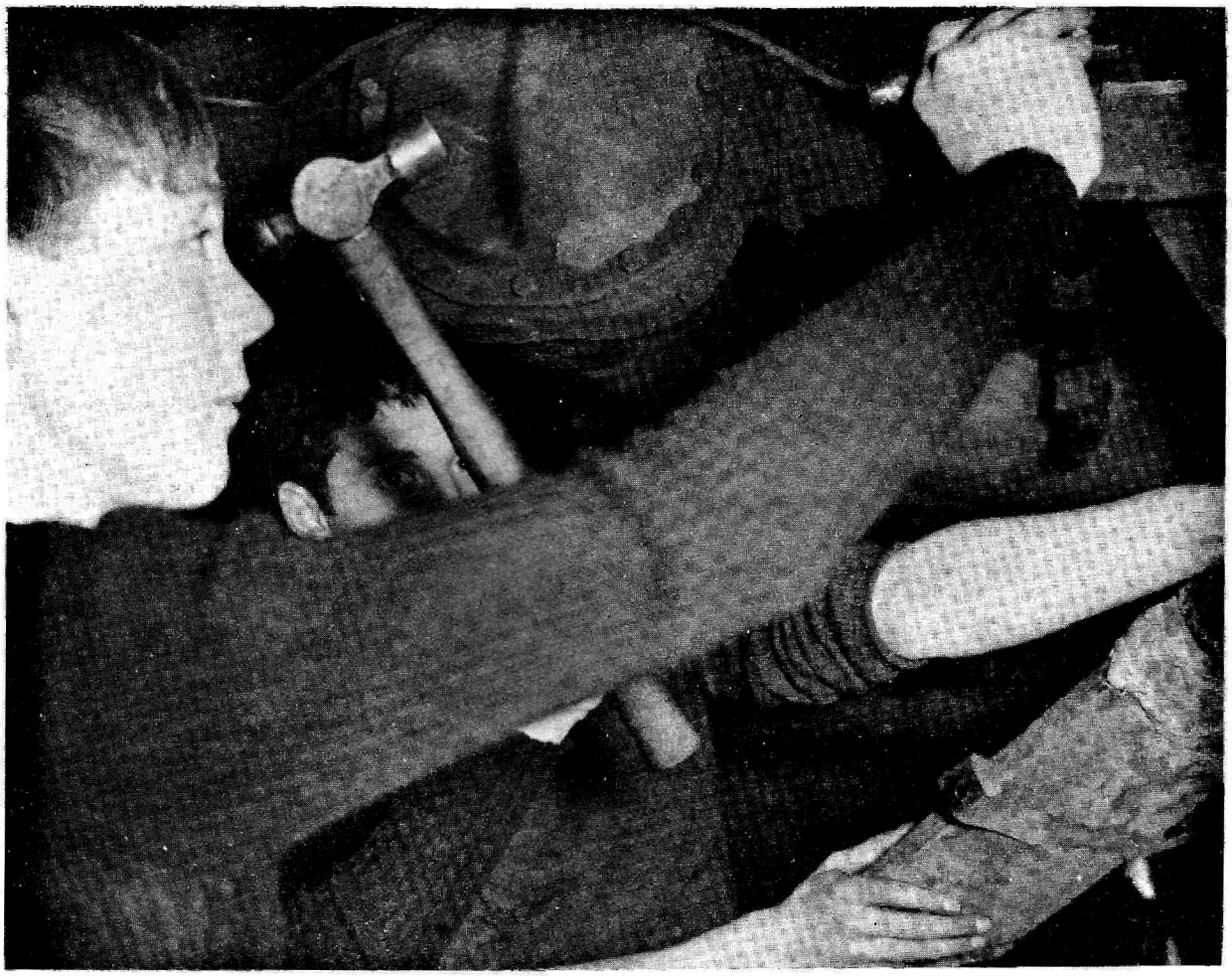
Officer in Charge Mr W Waddington

Our production line is back in full swing and our target of one car per year looks like being achieved. Our latest addition is a vintage Morris 8 and although we have had the engine rebored we have been having difficulty with certain spare parts.

Most members of the club have been shown how to use the oxy-acetylene welding and cutting equipment. The destructive instincts of members has been given full rein in cutting up an old car.

The Ford Popular has been given a new life, the clutch has been replaced and should soon be back in service.

Mr Peter Cardy has been in demand for many tasks - advice upon engines, motor-cycles, small welding tasks and even help with the lifting gear of a keel. His assistance has proved invaluable.



Hammer and Chisel Mechanics

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Officer in Charge Major G J Forrest (Retd)

"Good evening, everybody. Now, before we start, can we decide priorities for the use of the enlargers . . . ."

"Carter, get someone to help you mix some fresh developer, stop and fixer . . . ."

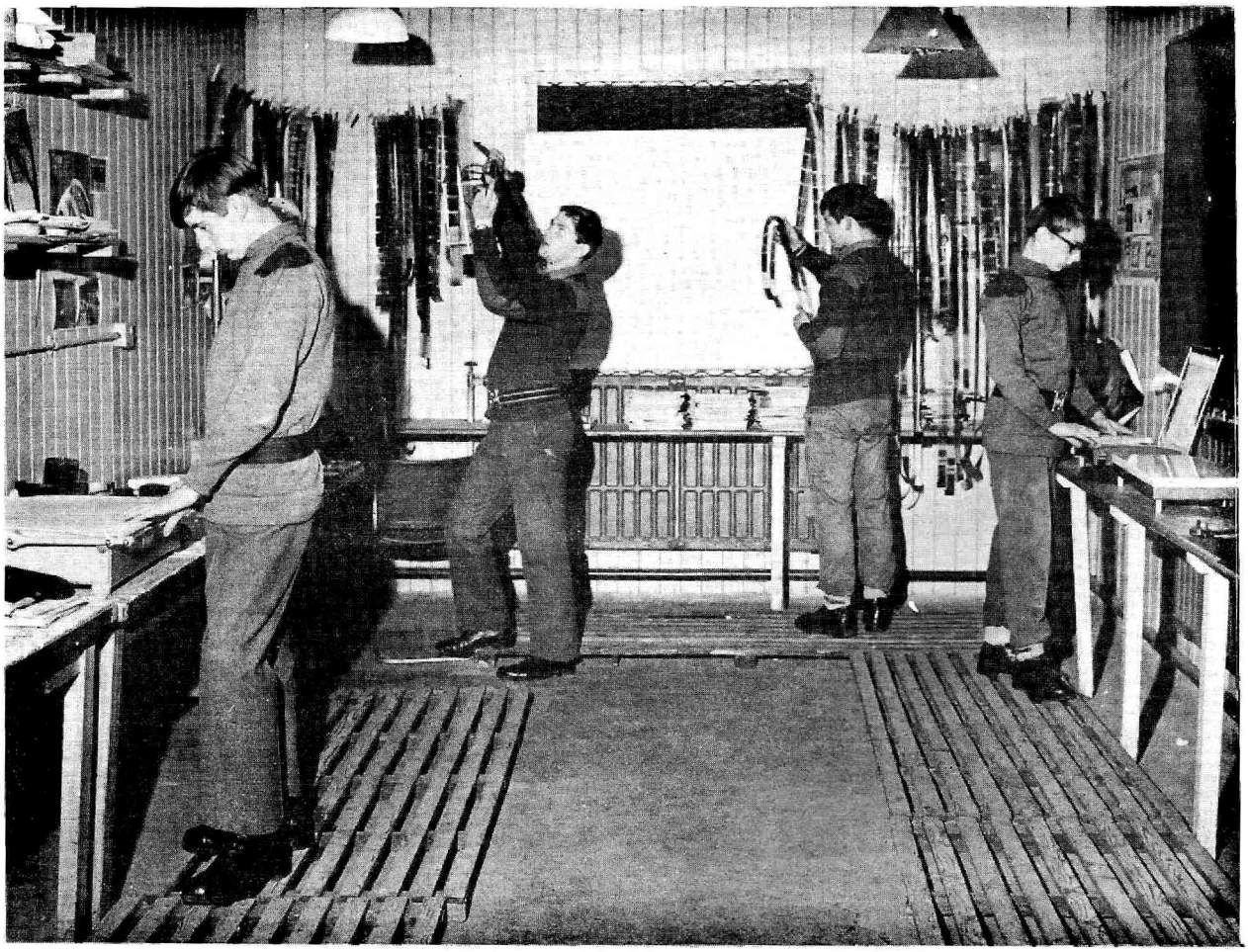
"No, we can't have the lights out yet - Wallis is getting the developer temperature right for his film. Nicholson, get his stop, fixer and speedwash ready for him."

"How long for an HP4 film, sir?"

"Nine minutes at 68. You four chaps - across to the studio with Mr Page and Mr Hughes. Now we can have the main lights out. Make sure you have the correct paper-speed setting and that you focus each shot properly." And so on.

The darkroom is a hive of activity for the rest of the period. There never seems to be enough time. At 'closing time' there are always some prints still washing, the print driers are full and at the same time all the work of tidying up and re-bottling chemicals is going on.

Finally, all the cupboard doors are locked and the "Black Hole" is vacated until the next session.



Camera Club Group

POTTERY CLUB

Officer in Charge Major A C Knockles (Retd)

This term has seen the largest attendance at pottery for some years, and all members of the class have shown a large degree of enthusiasm for the craft. The acquisition of an electric wheel has encouraged a greater interest in thrown pots, which in the past has unfortunately been greatly neglected. This is probably due to the fact that throwing pots on a kick wheel is not only hard work, but the technique calls for skills in co-ordination of movement which are not required with an electric wheel. Have you ever tried rubbing the top of your head with one hand and patting your stomach with the other at the same time?

We are preparing some pieces for the Surrey Boys Clubs exhibition to be held later in the spring, at which we hope to have some measure of success.

Unlike most other productive hobbies, any interruption in the making of a pot is nothing short of disastrous, as clay has a habit of hardening off when left for a few days. We have suffered from this quite a lot, with camps and external leadership training taking the boys away for anything up to three or four hobbies periods. However, we try to overcome these difficulties, and have succeeded in doing so quite effectively.

In addition to our hobbies, a class of adult students also attend the pottery on the same evenings, and it is for remark that a lot of the boys' work is much admired by these classes.

Major Knockles is not impressed!

SAILING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr J F Watson

Assistants Mr M F Johnson

Lt A G Thomas

During the "Sixties" our club built three 10' 6" cadet dinghies. We sailed them - damaged them - repaired them sailed them again and finally decided we had outgrown them and sold them to Camberley Grammar School.

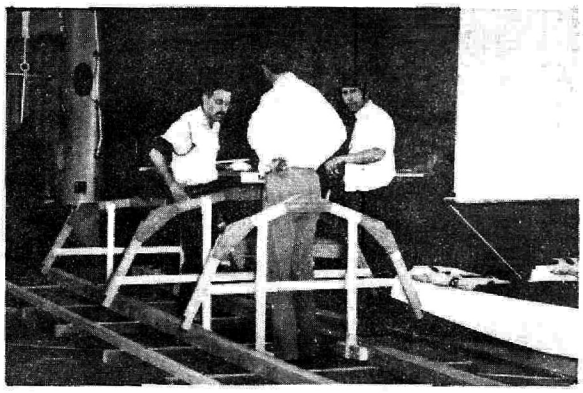
We looked for - and found - a suitable larger boat that we could build and that should - for many seasons to come - prove a safe teaching boat and provide many apprentices with safe, enjoyable sailing.

The boat we chose was "The Aston Long-boat". A 16' 9" Lugger. We paid £2 for the plans. REME gave us £60 towards the initial cost of the raw materials, and, a fortnight before the Queen's visit in June 1972, we built the frames and made a beginning.

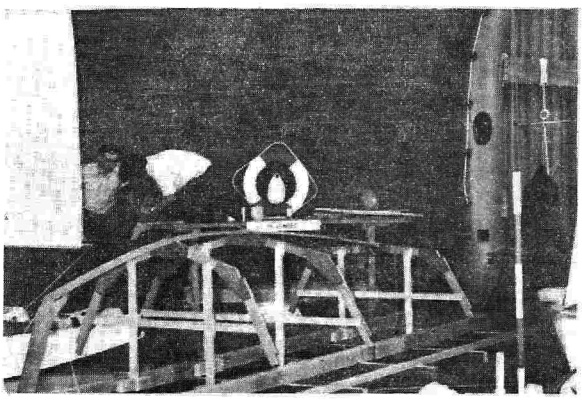
We are keeping a photographic record of the project and hope that the photographs in this article will give you some idea of the various stages in the construction of our boat. I'm afraid we won't have her ready for the beginning of this sailing season but by autumn those boys who have spent hours planing, sanding, glueing, painting and varnishing should be able to don lifejackets, hoist sails and discover whether or not it was all worthwhile

May I finish by saying to all members of the club - not forgetting Mr Johnson and Lt Thomas - "Thank you for all the hard and often boring work you have put in this winter".

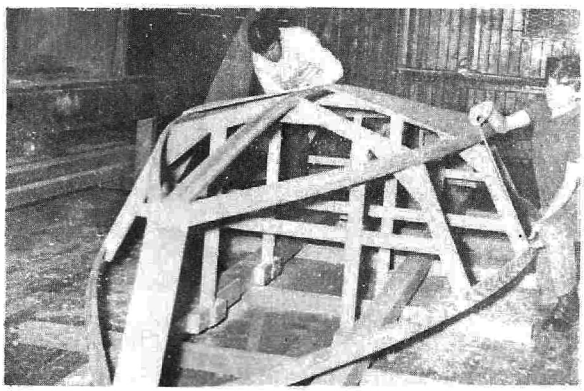
Members of the College! If you have not yet decided on your summer sport . . . why not try sailing!



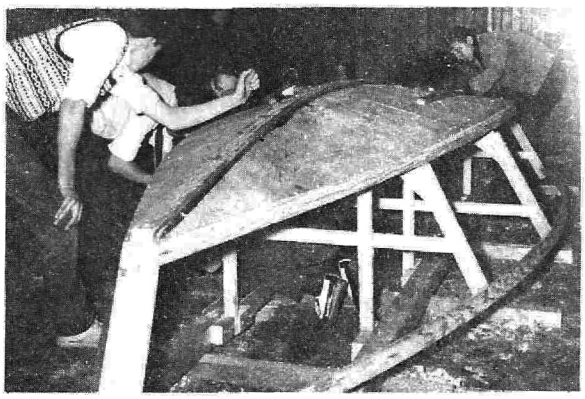
1. Positioning her frames



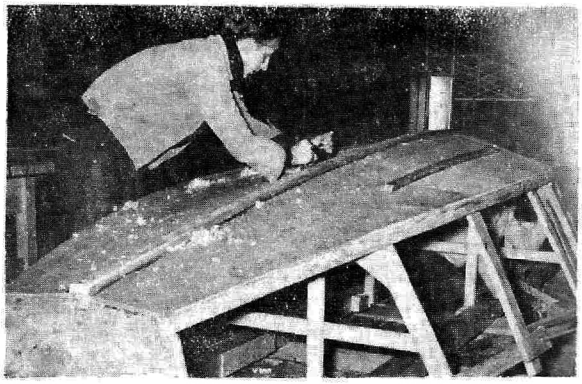
2. Her skeleton



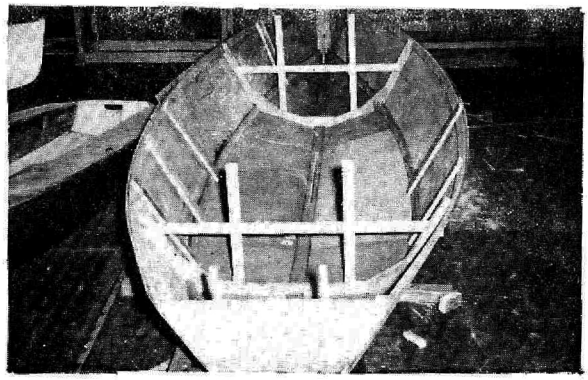
3. "Let's hide her bones"



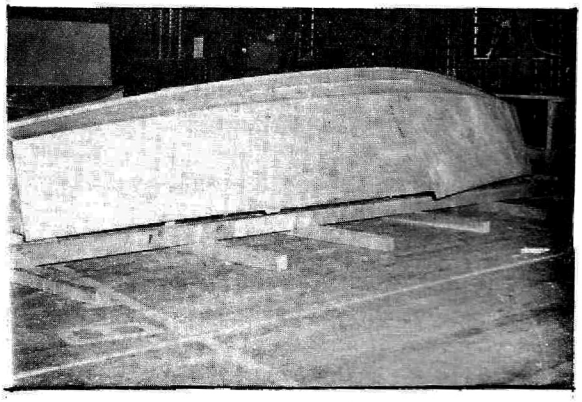
4. A sound bottom



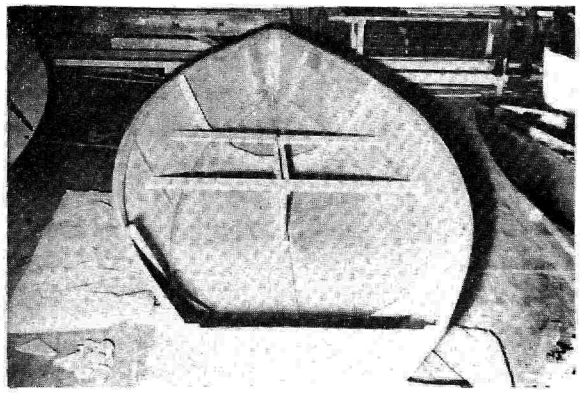
5. "Who dat down dere"



7. She really is a boat



6. Fully clad



8. "So this is what we've been building"

ADVENTURE AHOY!

A/Cpl Flinn was one of 36 boys aged between 16 and 22 experiencing some of the toughest weeks of their lives as crew aboard the schooner, "Captain Scott", cruising the Scottish islands.

The three week adventure cruises are aimed at 'providing challenging situations which enable boys to find their strengths and overcome their weaknesses'. So says the skipper, Commander Victor Clark.

The Captain Scott is operated by the Loch Eil Trust, of which artist and naturalist Peter Scott is president.

Before the schooner leaves her mooring at Plockton, in Wester Ross, near the Isle of Skye, the boys are prepared for the tough tests they will certainly face out of sheltered waters.

They sleep and eat on the communal mess deck and handle the ship under the guidance of a small group of professional officers.

A/Cpl Flinn's own account follows:

Life on the Ocean Wave or Why I did'nt join the Navy

With past experiences of ferry crossings and hovercraft travel across the Solent, I was trembling at the knees when I heard that I had been given a berth on the 'Captain Scott', a sailing schooner, and that I should be in rough waters for 26 days.

Full of curiosity, I packed my clothing and bade farewell to Deepcut for what was to become the best month of my junior service. The train pulled out of Euston Station and at last I was on my way to bonnie Scotland for a mid-term cruise - so I thought! My dreams were soon

shattered when we reached Plockton, where we were met by a sea-faring gentleman complete with "wellies" and pom-pom hat.

"Heave to, maties"! he beamed, "Stow your kit in the landrover and we'll shove off to the Captain Scott!"

We reached the harbour comparatively safely, apart from a few landlubbers getting in the way.

Work aboard the Captain Scott started immediately with the stowing away of our kit and strapping on our sea-legs! After a good night's sleep I was rudely awakened by the sound of a cat being strangled - well, that's what the bosun sounded like when he came round waking us up. "Everyone on deck for a cold shower", he called and eagerly I rushed up the stairs, only to be greeted by a bucket of sea water! Some shower! The remainder of the day was spent in comparative safety learning about the ship and its lifeboats.

The following week was spent on learning how to handle ropes and equipment. After I had mastered my sea-sickness, I really felt a sailor in my new home amongst the maze of halliards and sheets. That's what I confidently thought, but the mate proved me wrong when one day we practised bringing down all the sails at exactly the same time. They could not have picked a harder task for a 'dumb Geordie' like me, for what was about to happen gave me a face the colour of a pillar box.

Firstly, I couldn't find the right ropes to bring my sails down, then, alas, when I eventually did I couldn't remember which one had to be heaved on and which one was to be slackened. After a while of jerking and pulling, my mainsail slid beautifully down to the deck (so I thought) even though it was the last to come down. I was quite pleased with myself until the mate came storming across like some madman.

"You, you ..... " he began. It is best to draw a veil over the rest of the conversation. The punishment he gave me was quite embarrassing. He made me climb the mast to the very, very top, and I was really shown up in front of all the onlooking sailors near Torridon.

Not long after this we anchored at Loch Torridon where we began our first of three expeditions. This one consisted of climbing a 3,000-ft mountain, Beinn Eighe. It was a lovely day when we pitched our tents in the Torridon Forest, but the weather soon broke and the rain really bucketed down. Next morning we began the assault and we passed some beautiful scenery on the ascent. When we finally reached the summit it was too misty to see any great distance.

We descended pretty quickly and again we spent the night in a rain-sodden tent. Next day we packed our kit and headed back to the ship.

After a couple of days sailing we reached Tobermory, where we began our long-awaited shore leave - all threequarters of an hour of it. During this time in Tobermory we were taught navigation, both on land and at sea. Of course, I was only interested in the land navigation because I had been ill those last couple of days.

We then set sail for the Isle of Mull, where we carried out our second expedition. Here all we did was to trek around the island for three days. My partner, Brian, did not enjoy his breakfast one morning because I'd mixed the potato powder with milk powder, resulting in potato porridge! I don't think he enjoyed my sense of humour when he tasted it. After that little episode I tried as much as possible to keep out of his way.

It's a tough climb to the top of the rigging

We returned to the ship and set sail again. It was on this voyage that I earned a reputation. A lad fell off the rigging into the sea below. Having less sense than feeling, I dived off the rigging into the freezing cold water and, with

the help of two other boys, got him to safety.

We soon reached the Isle of Harris, where our final expedition took place, which consisted of a trek and then a climb up Mount Terga Beg and the Ullaval. Up, down, up, down - that's what I remember of this expedition! When we had finished, I was beginning to walk like a mountain goat.

With all the expeditions over, we set sail for home. We safely reached Plockton harbour a few days later and Captain Horatio Flinn was back from his "voyage round the world". What tales he would tell of pirates, new lands, new people and how he steered the ship single handed round Cape Horn!

Yes, I thoroughly enjoyed my time aboard the Captain Scott. It was hard work, but it was also great fun.

Editorial Note:

Flinn was recommended for the Royal Humane Society Life Saving Medal for the rescue he describes. He was also awarded the Captain's pennant for the best student sailor on the voyage.

SKI - ING

Officer in Charge Captain T Douglas - Hill RAOC

The 1972/73 skiing season has proved to be one of the most active for some years. During the season some 150 apprentices have been taught the basic skills, many of them being able to participate in the three skiing expeditions which have been mounted by the College.

Dry slope training has been introduced into the External Leadership training programme and this has meant that out of season training is possible. Training on the dry slope is a well tried method of instruction and saves valuable time during the limited skiing season.

Cross-country or 'langlauf' skiing is taught to the Army generally as part of winter warfare training and 'down-hill' skiing has long been an accepted sport.

The College mounted three skiing expeditions during the season. Ex Snowcross Minor II to BAOR and two parties on Ex Highland Fling in the Cairngorms. A separate article describing Ex Snowcross Minor appears elsewhere.

The two Scotland bound parties under Major J M C Kimmins RAOC and Capt T Douglas-Hill RAOC were introduced to both the rigours of Cairngorm weather and the delights of nearby Aviemore.

Both parties were fortunate with the weather. The snow conditions were good and a lot was learned very quickly.

Training was in down-hill skills and the apprentices very quickly got the feel of being on snow and soon progressed from the nursery slopes to the 'White Lady' and its chairlifts.

In all we have had a very successful season, which has been thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned.

EX SNOWCROSS MINOR II

By 2Lt M Blatherwick RAOC

On 1 January 1973 20 members of the College returned from Christmas leave to take part in 'Exercise Snowcross Minor II', a cross-country ski training exercise, in the Hartz mountains of Western Germany. Lt M Blatherwick RAOC was in command of the party assisted by Sgt Patchitt.

After routine administration on 2 January, the party moved out at 0630 hours the following day. Two coach trips, one jet flight and 11 hours later they arrived at Special Training Centre, Silberhutte near St Andreasburg in the centre of the mountain range.

The course was also catering for junior soldiers from the Wessex Depot, Queen's Depot, Welsh Depot, Sherwood Foresters Depot and the Parachute Regiment Depot. Altogether this added up to 100 juniors, so one can imagine the chaos of settling in!

Promptly at 0630 hours the following morning the boys were awoken and hustled out to do a quick half hour of PT. All very good for the soul but very cold for the fingers! It should at this stage be pointed out that Germany underwent a very mild winter this year and for the first week of the course there was a distinct lack of snow. Not too good for a ski exercise one might say but time was well filled with mountain rambles and fitness training.

By the end of the first week everyone on the course was very fit and itching to get on with some skiing. Perhaps it was church parade in the morning, (or was it just the weather?) but on Sunday lunchtime the snow began to fall! Sunday afternoon was taken up with a visit to Goslar, a local town of great historical interest, but even this could not overcome the excitement which seemed to fill the air back at STC.

Sure enough, at 7 pm on Sunday evening, the order was given by the Chief Instructor to draw skis from the store. There followed a hectic couple of hours, as boots were fitted, skis adjusted and gloves issued. Monday, 8 January dawned clear and bright with a nice thick covering of snow. By 0830 hours everyone was on the trucks, complete with kit, raring to go! The ski area was above St Andreasburg near a small hamlet called Torrendorf. In this area are many, very picturesque, ski tracks which are ideal for learning the skill of cross-country skiing.

The boys set to with a vengeance and it was not long before they were to be seen hurtling around the woods giving blood curdling cries and having some horrifying accidents. Their instructor, Hans, was amazed at the way A/Pte Bowhay managed to climb trees with skis on and the way A/Cpl Attard managed to ski downhill missing all obstacles whilst lying flat on his back!

All too soon the day was over and a group of very tired juniors, not to mention officers and sergeants, climbed into the trucks and headed back to STC. It was decided that, as the snow was still good, skiing would continue on the Tuesday. This time the instructor decided that the apprentices would undertake a 10 kilometre cross-country trek in a circle around Torrendorf.

This proved excellent fun but made it blatantly obvious just how tiring cross-country can be. An even more tired party made the journey back to base that night.

Earlier in the winter the Hartz mountains had suffered a week of terrific gales which had caused havoc in the forests. Fir trees which had once stood 50 feet high were uprooted and flung for hundreds of yards. Because of this many of the most popular ski tracks had been blocked completely. It was decided that, to give skiing a rest for a couple of days, a very useful service could be rendered by clearing these tracks and opening them up to skiers. Thus the next day was spent cutting, chopping and dragging bits of trees around under the watchful eye of the local forstmeister. A big show was made of this and pictures of apprentice 'lumberjacks' were seen in many national German newspapers.

Cries of 'downhill skiing, please' had been heard resounding round the STC buildings right from the first day on skis, and so on Thursday, the last day, the boys were let loose on a large nursery slope just outside St Andreasburg.

It was amazing how proficient the boys had become on skis and how quickly they picked up this new skill. Coming down was no problem but some of the methods used to stop at the bottom had to be seen to be believed!

Eventually a halt had to be called, as darkness descended, and with it the course proper ended.

Friday and Saturday was spent in handing in kit and cleaning camp. On Sunday after lunch, coaches arrived to ferry the boys to Hannover transit camp where they were to stay overnight before the flight back from Hannover to Luton.

Needless to say everyone arrived back safely at Deepcut. Many seemed to have caught that skiing bug rather badly, some had nasty bruises and sprains but all had enjoyed themselves on what was a very useful and interesting course.

SHOOTING

Officer in Charge 2Lt C J Martindill RAEC

After a brief period for practice shooting the College rifle teams were soon involved in their heavy winter programme. When a very successful run in the Inter-Unit Knock Out Cup (UKLF) was brought to an end by the RAOC Training Centre team the teams were able to concentrate on the RAOC Winter leagues. In the Home Cup Service League Division Three the College teams were holding first and second places by the end of term. The target rifle teams tried hard with the available equipment but although they steadily increased their averages, they had to be satisfied with third and fourth places in their league. A/Cpl Wall was awarded the cup for the best shot.

After the Christmas leave period scores continued to rise but a remarkable improvement by our nearest opposition threatened the College 'A' team in the Home Cup and the 'B' team was forced back to third place. After a very exciting finish the College 'A' team only clinched victory in the last round to become Division Champions. The 'B' team held third place. The target rifle team continued to improve and it is hoped that next season, with improved equipment, the College will do better in the Baker Cup Target Rifle League.

We can look forward to a successful season next year since many of our best shots will be available for the 1973/74 season.

Members of the Small-Bore Club who have been shooting for the College during the past season

Back row: A/Cpl Wall A/Pte Hughes A/Cpl Baxter A/Pte Caddick
Front row: A/Pte Greenfield A/Cpl Moffat A/CSM Turner A/Pte Fox

South East District Meeting

Hot from the firing line on the morning of 16 May 1973 came the results of the South East District Junior Soldiers' Rifle Match, in which the College, for the third year running, took first place out of the 16 teams entered from other Junior units in the district. Unfortunately, this year, we lost second place to the Juniors of the Green Jackets Depot and had to be content with the 'B' team in third place. However, A/Pte Hughes of Richards Platoon put in a first class shoot to take first place in the individual match and his rival team member A/Cpl Baxter had to be content with fourth place.

Winning team: A/Cpl Baxter A/Pte Draper
A/Pte Hughes A/Pte Gibb

After the team had collected its "Pots" only three spoons remained to be distributed between the other 60 competitors. The Individual Officers Cup was won by Lt H G Denton.

Shooting during this year has increased in popularity and a growing number have come forward to toe the firing line. The College is aware that to shoot well requires considerable practice and to prevent the members missing other aspects of training, shooting is now looked on as a sport and practice takes place on two afternoons per week.

I would like to mention that other members of the team who, though they have not made headlines, have indeed shot well so far:

A/Sgt Wallis	A/Pte Mason
A/Cpl Moffatt	A/Pte Gloster
A/Lcpl Holroyd	A/Pte Pattison
A/Lcpl Edmunds	A/Pte Crawford

Along with the members of the Permanent Staff, Lt O'Leary, RSM Dorning, Sgt Bell and Sgt Gardner, whose coaching and encouragement we hope has done something to improve the standards of shooting in the College.

The College Shooting Team May 1973

Holroyd Edmunds Mason Moffatt Wallis Crawford
Pattison Draper Baxter Hughes Gibb Gloster

RAOC Rifle Meeting

The 51st RAOC Rifle Meeting was shot on Ash Range during the period 7-11 May 1973. Although the team did not carry off large quantities of silver, the teams did finish well up in the team tests.

At this meeting the Hughes/Baxter battle again reared its head, this time with A/Cpl Baxter taking first place in the Individual Junior entry and A/Pte Hughes second place.

It is with regret that the 'A' team only took second place in the Young Soldiers Match.

With the score in the Hughes/Baxter event now standing at one all, the final is to be shot at the Army Central Meeting at Bisley in July.

SE District Best Junior Shot
A/Pte Hughes

A/Cpl Baxter and A/Pte Hughes

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Officer in Charge Lt H G Denton RAOC

Over the last two terms the emphasis in swimming training at the College has been switched from training swimming teams to the training of non-swimmers and getting them through the military swimming test. This has proved to be a worthwhile change of policy especially when the high pass rate, for what is a laborious and time consuming subject to teach, is seen. It has been particularly gratifying to see at least two aquaphobes graduate from terror at the sight of six feet of water to a confidence that enables them to use the 'dreaded' trapeze and pass their test with ease.

I would at this point like to thank Sgt Bonta and Cpl Hall for their dedication and enthusiasm as instructors. They have been valuable assistants.

March this year saw the annual College swimming gala, this time at the RMA Sandhurst pool, a change from the normal Aldershot venue.

The gala was a convincing victory for 'B' Company with some strong performances from the apprentices, particularly Wall, Eatch and Jack in the individual events. The medley relay was won with a 30 second margin by a Richards Platoon team consisting of Lynam, Singleton, Burgess and Garbutt.

The overall winning platoon was Hill Platoon who also won the free-style relay with Burkhill, Wake, Pendleton and Hancock.

We now look forward to the competitive season with high hopes of honours in the South East District and Corps swimming championships.

REME Corps Swimming

Two apprentices from the College swam in the REME Swimming Championships at Aldershot in October. A/Lcpl Burill swam for the REME (UK) team in three relays, namely the 4 x 67m freestyle, 2 x 67m backstroke and the medley. A/Pte Wake swam in the final of the individual medley and in the 4 x 67m backstroke.

Four other teams took part, including REME (BAOR), SEME, SEE and AAC Arborfield.

COLLEGE PRIZEWINNERS 1972 - 73

The boys who win prizes each term are the top twenty (or so) boys of a College some 400-500 strong. To be included in this select few is no mean feat and it has long been thought that more attention should be paid to their achievements. Admittedly their names are engraved on the trophies they win and they take home with them replicas and other prizes to remind them of their moments of triumph. But it is felt that a more widespread record is needed. Henceforward, therefore, in this magazine, will be published the names of all prize-winners during the year under review. The first lists covering April 1972 to March 1973 are printed herewith.

Prizewinners - Summer Term 1972

Recruit Awards

Recruit PT Cup	450 A/Pte Toms
Best Recruit A Coy (McEwan Shield)	910 A/Pte Gordon
Best Recruit B Coy (Progress Cup)	512 A/Pte Riley

Education Awards

A Company Section 3	751 A/Pte Whitley
2	774 A/Pte McGarry
1	905 A/Lcpl Murphy
B Company Section 3	444 A/Pte Moffatt
2	432 A/Pte Gallop
1	448 A/Sgt Franks

Trade Training Awards

Best Staff Clerk	522 A/Pte Coyle
Best Tech Clerk RAOC	439 A/Pte Kendrick
Best Clerk REME	142 A/Cpl Downing
Best Storeman RAOC	426 A/Sgt Spence

College Individual Awards

Small Bore Prize	137 A/Pte Wright
Best Drummer	573 A/Pte Towler

McDonald Shield for Perseverance	589 A/Pte Cornish
St Albans Cup for Initiative	180 A/CSM Sanders
Best Scholar	180 A/CSM Sanders
Best Tradesman	426 A/Sgt Spence
Military Proficiency Shield for the most proficient soldier	
Sergeants Cup for the best all-rounder	426 A/Sgt Spence

College Team Awards

Company Novices Boxing Trophy	B Company
Company Cricket Trophy	A Company
Company Athletics Trophy	A Company
Company Tennis Trophy	A Company

Special Awards

Officers/Sergeants Mess Tankard	104 A/RSM Hilborn
Commanding Officer's Special Award	442 A/Pte Hart

Prizewinners - Winter Term 1972

Recruit Awards

McEwan Shield for Best Recruit	989 A/Pte Wickham
Recruit PT Cup	064 A/Pte Triggs

Education Awards

A Company Section 1		216 A/Pte James
2		759 A/Pte Redgewell
1		517 A/Pte Ryder-Bibby
B Company Section 2		709 A/Pte Wilde
C Company Section A3		073 A/Pte Paton
B3	Joint Award	983 A/Pte Crawford
		003 A/Pte Bimson

Trade Training Awards

Best Staff Clerk	837 A/Pte Brown
Best Tech Clerk	477 A/Pte Seymour
Best Clerk REME	865 A/Pte Bemrose
Best Storeman RAOC	538 A/Pte Geeves
Best Storeman REME	220 A/Lcpl Smith

College Individual Awards

Smallbore Prize (Best shot)	779 A/Cpl Wall
Best Drummer	194 A/Cpl Sanders-Fox
'Tight Lines Trophy' (Best Angler)	713 A/Lcpl Henderson
MacDonald Shield for Perseverance	451 A/Sgt Stanford
St Albans Cup for Initiative	422 A/Lcpl Flinn
Best Scholar	572 A/RSM Scullion
Best Tradesman	528 A/Pte Geeves
Military Proficiency Shield for the most proficient soldier	619 A/Pte Hilton
Sergeants' Cup for the best all rounder	194 A/CSM Stocks

College Team Awards

Company Soccer Trophy	B Company
Company Basketball Trophy	A Company

Special Awards

Officers/Sergeants Mess Tankard	572 A/RSM Scullion
Commanding Officer's Special Award	168 A/Cpl Omerod

Prizewinners - Spring Term 1973

Recruit Awards

McEwan Shield for Best Recruit	A/Pte Bottomley
Recruit PT Cup	A/Pte Ferraby

Education Awards

Section A1	A/Lcpl Redgewell
Section A2	A/Pte Postlethwaite
Section A3	A/Pte Milner
Section B1	A/Pte Jones
Section B2	A/Pte Griffiths

Trade Training Awards

Best Staff Clerk	A/Pte Whitley
Best Tech Clerk	A/Pte Lynch
Best Clerk REME	A/Pte Clow
Best Storeman RAOC	A/Pte Cuthbert
Best Storeman REME	A/Pte Brown

College Individual Awards

Small Bore Prize	A/Pte Hughes
Best Drummer	A/Pte Hollingshead
SMG Cup	A/Sgt Ormerod
Rifleman's Cup	A/Pte Gibb
Crawford Tankard for best all round shot	A/Sgt Ormerod
MacDonald Shield for Perseverance	A/Pte Hall
St Alban's Cup for Initiative	A/Lcpl Briggs
For first place in Army Youth Cross Country Championships	A/Pte Turner
Military Proficiency Shield for the most proficient soldier	A/Pte Brown
Best Scholar	A/Pte Ryder-Bibby
Best Tradesman	A/Pte Cuthbert
Sergeants' Cup for the best all rounder	A/Sgt Sumner

College Team Awards

Inter Company Swimming Trophy	B Company
Inter Company Full Bore Shooting	B Company
Inter Company Hockey	A Company
Inter Company Small Bore Shooting	B Company
Inter Company Basketball	C Company
Inter Company Orienteering	A Company

Special Awards

Officers/Sergeants Mess Tankard	A/RSM Tarr
Commanding Officer's Special Awards	A/Lcpl Wickham
	A/Lcpl O'Rourke

VALETE

COLLEGE LEAVERS SUMMER TERM 1972

Staff Clerks RAOC

A/Pte M J Allsopp
A/Pte R B Andrews
A/Pte K Brown
A/Sgt C S Edwards
A/Sgt K Hawkins
A/RSM D J Hilborn
A/Pte C E Hole
A/Pte James
A/Lcpl A M Laker
A/Pte W J Lane
A/Pte S E Morby
A/Lcpl C P Sandeman
A/CSM C Sanders
A/Pte P G Sked
A/Sgt P C Smith
A/Pte R P Smithers
A/Lcpl M C Standley
A/Cpl S Tock
A/Pte A K Wells
A/Pte J M Wilde
A/Pte A W Wolfe

Storemen RAOC

A/Pte J H Barrass
A/Pte J H Davey
A/Cpl J D Finlay
A/Pte J Higginson
A/Lcpl S A Hollinshead
A/Lcpl D Jones
A/Sgt B K Kennard
A/Pte R F Marshall
A/Lcpl A Miller
A/Pte I J Paice
A/Pte A Pryor
A/Pte R J Rudd
A/Lcpl B P Sampson
A/Pte R A Smith
A/Sgt R W Spence
A/Pte R D Symonds
A/Pte P E Towler
A/Pte R F Walton
A/Pte C F Ward
A/Lcpl S J Watkins
A/Sgt D A Webster
A/Pte J F Wright

Technical Clerks RAOC

A/Sgt G Christian
A/CSM C Craister
A/Pte D M Hale
A/Pte T Hart
A/Pte S A Hayden
A/Pte R J Kendrick
A/Pte A C MacDonald
A/Sgt J A Watton

Clerks REME

A/Pte M P Bell
A/Sgt R F Beynon-Stocken
A/Cpl D Downing

Storemen REME

A/Pte S A McArtney
A/Pte S Slater
A/Pte F A Stanley

Clerks Intelligence Corps

A/Pte P D Beattie
A/Pte H C Coyle

COLLEGE LEAVERS WINTER TERM 1972

Staff Clerks RAOC

A/Pte C R Bowden
A/Pte R Bowey
A/Pte R Butler
A/Pte P Donaghey
A/Pte P G Grealis

A/Sgt R S Hughes
A/Lcpl J Jones
A/Lcpl J Kelly
A/Cpl S W Kemp
A/Cpl D Mason
A/Cpl E G Murphy
A/Sgt E D O'Connor
A/Pte J Robertson
A/CSM L A Slee
A/Sgt A D Thorogood
A/Pte D R Tydeman
A/Lcpl A H Smith
A/Pte I A Ellis
A/Pte T J Smith

Storemen RAOC

A/Pte A S Bailey
A/Lcpl I Balfour
A/Pte J V Collins
A/Sgt S V Eden-Winn
A/Lcpl P J Folland
A/Cpl A F Geeves
A/Pte G C Harvey
A/Pte S Hindle
A/Pte T S Holland
A/Pte G C Kerr
A/Pte G A Nicolas
A/Pte B Poole
A/Pte R D Rankin
A/Pte J A Smith
A/Pte C J Smith
A/Pte B E Wallace
A/Pte D T Welton
A/Pte M Trew
A/Pte R A Jasper

Technical Clerk RAOC

A/Pte R N Crowshaw
A/Cpl M J Hayward
A/Pte C A D Leech
A/Sgt I R Mountain
A/Lcpl M D Perkins
A/Lcpl P D Rees
A/Sgt J J Robinson
A/Pte R Russell
A/RSM M D Scullion
A/Pte G R Seymour
A/Pte G S Tapper
A/Pte D L Thynne
A/Pte J R Weaver
A/Pte C Welbourne
A/Pte B C White
A/Pte J D P Wotherspoon

Clerks REME

A/Pte M Bemrose
A/Lcpl D J Clinick
A/Lcpl G H Glaves
A/Cpl S Holroyd
A/Pte J J Lacey
A/Sgt C S Mandley

Storemen REME

A/Lcpl A C Dicketts
A/Pte D J Eardley
A/Pte B S Nicholson
A/Lcpl D Smith

Clerks Intelligence Corps

A/Sgt B J Aitken
A/Pte D V Anley
A/Lcpl J Brown
A/Pte V L Leppington
A/Pte J Mostyn
A/CSM W H Stocks
A/Pte N R Thompson

COLLEGE LEAVERS EASTER TERM 1973

Staff Clerks RAOC

A/Lcpl R A Attard
A/Pte A J Barker
A/Pte M K Binks
A/Lcpl D K Blagg
A/Cpl N D Cox
A/Pte A J Dandy
A/Sgt K R Davis
A/Pte P J Dawson
A/Pte A M W Duff
A/Lcpl H S Estridge
A/Cpl W R S Gibson
A/Pte A J Handyside
A/Lcpl P D Hughes
A/Pte S Lawrence
A/Lcpl H Lee
A/Pte K T Lee
A/Lcpl D G Le Page
A/Pte P W K Lynham
A/Pte G Middleton
A/Pte A M Moore
A/Pte H Owston
A/Lcpl G A Page
A/Sgt R C Pickless
A/Cpl R M Ramage
A/Pte D Ryder-Bibby
A/Sgt S Stanford
A/Sgt G R Sumner

A/Lcpl K Tomlinson
A/Pte I D Townsend
A/Pte C J Ward
A/Pte S Warner
A/Cpl K West
A/Pte C F A Whitley
A/Sgt D G Williamson

Technical Clerks RAOC

A/Pte D E Byrne
A/Pte A T Carr
A/Pte T A Clarke
A/Pte N J Coom
A/Lcpl B R Gallop
A/Pte E H Garczynski
A/Pte R M Gregory
A/Pte W A Holt
A/Lcpl T M Kennedy
A/Pte P R Lynch
A/CSM C Piechniczek
A/Pte A I Ramage

Storemen RAOC

A/Pte A H Baker
A/Pte P Boyce
A/Pte S E Boyle
A/Lcpl S Colbourne
A/Lcpl S Coning
A/Cpl M J Conroy
A/Pte N Cowans
A/Pte R Crombie
A/Pte P A Cuthbert
A/Sgt G R Davidson
A/Lcpl G Dufton
A/Pte M J Gilbert
A/Pte J Gilmurray
A/Pte G D Hunter
A/Pte P Langridge
A/Pte K W Lowther
A/Pte G V Luff
A/Pte R J Mabbott
A/Sgt F D McClennan
A/Cpl L T Rusbridge
A/Pte B A L Smith
A/Sgt J Stray
A/Sgt M A Wilde

Clerks REME

A/Pte A Bunting
A/Lcpl D R Clow
A/Sgt R Hayes
A/Sgt I A Loftus
A/Lcpl J Southern

Storemen REME

A/Pte M L Brown
A/Pte D M Hollingshead

REME Non Tradesmen

A/Sgt S N Sanders-Fox

Clerks Intelligence Corps

A/Pte T P C Evans
A/Pte S Hilton
A/Pte C H Pendlebury
A/Cpl P E Vickers
A/Lcpl L J Young

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

This section is proving to be very popular. Unfortunately, up-to-date information is not easy to come by. The Editor would welcome news of, or from, any old boy of the College at any time and in any form. Those who are leaving, or are about to leave should remember this well.

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Anderson L	Lcpl	Nov 71	10 Ord Sp Bn	Petroleum operator. Now in UK. Has served in Cyprus
Arkinstall J	Cpl	Jul 67	A/Q Branch HQ 4 Div	Married. Served in Bahrein. Now in BAOR, with Lcpl M D J Heath

Arnold P	Lcpl	Jul 71	HQ 16 Para Bde	Has been on duty in Cyprus, Turkey and Denmark
Barnes J R	Pte	Jul 71	19 OFP	Staff Clerk. Has twice exercised in Cyprus and has met Lcpl Savage in HQ 3 Div.
Beveridge G	Lcpl	Dec 69	Cdo Ord Sqn	Tech Clerk. Married. Has visited Malaya, Borneo, Philippines, France Norway, South Africa, Persian Gulf, Cyprus, Corsica, USA, Malta.
Brown A J	Lcpl	Dec 71	180 P B O P	Petroleum Operator. Now on exercise in Jamaica.
Brown S	Pte	Aug 71	24 OFP	Staff Clerk. 6 months in Cyprus. 6 week exercise in Caribbean.
Clarke T A	Pte	Apr 73	19 OFP	Tech Clerk. Has met Cfn Southern (8 Fd Wksps) and Pte Symonds (19 OFP)
Coxe S	Pte	Dec 71	Ord Depot Antwerp	Staff Clerk.
Craister C	Pte	Aug 72	Cdo Ord Sqn	Tech Clerk. Has exercised in Norway and Holland. Has met Hawkins and Edwards in 12 Int and Sy Gp, N Ireland.
Crowshaw R	Pte	Dec 72	COD Donnington	Tech Clerk. Has exercised in Channel Islands. Has met Pte R Kassel.
Ellis A	WO 2	Mar 54	4 OFP, BFPO 17	Tech Clerk. Has served in Aden, Borneo, Singapore and Antwerp. Married with 2 children.
Evans R	Sgt	Apr 63	Old Sarum	Ammunition Technician. Has served in Sharjah and has exercised in Denmark. Married with 3 children. Is associated with Sgt A A Burns, Sgt C F O'Maughnessy, Sgt A Gibson, Sgt R Hubbard, Sgt G Goodrum, Sgt R Randall.
Frew J	Pte	Aug 71	19 OFP	Storeman. Has exercised in Cyprus an is with Pte Norbury.
J Fry	WO 1	Jan 55	COD Donnington	Storeman. Married with 3 children. Has served in Chilwell, Iraq, Bicester Jamaica, RAOC School, Far East, BAOR. Is now a work study operator
Gregory J	Cpl	Jul 66	31 Army Youth Team COD Donnington	Storeman. Free fall parachutist. Rugby referee. Winter warfare specialist. Married.
Hailes F	Lcpl	Apr 67	COD Donnington	Tech Clerk. Married. 1 child. Has served in N Ireland.

Hartley K	Sgt	Jan 66	464 Ground Liaison Section, RAF Wildenrath	Staff clerk. Married. 1 child. Has served three years in Cyprus. Is with Lcpl (ex A/CSM) Landless and works in support of the Harrier Jump Jet.
Higginson J	Lcpl	Jul 66	COD Donnington	Driver. Married. 2 children. Awarded C in C Commendation in BAOR December 69.
Hutchings S	Pte	Aug 70	COD Donnington	Storeman, Tech Clerk, Printer. Has served in BAOR.
Jemmison D	Pte	Jul 72	HQ 16 Para Bde	Clerk/Diver. Previously served in JTR Rhyl.
Jones J R	Lcpl	Dec 67	COD Donnington	Tech Clerk. Has served in BAOR and Singapore. Is with Pte R A Lowe.
Kershaw R B	Lcpl	Dec 67	COD Donnington	Served three years in BAOR.
Kennard B	Pte	Jul 72	180 P B O P	Storeman/Petroleum Op. On exercise in Jamaica.
Lynch P	Pte	Apr 73	19 OFP	Tech Clerk. Newly joined. Is with Cfn Southern (8 Fd Wksps).
Plumb T	Pte	Aug 66	19 OFP	Storeman. Has exercised in Norway, Malta, Channel Islands and Turkey. Has met Pte P MacMillan (20 OFP).
Parkins M	Pte	Dec 72	19 OFP	Tech Clerk. Is with Pte Barnes and Lcpl Maule.
Redfern A	Pte	Jul 70	31 Army Youth Team	Storeman. Keen rock-climber and potholer.
Robertson A	Lcpl	Apr 70	180 P B O P	Vehicle Specialist. Married with one child. Service mainly in UK. Has met Pte Riding (17 BVD, BFPO 40).
Boughen R	Lcpl	Dec 70	HQ 16 Para Bde	Staff clerk. Married. No children. Exercises in Malta, Jamaica, Kenya, Denmark. Has met Cfn L Bowdrey (1 Para Log Regt), Cfn Nicholls (SEME Bordon), LCpl Longfield (CAD Bramley).
Rudd J D	Pte	May 71	19 OFP	Storeman. Exercise in Cyprus. Has met Pte Savage (3 Div RAOC).
Russell I	Pte	Mar 72	180 P B O P	Petroleum Op. Has served mainly in UK but is due to visit Jamaica.
Sampson H	Lcpl	Nov 68	31 Army Youth Team	Storeman. Married with one child. Has been canoeing in Norway. Takes part in rock-climbing and hill-walking

Seabrook C J	Pte	Dec 70	19 OFP	Storeman. Married. Has met Pte Green (7 GM Pl) and Pte Whitbread (15 BOD).
Simmonds P	Lcpl	Apr 64	24 OFP	Tech clerk. Married with one child. Has spent 2½ years in Thailand and 9 months in Bahrein.
Simmons P F	Sgt	Mar 61	19 OFP	Tech Clerk. Has served with UN in Cyprus and in Sharjah. Married with five children.
Simons P	WO I (Cdr)	May 48	Army/RAF Work Study School	Works Study Op. Married with two children. Served in Malaya, Korea, Aden, BAOR. LS&GC medal. Swimming and water polo expert. Boxing judge.
Stevens R	Pte	Sep 70	Ord Depot Antwerp	Petroleum Op. Has met Pte Reddy (4 Pet Depot, BFPO 48).
Stock G	Ssgt	Apr 61	Cdo Ord Sqn	Staff clerk. Married with two children. Served in BAOR, France, Holland, Hong Kong, Korea. Has met LCpl Jeffery (DADOS Dept HQ Cdo Forces Plymouth).
Surch M J	Pte	Aug 71	24 OFP	Staff clerk. Married with one child. Has exercised in Cyprus and Isle of Man.
Symonds R	Pte	Aug 72	19 OFP	Storeman. Has exercised in Cyprus.
Taylor F	Lcpl	Dec 71	180 P B O P	Petroleum Op.. Has served mostly in UK but will be visiting Jamaica in June.
Thompson M J	Lcpl	Jul 71	180 P B O P	Petroleum Op. Has spent ten weeks on Gan Island and is due to visit Jamaica.
Truss V	Sgt	Mar 60	COD Donnington (Reproduction Branch)	Printer A1. Has served in Cyprus, Aden, Bahrein and N Ireland. Is due for posting to 12 OFP July 1973. Has taken part in the printing of this magazine. He has met Sgt J Mallett, Printing Unit HQ N Ireland.
Weaver J	Pte	Dec 72	HQ RAOC 3 Div	Tech Clerk. Has met - Pte Trew - RAF Hullavington Pte Seymour - 10 Ord Support Bn Pte Warren - 5 OFP Pte Nicolas - 3 Div Airhead Ord Coy

PROMOTION PROSPECTS FOR BOY SOLDIERS

The Ministry of Defence (Army) has recently released figures showing the progress made by ex boys and ex apprentices from all Regiments and Corps after joining man's service. It is felt that this information would be of great interest to parents and relatives of boys now serving in this unit and accordingly we publish an extract showing the situation at 31 December 1972.

As can be seen from the RAOC column, the number of ex boys and ex apprentices in the Corps represents a very large part of its total strength. It can also be seen that there is an extremely good opportunity for promotion to the commissioned ranks. The REME and Intelligence Corps figures are just as encouraging.

ANALYSIS OF EX APPRENTICE TRADESMEN SHOWING HIGHEST RANK HELD BY ARMS/CORPS, AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1972

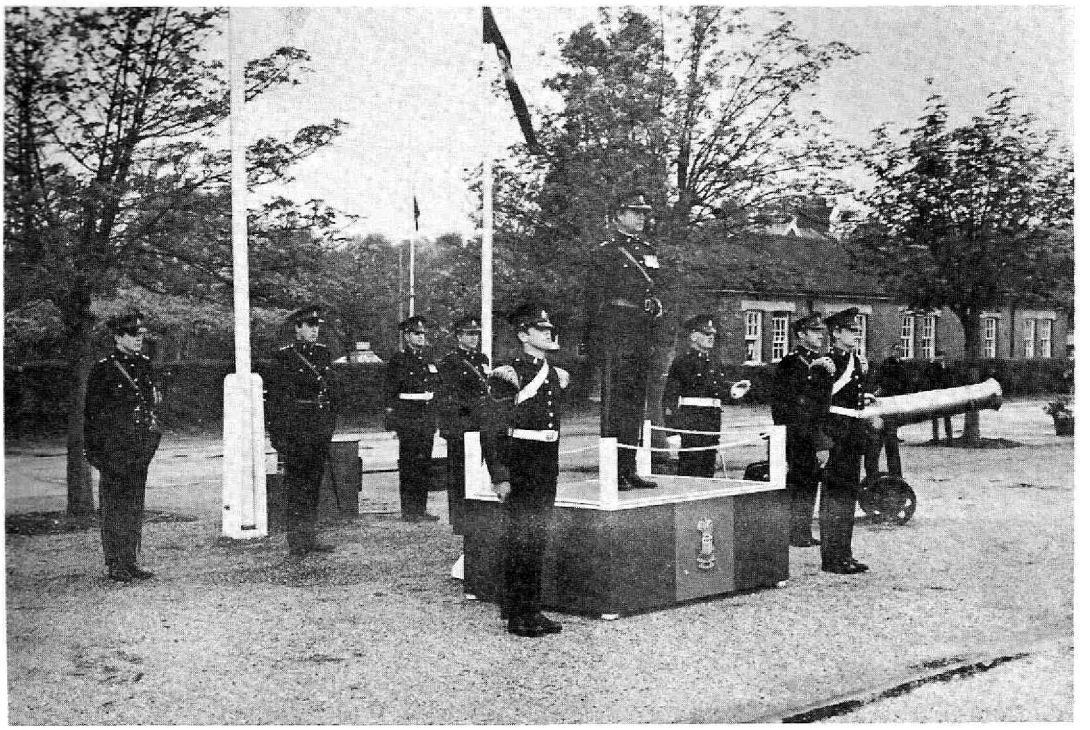
	Brig	Col	Lt Col	Major	Capt	Lt	TOTAL	WO I	WO II	Ssgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	Pte	Total	GRAND TOTAL
H Cav & RAC										1	7	26	21	108	163	163
RA			1	1	2		4		18	14	53	88	96	279	548	552
RE			1	16	46	7	70	55	178	262	238	480	533	1062	2808	2878
R Sigs		1	4	12	17	9	43	28	78	116	454	682	373	961	2692	2735
Inf & Gds						1	1	3	8	5	48	110	135	521	830	831
Para												1	2	1	4	4
SAS										1		3	3	9	16	16
AAC								1	4	3	5				13	13
RCT			3		2	3	8	3	5	10	47	151	285	487	988	996
RAMC								5	22	32	145	146	85	271	706	706
RAOC		2	2	7	6	3	20	17	20	70	117	82	27	101	434	454
REME		3	7	72	116	19	217	260	315	631	1199	1207	860	1033	5505	5722
RMP				1			1			1	4	16	14	2	37	38
RAVC											1				1	1
RADC											10	29	11	1	51	51
RAPC				1			1	1	7	9	86	186		30	319	320
MPSC																
RAEC					3		3									3
RPC			1	2	1		4				1	1			2	6
Int Corps					2	1	3	2	3		5	15	3	1	29	32
APTC								1	7	9	11				28	28
ACC				1	3	3	7	15	31	14	66	184	355	482	1147	1154
Gen List/ LS List				1			1		10	8	5				23	24
TOTAL		6	19	114	198	46	383	391	706	1186	2502	3407	2803	5349	16344	16727

ANALYSIS OF EX BOYS SHOWING HIGHEST RANK HELD BY ARMS/CORPS, AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1972

	Brig	Col	Lt Col	Maj	Capt	Lt	Total	WO I	WO II	Ssgt	Sgt	Cpl	Lcpl	Pte	Total	GRAND TOTAL
H Cav & RAC			1	7	5	2	15	8	31	62	267	335	328	1107	2138	2153
RA			3	31	38	10	82	32	171	75	317	365	436	1514	2910	2992
RE			3	25	41	10	79	4	30	64	128	323	417	923	1889	1968
R Sigs			2	15	66	10	93	42	94	127	330	424	247	420	1684	1777
Inf & Gds		1	2	14	25	11	53	57	156	239	773	1175	1285	4710	8395	8448
Para								4	6	7	29	55	79	311	491	491
SAS									3	6	3	5	8	21	46	46
AAC			1	1	4	3	9		4	6	8				18	27
RAChD					1		1									1
RCT	1	1	3	15	10	4	34	9	37	48	98	169	269	524	1154	1188
RAMC		1	3		2	2	8	2	5	1	15	17	11	32	83	91
RAOC	1	2	7	32	45	4	91	98	90	118	287	387	323	500	1803	1894
REME		1	2	43	46	4	96	5	8	17	97	160	80	113	480	576
RMP					3		3			3	26	217	49	1	296	299
RAVC										1		1		3	5	5
RMA Band					1		1				3	1	1	5	10	11
RADC									1		3	4	6	2	16	16
RAPC				1	3		4	3	13	14	29	45		2	106	110
SASC									16		8				24	24
MPSC				1			1	1	2	3	10				16	17
RAEC				3	9	6	18									18
RPC					3	1	4				5	6	6	5	22	26
Int Corps				1	4	1	6	1	3	20	24	16	7	3	74	80
APTC				1	2		3	1	14	25	21				61	64
ACC					10	8	18	5	5	11	58	96	121	35	331	349
Gen List/ LS List					3		3	5	18	14	11				48	51
TOTAL	2	6	27	190	321	76	622	277	707	861	2550	3801	3673	10231	22100	22722

HANDING OVER PARADE

At a full parade of apprentices, and of officers WOs and NCOs of the permanent staff on 24 May 1973, Lt Col R Mathews officially handed-over command of the College to his successor, Lt Col P H J Vickery. The following photographs are published in honour of that occasion.



Lt Col Mathews on the saluting base at the beginning of the parade

Lt Col Mathews addresses the entire College on parade

Lt Col Vickery takes over

Lt Col Vickery on the saluting base at the end of the parade

Lt Col Mathews' farewell address, reproduced below, was delivered to all ranks of the College during the course of the handing-over parade.

"Lieutenant Colonel Vickery and members of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices College:

I am very honoured and touched that you have paraded today on the occasion of my relinquishing command. There is an old saying that all good things must come to an end, after four years with this unit, it has happened to me today.

I would like to thank the permanent staff and apprentices for their loyalty and enthusiasm.

I wish you all the best of luck and may the College go from strength to strength.

I would now like to hand over into the care of Lieutenant Colonel Vickery the best unit in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and say 'Goodbye'.