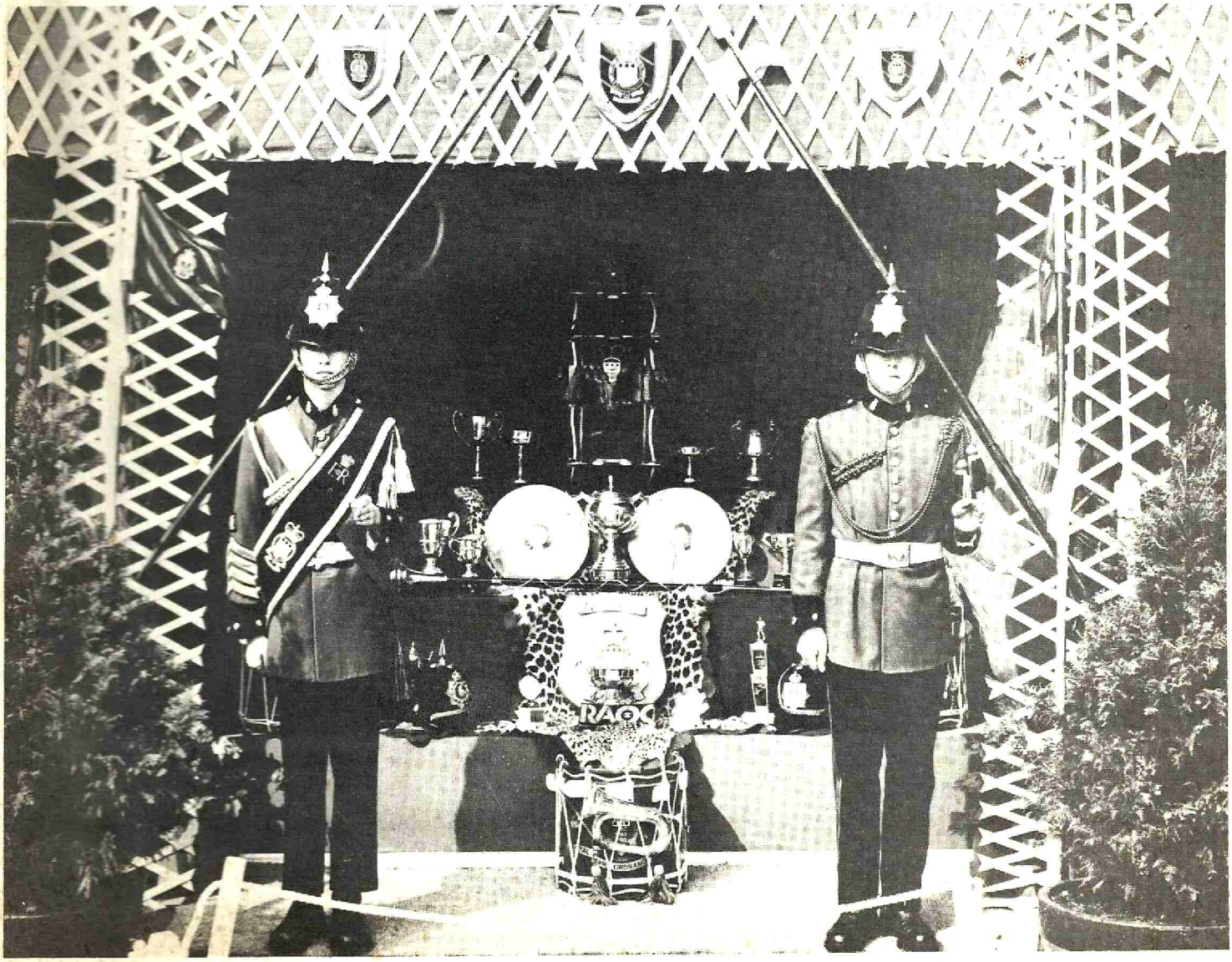
The Thunderbolt

The Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College



Summer 1972 **Issue No3**

The Thunderbolt

THE JOURNAL OF THE
RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

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Second-in-Command	Captain D M Braithwaite RAOC
CSM	WO 2 (CSM) Black RAOC
Williams Platoon	Lt H G Denton RAOC
	Sgt H A Thompson RAOC
Steevens Platoon	Lt R W Bicknell RAOC
	Sgt R T McGregor RAOC
Baker Platoon	Lt G S Atherton RAOC
	Sgt P Michael RAOC
Gordon Platoon	Lt R G Bowman RAOC
	Sgt B C Kesson RAOC
Mulcahy Platoon	Sgt A W Parkhouse RAOC
Mathew Platoon	Lt J K Hardcastle RAOC
	Sgt E A Furneaux-Harris RAOC
Valon Platoon	Lt A F Gibson RAOC
	Sgt C J Taylor REME

B COMPANY

OC	Major J M C Kimmins RAOC
Second-in-Command	Captain H A Dickson REME
CSM	WO 2 (CSM) K Maule RAOC
Body Platoon	Lt E B C Aitken RAOC
	Sgt C D Lindsay REME
Hill Platoon	Lt S M Hicks RAOC
	Sgt W Gardner RAOC
Richards Platoon	Lt J B Gunson RAOC
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Parsons Platoon	Lt K A Fisher RAOC
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FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

This will be the third foreword I have written for the College Magazine, and if events pursue their normal course, I can expect it to be my last. It would seem appropriate then to review what has happened during those three years.

Reading through this, and past issues of the magazine, one cannot but be impressed by the constantly changing scene - officers, permanent staff and boys coming and going, new ideas, new curricula, even new buildings. Yet from year to year there is really very little change - inspections come and go, drill parades, hobbies evenings and sports fixtures still go on. Like Plato's river the water flows and is continually different, but the shape, course and direction of the river varies little, if at all, from generation to generation.

Having been a boy soldier myself, it has been an honour and a privilege to command this College and I have been more than delighted to see the spirit, enthusiasm and comradeship to which I was introduced on joining the Army so many years ago, have not changed with the passage of time. The College has now grown to absorb junior leaders from both the Intelligence Corps and REME and next term we shall probably be more than 600 strong. As we enter the computer age, new methods and new organisations have been introduced, new techniques and technologies have been developed. Yet basically the value of a college such as ours has altered scarcely at all. We continue to look for our success in the building of character, in the development of high morale and in the formation of a justifiable pride in one's profession, in one's Corps and in the great traditions of the British Army.

Throughout my tour I have always been impressed with the loyalty, industry and devotion to duty of the members of my permanent staff. Their enthusiasm and willingness have pervaded all aspects of College life from the sports field to the hobbies room, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the whole-hearted support they have given me. Living and working in such an atmosphere can only make one a complete enthusiast too.

My best wishes for the future go to all ranks and their families, to the civilian staff, and to all whose purpose is to promote the welfare and good name of the College.

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief Major H W Richmond M A RAEC

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

Photographic Editor Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)

At the request of the printers, this issue has been "put to bed" rather earlier than usual. The result is that, with two very important exceptions, it is concerned with reporting activities of the College only up to the end of Spring Term 1972. Summer Term, usually the most prolific of all three terms in magazine copy, particularly photographic copy, will, this issue, not feature at all. But this is no bad thing particularly if it leads in future to a standard pattern of reporting albeit based on the financial, rather than the academic year.

It will mean, of course, that the Editor loses most of the Easter recess, but what does that matter if at the end he has a complete year's account ready for the printer by the beginning of Summer Term to enable distribution to be made with confidence at the end of that term. So, contributors, please remember that in future your articles covering the year April-March are required to be in the hands of the Editor before the end of every Spring Term. It is particularly important that those of you who are concerned with Summer Term activities should not be guilty of procrastination in your reporting.

The two exceptions mentioned earlier will be the accounts of the visit of HM The Queen to open the new Blackdown Barracks on 9 June and the visit to the College of Mr Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, MP, Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence on 15 May. Both these accounts will be in the nature of Stop Press reports but we feel that we cannot allow two such important events to wait for twelve months before appearing in this magazine. Though the Queen's visit does not directly concern the College, we know we shall be very deeply involved, and we hope that, with luck, we might even scoop the Corps Magazine.

Once again we would conclude by expressing our most sincere thanks to all who have assisted in the preparation and production of this magazine, from photographers to copy-writers. In particular we would like to acknowledge our very great debt to the staff of the Printing and Reproduction Section at COD Donnington for their toleration and for maintaining such high professional standards in the face of all the problems posed by your editorial representatives.

VISITS

VIP Visits

During the year since publication of the last Thunderbolt magazine, the College has been visited by the following senior officers:

October 1971
Major General L T H Phelps OBE
Director of Ordnance Services

February 1972
General Sir Basil Eugster KCB KCVO CBE DSO MC, General Officer Commanding in Chief Southern Command

Major General Phelps spent a complete day at the College and was shown all aspects of College life. During a tour of the College area he saw the boys on military training, at work in the classrooms and representing the College on the sports fields. He was also shown a display, set out in one of our drill sheds, of all the various types of hobbies and activities conducted in the College. The highlights of his visit were, however, a display by the Corps of Drums and an Internal Security demonstration given by Mulcahy Platoon of A Company, in which as usual, the immaculate and competent drill of the Riot Squad was amply tested by the enthusiasm of the 'rioters'.

General Sir Basil Eugster's visit was shorter. He was given a conducted tour of the College and visited the boys' accommodation, the Kon Tiki club room, the NAAFI canteen and the Restaurant. He spoke to many of the boys and was most impressed with the excellent facilities now provided in our newly converted Amenities building.

May 1972
Geoffrey Johnson Smith Esq MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence for the Army

Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith visited the College during a one day tour of the Training Centre. He watched a platoon of boys undergoing IS training on the barrack square and then made a rapid tour of the College, speaking to many Junior Leaders on the way. The Junior RSM received a personal 'thank you' message from the Minister after the visit.

Inspections

The College has also been officially inspected twice during the year:

November 1971 - Our Annual Fitness for Role Inspection was carried out on 23 November 1971 by Brigadier P N W Besley, Commander RAOC Training Centre. With his staff he inspected in considerable detail all aspects of College Administration and training. A very good report was obtained by all departments.

January 1972 - On 26 and 27 January the College was inspected by Brigadier P J O'B Minogue, the Inspector RAOC. He was accompanied by his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel J O Harris, and together they spent two complete days with us looking into all aspects of a boy's life and training at the College. They spoke informally to many of the boys and visited them undergoing training in all departments, including an evening hobbies period. The Inspector was highly pleased and in his official report stated that he was particularly impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of the Permanent Staff and and boys alike.

Other Visits

The usual visits by parties of schoolboys and their Career Masters have continued at a pace throughout the year. These schoolboys, normally in their last term at school, spend a complete day with us during which they are given a conducted tour of the College and a free lunch and tea. The boys join our own Junior Leaders at PT on the sports fields and end their day by donning College tracksuits, (emblazoned "The RAOC Apprentices College"), and 'having a go' over our Assault Course.

In addition, we have again entertained, (for the third year in succession), a party of nearly forty teenage German boys and girls from Koblenz. They spend two to three weeks in England including a whole day at the College looking over and enjoying our educational and sporting facilities. Our teaching staff are no longer surprised or impressed by the large numbers of boys volunteering for German classes immediately before each visit!

Twice during the year we have also entertained official parties of some thirty to forty

Headmasters, Career Masters and senior officials from the various County Education Authorities of Southern England. They were given a conducted tour of the College and the nearby RAOC Trade Training School where our boys now go to learn their Trade. They were also given every opportunity to see and to talk informally to the boys at work in the classrooms, at military training and, during the afternoon, on the College sports fields.

All such visits are arranged by the local Schools' Liaison Officers. In addition the College is 'Open House' to any boy who expresses an interest in joining the Army. Visits to the College are arranged by the Schools' Liaison Officers for such boys and needless to say we give all such visitors a thorough insight into life in the modern Army without bias or favour for we believe that such visits have extremely good publicity and recruiting value.

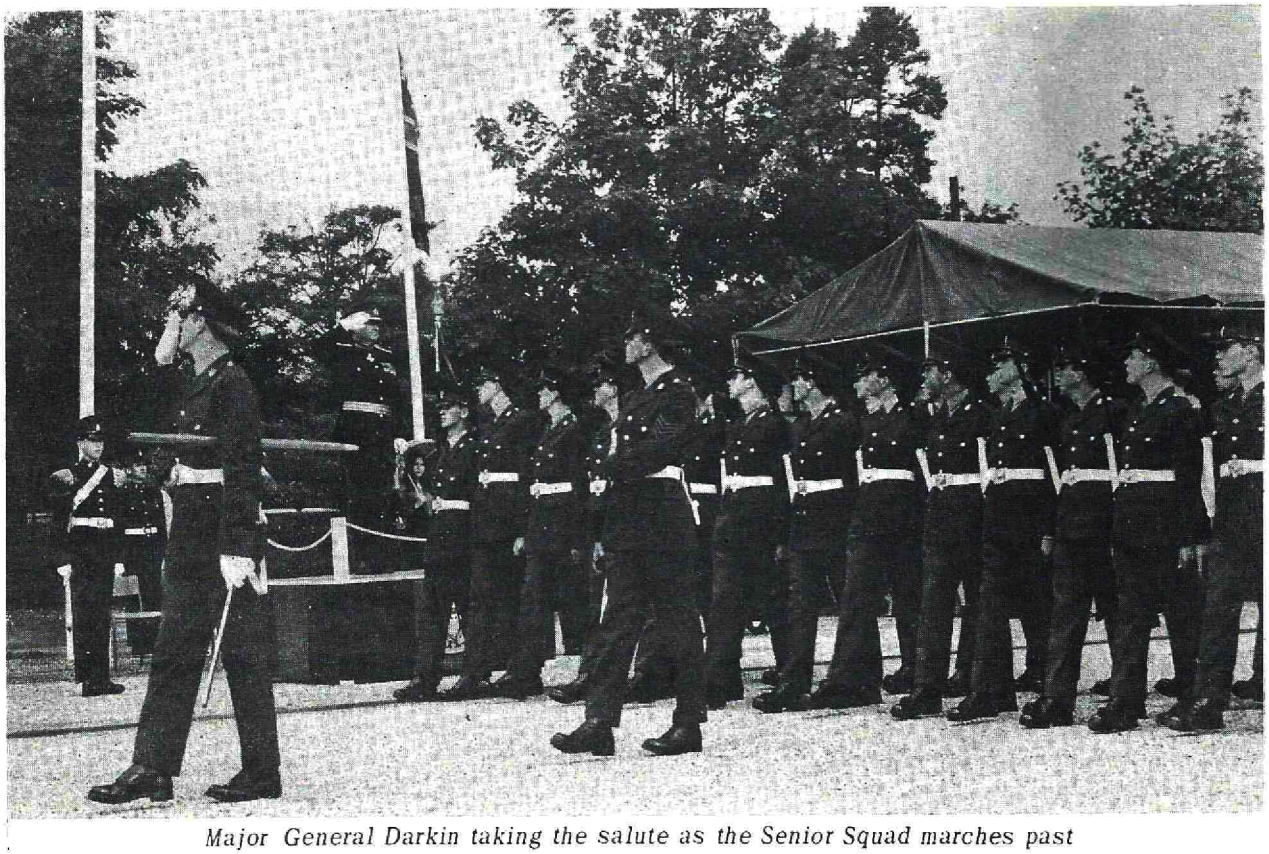
We continue to give maximum support to our affiliated Cadet Bn of the Army Cadet Force, namely the 1st Cadet Bn The Queen's Regiment based in Redhill, Surrey. With so many boys now in the College (over 500), we have difficulty in providing accommodation for these Cadets. However, they still come back for more because they realise that we are genuinely delighted to have them. They have enjoyed some very interesting training sessions with us in the Deepcut area.

Passing Out Parades

The high standards of drill and turnout on our Passing Out Parades continues to be maintained despite the wind and the rain which, however, never seems to affect the great sense of occasion of these parades. Really splendid ceremonies have been held throughout the year with the colour, movement, and music which we have come to expect on such occasions. All our Inspecting Officers have paid tribute in their speeches to the extreme steadiness and precision of the Junior Leaders on parade and to the exemplary and confident control of these large parades by the Junior RSM.

Our Inspecting Officers during the last year have been:

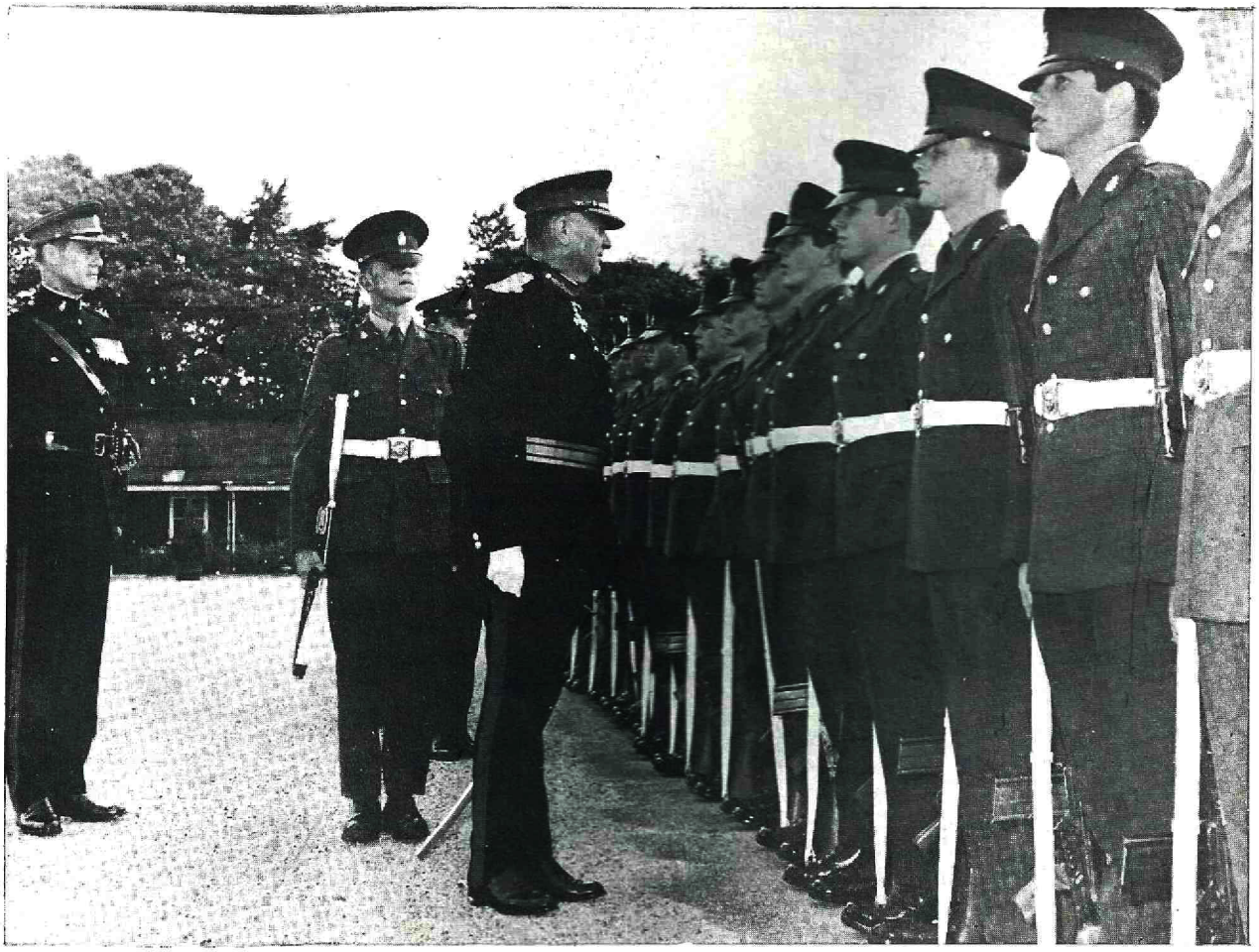
August 1971	Major General R B Darkin CBE Commander Base Organisation RAOC
December 1971	Major General H H Evans Director of Army Education
March 1972	Major General A G Patterson CB DSO OBE MC Director of Army Training



Major General Darkin taking the salute as the Senior Squad marches past

Major General Patterson addressing parents and boys at the Prize Distribution, March 1972

Major General H H Evans presents the Sergeants Cup, awarded for best all round performance, to JSgt Sanders. In the background is Mr W E Smith



Major General Darkin inspecting the Senior Squad on Passing Out

'A' COMPANY

OC Major F L M Foy RAOC

2IC Captain D M Braithwaite RAOC

CSM WOII W G Black RAOC

The past six months have seen the Company go from strength to strength. We have received two new recruit intakes; the first and largest in September to form Baker, Valon and Mathew Platoons; the second in January to form a new but small Gordon Platoon. The odd few 'fell by the wayside' and returned to civilian life but the vast majority have settled down and are now enjoying life in the College.

Our Permanent Staff strength, besides the normal postings in and out, has increased to cope with the incoming tide. Departures since the last issue have been:

Major Reed, the Officer Commanding, retired from the British Army in September and joined the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps. Captains Bowell and Cowan have been posted to BAOR. Mr Bicknell left in December for a four month tour of duty in Londonderry but will be back with us early next term. CSM Blowfield left in September on posting to the Regimental Depot. SSgt Fripp, after a provision course at the School of Ordnance, leaves for Berlin this month. SSgt Smithurst departed for service with the T & AVR in London. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them all good fortune and the best of luck.

Those joining the Company since September are:

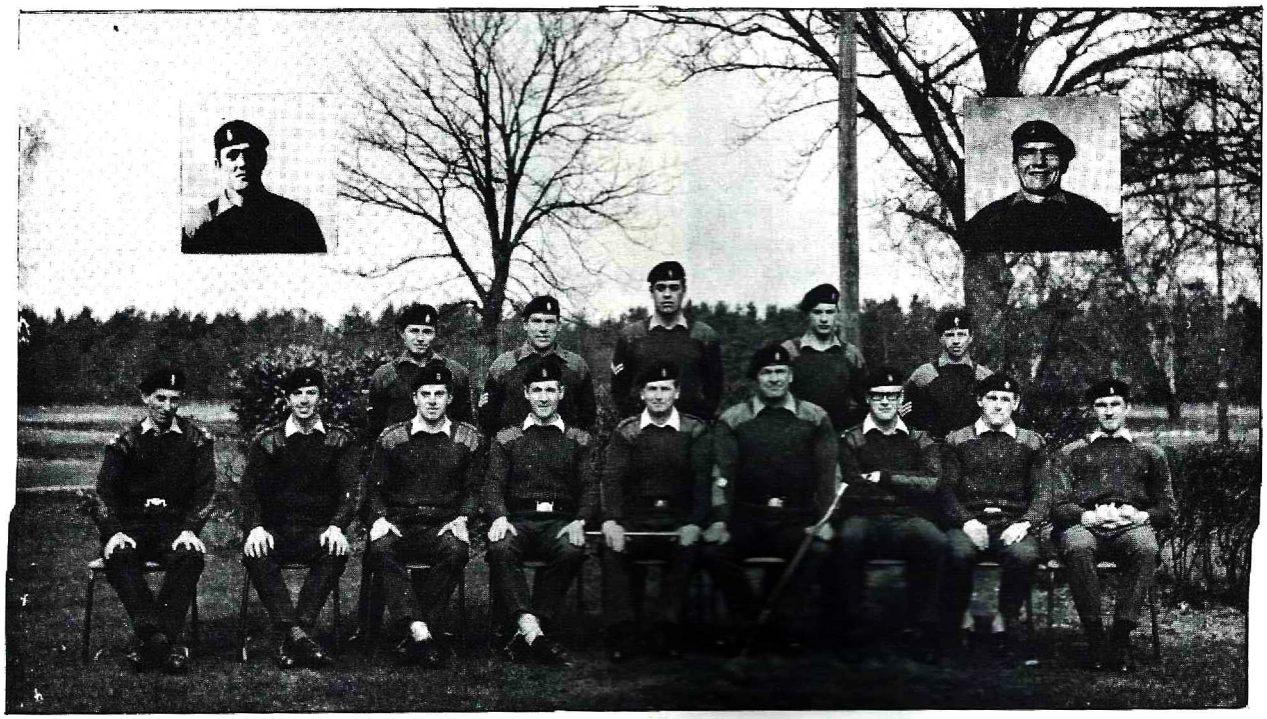
Mr Atherton and Mr Hardcastle from service in Germany and Mr Gibson from Cyprus. These three officers were posted in to take command of Baker, Mathew and Valon Platoons which received the recruit intake in September. Mr Bowman joined us in December to take over Gordon Platoon which was disbanded at the end of the Winter Term but reformed as a recruit platoon at the beginning of Spring Term to receive the January intake.

Mr Mobley returned from his tour of duty in Northern Ireland in December, this time to take over Steevens Platoon vacated by Mr Bicknell. CSM Black joined us from the Regimental Depot in September. Sergeant Furneaux-Harris came to the Company from the CTO's department to become Platoon Sergeant of Valon and later of Mathew Platoon after the departure of Sergeant Phelps to the CTO's department. Cpl Kesson arrived from CAD Bramley to be the Platoon Sergeant of the new Gordon Platoon. Congratulations on the promotion Sergeant; we all hope it will not be too long before you get some money for it!

Sergeant Michael joined us from Germany last month to replace Staff Sergeant Fripp as Platoon Sergeant of Baker Platoon. He immediately departed for the Drill Course at Pirbright and was replaced in turn on a temporary basis by LCpl Hall from the Gymnasium. Many thanks Corporal for stepping into the gap and helping out so enthusiastically. To all the newcomers we extend a welcome and hope they enjoy their service in the Company.

The Autumn and Spring camps saw Platoons off training in such widespread places as Wales, Westmorland, Kent, Cornwall and Derbyshire when the normal activities of military training, assault courses, hill climbing, adventure training and sport took place. These Platoon camps have the additional benefit of providing the Junior Leaders and Staff with a change of environment. On their return they seem revitalised and prepared once more to get down to the less exciting routine and problems of Blackdown and education.

College Christmas Day was as usual a great success. Before lunch we had the inter Company soccer match which the Company won by a fairly safe margin. Having worked up their appetites either on or around the soccer field the Junior Leaders devoured an excellent Christmas lunch. It was a most commendable effort on the part of the cookhouse staff whose enthusiasm made the lunch and decorations so good. As usual the Junior Leaders had the pleasure of enthusiastic albeit unpolished waiter service from the Permanent Staff. Lunch over, Platoons departed to London - Platoon Commanders and Sergeants trusting in the effects of large helpings of Christmas pudding to reduce energy. There being no empty seats on the return journey it seems that they were right.



LCpl Hall Sgt Parkhouse Cpl (now Sgt Kesson Sgt Furneaux-Harris Sgt Taylor
Lt Bowman Lt Atherton Lt Mobley Capt Braithwaite Major Foy CSM Black Lt Denton Lt Gibson Lt Hardcastle
Inset: Sgt Friff Sgt Thompson

On the sports field the Company has had two most successful terms. Williams Platoon set the pace by winning the Cross-Country. The College Individual Boxing Championships on 7 October saw an almost complete sweep for the Company boxers partly due no doubt to the skillful and enthusiastic training given by our Company expert, Sergeant McGregor. No less than five went forward to the Junior Army Finals, producing one winner, Junior LCpl Eden-Winn of Gordon Platoon.

The Orienteering Competition in March was a 'galloping' success for our intrepid orienteerers with the first five places going to Platoons of the Company. Mulcahy Platoon taking first place gave rise to many a knowing look. The rumour that there were little signs for the Mulcahy team around the course was quite untrue. Their victory was entirely due to superior training given by their Platoon Sergeant - the NCO IC Orienteering!!

Our swimmers put up an equally gallant effort in the inter Platoon Swimming Championships. Cutforth Platoon of B Company took a well won first place. However, Platoons of the Company took 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th places. Congratulations to Steevens, Mulcahy, Williams and Mathew Platoons. A Company took the Company Championships by 226 points to 159.

Rugger has recently played a large part in the life of the Company, many of the Permanent Staff take an active interest - some people think too many!! Nevertheless, our rugger playing Junior Leaders upheld the honour of the Company by a handsome win in the Inter Company Rugby 36 - 3. Before we leave sport we must congratulate Williams and Baker Platoons for taking the first two places for the Company in the Inter Platoon Soccer League Knockout Competition. In the final Williams beat Baker 5 - 1. Well done both Platoons.

The last few paragraphs must have given the reader the quite erroneous impression that A Company is obsessed with sport. The arts and crafts of soldiering have not been neglected. On the weekend of 18/19th March the Inter Platoon Small Arms Meeting took place at Ash Ranges in lovely Mediterranean type weather. The Company had a most successful shoot. Junior LCpl Downing was overall champion and Williams Platoon won the Inter Platoon Championships with Mathew Platoon a brave second. The Falling Plate Competition was won by A Company Officers in a shoot off against Mathew Platoon Juniors who were winners amongst the boys. Our Company Sergeant Major finally capped a most successful day by pocketing the Pool Ball. Well done the Company marksmen, it is heartening to see interest and efficiency in a soldierly skill.

We have had two distinguished visitors to the College during the past six months, the DOS, Major General Phelps, in October and the GOC in C Southern Command, General Sir Basil Eugster in January, both of whom were given a demonstration of Riot Drill by Mulcahy Platoon ably assisted by Baker Platoon which with remarkable ease reverted to a mob.

The Company has again had its normal problems of Permanent Staff shortages due to sports and courses, etc. Rugby, of course, taking the biggest toll with the Training Centre and Corps teams claiming our 'gladiators'. Heartiest congratulations to CSM Black on being selected to represent the Army.

Congratulations also to Junior Regimental Sergeant Major Hilborn on gaining promotion to that rank and also ex Junior Regimental Sergeant Major Woulds (now on Man's Service) who so ably commanded the Christmas Passing Out Parade.

Finally, to finish on a most happy note. The whole Company sends its best wishes for their future happiness and congratulations to Vivien, Mr Denton and Sergeant Taylor who have recently wed. To many, the above may read like bigamy - it isn't, three other happy people are involved!

WILLIAMS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt H G Denton RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt H A Thompson RAOC

These notes mark the completion of Williams Platoon's first year since its formation. It has been a hard, sometimes trying, year, but one tackled with great enthusiasm by all and bringing many rewards. The Platoon was formed in May 1971 under 2 Lt Denton, Sgt Smithurst and Cpl Thompson, who have all taken one step up the promotion ladder since. The Junior NCOs were very ably led by JSgt Jory with JCpls Sanders, Edwards, Masham and Brimblecombe.

After only two weeks to kit up and get to know each other the platoon was off to Leek for two weeks. Much work was done at Leek, particularly in establishing the Platoon's identity and team spirit.

The camp started with basic military instruction such as field craft, tactics, shooting and PT. There was also time for leisure with visits to Blackpool, Manchester, Jodrell Bank and sailing on Rudyard Lake. Perhaps the high point of the camp was the five days and nights spent under canvas at Lumpool plantation - an excellent site which we shared with Steevens Platoon.

Steevens Platoon, a term our senior, spent much time trying, and failing dismally, to establish their dominance over us. In fact Lt Bicknell got quite frustrated about their inability to beat 'raw recruits'.

All good things soon came to an end and Williams Platoon all too soon found itself back at Deepcut facing a series of competitions against older, and more experienced platoons. The platoon acquitted itself very well, coming 1st equal with Mulcahy Platoon in the athletics thanks to fine efforts by JCpls Sanders and Masham and JPtes Aitken and Binns.

The Summer term came to its inevitable close and we said goodbye to JSgt Jory, posted to adult service and JCpl Brimblecombe, transferred to Baker Platoon.

Winter term was a case of jumping in at the deep end with a week at Browndown on an individual platoon camp. This was an extremely valuable camp thanks to extra ammunition gained by devious means. Two days were spent doing section tactics, mainly the attack. This was supplemented with two night exercises using 2-in mortar para-illuminating, Verey pistol, LMG, thunderflashes and rifles, all a very valuable introduction to night fighting. Two days were spent live firing rifle and LMG on the Browndown ranges, where the platoon achieved a standard far in excess of that expected. This extra shooting, with much more later back at Deepcut, was to pay dividends in term three.

The rest of term two was a very busy one with visits and competitions. The Platoon was able to get a Wessex helicopter for an afternoon at RAF Odiham. This was a very valuable experience and the best possible use was made of it by learning section helicopter battle drills particularly de-planing from the hover both 6-ft and 30-ft up. JPte Hilton decided that climbing down a rope from 30-ft took much too long and found that letting go of the rope speeded things along a lot; this provided much entertainment and was fortunately not too painful.

On the sports field the platoon came a very convincing first in the cross country, led by that very able runner, JPte Binns, who has since represented the College and county in many events. JPte Anley took the College individual snooker cup which together with his great prowess as a goalkeeper make him a valuable member of the Platoon. JPte Hindle captained the basketball team to a commendable 2nd.

The end of the term saw SSgt Smithurst off to London and JCpl Edwards off to Westmoors, from where he has since played Badminton for the Army. JSgt Sanders earned his promotion to CSM and was relieved by JSgt Catteral from Mulcahy Platoon. JSgt Catteral had just proved his great ability by earning a 'B' grade at the Army Outward Bound school at Towyn - an excellent standard.

Spring term started with two early promotions - JPtes Stray and Aitken up that first rung of the ladder to JLCpls. JLCpl Aitken also left us for Baker Platoon. The Platoon also had ten new members from the disbanded Gordon Platoon - their experience and stability has been very useful since.

During week two a weekend was spent at Tweesledown under canvas, as a general practice in living in field conditions, and initiative exercises. Good work was done by fearless JPte Clelland, putting ropes high up otherwise unscaleable trees - mind you it is said 'where there's no sense.....!' JPte Mathews was the 'mug' who tested our very high death slide seen in the photograph. Unfortunately it was soon time to go back to College and the insurmountable obstacle of RPC III.

Perhaps RPC III has been our biggest triumph - no less than a 100% pass in all subjects with some excellent pass marks. This proved that Williams Platoon were not only a lot of sports 'gladiators', but also knew their military training.

Soon after half term the Platoon was off to Leek for a week with Mathew Platoon. Unfortunately the weather was foul but then again wars are fought in all weathers so something was learnt. Fortunately the one good day we did have was spent doing advance to contact, covering many miles and learning a lot. Most people got a chance to act as section commander and lead an actual attack - valuable experience. The day's entertainment was provided by JCpl Masham when he got stuck in a barn with a fizzing thunderflash due to the 10-ft aerial on the radio he was carrying. The look on his face as he was jammed in the doorway will long be remembered by all who saw it!

The Camp's Commandant almost phoned for an ambulance when he looked out of his window and saw the platoon running down the road carrying a sorry looking JPte Reilly on a stretcher. This was, fortunately, only the Williams Platoon stretcher race, finishing three miles away, 650 feet up in a rocky crag.

Entertainment was limited to a television and Sgt Thompson demonstrating how to dance with the 'local talent' at the disco down the road.

A night exercise was arranged soon after our return to Deepcut to make up for loss of training due to bad weather at Leek. The exercise was a patrolling one held over Long Valley. The night was dry but very cold, a situation Lt Denton unwittingly almost rectified by starting four grass fires with the Verey pistol. All the fires were soon put out by the Platoon who were becoming expert at fire-fighting. A great deal was learnt about night fighting techniques on that exercise.

The Platoon found a huge build-up of sports commitments during the last four weeks of term. Two commendable 4ths were earned in the orienteering and swimming competitions; however the Platoon showed its true mettle in the shooting and football.

The shooting weekend was a walk-over for Williams, winning both SLR and SMG stages and getting four of the top five shots in the College. We were fortunate to have JCpl Masham, back from his cruise on the Malcolm Miller, as he and JSgt Catteral are potential Bisley shots. We were also aided by the excellent shooting of JPtes Allsop, Hilton and Mathews. This great victory was followed by another in football when JPte Rammage captained a very able Williams Platoon team to a 5-2 victory over Baker Platoon.

At the end of a very successful term the Platoon said goodbye to JSgt Catteral, off to the Depot and a printer's course, JCpl Masham, off to HQ 16 Para to become a 'red beret' and early in term four, to Lt Denton, off for eight months infantry work with 3 RGJ. JPtes Hilton and O'Neil put up their first tapes to become new LCpls in the Platoon.

The first year then has been a very successful one with a lot learnt and much experience gained. The Platoon not only has a complete RPC III pass but are champions of the College at athletics, cross-country, football and shooting.

Even Williams Platoon can sometimes be up-ended!

STEEVENS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt R W Bicknell RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt R T K McGregor

Summer Term 1971 started off very noisily when Steevens Platoon were selected to be 'enemy' on the College exercise during Summer Camp at Leek. All will agree that they provided worthy opposition and proved that even second term boys can "slaughter" the two companies attacking them.

With good morale and enthusiasm ever present the platoon went on to win the Inter Platoon Cricket Competition against fierce opposition from the Senior Platoons in both companies. Notable mention must go to Hole and McNicol who between them scored most of the runs and put many a platoon cricket team to shame.

At the end of the Summer Term there was a sad farewell to Hobday, the only boy to have left the Platoon, because of medical discharge.

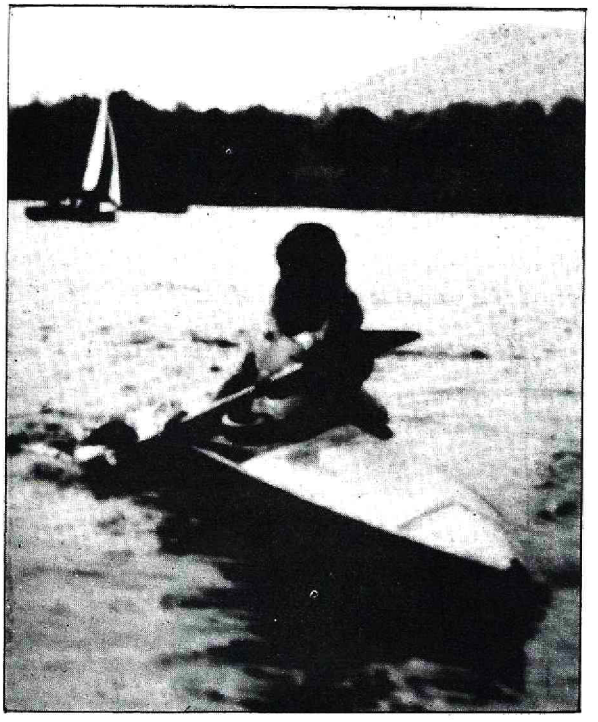
At the beginning of the Winter Term the Platoon moved to Ambleside, in the Lake District, for their Winter Camp. Fishing, canoeing, sailing, swimming and hill walking featured daily on the programme. Mention must go to LCpl Rodgers ACC, an excellent cook who upset the Platoon only once and was 'pegged out' as a result. The sailing instruction was taken by Mr Watson and Sgt North who managed to sail the length of Lake Windemere. Lt Bicknell, in the same attempt, capsized his boat and his mast stuck fast in the mud and only returned to an 'even keel' after Calder and Stocks had dived in to free it.

Junior Leaders from Steevens Platoon stopping for lunch during Adventure Training at Ambleside, Lake District, during their Spring Term Camp 1972

By the end of term the Platoon succeeded in obtaining an outstanding 100% pass in RPC III. Though the Platoon spirit was dominant their ability on the football field did not match their enthusiasm and the platoon came fifth in the Inter Platoon Football League.

A very interesting visit was made to 16 Para Heavy Drop Company RAOC at Hullavingdon after which the Platoon volunteered to pack parachutes with the WRAF.

Spring Term 1972 welcomed eight Junior Leaders from Gordon Platoon who have added still more enthusiasm and spirit to the Platoon. The Platoon now has a seasoned salt in the form of "Jonah the Jinx" Johnson who has experienced dinghy sailing and life on board the sail-training vessel Malcolm Miller. Thomas has continued to show his ability as College photographer.



JPte Conroy of Steevens Platoon, now having learnt to canoe, paddling across Lake Windemere in the Lake District during Spring Term Camp 1971 .

Spring Term Camp at Lydd Training Camp was shared with Mulcahy Platoon. The training was arduous but enjoyable and many amusing incidents occurred. Sgt Pendleton, with his tombola and jokes proved very popular until Lt Mobley won both line and house in the first game. The night exercise proved most popular. Though all movement was tactical a few Junior Leaders were seen to throw their hands up in disgust shouting "Oh no!" as they inadvertently set off trip flares. Bemrose was undoubtedly the most enthusiastic, who, when he saw a Verey flare go off, dropped to the ground and landed in 12 inches of mud. Murphy and Smith ran very well to win first prize in the Platoon Orienteering competition and James' Jokers for winning the Inter-Section Assault Course competition.

The Platoon were confident of winning the Inter-Platoon Swimming competition but were narrowly beaten into 2nd place. JLCpl Dicketts deserved his win in the breast-stroke and Stocks, Haveron and JLCpl Dicketts for achieving a very fast time to win the Medley Relay.

Throughout the term the Platoon, as part of their External Leadership Training, have trained hard at the dry ski slope in Aldershot to win the 20 places in the ski team going to the Special Training Centre at Silberhutte, West Germany. The two week course was unfortunately affected by lack of snow. However, valuable training was undertaken and only a few young men in the Platoon succumbed to the beauty of local German 'Frauleins'.

The Platoon is looking forward to the challenge of the Summer Term with RPC II training and the Inter Platoon competitions.

Purkins of Steevens Platoon about to fire the Verey Pistol during a Pyrotechnics demonstration given by the Platoon Commander, Lt Mobley, at Lydd Training Camp, Spring Term 1972

BAKER PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt G S Atherton RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt P Michael RAOC

Once again Baker Platoon became revitalized with a new intake of 31 recruits, guided by a distinguished group of Junior NCOs under the control of JSgt Watton.

The Platoon was soon to settle down to the vigours of college life, and in so doing provided a fine example of the platoon spirit of their contemporaries. Accompanying this ardent spirit, upholding the slogan 'Baker is best', there was no lack of skill or determination. Despite far older and more experienced opposition, Baker was quick to prove itself a threat to the stalwarts of the football league. At the end of the first term we were to finish 5th in the league. However, during the second term we finished 2nd, which was in no small way due to the skilful movements of JPte Ramage and the hard tackling of JPte West. Needless to say without the support of JRSM Hilborn, JSgt Watton, JCpl Haynes, JLCpl Aitken and JLCpl Brimblecombe, such a distinguished performance would not have been achieved.

Perhaps a slight miscalculation cost us the winning place in the football league to Williams, but certainly this was not the case in the basketball competition, thanks to the experienced guidance of JSgt Watton, who handled his team with the same enthusiasm and success as he has done with the College team. Credit must also go to the consistent play of JRSM Woulds and JLCpl Brimblecombe. A well deserved victory.

Our other triumph came in the Orienteering competition, with an unexpected 2nd place, due to the hard running and common sense of JPtes Kilby, Baxter and Collins, and especially JLCpl Aitken, who came 2nd in the College.

Finally, on a sporting vein, let me not forget the successful endeavours of JPte Dandy, who proved to all disbelievers that his substantial height and ungainly arms, could be co-ordinated together to produce a formidable opponent in the boxing ring. He is to be congratulated in reaching the quarter finals in both the National Amateur Boys' Club Championships and the Army Junior Boxing Championships 1972.

During the Winter Term relatively little military training took place. However, during the

Baker hanging about, as usual!

Spring Term the platoon found themselves in Cornwall for a week at Penhale Camp. During the week a variety of training took place including a patrols exercise, assault course training, sport and much to the dislike of all, early morning PT. Something which caused embarrassment to the Officers, who were often known to sleep through it.

Deliberate or accidental??

Despite a certain amount of bad weather and a good deal of hard training, the camp was enjoyed by all.

Finally, may we say our farewells to Ptes Sacre, Haynes and Brimblecombe and to wish them well in their new Units. Also we are glad to welcome into the 'elite' JCpl Bowden, JLCpls Aitken, Davidson and Kemp, who have come to keep law and order. Also our ranks are swelled still further by the addition of JPtes Beattie, Harvey, Le Page and Moffat from the 'old' Mulcahy Platoon. With this new blood we hope to see even greater things coming from Baker Platoon in the future.

Decisions! Decisions!

OLD GORDON PLATOON

Platoon Commander Capt D M Braithwaite RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt C J Taylor REME

After a long leisurely Summer leave the members of the Platoon gathered themselves together and prepared for the Autumn Camp in the wilds of North Wales. Our Camp was sited in an abandoned quarry village 100 yards from the sea. We had our own private beach with not just one pier, but two, although the one furthermost away was the only one safe to fish from; much to the platoon fishermens' distress. The village of Llithfaen was two miles from our camp, to visit it involved a climb up rather a steep track, at times the gradient was 3-1. The local girls seemed to give the lads the incentive required to climb the track more than once a day.

Our programme consisted of RPC II tactics, fishing, map reading, swimming and football. The football team beat the local football team 3 goals to 1. The football pitch was a cowfield, evidence of which was most prominent in the goal mouth much to the disgust of 'Ollie the Knife Allsopp', our goal keeper. The keen fishermen in the platoon arranged a deep sea fishing trip, which resulted in a massive catch of mackerel. Not very deep fishing but enjoyable.

The final remark about our camp must be about the magnificent effort put in by the advance party and the work they did as the rear party clearing up the site.

In the sporting world the platoon won the Orienteering Championships and were forerunners in the Athletics and Cross Country just being beaten in each case. The Novice boxing competition produced five Gordon Platoon Champions in JCpl Jones, JLCpl Eden-Winn, JPte Sanders-Fox, JPte Clarke and JPte Pryor.

Our football team was one of the finest teams I have seen in the College, it was a great shame that we had to break it up when the confidence was just beginning to show. With JRSM Hilborn, JSgt Collier and JCpl Jones all College first team players and Le Page, Barrass, JLCpl Eden-Winn all second team representatives there was a high standard of skill in the team.

JRSM Hilborn originally came from Baker Platoon but spent his time as a JNCO with Gordon Platoon emerging as the College JRSM, another success from the platoon. Well done, Hilborn 'Sir'.

Christmas seemed to loom up unexpectedly with it came the normal festivities including the Platoon outing. The choice of show was "The Dirtiest Show in Town" which was enjoyed by all who went.

The end of term also brought disturbing news from College Headquarters. It was rumoured that Gordon Platoon was to be put in suspended animation. This did not come about, but the outcome was just as bad for the members of the platoon, they were all dispersed to other platoons including Captain Scarlett and his "trusty aide". This was a sad moment for the Platoon particularly after the effort put into the decoration of the block, although Sgt Taylor will ensure that it is looked after.

To all who made the platoon what it was, keep striving for greater things but do not forget to enjoy life and most important of all, always be loyal to yourselves, your Corps and your Unit.

NEW GORDON PLATOON

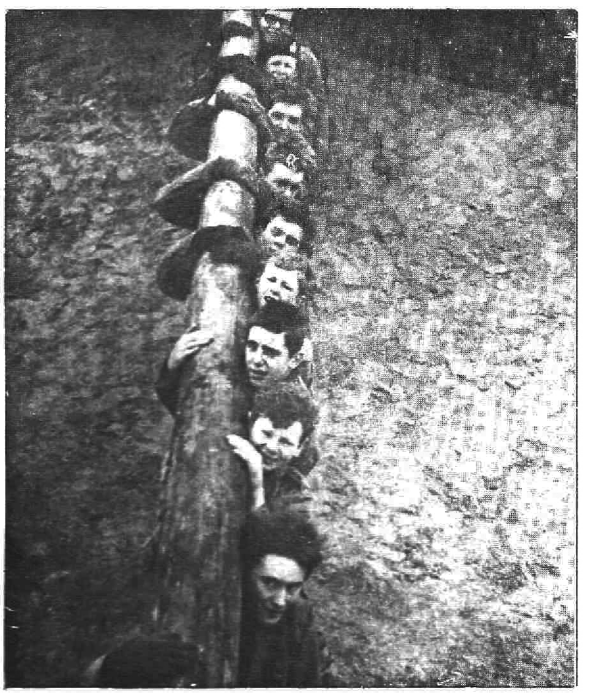
Platoon Commander Lt R G Bowman REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt B C Kesson RAOC

Gordon Platoon was formed as the new recruit platoon in January 1972 with 20 new boys. The Junior NCOs were JSgt Christian, JCpl Flower, JLCpl Eden-Winn and JLCpl Rudd, who must be congratulated for their sterling work in introducing the recruits into the mystery of the 'Army Game'.

The boys worked hard, and were in fact congratulated by the Commanding Officer on the standard of 'turnout' they achieved for their acceptance parade. This led to some of the platoon wits asking when they would be mounting guard at Buckingham Palace. The Platoon Sgt disillusioned them.

Although very active in the field of sport, one cannot say we achieved much distinction. However, neither did the boys disgrace themselves. They did in fact collect two notable scalps on the soccer field, to everyone's surprise except their own, thus holding the whole Company football tournament in the balance.



"The Reward"

"The Effort"

The highlight of the term was the Spring Camp at Penhale which made a thoroughly welcome break in barrack routine. The recruits particularly enjoyed the first two days which were spent bivouacing on the sand dunes and living on 'iron rations' (plus Mars bars). It really is amazing the amount of fun to be had simply from jumping and tumbling down a sand dune. The boys also tackled their first route march of five miles and although caught in a thunderstorm 10 minutes out and drenched to the skin, still managed to complete the course in a cheerful mood and without mishap. Naturally it was not all work and the platoon enjoyed a couple of sports afternoons on the beach, with the main emphasis on kicking a football about although a few (fool) hardy boys took a dip in the icy breakers and professed to enjoy it.

Now back at sunny Deepcut the boys are once again hard at it, and looking forward to their first Passing Out Parade.

MULCAHY PLATOON

Platoon Commander Capt B J Bowell REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt A W Parkhouse

Those of you who are still in possession of Thunderbolt No 2 will see that the chapter on Mulcahy Platoon ended at the beginning of Summer Term 1971.

Summer Term 1971

Mulcahy Platoon spent the whole of Summer Camp at Anzio Camp, Leek. The first week was taken up in the field where the platoon was prepared to take RPC III tactics, which 35 passed out of 39 entries. The second week was devoted to Recreational Training where the boys did sailing, canoeing, rock climbing. The third week was spent on night exercises and cordon-search.

Half term was soon upon us. Those members of the platoon who did not go home went to the New Forest, camping. The weather was very unkind with gale force winds and heavy rain. The lads soon settled in and eventually the weather cleared and they enjoyed themselves.

The gladiators of the platoon, namely Lynch, Standley, Hart, Spence, and Smith M R, formed the basis of our Athletics team which shared first place with Williams Platoon. We also won the Fire Fighting competition which was run in idea conditions - RAIN !!!

Autumn Term 1971

The Platoon arrived back from summer leave with some reluctance. Within a week bags were packed again and we went to Warcop to spend 10 days in the Lake District. The platoon this time were concentrating on RPC II tactics and through the dedication and hard work of Capt B J Bowell REME and Sgt M Tyerman, the exam was successfully passed. The only complaint from the Platoon was that the Platoon Sgt was acting Cook Sgt. What concoctions he offered and what he put in the soup make the mind boggle.

During October the Platoon put on an IS Demonstration for the DOS, Major Gen Phelps, and have since been called upon on several occasions to put on similar demonstrations.

Mulcahy Platoon demonstrate IS duties for the DOS, Major General Phelps. "Disperse or we fire"

"Fire"

Once again the gladiators were prominent. Boxing in the Inter Platoon Championships and College team were Hart and Spence, both put on good bouts.

Football we played well, out of 10 games played we won 7, drew 1, lost 2. Basketball was not quite so successful, but we should have a good chance next term.

Capt B J Bowell REME left us this term, the platoon gave him a farewell party in the traditional way. Was it Warren who said "There will never be war games in the platoon again, there departs the war lord". ord".

Spring Term 1972

Spring Term 1972 started with welcoming a new Platoon Commander, Lt G Bowman REME, but we lost him after a week to the Recruit Platoon. Capt D Braithwaite then came to us, but again left us to take up a new position as 2IC A Coy. Whilst Capt Braithwaite was with us he sorted out the soccer team and thanks to him we were on victory runs again. Nothing much happened before half term. Except that the IS demo was wanted again, this time for the GOC.

After half term the boys packed their bags for Lydd on the Kentish coast for a week with Steevens Platoon. The platoon enjoyed the camp especially the training area although they found it very hard going having to carry uphill all the equipment needed for a bivouac site.

With Platoon Commanders being in short supply, we have now adopted Lt B Mobley until the end of term.

Seen on the Platoon notice board:

"Wanted: One able bodied officer, to look after 39 angels. No guarantee on peace of mind. Must be of an understanding nature and have plenty of money. Apply OC A Coy." Needless to say no offers came in.

The platoon entered the Inter Platoon Orienteering competition and at last won first place. Was it due to the fact that the Platoon Sgt is also 2IC Orienteering and laid out the course?

The platoon has now been disbanded, giving way to the new Mulcahy. There will never be another platoon like them. Its members worked hard, played hard, and were a good boost to the Company. We wish them the best of luck in their new Units and in their new roles.

VALON PLATOON

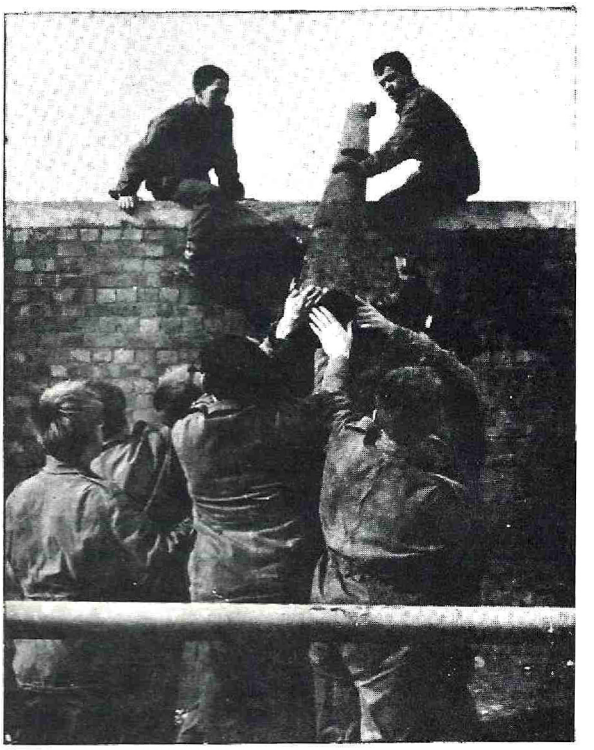
Platoon Commander Lt A F Gibson

Platoon Sergeant Sgt C Taylor REME

Valon Platoon was formed at the beginning of September to cater for the large influx of nearly 200 boys joining the College. We were named after the late Major General Albert Valon, a former Colonel Commandant of both the RAOC and REME.

It would have appeared to any outside observer that this was a case of the blind leading the blind, for we were a new platoon, with a new Platoon Commander, new Junior NCOs and a newly occupied block containing 30 raw recruits. In fact our only 'oldie' was the effervescent Sgt F-Dash - that is if you could ever find him.

However we all settled down into College life, on many occasions using the cuff to compensate for our lack of experience. Having no Platoon traditions to follow or past glories to beat should have proved a great problem in developing 30 boys into a single unit but it was not so. The cry VALON was soon to be heard sounding across the College playing fields and our team spirit developed at a very fast rate.



Many hands make light work!

To say that we have had a great sporting term would be false but we have held our own in most activities and our soccer side holds great promise for the future. Brown, our midget striker, Dougherty and Flinn, our tough defence players, all show promise of becoming College standard players, while Pearce has shown himself as an above average hockey player and fencer and Challinor a keen judo enthusiast. Roe deserves special mention for his selection to the College Cross Country team.

On the training side the boys have got over the shock of the punch of 'real' weapons and are beginning to get themselves a little fitter - there is still much more room for improvement.

Our weekend on Hawley Common proved a great success. It was the first time the boys had bivouaced out and although they complained of the cold and compo they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Wet, tired and hungry they returned to ask "can we come again next weekend?". What enthusiasm!

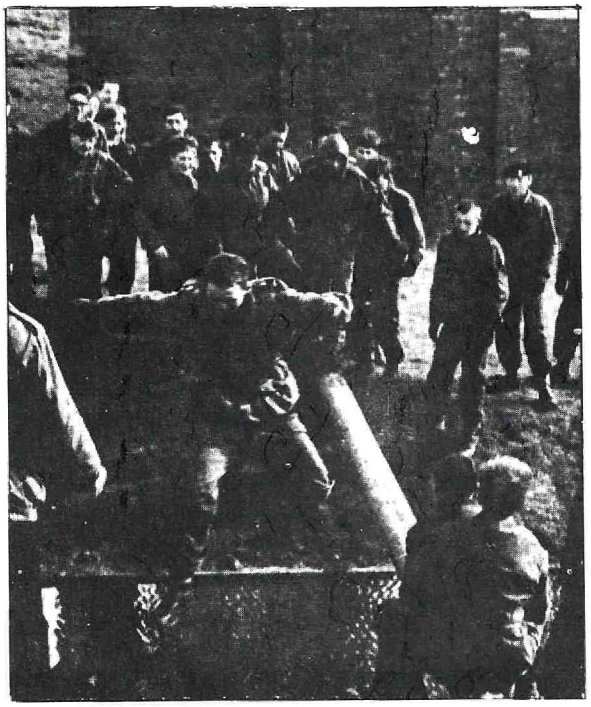
JCpl Toze left at the end of term collecting three prizes on the way and Vodden was chosen as the Platoon best recruit.

The Winter term ended by us moving to another accommodation block with central heating and gaining a new Platoon Sergeant, Sgt "Mighty Midget" Taylor.

All the boys returned in January for the start of the second term. They were all broke but we saw a dramatic change in the smartness of the platoon and many were actually to be seen wearing ties!

On the military training side the term is a continuation of basic training. The boys are now beginning to understand the theory and are still as keen as ever to get in the field.

February saw the Platoon moving off to Penhale in Cornwall for our 'Spring' camp. The weather was unfortunately very poor, but the boys still enjoyed themselves and certainly returned fitter than they arrived. Our early morning PT was not too popular but the assault course work was a new experience to the boys



Valon Platoon in its normal role .....
They watch while someone else does the work!

and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Explaining his absence from PT, Dougherty was heard to say "But Sir, I was too tired!"

On the sporting side our spirit has developed tremendously as the results have shown. After a disastrous 12th in the Inter Platoon orienteering competition ("But Sir, I suddenly saw the sign saying I was in Guildford") the platoon came 7th in the swimming and 4th in the College Shoot. Our soccer team has had some good successes this term and have just missed reaching the platoon semi-finals.

JLCpl Downing deserves special mention for being the "Champion of Arms" at the College shoot and JLCpl Seymour for coming 3rd in the SMG. Tait has completed a gymnastics course in Dover and JSgt Collier spent two weeks on the Malcolm Millar trying to find his sea-legs.

Next term the platoon goes on to RPC III training and we gain some ten senior boys from the present Mulcahy Platoon. It seems as if we will have a very busy Summer and the platoon holds great hopes for carrying on its success in the sporting field.

MATHEW PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J K Hardcastle RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt E A Furneaux - Harris RAOC

Mathew Platoon is a platoon that has no past being one of the four platoons formed to take the over-large Winter 1971 intake.

We started with 30 boys and after the initial farces of changing parades and runs after tea we were soon down to 28. This number remained static, until the beginning of November when we inherited JPte Sumner from Chepstow.

The first military exercise we undertook was the platoon weekend at Hawley Lake. We set off with Sgt Phelps as guide to our camp site amongst the trees. We found to our displeasure that our Platoon Commander had a fad for straight lines and even spaces - it is most uncomfortable sleeping on the top of a tree stump! The weather on the first day was dry but extremely cold and we were all amazed to see an extra meal arrive in the late evening. The training went well and most got used to washing in their mess tins with cold water.

At Christmas we heard that Sgt Phelps was leaving and Sgt Furneaux-Harris was replacing him. Before he left we had the traditional Christmas day in London which culminated in Lt Hardcastle doing some fast talking to avoid one of our members seeing the inside of Bow Street 'nick'.

The Easter term started surprisingly with no one wanting to leave. It soon became apparent that the platoon was diffy a Sergeant as Sgt Furneaux-Harris, or F-Dash as he is known, was also Mess Treasurer, a very demanding task. However he did manage to be present for our Orienteering Exercise on Hankley Common in February. This was a successful exercise except that three of the platoon got lost and ended up by being herded to our position by two horsemen.

Our camp at Leek was not over successful as the weather limited our training. Every time we went out on exercise the weather turned too bad for us to continue. We did manage though to do a day's map reading and two mornings of abseiling and death sliding.

After camp we had a day of section attacks that would be better described by JSgt Thain.

The Battle of Minley Manor

"It all began when Lt Hardcastle and his accomplice, Sgt Infernal-Harris, decided that the platoon should be taught the true facts of the battle field. We arrived at the SP at 0900 hrs, shook out and set off on an arduous and dangerous patrol. However it was not long before we got used to the harsh conditions and tremendous heat.

The first part of the day was spent in taking the sections through an attack, and being the enemy for the day, I can assure you Ivan, you have no need to worry. After an exhausting morning the infernal Sgt Furneaux-Harris decided to cook 28 tins of Irish Stew mixed with several sticks, leaves and grass added to supplement the vegetable ration - all went to make a completely indigestible meal. We have never relished a quarter tin of processed cheese so much in our lives.

In the afternoon four section attacks were carried out. It always amuses me how Lt Hardcastle always manages to arrange that the only cover is a ditch full of stagnant water.

The day ended with 22 dead, a victorious enemy, and JPte Loftus on his hands and knees in the middle of an open field looking for his battle bowler which when camouflaged is *very difficult to see!!!*"

Competitions have taken up a great deal of time this term. Although we have not won anything we have, except for the football, been consistent. In the Orienteering we came third, with JLCpl Rusbridge also coming third. The swimming saw us coming fifth with a fine win by JPte Eatch in the backstroke. We did better in the College shoot coming second. JSgt Thain and JLCpl Bowden came second and third respectively in the SLR and JLCpl Robinson outright winner of the SMG. The platoon team also ran away with the Falling Plate Competition

only to be narrowly beaten by A Company Officers. In the Basketball competition we came second on points average, only because too many platoons were frightened to play us!

The football competition is a different story, we must be bottom of the league. It is always the problem when you have got one Gordon Banks, 10 George Bests and no Vic Crowe to co-ordinate them.

In all Mathew Platoon works hard, plays hard and has 35 soldiers, 1 Officer and 1 Sergeant all of whom are relatively happy.

'B' COMPANY

OC Major J M C Kimmins RAOC

2IC Captain H A Dickson REME

CSM WO11 G K Maule RAOC

For two thousand years weapons and supporting equipment have increased in variety and complexity. This process has led the logisticians to assume a role of ever increasing importance within the organisation of an army. In fact today it is probably true to say that quality of logistical support in an army will be the dominating factor in any future conflict. It is therefore essential that the Warrant Officers, NCOs and soldiers of the logistical Corps, namely RTC, RAOC and REME, be of the highest quality.

Since I took over B Company from Major Porter in October 1971, I have been delighted with the quality of the Junior Leaders under my command, and I am confident that we are going to meet this challenge in the future. However, no organisation is perfect and in the coming year I shall be looking for improved performance in education and an increase in CSE and GCE passes. This is vital if we are to cope with the technology of modern logistics. I would also like to place greater emphasis on the practical sides of soldiering by having more outdoor training and also improving the standard of physical fitness in the Company.

As to the past year, the company has had its fair share of successes and, perhaps more important, has competed in a determined and spirited manner in all the many competitive activities in the College.

All the military staff of the Company Headquarters with the exception of CSM Maule have changed over in the past year. Major Porter has moved on to 'higher things' as a staff officer, in the Ministry of Defence. Capt Douglas-Hill, the second-in-command, was appointed to the new post of External Leadership Officer for the College in December 1971 and his place was taken by Capt H A Dickson, REME. Since External Leadership is a subject dear to my heart, I am sure the Company will continue to make the best possible use of Capt Douglas-Hill's abilities.

1971 was a particularly important year fo. CSM Maule because his 27 years of devoted service to the Army were rewarded by the presentation of the Meritorious Service Medal by Major General H H Evans, BA, Director of Army Education at the December Passing Out Parade.

WO II (CSM) G K Maule receiving the MSM from Major General Evans, the Director of Army Education

Regrettably Mrs Nockles, our Company Clerk, had to leave us because of ill health. Mrs Walton took her place for a short while and then she too had to leave for family reasons. Cpl Ward then came to our rescue from College Headquarters. Finally we welcomed Mrs Titmus from the now closed telephone exchange who took over as Company Clerk. Throughout the year Mrs Austin has typed away calmly and efficiently, ploughing through a mountain of barely readable drafts. Finally, Mrs Johnson kept us going with frequent cups of coffee and by doing the 'housekeeping'.

B Company Staff List 1971/72

		Winter 1971	Spring 1972	Summer 1972
OC		Major D J Porter/Major J M C Kimmins	Major J M C Kimmins	Major J M C Kimmins
2IC		Capt T Douglas-Hill	Capt H A Dickson REME	Capt H A Dickson REME
CSM		CSM G K Maule	CSM G K Maule	CSM G K Maule
Rowcroft	Pl Comd	Lt P A Gee	Lt R T Wyborn	Lt R T Wyborn/Lt C J M Graham
	Pl Sgt	Sgt R A Hannigan	SSgt R A Hannigan	SSgt R A Hannigan
Parsons	Pl Comd	Lt K A Fisher	Lt K A Fisher	Lt K A Fisher
	Pl Sgt	Sgt R Douglas	Sgt R Douglas	Sgt R Douglas
Body	Pl Comd	Lt E B C Aitken	Lt E B C Aitken	Lt E B C Aitken
	Pl Sgt	Sgt C D Lindsay REME	Sgt C D Lindsay REME	Sgt C D Lindsay REME
Watts	Pl Comd	Lt C N Dyer	Lt P Carter	Lt P Carter
	Pl Sgt	Sgt T Golding	Sgt T Golding	Sgt T Golding
Hill	Pl Comd	Lt S M Hicks	Lt S M Hicks	Lt S M Hicks
	Pl Sgt	Sgt W Gardner	Sgt W Gardner	Sgt W Gardner
Cutforth	Pl Comd	Lt A D Bentley	Lt A D Bentley	Lt A D Bentley
	Pl Sgt	Sgt A D McIntyre	Sgt A D McIntyre	Sgt A D McIntyre
Richards	Pln Comd	Lt R T Wyborn	Lt J B Gunson	Lt J B Gunson
	Pl Sgt	Sgt K S Flynn	Sgt J E Jones	Sgt J E Jones

The permanent staff of B Company have done remarkably well on the sports field this year. They are, of course, barred from playing for College teams, so they have to win their places in the Training Centre sides. Of the 17 Officers, WOs and NCOs in the Company, no less than six play regularly for the Training Centre Rugby Club 1st XV and three others play for the Hockey XI - quite an achievement for one Company.

I have deliberately avoided discussing camps and platoon activities because they are more than adequately covered in the notes which follow.

BODY PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt E B C Aitken RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt C D Lindsay REME

A new Body Platoon was formed at the beginning of last Summer term, so the members have almost completed one year in the Army. But it has taken almost all of that year to really settle the platoon down. Inevitably some of the initial entry did not like what they saw, and left; the result is that from a total of 30 recruits on 11 May 1972, there are now 22 still going strong.

The ability of them all is quite considerable - in terms of academic and examination achievements, but although we have a number of very capable individual sportsmen, our achievements in team games have not been good. Academically, every boy attained full College Intermediate education standards in eleven months. They also passed RPC III in their third term with an overall average of 77.6%. They all passed their St John Ambulance Brigade exam at the end of their first term.

Perhaps a suitable individual to name might be JPte Binks, for his cross country running ability, who only this Spring term became the Surrey Boys Clubs Junior Cross Country Champion. He also returned the fastest time - tying with JPte Jubbs - in the College Orienteering competition.

During the year there have been three camps - Leek, Carlisle and Plymouth - and each of these produced some lighter moments! Indeed from the whole year, one can recall incidents that still amuse - the occasion when one boy produced such good results in a camouflage exercise that no one could find him - for hours. There was also the occasion at the Plymouth camp when Sgt Lindsay was found in a singularly hot seat, hanging some twenty feet above the water of Piers Cellars harbour!

Such minor incidents too, as JPte Baker giving a very smart salute to a Naval Petty Officer, and then ambling straight past the ship's Captain. A great number of stories could be told but printing space forbids. Suffice to say that it has been an eventful, enjoyable and successful year. We must now look forward to, and lay plans for, the next year.

Certain aims are already clear - one is to reduce the vast differential between JPte Edworthy's calorific intake and his energy output. We might also change our goalkeeper and replace JPte Mitchell with someone who won't let in an average of five goals a match! We might also teach JCfn Clow that the Company Sergeant Major is not a ..... dragon, but is really a ....!!

Mirth aside, the aim is to have another year as good as the last, and also to improve the boys personal standards as far as possible. If we achieve little else, the production of a good soccer team would produce a fantastic boost to the morale.

HILL PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt S M Hicks RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt W Gardner RAOC

Winter Term

Hill Platoon accepted some 30 recruits at the beginning of term. JSgt Graeme immediately began to mould his new charges and the normal round of inspections and battle runs followed. The art of brush polishing toe caps to a deep shine was quickly acquired and the Platoon gained distinction on the drill square. Our first success was in the Drill Competition where CSM Black ordered us off the square after only a few minutes; this was taken by Sgt Gardner as proof of divine intervention from above. However, our prowess on the drill square was not to be equalled on the soccer field, where despite the efforts of JLCpl Mason and JPte Kennedy, we finished third from the bottom in the College League.

The Camp was spent at Tregantle Fort near Plymouth. There was an added bonus for some who managed to get the signature of actor Peter Wyngarde (alias Jason King) while travelling down on the train. At Tregantle JCfn Brown will swear blind that he heard a ghost tapping along the battlements; no one dared risk life and limb by venturing along the dimly lit corridor to the ablutions.

At the end of term we lost JSgt Graeme, J/D/ Major French and JLCpl Gibson; we all wish them the best of luck in their future careers.

Spring Term

JCpl Hawkins assumed the job of JSgt and JLCpl Lawton was promoted to JCpl. We welcomed JLCpls Brown and Slee and J Bugle Major Davis. Soon after the beginning of term we left for Crowborough where we spent a beneficial week of military training; congratulations must go to JLCpl Mason, JPte Arden and JCfn Nicholson for winning the Orienteering event. JPte McKie suffered an unfortunate accident and we all join in wishing him a speedy recovery. We achieved moderate results in the College Orienteering and Swimming Gala but nevertheless achieved a notable win over Cutforth Platoon on the soccer field. Our finest hour was without doubt in the College Rifle meet. We came 3rd overall and gained 2nd place in the Falling Plates Competition. The shooting team consisted of JCpl Lawton, JLCpl Mason, JPtes Fox, Caddick, Minshull, O'Keefe, Bailey and JCfn Nicholson.

The end of term saw the departure of JCpl Lawton to the sunny beaches of Cyprus; apart from feeling envious we all wish him the best of luck in the future.

RICHARDS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J B Gunson RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt J E Jones RAOC

Spring term has been the recruit term for the new Richards Platoon. It has been quite a short term but none the less a full one and it has involved a lot of hard work for everyone.

The first half of the term was spent getting the boys up to standard for the Acceptance Parade, except for a short camp on Hawley Common which provided a very welcome break and the first time under canvas for a number of the Junior Leaders.

After half term we began to take a greater part in College sports and competitions. JLCpl Hughes pleasantly surprised us all by getting into the National Association of Boys' Clubs boxing finals at Manchester on 26th March. JLCpl Watkins represented the College a number of times in Squash. In football we have a promising number of boys representing both the 1st and 2nd XIs. JSgt Stanford continues in his role as 1st team goalkeeper with JLCpl Hughes, JPte Colbourne and JPte Macdonald appearing for the 2nd XI.

JPte Leigh and JCfn Riley were both snapped up by the College judo team once it was learnt that they were of Blue Belt standard. JCfn O'Rourke, quite one of the smallest members of the Platoon boldly strode into the boxing ring and showed a great deal of determination and potential.

Towards the end of term we began to find ourselves competing in a number of inter-platoon activities. First of all we had the Orienteering competition in which JPtes Estridge, Gilbert, Lynam and JCfn Nicholls with JPte Jones (S) as reserve, did extremely well for juniors by coming seventh in the College, only beaten in B Company by Body Platoon.

Next we had the College Swimming Gala in which we came 6th in the College and we also supplied the majority of B Company entrants for the Novelty Race, which consisted of swimming in relay fashion a number of breadths of the pool, wearing full battle order complete with boots and steel helmet.

JPte Brown was given the task of organising our Table Tennis team mainly because he is our best player. Our doubles team did not get very far but Brown, representing us in the individual knock out, did very well.

We also saw the completion of the Company League in football, and were narrowly beaten on goal average which prevented us from reaching the Company semi-finals, leaving us in 3rd position in the end.

Overall this has been a very good start for Richards Platoon and shows a lot of promise for the future.

PARSONS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt K A Fisher RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt R Douglas RAOC

Dear Mum and Dad,

Thanks for the Christmas card. Sorry I have not written before but I couldn't find a pen.

I suppose you want to know what has happened lately as you always say I never tell you anything. Well, Sgt Evans is now in the Guardroom. Not that he has done anything wrong, but to look after it - and Sgt 'Olly' Douglas is now the Platoon Sgt.

We haven't won any cups or shields, probably because everyone is always training for College teams. JSgt 'Bunny' Stocken, Ptes Carlyon and Bunting play Rugby, "NAAFI" Devey, Grieves, "Bugsy" Hole, "Jordy" Lee, "Charlie" Rigby are always off paddling canoes. LCpl "Teeth" Kelly and "Bob" Rankin are in the soccer team and "Tich" McArtney is in the cross-country team. Oh, I nearly forgot LCpl Mandley, he did a judo course and now if anyone gets bolshy, he puts on this orange belt and makes all funny noises!

We've now finished the RPC II. I can site a section in defence, do an attack or charge someone on a 252. We all had to do a lecture for one exam. I did it on the 'aero dynamics of a banana'. "It's not what you do - it's the way that you do it" was written on the exam sheet.

Next term those of us that are left are going to do some advanced training - things like radio procedure. Not like Jimmy Young - more like Dr Who - and command tasks. That means getting N number of people from A to B with a load, C, and you're not to touch the ground. That's how it was explained to us anyway.

Did you get the postcard I sent from Brecon? Sorry I forgot to put a stamp on it. It was cold and wet up there. We all made toboggans and took skis as we thought it would be snowing, but all it did was blow a gale and rain. We did all we had to and even beat Rowcroft at football.

We had another exercise in March, an escape and evasion at night and in the morning we did a platoon attack. Well, we all got lost and it was very cold. We are going to do some more exercises like that.

I must go now as I have to clean my boots for the parade tomorrow. Give my love to Sis and if you are going to write, please put £1 in so that I can buy a stamp and write back.

Love,

Son

ROWCROFT PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt C J M Graham

Platoon Sergeant S/Sgt R A Hannigan RAOC

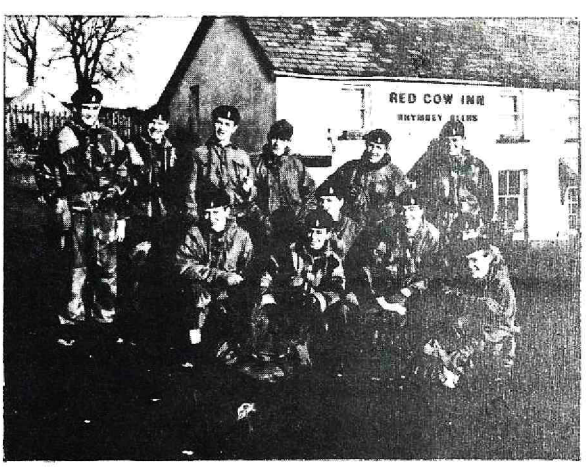
Since the last publication of the 'Thunderbolt' Rowcroft Platoon has changed beyond recognition. It is indeed sad to see a platoon disband even though its re-creation is often accompanied by a fresh approach. To be fair to all, these notes should be headed "Richards-cum-Rowcroft Platoon" since the Rowcroft Platoon at the time of writing was an amalgamation of both platoons; the change having taken place at the end of the Winter Term 1971.

A great deal has happened, and to recall it all would fill a magazine on its own. Both platoons carried out the Regimental Proficiency Certificate training at Class III level in the Summer Term 1971 and achieved a very high percentage of passes. Class II training was subsequently tackled in the Winter term with almost the same degree of success. The Rowcroft Platoon at the time. went to the Lake District for an adventure training camp, in September 1971. Hill walking, cycling and educational visits were all carried out successfully in the area, using Carlisle as a base. Richards Platoon were unfortunately obliged to remain in Deepcut to supplement the efforts of the Surrey Fire Brigade!! (in other words they were on Fire Picquet duties).

Lt Gee left the Platoon and the College in December 1971 with about 12 other term leavers. At the same time Richards Platoon disbanded (to become a recruit platoon) and Sgt Flynn left the Army to become an apprentice millionaire (early reports indicate that he is nearly there). Lt Wyborn became the Platoon Commander in January 1972, abetted by SSgt Hannigan, who was beginning his fifth term as Rowcroft Platoon Sergeant.

The training of the platoon during the Spring term presented quite a problem since there were in the platoon three categories of Junior Leader. Those on Trade Training, those who still needed a few more subjects of RPC II and those who had a pass at RPC II. The latter were put on a Company Advance Course, a new innovation. hitherto not attempted in the College. There was no qualification at the end, but as an incentive a competition was introduced, incorporating each subject. SMG drill testing, tactics revision tests, lecturette presentations and leadership training were all carried out, most of which were new to the Junior Leaders. The leadership training culminated in a leadership command task similar to those used at the Regular Commissions Board, with the exception that ours were three times more hilarious.

The highlight of the term was 'Ex Pink Panther' based on Cym Gwdi Camp in the Brecon Beacons. This was a military camp carried out with our old 'friends' Parsons Platoon. A separate report on the exercise appears elsewhere in the magazine.



12 members of Rowctoft Platoon waiting for the start of 13 mile race through the Brecon Beacons during "Ex Pink Panther". Front Row: JPtes Higginson, Marshall, Greaks, Hollinshead, J/D/Maj Major Pickless and JPte Ellis. Back Row: JPte Symonds, JCSM Craister, JPte Sampson, JCfn Smith, JPtes Paice and Tapper

Another Rowcroft Platoon has arrived, and old hands have departed, some to distant lands. Memories die hard and it is hoped that the spirit of Rowcroft Platoon remains also.

WATTS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt P Carter RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt T W Golding RAOC

The present Watts Platoon was born in various recruiting offices across the country and in September 1971 over 30 civilians arrived to follow the profession of soldier. After a rapid introduction to the life of Deepcut, they soon learned that the man with a funny red hat on, and a stick under his arm, was in fact the CSM and that it is rather painful if he is treated like a bus conductor. They settled down to life in the Army.

For a welcome break in the middle of term they went down to Fort Tregantle near Plymouth to learn the arts of living off the land.

All too soon the end of term arrived and was finished off with a trip to the Imperial War Museum.

After the Christmas break, the new term go into full swing with various inter-platoon, inter-company and individual competitions. JPte McCallion did well in the orienteering event and JPte McClennan became the best College shot in the SLR competition.

For the Spring camp they went to HMS Raleigh where they learnt how the Navy did things. Most were pleased that they had joined the Army.

The term was rounded off by a most enjoyable trip to CVD Ludgershall where members of the platoon were introduced to, and given trips in, all kinds of tanks and armoured cars.

CUTFORTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt A D Bentley RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt A D McIntyre RAOC

On 14 September 1971, Cutforth Platoon came into being for the first time. JSgt Turner, JCpl Craister and JLCpls Franks, Suffolk and Urquhart were the JNCOs in charge of the 31 recruits who moved into Block 37 of Alma Barracks.

The platoon immediately started their training and set about the task of getting physically fit. They soon proved that they were a good unit by their performances on the football field with JLCpl Suffolk as Captain, and they played some very exciting matches. The best match was against Richards Platoon, the eventual winners of the league - Cutforth lost 1-2. The platoon's final position was 3rd out of 14 in the league - a worthy achievement for a recruit platoon. This success was not repeated at basketball.

Towards the end of term, the platoon went down to HMS Raleigh at Torpoint in East Cornwall for a week's training. A very enjoyable time was had with visits to Plymouth dockyard and Law Courts. A night was spent at Pier Cellars, where the platoon attempted to get a good night's sleep in hammocks. On the last day a 15 mile map reading exercise was held; this was won by JPtes Lawrenson, Loftus and Luff.

At the end of term JSgt Turner and JLCpl Urquhart passed out of the College. JCpl Craister became JCSM, JLCpl Suffolk became JSgt of Cutforth Platoon and JLCpl Franks went to Watts Platoon as JCpl. Prizes were won by Urquhart for best drummer, Suffolk for initiative and Lynan for education.

Spring Term began on 7 January and the platoon continued their basic training. Spring camp was held at Crowborough in Sussex from 5-12 February in company with Hill Platoon. Several exercises were held and the platoon got their first taste of fighting at night. By the end of the camp every man had succeeded in attaining a 2 inch group at small bore shooting. Later in the term a defence exercise was held on Hawley Common under very unpleasant conditions.

The platoon excelled themselves at the end of the term by winning the inter-platoon swimming in style. The team of Burkill, Luff, Wall, Lynan, Boyle, Goodwin and Watson obtained 63 points out of a possible 70; no member of the team was lower than 3rd in any event; a very worthy achievement. The platoon was quickly re-named the 'gold-fish platoon' and in order to live up to the name, two gold-fish were purchased and are now proudly displayed in the television room.

This term's football for the platoon was not as good as the previous one. The platoon reached the semi-finals but were soundly beaten 4-1 by Baker Platoon. The shooting team fared no better on the College shoot where we finished very close to the bottom in the final placings. Our only achievement on the range was to have two of the team, Loftus and Sanders, in the College Twenty.

The Platoon now looks forward to the Summer term in a different Barrack Block from whence its members will strive for successes in RPC III and the summer sporting activities of the College.

EXERCISE KING RICHARDS II 8 - 18 SEPTEMBER 1971

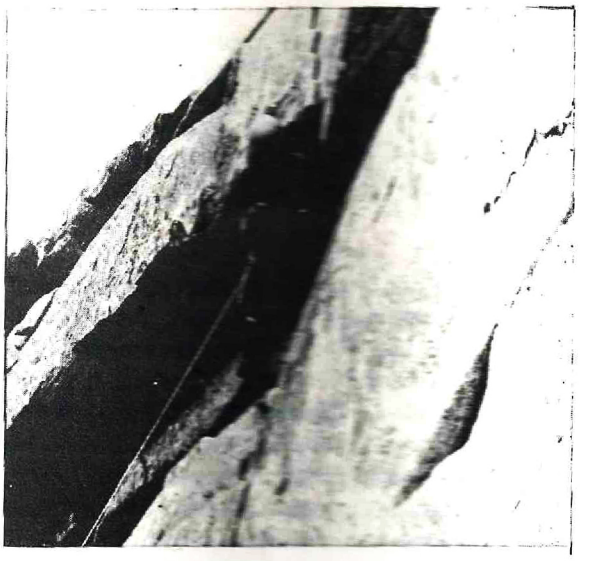
With the Snowdon range in the distance, blue sky overhead and eating Mrs Jesse James' Irish Stew Pie, 27 members of B Company settled down to a week of mountain walking, rock climbing and educational visits. The exercise was based at Jesse James' bunk-house near Llanberis, Caernarvonshire.

Our rock-climbing instructor and host-general Mr Jesse James

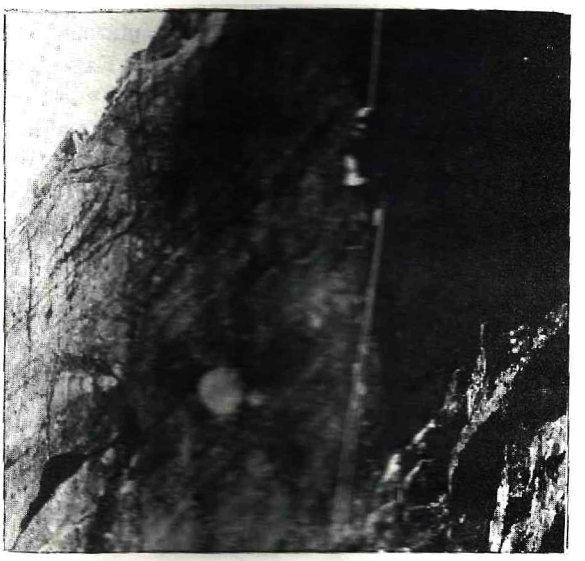
High level mountain walking was carried out on part of the Snowdon Horseshoe (3560 feet), Glyder Fawr (3279 feet) and Glyder Fach (3262 feet).

The hill-walkers led by Lts Coleman and Page. JPtes McGee, Beaton, Pallas, Burnet, Little, Lyons, Wotherspoon, Walton

Six lucky Junior Leaders made a rock climbing assault on the Milestone Buttress on Tryfan, under the careful eye of Jesse James himself. Some remarkable skills were discovered and it was agreed by all that this had been the highlight of the camp.



JSgt McClemon negotiating a difficult section of the rock face



JPte Bowlett abseiling

Educational visits in the area included a visit to the Forestry Commission lands in Gwydyr Forest, to Penrhyn Slate Quarries and to the Wylfa Atomic Power Station.

All in all, a wonderful camp and one which the lucky few from Rowcroft and Parsons Platoons will remember for a long time to come.

R.T.W.

CROWBOUGH CAMP 5 - 12 FEBRUARY 1972

Both Platoons eagerly looked forward to their week in the 'front line'; at last an escape from the environment of Deepcut.

Sgt Gardner, with three stout helpers, set off in the landrover in order to arrive at Crowborough and secure the camp. On arrival an immediate call was made on his medical knowledge when a TAVR officer suffered a nasty accident on the assault course. Sgt Gardner swiftly administered first aid and gained an instant 'fan club'.

The platoon quickly settled into their billets and explored their new surroundings. On Sunday each platoon spent some time on the .22 range and most managed to pass the qualification test for grade 4 pay. Monday morning was spent preparing for the night exercise and in the afternoon the platoon walked five miles to Pippingford Park training area. Each platoon provided two patrol bases and carried out attacks on opposing positions; luckily the weather held and an introduction to 24 hour ration packs and bivouacing was held in reasonable conditions.

On Tuesday afternoon the platoon walked back to Crowborough with the usual complaints of sore feet but the majority completed the exercise tired but in good heart.

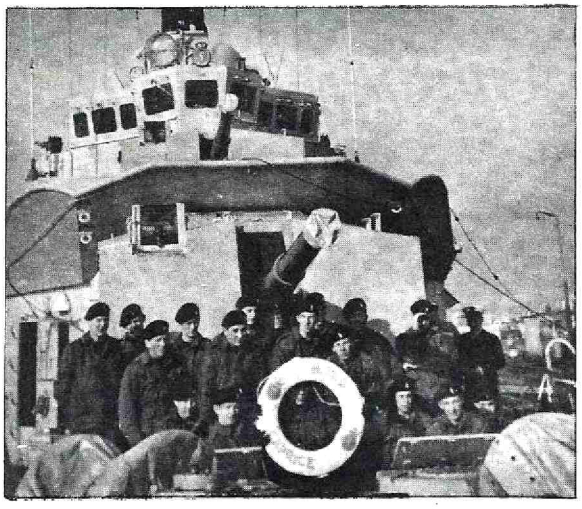
The other major exercise of the week took place on Thursday and was a 15 mile map reading/orienteering event, won by a team from Hill Platoon, followed closely by two teams from Cutforth. The chance to go swimming in Tunbridge Wells was taken on Friday and the remainder of the time was spent on camp and landrover cleaning.

Both platoons had spent an interesting week on their first military training camp and much was learnt about living in the field and elementary map reading.

WINTER CAMP TREVOL/TREGANTLE HILL AND CUTFORTH PLATOONS

Winter term saw Hill, Watts and Cutforth Platoons in Cornwall for a week's camp. Cutforth spent the week at Trevol Ranges under the kindly eye of the Royal Navy. Chief Petty Officers, to the platoon's surprise, do not walk around all day swinging a Cat O' Nine Tails. Hill and Watts spent their week billeted in Tregantle Fort. The fort, a relic of the Napoleonic wars, has the not unusual reputation of being haunted. Several members of the platoons swear to hearing ghostly sounds, but really it was only Lt Hicks making sure his sentries were alert.

All platoons spent half a day at the Royal Naval Dockyard, Plymouth, where they were shown the latest developments in our Senior service. They also visited the Petty Sessions of Plymouth Law Courts and saw justice done. "Just like on the telly", was a comment overheard from Cutforth Platoon.



Visiting and Naval Dockyard Plymouth

The platoons spent a night at Pier Cellars sleeping in hammocks. At least they knew that "things that went bump in the night", were not ghosts but people falling out of hammocks. In the morning there was much displaying of bruises. "Could they be classed as war wounds"?

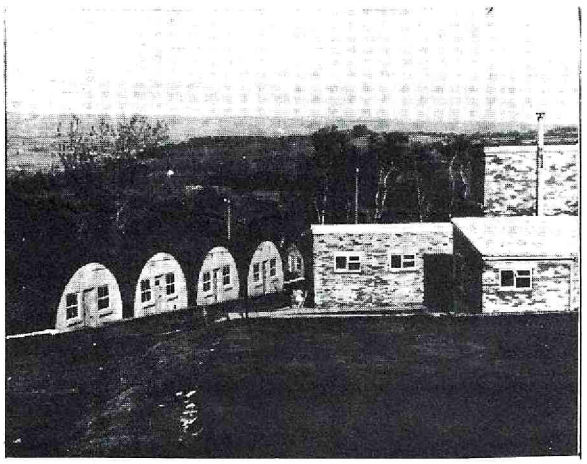
A map reading exercise was carried out by each platoon. Each man was given a map and a set of clues with which to find his way. The exercises were most successful and the Junior Leaders returned to camp footsore and weary but pleased with their achievements.

All in all it was a very successful camp.np. The weather was reasonable for the time of year. The Royal Naval personnel from HMS Raleigh were most hospitable and their assistance was much appreciated.

Soldiers afloat!

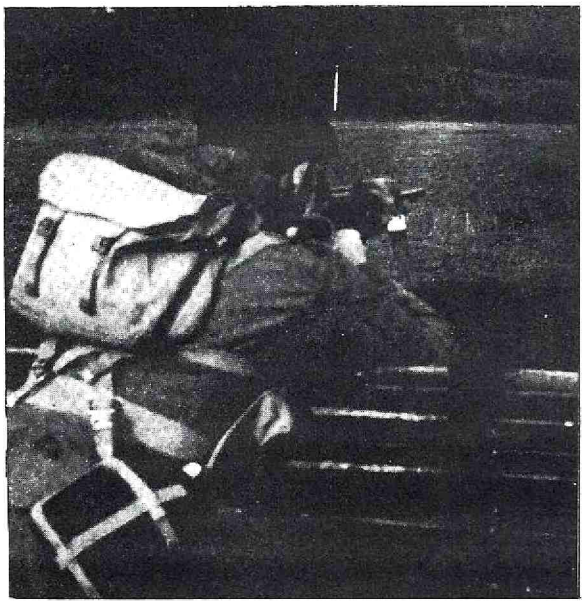
EXERCISE PINK PANTHER 5 - 12 FEBRUARY 1972

This camp was centred on Cym Gwdi camp, near Brecon, and was carried out by members of the then Rowcroft and Parsons Platoons. The aim of the camp was to do advanced military training, hill walking and leadership training, using the excellent Sennybridge Training Area and the Brecon Beacons.



Cym Cwdi Camp looking towards Brecon

The military training included live field firing from a prepared defensive position. The shoot, which was preceded by a battle march, was extremely realistic and consisted of targets appearing from behind cover; a distant cry from the normal gallery range found at Ash.



"Was that a rabbit or a figure eleven?" JLCpl Kelly on the live field firing range.

The rest of the week included anti-ambush drills, mounted and dismounted platoon attacks and more live field firing.

The adventure training side to the camp included a 13 mile 'walk' through the Beacons. Four teams set off from the "Red Cow Inn" along a Roman road, beneath snow-capped mountains and under a clear blue sky. The scene was set for an enjoyable jaunt through the mountains, but unfortunately inter platoon rivalry took over and the winning team from Parsons Platoon recorded a staggering 2 hours 26 mins.

Team captains briefing at the start of the Beacons Walk

The winning team. 13 miles in 2 hours 26 minutes

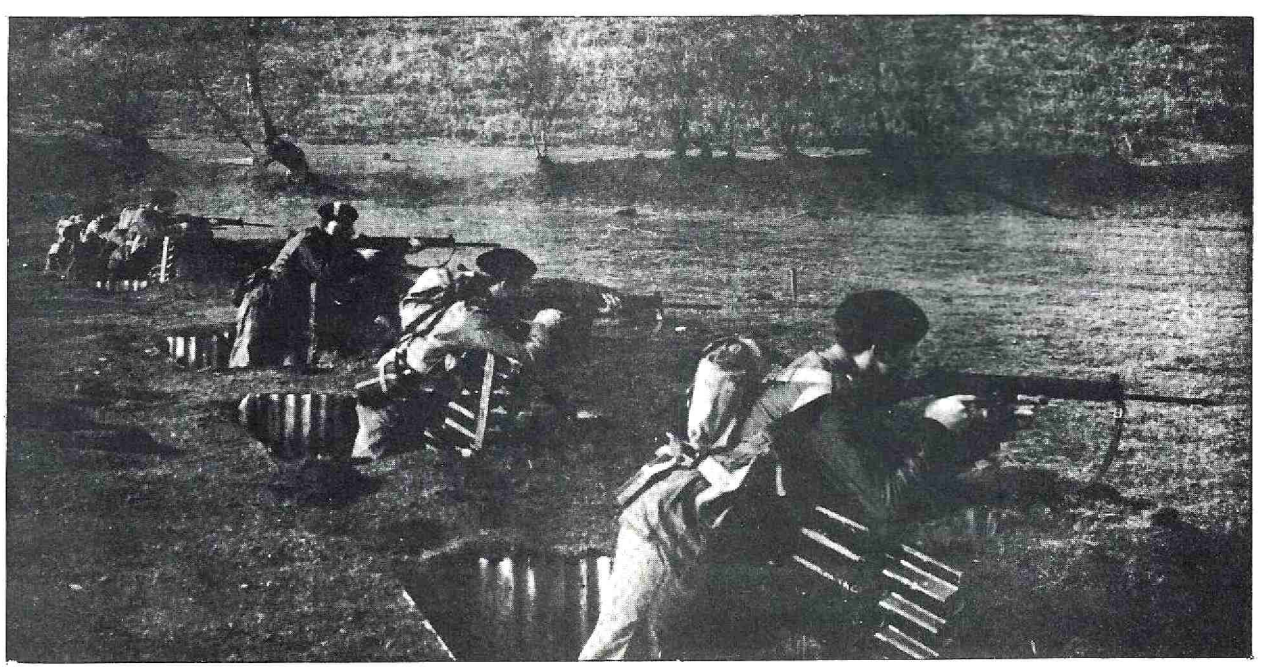
The last day at camp was spent doing a military skills competition. Each team carried out five tests, each one designed to bring out hidden talents. A leadership command task found out the Montgomerys of the platoon, and the casualty evacuation across a ravine discovered a few flying doctors. (A stretcher with no wings can be a bit embarrassing though).

A lunch time cooking competition produced some atrocious concoctions and a few cordon-bleu recipes. Nevertheless everything was eaten.

Another camp had come to an end and Deepcut had to be faced again. An enjoyable time had been had by all and it was agreed that Cym Gwdi camp had provided an excellent basis on which to plan our future training programmes.

R.T.W.

Cordon Bleu champions 1972



"Somebody say something - quick!"

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Officer Commanding Capt M D Clark RAOC

CSM WOII (CSM J A D Little RAOC

Formerly known as "Training Company" it was felt, probably, that this title gave away too many secrets. However, although the name has been changed, the amount of work does not decrease, in fact, if anything it appears to be on the increase.

Still it is a pleasure to see the happy smiling faces of our Staff as each morning they prepare for the trials and tributions of instructing our Junior Leaders in a multitude of subjects, ranging from the cleaning of a rifle to their survival in the event of a nuclear explosion.

In addition to this, we still find time to run the Small Bore Shooting Club, the Cycling Club, the Angling Club and the Unit Cinema.

And even then our work is not finished. The main College camps are laid at our door to organise. The summer camp held at Leek proved for most people a happy one, despite such trivialities as finding on our arrival that half of the senior NCOs' accommodation had gone up in smoke.

Our responsibility was somewhat eased on this occasion by the Platoon Commanders, who organised such things as their own bivouac camps on the Moors, and Interest visits for their Platoons, although it left in some doubt as to in whose interest the visits were arranged.

Spiritual enlightenment was given by the Padre, who on one occasion decided that with the help of a brace of Guinness he could survive a night out on the moors.

Since last year's publication, our Staff turnover has been considerable.

Departures

Capt K E Curtis, promoted Major, to Fort Lee, Virginia, USA
WO II (CSM) Radford to our Regimental Depot as RQMS
SSgt Johnson on transfer to MPSC, Colchester
SSgt McCrory to 50 Army Youth Team, Hounslow
SQMS Pindar to BAOR
SSI Young on Release (to Australia, we hear)
Sgts Partridge and Hosband to BAOR
Sgt Coates to Cyprus
Sgt Eustace ACC to our Regimental Depot
Cpl Smith to BAOR
Cpl Plummer on Release
Cpl Daniel to BAOR

Arrivals:

Capt M D Clarke RAOC
SQMS Sherridan
CSMI Briggs APTC
SSgt Ford
Sgt Jones (now with B Coy)
Sgt Preece (arrived as Cpl. Congratulations)
Sgt Phelps (via B Company)
Sgt Walls
Sgt Pendleton
Cpl Cox (attached as Armoury NCO)
Cpl Rowlands
Cpl Peden
Sgt Toland
Cpl Smith, Intelligence Corps
Cpl Dunderdale ACC
LCpl Hall
LCpl Oliphant
Cpl George
LCpl Dennis
LCpl Hazeldine
LCpl Isaacs
Pte Atkinson ACC
Pte Muirhead ACC
Pte Long ACC

Of last year's Company Staff only a few remain, in the hope that they will get a mention as departures next year.

On the civilian side, our back room girls, Mrs Alldis and Mrs Sanderson, provide a favourable distraction as well as sterling service on the clerical side, while Mrs Lower provides the refreshments, when we have time to partake.

By the time this is published, the efforts of preparing for the visit of HM The Queen and the participation in Ex New Envoy and Armex will be memories, left to be sifted through next year at this time in the hope of finding the short cuts

to success, but at the moment of writing, they are very much a reality.

The latest addition to the Company's responsibilities is External Leadership Training, and to cope with this, a separate Section has been formed within the Company. The External Leadership Platoon is controlled by Capt T Douglas-Hill RAOC, ably assisted by Sgt Phelps. They are responsible for all expeditions and for such things as Ski training. At the time of writing they are in the process of preparing teams for the Welsh Three Thousand, while Steevens Platoon have been attending classes at the Aldershot Ski Slope with Sgt Phelps and Cpl Smith, to prepare them for the trip to Germany which will no doubt be the subject of a separate article.

Finally, to prove that Headquarters Company are as versatile as their many tasks require, at the College Swimming Gala, they won the Permanent Staff race with a team consisting of:

Capt Clarke, OC Headquarters Company,
Cpl Cox, Armoury NCO
LCpl Butler, a Physical Training Instructor
Pte Long, a Cook

Later in the evening, Pte Long represented the College Permanent Staff in a race against the pick of the Junior Leaders, and picked up his second Trophy of the evening.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

During the period when Junior Leaders of the College were attending training in Wales for the Welsh 3000 competition, they assisted in a mountain rescue. The following is an extract from a letter sent by Jesse James, the local mountain expert, who led the rescue operation.

"At around 10 am last Sunday, 30 April, I was called out as part of the Llanberis Rescue Team. I asked Lt Page if he felt his lads should be involved, and we all went to the Llanberis Pass, to meet John Roberts, the Park Warden. He told us that an American paratrooper had fallen from Crib y Ddysgl, and was lying at the foot of the Parson's Nose. This rock buttress is at about 2400 feet and we had a climb of just under 2000 feet to reach it.

The party set off up the hill with Lt Page, following a climber who was taking extra first aid gear, and the lads were carrying various things that might have been required - ropes, a Thomas Splint, etc. A helicopter had tried to reach the injured man, but heavy rain and a gusty wind had turned it back, and it was now up to the ground team to get up very quickly, since reports said it was serious. They did very well, some of them keeping up with the guide, who was a Himalayan climber and a fell runner of some note. I carried half of a Thomas stretcher, and we reached the casualty in good time.

It was a bad one, and it turned out that speed was of no avail. He was put on the stretcher and the lads helped to carry him and all the spare equipment down to a flat area where the helicopter managed, in a brief clearing of the weather, to get in beneath the crags. A small party, including myself and Lt Page, attended on the doctor who finally resorted to mouth-to-mouth just before putting him in the aircraft. As soon as it took off another snow and sleet squall came in and the whole party moved back to the climber's hut in the valley. All this time the lads quietly got on with the tedious and hard work of carrying down the gear, and the tea in the hut was much appreciated.

The man was found to be dead on arrival at Bangor Hospital. He was one of a group of three who were attempting the 3000 feet peaks. The accident appeared to have been due to faulty navigation, which led them to believe they were on the normal route down, and then perhaps inexperience of mountain terrain in not realising that they were in fact on dangerous ground. Conditions were appalling, in thick mist, blinding snow, sleet and rain, and a very strong wind.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Officer in Charge Capt T Douglas Hill RAOC

The Spring term of 1972 saw the formation of an External Leadership Training Platoon as part of the College establishment. Adventure Training in its many forms has always played an important role in College life but now, for the first time, the co-ordination of this type of training is to be centralized. It is intended to devote a major part of training time in a boy's fourth term to External Leadership Training and this will develop as expertise and experience is gained by the training staff.

The inaugural term was used primarily for planning but Steevens Platoon was put through a course which will form the basis of future training. Training has included climbing instruction, with every Junior Leader achieving a 70-ft abseil, practical map reading, first aid and survival techniques and an introduction to weather appreciation, National Parks and related environmental subjectss.

In addition to the variety of outdoor activities each term will be devoted to a major project. Steevens Platoon for instance, spent a large part of their training sessions on the dry ski-slope in Aldershot as a prelude to 14 days ski-ing in the Hartz Mountains. Future projects include the 'Welsh 3000' competition and the 'Pennine Way'.

The opportunites offered by our full integration with the National Association of Boys' Clubs are being fully explored. Two Junior Leaders are off to Lapland in August with an expedition being organised by the Association and this could well be the forerunner of many similar projects.

The value of External Leadership Training has long been recognised as a means of presenting to young soldiers and Junior Leaders a challenge outside the scope of normal military training. This training is now part of the College syllabus and through it we hope not only to lay the possible foundation of a life long interest but to give every Junior Leader the opportunity to develop the qualities which will be demanded of him as a future Warrant Officer or NCO of the Corps.

THE RAOC APPRENTICES COLLEGE ANNUAL RIFLE MEETING

The Annual Rifle Meeting took place during the weekend 18/19 March 1972. The weather blessed us for a change and the Meeting was held in glorious sunshine and temperatures which one would normally expect during Summer or early Autumn.

The meeting opened on Saturday, 18 March, with a day of final practices. The weather during the preceding months had been so bad that some platoons had not finalised their teams at this stage. However, by the end of the day's shooting all teams were "on the ball".

Sunday 19 March saw everyone turned out in the appropriate dress for the occasion, weapons at the high port and raring to go.

The opening Shoot on the Electric Target Range commenced at 0900 hrs and by lunch the College Twenty were selected from the best of the performances that morning.

In the meantime, the SMG Range opened and teams of five selected from each platoon competed in an involved practice with a top possible score of 150.

From both ranges, score sheets rapidly poured in, thanks to the efforts of the "cycling runner", JPte Summers of Richards Platoon, who in the course of the day, must have covered a fair few miles on his sit-up-and-beg Army 'bike. It was the task of Capt Clarke and his 'Stats' team to convert the information from the score sheets to the main charts which were available for all to view throughout the day. Suffice to say that they coped with the task and were never far behind the Firing Points with the results.

The afternoon session commenced at 1315 hrs with the Shoot-off of the College Twenty.

This was followed by a Knock-out Falling Plate Competition in which teams of four firers and a non-firing Captain were to represent each platoon. Competition was very keen throughout and in the final outcome were some unexpected results. The final event of the Shoot was a Falling Plate Competition between the winning Permanent Staff Team and the winning Junior Leader Team. Again the result was hotly contested and ended in a win for the A Company Officers' Team.

The prizes were presented 'on the field' by our Commanding Officer, Lt Col R Mathews RAOC, who congratulated all contestants on a good shoot. In his words "There could have been no Competition without you, well done".

The CO presenting JLCpl Bowden with the Falling Plate Trophy for Mathew Platoon and JLCpl Downing with the Crawford Tankard

The final results were as follows:

The College Twenty (the best twenty shots from SLR Stage I, in order of merit).

Name	Platoon	Points
JLCpl Bowden	Mathew	62
JPte Fox	Williams	60
JLCpl Downing	Valon	56
JLCpl Lynch	Mulcahy	56
JPte McClennan	Watts	56
JSgt Thain	Mathew	56
JPte Aitken	Baker	52
JPte Caddick	Hill	52
JPte Sampson	Rowcroft	52
JPte Baxter	Baker	52
JPte Sanders	Cutforth	52
JPte Allsop	Williams	50
JCpl Brimblecombe	Baker	50
JSgt Catteral	Williams	50
JCpl Masham	Williams	50
JPte McGregor	Williams	48
JPte Mostyn	Mathew	48
JPte Wilde	Mulcahy	48
JPte Poole	Valon	48

The Rifleman's Cup (the best three from the College Twenty in order of merit).

JPte McClennan	Watts	180
JSgt Thain	Mathew	176
JLCpl Bowden	Mathew	170

The SMG Cup (the best three from the SMG Match in order of merit).

JLCpl Robinson	Mathew	91
JCpl Masham	Williams	90
JLCpl Seymour	Valon	89

The Crawford Tankard (the five best all-rounders SLR Stage I plus SMG in order of merit).

JLCpl Downing	Valon	144
JCpl Masham	Williams	140
JPte Fox	Williams	139
JPte McGregor	Williams	135
JSgt Catteral	Williams	132

The Falling Plate Trophy

1st	Mathew Platoon
2nd	Hill Platoon

The time for the final was 31.4 seconds

The Team Trophy (aggregate Team Scores from SLR Stage I and SMG).

1st	Williams	761
2nd	Mathew	660

THE CHAPLAIN'S DEPARTMENT

College Chaplain Rev S McGee MACF

It is sometimes said of 95 per cent of the people of Britain that they become involved in religious matters on only three occasions in their lives ... when they are hatched, matched, or despatched. At the RAOC Apprentices' College we pride ourselves on the fact that the precept and practice of religion forms an integral part of our programme.

Religious Instruction is given each week to every platoon. During these periods we endeavour to cover the course for CSE and also to encourage discussion on the many topics that relate Christianity to 'teenage behavioural patterns'.

Apart from compulsory Church attendance and the recent innovation of mid-week Assembly, we see a reflection of the impact of religious perspectives within the College, in the gratifying numbers who readily volunteer for practical welfare and spiritual commitments. During the Spring Term, 29 C of E Junior Leaders and 4 RC Junior Leaders were presented for Confirmation. The Commanding Officer has set apart, in the Amenities' Block, a Chaplain's Lecture Room and Office and also a room suitable for use as a Chapel for Free Church Services. Much of the work in preparing this Chapel was done by voluntary help under the supervision of Capt Trevor Douglas-Hill and the RSM, Mr N Dorning.

The Chaplain and the visiting Chaplains, Father A Russell and the Rev P Mitson, enjoy the ever ready co-operation of the members of the Permanent Staff, who, by precept and example, facilitate the propogation of Christ's Gospel throughout the College.

EDUCATION WING

Senior Education Officer Major H W Richmond MA RAEC

The new Educational Scheme for the Army has now been operating in the College for nearly a year.

Briefly, the new scheme has resulted in a move away from the old Army Certificates of Education towards a new job-orientated approach to education. There are three main pillars to the new scheme:

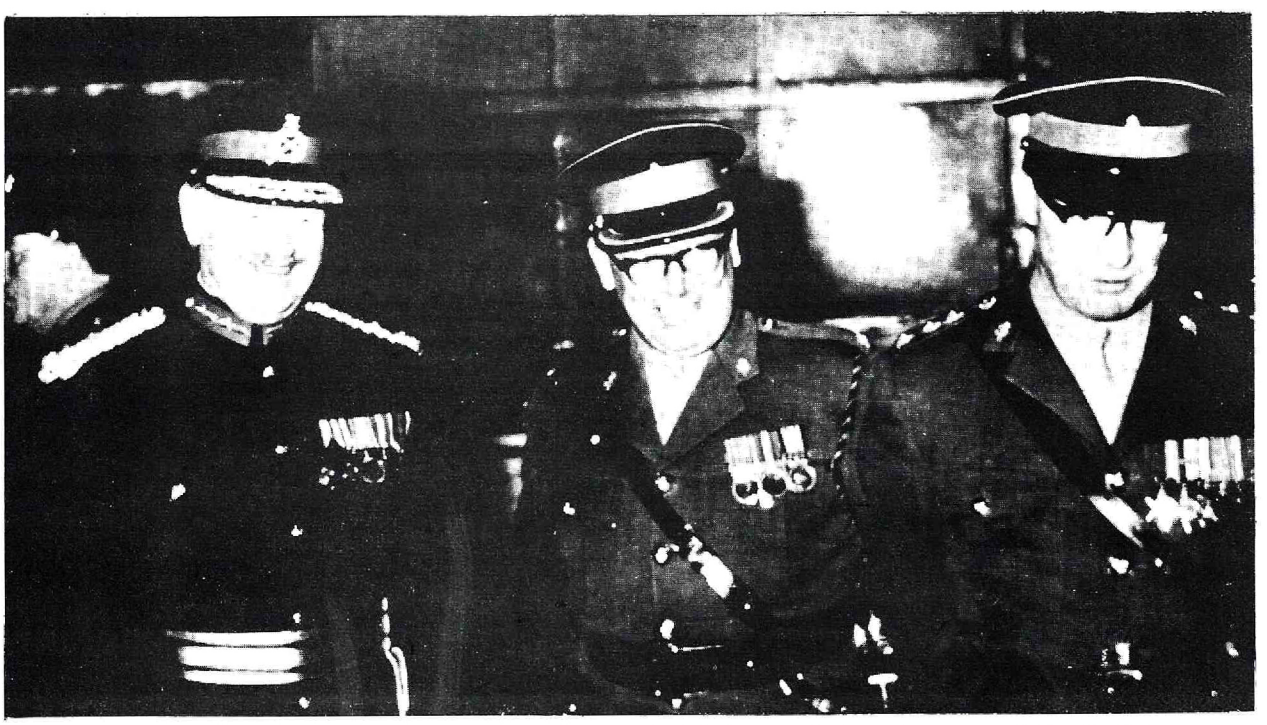
a. Education for Training
b. Education for Service in the Army
c. Individual Education

Education for Training includes educational preparation for the Military Training and Trade Training which each apprentice will undergo during his stay in College. Although the military training is common to all, there are differences in the educational preparation required for the varying trades offered and it is increasingly important that trade selection for the individual apprentice should be made at an early stage in his College career.

Education for Service in the Army includes a broad introduction to the Apprentice's own Corps and to the work of the rest of the Army, relevant aspects of Current Affairs and an introduction to the German language, and to the people, geography and social and economic background of that country. (Germany is selected as it is almost certain that all soldiers will serve in Germany during some part of their service.)

Individual Education is, in many ways, the principal part of the scheme as applied in this College. It is an important aspect of our task to develop the character of the young men we accept as apprentices and by encouraging and assisting them to follow educational and recreational courses and pursuits of interest to them contributes in no small measure to the balanced development of character which is sought.

The subjects offered within the Wing include English Language (Communication Skills), English Literature, Mathematics (including Military Calculations), General Science, Geography,, Social Studies, History, Technical Drawing, Current World Affairs, German Orientation and Woodwork.



The Director of Army Education, Major General H H Evans, being shown round the Hobbies and Activities Exhibition, December 1971, by the College Senior Education Officer, Major H H Richmond, MA, and Captain D G McKeon

Finally, to illustrate how the system will work in the future as it develops fully, let us look briefly at three apprentices:

a. JCpl I Wrightwell who hopes to become a Staff Clerk.

b. JSgt I N Focus who wishes to train as a photographer.

c. JLCpl U Cant-Avitt who is to become a Storeman.

Wrightwell will prepare for his future trade and service by studying English (including Communication Skills) to as high an academic level as he can reach in his time in College (ie to CSE or GCE 'O' level in English Language, and perhaps, in English Literature), Mathematics to CSE level, Social Studies (a service-orientated look at the problems confronting the young man, covering such topics as Hire Purchase, Insurance, House Purchase and Saving), World Affairs and German Orientation. He will also take typing during Individual Education/Hobby periods.

Focus will be required to have reached high grades at CSE in English, Maths and General Science in addition to non-examination work in World Affairs and German Orientation.

He will, naturally, take Photography as his hobby subject.

Cant-Avitt will not be so academic. He will be required to study English (Communication Skills) and Maths (Military Calculations) to a College-determined standard with some World Affairs, Social Studies and German Orientation. Much of this work will be project-based and there will be frequent expeditions and visits organised within his educational scheme of work. He will take Woodwork during his Individual Education/Hobby periods. (The Inspector RAOC said during a recent visit that all storemen RAOC should have some knowledge of Woodwork.)

CRICKET

Officer in Charge Major G H W Neal RAEC

Assistants Wing Commander (Rtd) P W Hope

Cpl A Ward

The 1971 Cricket season was a very successful one for the College in respect of games won, but at the same time great disappointment was experienced when the team lost at home in the first round of the Army Junior Cup to our old rivals from Aldershot, the Army Apprentices' College ACC. It was even more galling when we beat them easily on their own ground later in the season in a friendly match. The Cup defeat was in fact one of the only two matches lost during the season; the other being against Frimley and Camberley Grammar School.

A number of stalwarts from last season are still with us: Hart, who was our most successful batsman and bowler; Ward, a forceful if sometimes impatient batsman; Webster, steady and watchful with the bat; McCartney, a courageous and spectacular close fielder and Leppington, a useful change bowler.

During the early months of the year our budding cricketers have been attending the Sunningdale Indoor Cricket School on Monday evenings and if their performances in the nets are repeated on the field some of our newcomers will be extremely useful assets to the team.

A full fixture list has been arranged for the season against other units and local schools and in the first round of the Army Junior Cup we are drawn against Junior Leaders Regiment RCT at Taunton. Let us hope that by the time this report appears in print the team will have improved on last year's record.

Permanent Staff cricketers were also very successful this season. The RAOC Training Centre XI, skippered by Major Neal and including Lt E B C Aitken, Cpl A Ward and Cpl B J Turner won the Army Major Units Cup, while the College Permanent Staff XI, which included such illustrious figures as the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant and B Company Commander shared top position in the Garrison Evening League.

ATHLETICS

OIC Major Richmond RAEC

OIC (Designate) Lt A F Gibson RAOC

For the record the results of the Inter Platoon Athletics Meeting on 16 July 1971 were as follows

Individual and Relay Results

Track

100 M	Sangster (Gordon)	12.0 secs (11.5 secs in semi final (Record)
200 M	Sangster (Gordon)	24.85 secs
400 M	Porter (Hill)	55.2 secs (Record)
800 M	Smith (Mulcahy)	2 mins 10.1 secs
1500 M	Smith (Mulcahy)	4 mins 21.6 secs (Record)
4 x 100 M Relay	Rowcroft Platoon	49.9 secs (Record)
4 x 400 M Relay	Mulcahy Platoon	4 mins 0.11 secs (Record)

Field

High Jump	Arnold (Rowcroft)	5 ft 2 ins	1.575 metres
Long Jump	Hussey (Baker)	17 ft 3 ins	5.25 metres
Weight	Hollinshead l (Richards)	33 ft 7 ins	10.23 metres
Javelin	Slater (Gordon)	138 ft (Record)	42.05 metres
Pole Vault	Jeffery (Body)	8 ft 6 ins	2.59 metres
Discus	Chisholm (Hill)	93 ft 11 ins	28.63 metres

Platoon Scores

1st	Mulcahy	55 points
1st	Williams	55 points
3rd	Baker	47 points

Inter Company Competition

A Company	212 points
B Company	102 points

Victor Ludorum Sangster (Gordon), Smith (Mulcahy) 12 points

SOCCER

Officer in Charge Lt I Coleman RAEC

The College teams have had a season of mixed fortunes. The First XI lost in the 1st round of the Army Cup early in the season and both first and second teams had a poor start in the leagues, ending 1971 with the following results:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
1st XI	7	2	0	5	4
2nd XI	9	4	2	3	10

Entering 1972 gave both teams a new lease of energy and enthusiasm resulting in a considerably more successful run in the league. The First XI lost only one match in nine and the Second XI won seven of their eleven games and finished 1972 as follows:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
1st XI	9	4	4	1	12
2nd XI	11	7	0	4	14

This lifted the First XI from 6th to 3rd place in the 'A' League and the Second XI from 4th to 3rd place in the 'B' League, the final league points being -

	P	W	D	L	Pts	Posn
1st XI	16	6	4	6	16	3
2nd XI	20	11	2	7	24	3

Many of the players in these teams are young players who have many terms to serve in the College and the upswing in standard as the season progressed shows a promising future for College soccer.

The prospects for the future have been emphasised by the sweeping success of the Under 16 football team in Surrey competitions, under the pseudonym "Kon Tiki". In the Ronson Cup they were victorious in the quarter-finals beating the firm favourites, Meadow Boys' Club, by 5 goals to 2 with Ramage (A) scoring an invaluable hat-trick and the team captain, Ramage (R), performing sterling feats in defence, clearing off the goal-line on four occasions with the goalkeeper beaten. The semi-final for this competition has yet to be fixed.

In the Coca-Cola five-a-side competition the Under 16 team had a smooth passage through to the semi-finals where they are due to meet Samurai at Guildford on 26 April. If they win the Coca-Cola trophy they will represent Surrey in the Inter-County competitions.

The Under 16 team is also in the final stages of the Surrey six-a-side competition being held at Chessington on 30 April. This competition is a sudden death competition. We will try to get the result in the Stop Press.

The inter platoon competitions resulted in Richards Platoon winning the Inter-Platoon League emphatically and Williams Platoon becoming surprise winners of the Knock-out competition, defeating Baker in an all A Company final.

Stop Press

SABC Coca-Cola Five-a-side Competition -

Semi Final result	Kon Tiki 3	Samurai 2
Final result	Kon Tiki 4	Meadow 1

In a smooth flowing final Kon Tiki moved into a two goal lead by half-time with two long range shots. Early in the second half Meadow came back into the game with an early goal but Kon Tiki then stepped up their game and came away as Surrey champions, with an emphatic 4 goals to 1 victory. Kon Tiki now represent Surrey in the South East District Inter County competitions in mid-May.

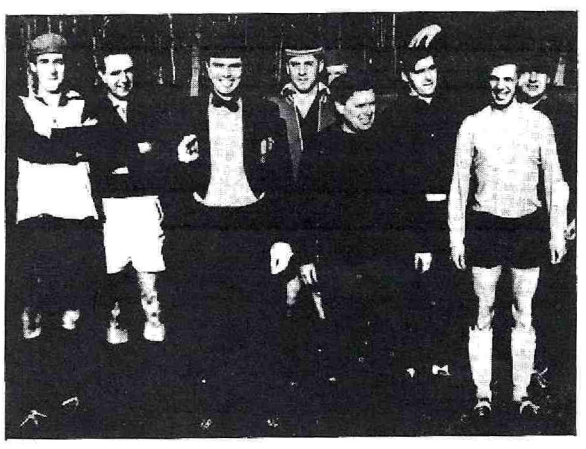
Kon Tiki Under 16 (Fives)
Back Row: West, McGregor, Kennedy, Stray
Front Row: Ramage A, Ramage R, Clow, Dufton
Now to represent Surrey ABC in Regional National Championship

College v AAC Arborfield - February 1972
Printed as much as a reminder of the old College Officers' Mess, soon to be demolished, as for the action

Other soccer worthy of note was the match played between the 'Sergeants' Mess Cloggers' and the 'Officers' Mess Slickers'. Outstanding for the 'Cloggers' were Mr, Mrs or Miss Jock Black, (refer to photograph for details) at centre forward, Pancho Lindsay on the wide open spaces of the wing, Sneakey 'Hah-soh' Taylor, 'Give-uth-a-kith' Partridge (of dubious figure) in goal with Dazzler 'Where's me camnets' Dorning substituting in the second half.

On the 'Slickers' side Flashy Farouk Kimmins did a forward sand dance with good support popping up from 'Where's me Banger' Braithwaite. Raver Richmond swept all before him in defence while Tic-Tic Goodson clocked several laps around the field as Fluid Fisher and Baldy Wybourne shone.

The match was a one sided affair in which the 'Slickers' exerted vastly superior skills and superhuman fitness to the full to crush the 'Cloggers' by 5 goals to ½ a goal (a disputed penalty from a biased referee and not worthy of a full goal) to win the proverbial 'Noggin' trophy.



SLICKERS

Front Row: 'Where's me banger' Braithwaite, Flashy Farouk Kimmins, Raver Richmond, and 'Sexy legs' Cowan. Back row: Tic-Tic Goodson, Masher Mobley, Butterfingers Coleman, Giddy Gibson and Basher Bowell

CLOGGERS

Kneeling: Farmer Gardner, Lecherous Little, Hah-soh Taylor, Mad Mac MacIntyre, Pancho Lindsay. Standing: Miss J Black, Honeydew Phelps, Scribbler Pinder, Give-uth-a-Kith Partridge, Tanker Tyrman, Twiggy Thompson, Jazzy Johnston and Waiter Evans

SHOOTING

Officer in Charge WOI (RSM) Dorning RAOC

As the Regimental Sergeant Major of this College nothing gives me more pride in the College and Junior Leaders, than to see them drawn up in line as a Battalion and hear the crack of their rifles when performing their drill movements.

In addition to their ability to handle a rifle on parade I am also most keen that they have the ability to shoot with accuracy their weapons on the range. To this end I have taken considerable interest in the shooting teams that go out from this College to compete against other units. At this moment the wind of change is blowing through the service shooting world and I am not alone in the opinion that the Armed Forces are slow to adopt new methods of shooting to improve the ability of the man to hit the target. In the past a few members of the Permanent Staff have attended Advanced Marskmanship Courses to learn these methods and are now engaged in teaching them to the Shooting Teams. Their search for improved methods has taken them through such publications as the shooting manuals of the United States Army Marksmanship Unit, the West German, French, Russian, National Rifle Association and the National Smallbore Rifle Association publications and pamphlets, with the aim that our teaching be two years in advance of the Regular Army so that the Junior Leader posted to his unit is fully up-to-date in the methods of shooting.

Fullbore

The Mornington-West, Catterall, Mosham, and Corkertons of the past years have now gone and in their place has risen a new team, selected from all age groups, who have shot well since their selection as a result of the College Rifle Meeting held at Ash Range on 18-19 March 1972 which resulted in a win for Williams Platoon and the College Champion at Arms award going to JLCpl McClennan.

The first outing for the College teams was the South East District Small Arms Meeting and although no silver was won by the teams a great deal was learned. The annual South East District Junior Leaders Rifle Match was held on the Electric Target Range at Ash on 17 May 1972. Two teams entered and shot in great form, the B team took first place and the A team took second place in the team awards and 3rd, 4th and 5th in the individual awards, much to the pleasure of the Commanding Officer who sat with bated breath throughout the match. This win was the sixth since 1961 and the third consecutive win by this College.

At the REME Small Arms Meeting, a team of REME Junior Leaders from the College shot at the meeting for the first time and created a good impression amongst the old and bold armourers of that Corps so much so that a special medal was awarded to the best Junior Entrant, JCfn Slater, with a warm invitation to compete again next year.

RAOC A Team

JCpl Robinson
JLCpl Aitken
JPte McClennan
JPte McGregor

RAOC B Team

JPte Baxter
JPte Poole
JPte Hughes
JPte Caddick

REME Team

JCfn Slater
JCfn Mayes
JCfn Clow
JLCpl Wallis
JLCpl Hollingshead
JLCpl Sanders
JCfn Wallis

Smallbore

Throughout the Winter the Smallbore teams have shot with considerable success under the direction of SSgt Ford. As a warming-up match the College Smallbore team took on the ACC Junior Entrants who proved no match for our team. In search of a more stiffer opposition the College entered two teams in the RAOC Winter Smallbore League and succeeded in being placed in their Divisions as follows:

Baker Cup	A team	3rd
	B team	5th
Morne Cup	A team	3rd
	B team	6th

In the Young Soldiers Match the College took 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th places in the awards list.

Summary

When these results are viewed in the light that the RAOC is now rated as being at the top of the Army Smallbore world, it reflects great credit on the Junior Leaders who shot in these events and earned special congratulations from the Secretary of the RAOC Rifle Association.

A Team	**B Team**
JPte Handyside	JPte Davidson
JPte Wright	JCpl Masham
JPte Lewis	JPte Sampson
JPte Allsopp	JCfn Lyons

With the shooting season now in full swing it is hoped that our teams will continue in their success and prove of benefit to the College by passing on their expertise in advanced marksmanship to the other members of their platoons.

Good Shooting! RSM

HOCKEY

Officer in Charge Lt G S Atherton RAOC

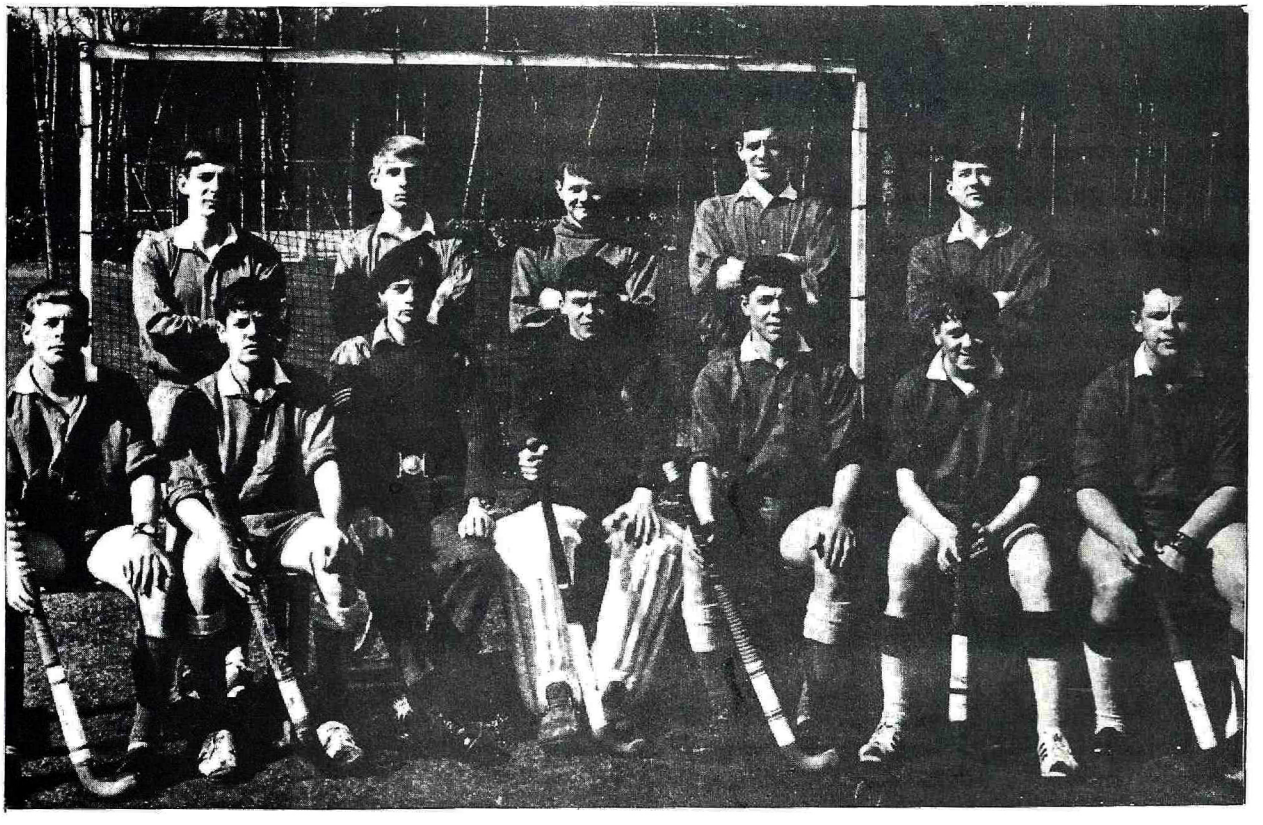
It was with regret that half way through this season the College saw the departure of several of our hockey stalwarts, namely Ptes Woulds, Latham, Steedman and Toze. Nevertheless we bear them no ill-feeling and wish them well in future games that they may play.

Despite our losses it has been very interesting and indeed most pleasing to see a team now greatly lacking in experience, doing so well as a result of immense enthusiasm. During the first half of the season our score sheet read won 2, lost 3, drawn 2. However, at the end of the season it now reads won 6, lost 6, drawn 2. Altogether a most impressive performance. Unfortunately at the moment the SE District has not been completed, so a placing cannot be given.

Unfortunately yet again, we have suffered an early defeat in the Army Junior Hockey Tournament, however, in no way were we disgraced. The match was played against the RAC Apprentices College at Bovington. After the closing of the first half of the match the College was lagging by a 1-0 score, despite a near miss from a corner by JRSM Woulds. During the second half the RAC scored twice before JRSM Woulds managed to score, from a breakthrough by JSgt Suffolk. Credit must also go to JPte Bee whose goalkeeping managed to contain the score to a final 4-1 victory to RAC.

It is very encouraging to have at present a young team doing so well, with a good deal of potential in reserve. What's more we intend to go from strength to strength in this coming season and we have both the Trophy for the Junior Army Tournament and the Hockey League firmly in our sights.

Finally, it only leaves me to say farewell to the two mainstays of our present team, namely JSgt Suffolk and JPte Ward, and also to JCSM Sanders, JSgt Thain and JLCpl Downing.



College Hockey XI - March 1972

RUGBY

Officer in Charge Lt E B C Aitken RAOC

Many of the gladiators left the College before the start of this season and a number of new players had to be found. It appears that the round ball game still holds sway in the popularity polls and people in the College do not flock to the rugby field.

However those that came proved to be of some worth and the team for this season was formed. The College were entered in the South East District League, the Army Junior Cup, the South East District Junior Knockout and the Junior seven-a-side competition. In the League, which this season was split into two divisions, the College opted for the Senior division in the hope of getting better opposition and better rugby from our own comparatively inexperienced team - throwing them in at the deep end.

The League results were as follows:

vs ACC Apprentice College	Lost 4-15
vs C Coy AAC Arborfield	Lost 10-25
vs A Coy AAC Arborfield	Lost 0-54
vs D Coy AAC Arborfield	Lost 8-15

With the exception of the match versus A Coy Arborfield - their boys are very much bigger and older than ours - the team acquitted themselves quite well. Skills were improved and knowledge was gained, but above all the new hands settled down in the team.

In the South East District Knockout, we were drawn against D Coy AAC Arborfield, and this time the result of our previous game was reversed. The College won 8-4. In the second round we met the Junior Guardsmen's Wing, Pirbright, and after a very hard fought match with lots of good open rugby, lost 15-4.

On the personality front, some of the players deserve mention - those that have given the College good service on the rugby field, and whom we hope are going to in the future. The front row of Spence, Sullivan and Flower has romped and hooked its way with great success throughout the season; and Catterall at No 8 has begun to enjoy his rugby and to realise that with thought and skill he can play much better. Brown (158), the new outhalf, played a very promising season and we look forward to great things from him next year. Walton and Morby gave valuable support in the centre with Rudd holding the fort at full back. Our hopes for next season rest on new players - like Hodgson and Clellard - in positions where we desperately need new players, scrum half and hooker.

One of the climaxes of the season occurred in March 1972 when the College hosted the England Schoolboys (under 15 group) Rugby squad. They stayed for three days, in preparation for their international match against Wales. The College rugby boys provided line out and scrum opposition, and were spoken of very highly by Mike Davis, the England coach. Before the England team left they were entertained to dinner by the Junior RSM, the team captain, and the College XI. It was a most successful evening and thoroughly enjoyed by both sides.

BOXING

Officer in Charge Capt D M Braithwaite RAOC

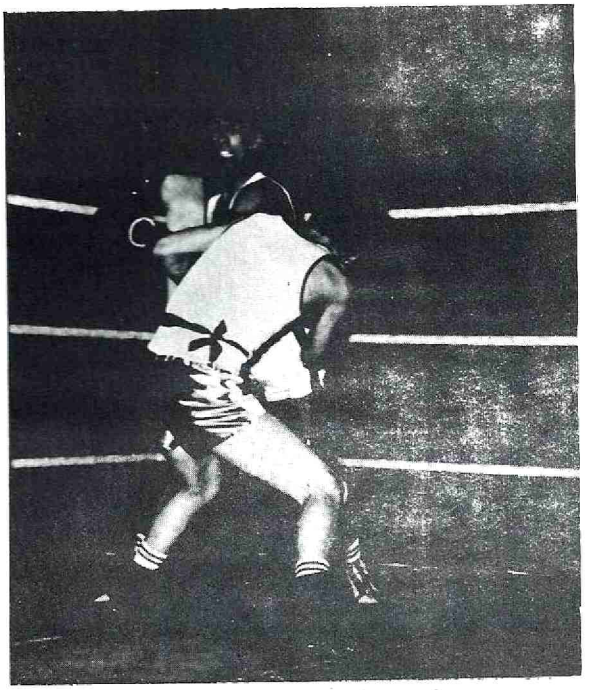
Assistants Sgt R McGregor RAOC

Lt Cpl Ella RAOC

The 1971/72 season started with the inter-Company Novices Boxing Competition, which was won by A Company. The main idea behind this competition was to view the boxing talent within the College, and the result was most encouraging.

Our team, which consisted of 90% novice boxers, were matched against the Junior Guardsmen's Wing Pirbright for the quarter finals of the Army Junior Inter Unit Team Championships. The result was a win for the Guards, our only winners being JLCpl Eden-Winn and JPtes Dandy and Ormerod. After this match we qualified for the Plate Competition. In this we faced the Junior Leaders RE at Dover, although we were beaten again many of the decisions which went against us could have easily gone our way. It must be stressed that the majority of our team had little or no experience, nevertheless, they all boxed extremely well, showing tremendous courage.

The second part of the season - 1972 - was devoted to individual competitions and the College were hosts to the National Association of Boys' Clubs (NABC) on 29 January 1972 who were having their area finals staged in the Alma Gymnasium. Our connection with the NABC is through the Kon Tiki Club run by the WRVS and this enabled the College to enter for these Championships. All four entrants reached the area finals and were able to box on home ground although three lost on points the experience gained was invaluable. Eden-Winn was beaten by a National representative. The fourth JLCpl Hughes has had two byes taking him through to the semi-finals, which will take place in London on 4 March.



NABC Area Finals
LCpl Eden-Winn, Valon Platoon, (facing camera) showing determination against a skilful opponent of national standard

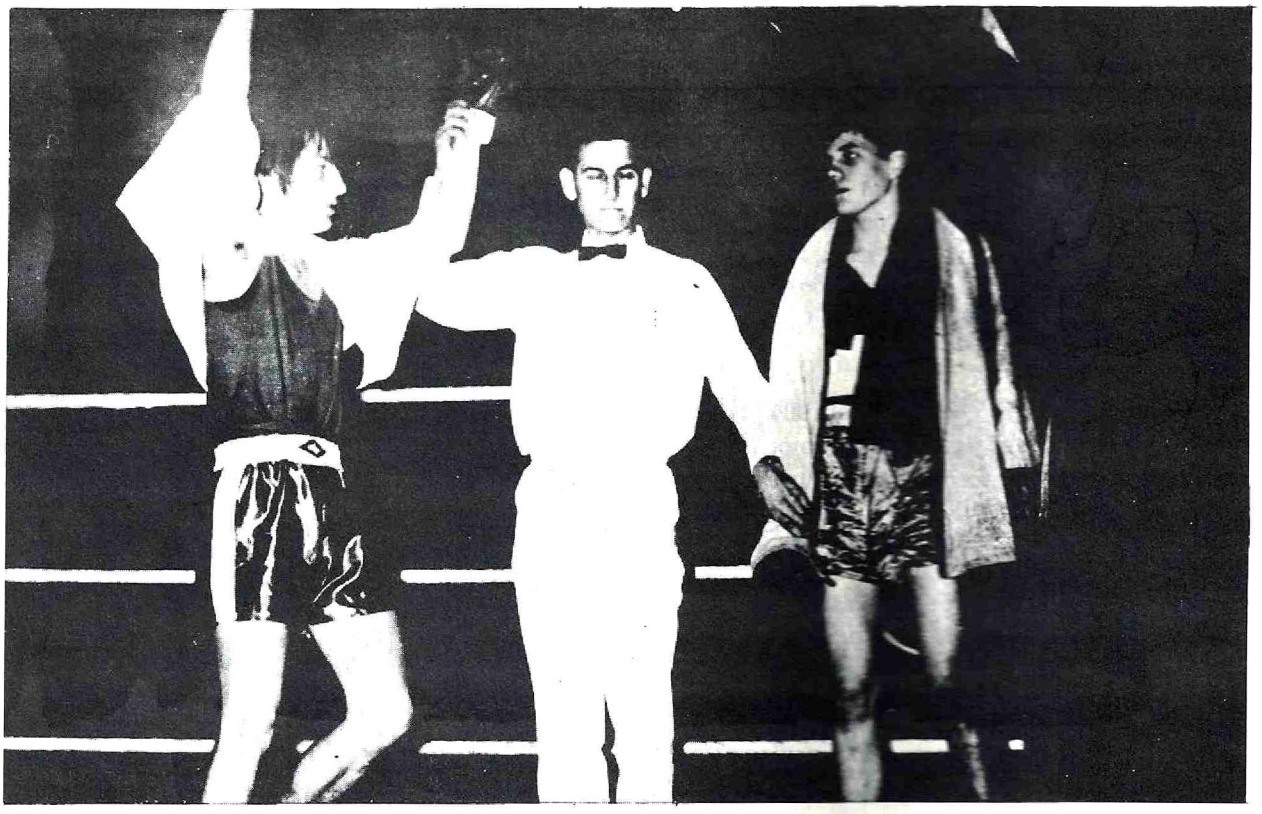
The NABC championships helped prepare the boys for the Army Junior Individual Championships which were held at the AAC Chepstow on 16-19 February. We had five entrants in weights varying from flyweight to welterweight.

The final outcome was two quarter finalists, one runner up and one Champion. JLCpl Hughes was beaten by a very strong boxer in the flyweight final. JLCpl Eden-Winn won the bantam weight title after boxing very good opponents in the semi-finals and the final, gaining a majority decision in each bout.

The enthusiasm of the small group of boys, who have chosen this MAN'S sport, has been very encouraging, it is hoped that this dedication will be pursued next term particularly by new members of the club.

Many of the new boys at the College have expressed a desire to start boxing. Now is your chance! During the Summer term it is proposed to teach skills in preparation for the coming College Novice Competition.

Congratulations to the dedicated few, and all good wishes for the future!



A majority decision against a disappointed JPte Dandy (Baker Platoon)

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

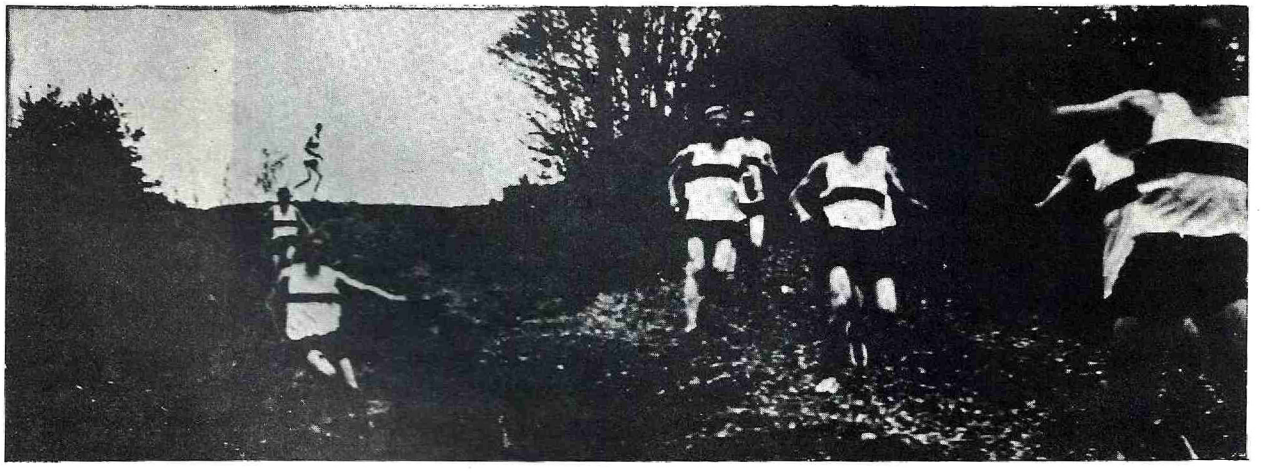
Officer in Charge Lt G A Page RAEC

The College cross country team has had a year of mixed success. They started off well in the South East District league and finally came third to Army Apprentices College Arborfield and ACC Apprentices College. JPte McCallion was placed first in the individual table for boys under 16.

We did not have great success in the Army Championships and were eliminated at the Southern Command stage. This setback did not however detract from the keenness of the team and we ended the season with an excellent win in the Surrey Association of Boys' Clubs race on Epsom racecourse. We won the trophies for the under 16s and senior teams with JPte Binks and JPte Hart winning their respective races.

All looks well for next season as our team is still very young and has benefitted greatly from experience gained this year.

The Cross Country team with our two champions, JPte Binks (under 16 winner, back row, second right) and JPte Hart (Senior winner, back row, second left). JPte McCallion is second left, front row.



A typical training run

BASKETBALL

Officer in Charge Mr A C F Legg

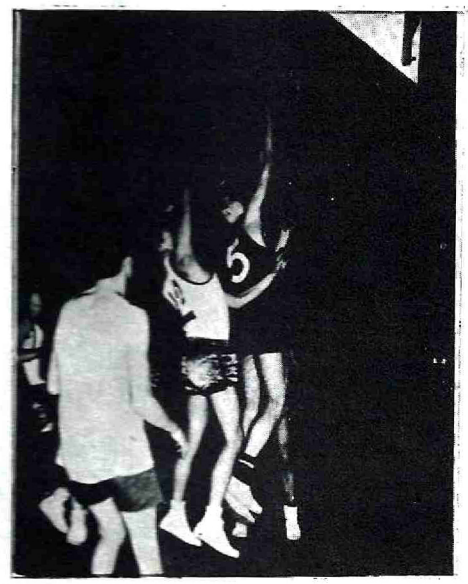
After an uncertain start, the team gathered itself together for its first serious outing - a competition at AAC Harrogate - where it astounded the critics by coming a praiseworthy third out of eight competing teams. Tails were high on the return trip, and there was difficulty in restraining impromptu basketball matches (RAOC versus the Rest of the World) on the London underground.

The Christmas match with the Permanent Staff provided some nightmares for referee SSI Young but was eventually won by the boys in extra time.

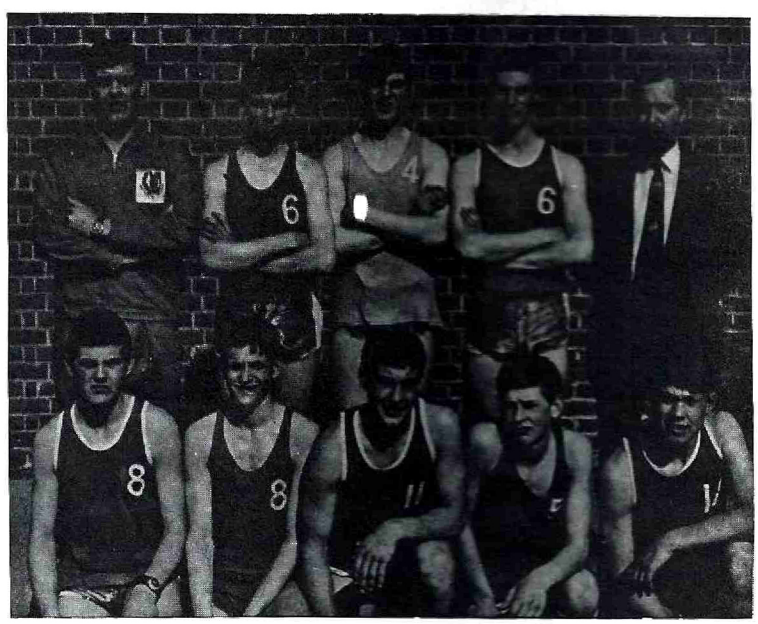
In the South East District Competition, preliminary to the Army Inter Unit Championships, the RAOC collected the points from the Junior Infantry, REs and Paras, but unhappily lost to REME Arborfield (who have a slightly more mature pool to draw on), and to the ACC, an honourable defeat as this team finally won the Army Championship. RAOC eventually tied with REME for 'runners up' (South East District) but REME went forward having the larger number of baskets. These were the only two teams to beat RAOC throughout the season of competitions and friendly matches, during which time the team was well captained by JSgt Watson and ably coached by LCpl Butler.

We are fortunate in securing the coaching services of Army players Sgt Kesson and Sgt Phelps to mould the new talent for next season's team. Three quarters of this year's basketball squad will have 'graduated' by next season.

The Battalion Inter Platoon League was eventually won by Baker Platoon, runners up Mathew Platoon, and we offer congratulations to both teams - for endurance as well.



College (dark shirts) v Junior Guardsmen, Pirbright



Sgt Kesson, Hindle, Hollinshead, Sanders, Mr Legg
Wilde, Sumner, Watton (Capt), Clinick, Ward
(Absent: Brimblecombe and Elliot)

Stop Press

Following their victory in the County League the Apprentices College Basketball squad, plus three members of civilian clubs will represent the county of Surrey in the NABC Inter County contests on Sunday 30 April 1972.

SQUASH RAQUETS

Officer in Charge Lt S M Hicks RAOC

The start of the Spring Term 1972 saw a change in the Officer in Charge, Capt Bowell handing over in preparation for his move to BAOR.

Unfortunately the numbers participating have had to be restricted again this term, due to court availability, but nevertheless a reasonable standard was reached by the team who have played three matches to date.

The first match was against RE Junior Leaders at Dover where the obvious fatigue of the journey resulted in a 4-1 defeat. However revenge was forthcoming and the following Saturday we beat them 4-1 at Deepcut. The third encounter was against ACC Junior Leaders in the Army Junior Championships where we were narrowly defeated 3-2. JLCpls Coley and Jackson competed in the individual championship.

The regular members of the team were JLCpls Coley, Jackson, Watkins and JPtes Brown and Bailey.

ART CLUB

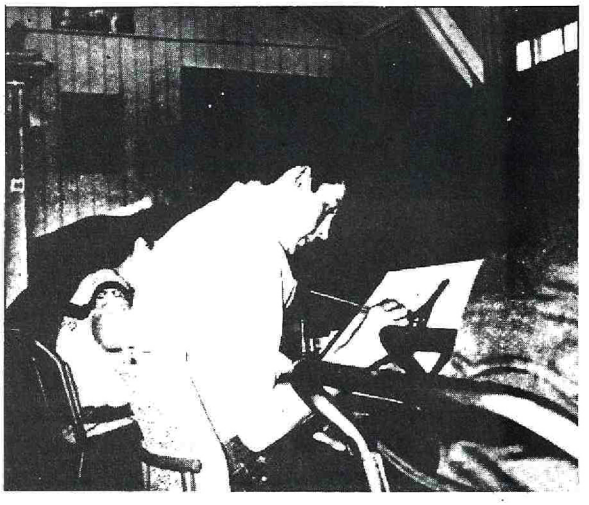
Officer in Charge Mr A C F Legg

The first half of the period saw some very promising sketching, and next year may produce a few GCEs.

With the return of Mrs De Mauny we re-opened the oils section and several boys took the opportunity to try something new, as did other boys who formed a water-colour section under the very helpful guidance of Lt B Gunson. Another new venture was in the field of plastics and some handsome paperweights were produced as a start.

In the continuing experimental trend, searching to expose hidden talents, we are going to make an assault on a large frieze next term.

Sketching and Watercolours
Scullion, Knotts, Piechniczek, Handley
Hodson, Hayes Millar



Oils
Machado Kilby Mountain

ANGLING

Officer in Charge Sgt R Sweeting RAOC

The 1971/72 season has seen a marked increase in Club activities. At the start of the season, negotiations were successfully concluded and resulted in our being able to fish the waters of the Farnborough and District Angling Society. The result was a full programme involving Monday and Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons being spent at the waters.

Our members were invited to fish in the Farnborough Junior Championships and the results went very much our way, our members taking four out of the first five places. The winner was our own JPte McGowan but only be a margin of 1½ ounces from one of the local Juniors.

Within the Club a number of matches were fished towards the Tight Lines Trophy, awarded to the angler with the best aggregate catch in all the competitions. The result was in doubt right up to the last match, but a couple of bream who became too inquisitive towards his maggots, left the final score in no doubt. It was a happy JPte Wotherspoon who collected his 'pot' at the end of term Prizegiving.

There are still two distinct schools of thought regarding the need for a closed season, but we have all year round fishing available and we intend to use it.

Our sea fishing activities have continued as the opportunity has presented iitself. Our shore-expeditions have met with no success, but when it came to deep water we had a little more luck.

A party of ten Junior Leaders took part in a shark fishing expedition during September. The base of operations was Falmouth and the resulting success can be seen from the photographs. The highlight was the struggle between JPte Savory and his specimen, which lasted for 20 minutes and swung one way then the other. It was remarked that the shark had not been instructed that when he had been hooked he was supposed to come in, and for a while this appeared to be true. In fact it was, on two occasions, almost the other way round, as our lad almost joined the fishes. He was eventually victorious however, and weighed in the heaviest shark of the eight we caught.

REPORT ON EXERCISE BIG GAME

By Sgt R Sweeting RAOC

The Exercise involved a party of 13, ten Junior Leaders and three Permanent Staff and the object was to experience weekend camping and shark fishing.

It commenced at 0830 hrs on Friday, 24 September 1971 and terminated at 1930 hrs on Sunday, 26 September 1971.

Having loaded all the stores, equipment and provisions, visited the Paymaster to obtain the financial support and a final check of the vehicle and documents, the party moved off.

Our route took us via the A30, A303, A39 and A390 to Falmouth. We arrived at Tremorvah camping site at 1930 hrs. It was raining! We set up camp and prepared a much needed hot meal, not that the efforts of our catering staff were inadequate, in fact, nothing could be further from the truth, but sandwiches, sausage rolls and hard boiled eggs, together with the small items of a packed meal do not hold a candle to a cooked meal and a hot drink, even though it is 'compo'.

By 2100 hrs, stomachs filled and kits stowed away, all retired to the sleeping bag via the ablutions, anticipating an early start to an exciting day on the Saturday.

Roused at 0630 hrs, breakfasted by 0730, we stowed away our stores, boarded the vehicle and at 0800 hrs we were on our way to the sea.

After three unsuccessful attempts to get out of Falmouth telephonically, to give HQ a sitrep, I gave up and at 0920 we boarded the boats. The party was divided as follows:

M V Woden	M V Compass Rose
Capt Smith	Sgt Sweeting
Pte Coombes	JPte Bell
JLCpl Allibone	JPte Hayward
JCfn Beale	JPte Johnson
JPte Coley	JPte Kemp
JPte McKenzie	JPte Savory
JPte Munn	

JPtes Kemp, White, Hayward, Savory and Bell with Sgt Sweeting - the successful half of the party

From here on the happenings on Woden are reported second hand because our ways divided. She sailed off at a rapid rate of knots towards the Lizard.

Compass Rose motored steadily in the general direction of the 10 mile buoy but our skipper, Les, cut his motor at 1130, stating quite categorically that we were in the middle of a shoal of mackerel. The proof of his words were seen, when in half an hour, we had boated about a hundredweight of these blue striped streamlined fish.

Shark lines were baited and in a very short time the sight of six balloons of varying colours could be seen at ranges from 50 to 100 yards. If you have ever waited for a new girl friend to arrive on your first date with her and she is late, you will have some idea of the feeling aboard our boat as we waited for the scream of the reel indicating the first run of a shark. By 1230 eager anticipation had passed, by stages, to absolute boredom. Eventually I voiced the thoughts of us all by remarking on the lack of triangular shaped fins. In reply, Les told us something of the habits of sharks.

Apparently, at night they are absolute gluttons, feeding until they are bloated. They then 'retire' and sleep it off. By early afternoon they are cruising around again, picking their feeding ground for their nightly banquet, snatching the odd morsel as a sample, so to speak.

It is up to the fisherman to tickle his palate. This is achieved with the use of a 'rubby dubby' bag. Into this Les has been putting a mixture of pilchards and fresh chopped mackerel. Every 10 minutes he pounded this with a 'loaded' truncheon and the water became tainted with mashed up fish.

We estimated that by 1.30 to 1.45 there would be shark about. He must have had a good instructor because at 1.35 my reel screamed as about 60 yards of line was peeled off in one run. He recovered my rod from the foredeck, told me what to do, and in no time I was doing battle with a 50-lb blue shark. That was only the start, because in a little over 2 hours we had eight fish in the boat. The only thing that stopped it being more was time. The final tally was:

Sgt Sweeting	2 sharks	50 lbs and 25 lbs
JPte Hayward	2 sharks	50 lbs and 25 lbs
JPte Savory	1 shark	70 lbs
JPte Kemp	1 shark	40 lbs
JPte Johnson	1 shark	35 lbs
JPte Bell	1 shark	25 lbs

A note must be made of the 70 lb fish caught by JPte Savory. It put up a terrific struggle and it took some sorting out as to where harness ended and Savory began. Twenty minutes after hitting his fish, Les set the gaff, and for a lad of his size that is quite a performance. In view of this, any slowness in his arms drill should be excused, for a couple of days at least.

As I say, time was the eventual victor and at 1630 we made up the tackle and set the bow for home. The boys took it turn about to "take the Con" and between them brought the boat almost to the pier before Les took over, when he remarked on their helmsmanship.

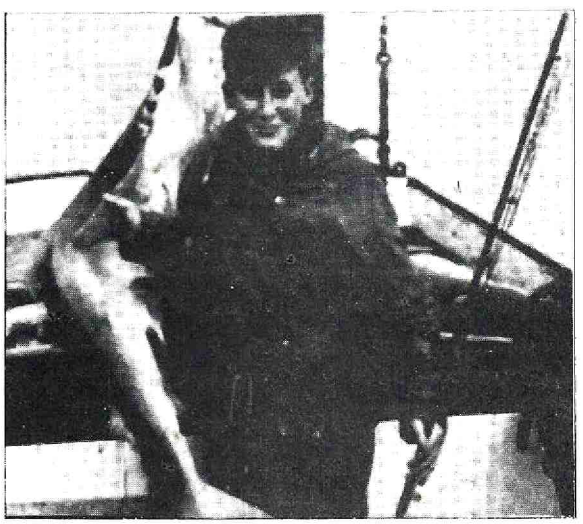
It was unfortunate that my own camera was out of commission, so no 'action' shots will be available. However, Peter Harvey came along with a camera and the photographs will be forthcoming.

About an hour after we docked, the Woden and her partner, the White Heather, returned to port. The White Heather had two sharks but the Woden had a fruitless (or should it be 'fishless' trip) having had only three 'offers' all day and and her 'crew' failing to make the required contact

The whole party returned to camp and while they related their stories meals were taken, washes were taken, clothes changed and in all, except three cases, the boys repaired to a 'disco' (strictly non-alcoholic I am informed) while the staff sought stronger but quieter entertainment!

We struck camp at 0900 hrs on Sunday, 26 September 1971, having been suitably impressed with the camp site which had hot and cold water, flush toilets, and a shower, all available at no extra cost, plus helpful proprietors.

It was raining!



The victor and the victim . JPte Savory and his a · 70 lb blue shark

CANOEING

Officer in Charge Lt K Fisher RAOC

Assistant Lt Carter RAOC

Since the last issue of Thunderbolt, the club has moved to new premises, into a gym which we share with the sailing club. Proper racks have been constructed and our complete fleet of three racing craft, three touring doubles, seven touring singles and six slalom singles can properly be seen. We still have the Trylon O1 1 mould and having just finished repairs and waxing, are now in full production once again. We completed 12 boats last year. The club members have first priority on the boats being constructed and for about £35 can equip themselves out with a canoe, built to their own specifications and colour, paddle, lifejacket, spray cover and crash helmet.

During the last Summer and Autumn terms we have made many trips to Guildford where there is ideal water for beginners, racers, touring and white water, not to mention the 'dolly birds' that pass by. We also had a week at Llandysul in Wales, which culminated in the Army Slalom Championships. The results were as follows:

	Time	Position
JPte Rigby	302	6
JPte Roberts	310	7
JCpl Graham	315	9
JSgt Beynon-Stocken	333	12
JPte Hale	338	13
JPte Grieves	357	16
JPte Lee	431	211
JPte Davey	434	22
Best time:	276	

These results only apply to Junior Leaders who took part, as some of the competitors are now in the British Olympic squad. There were some 42 who entered this class.

We returned to Llandysul a month later to take part in a British Canoe Union Slalom competition. The club acquitted themselves very well although the water was a lot higher and many of the 63 competitors failed to complete the course. The results are as follows:

Position	Name	Time	Pen	Tot
35	Hale	277	580	857
38	Roberts	272	740	1012
40	Robinson	301	850	1151

We are again entering the Army Slalom Championship this year as well as a number of BCU Slaloms and trips on various rivers and some surfing. A number of Junior Leaders will be taking the British Canoe Union Proficiency test later on this year. Construction will continue throughout the year and it is hoped to acquire a 'bat' mould. A bat is a swimming pool training boat, being only nine foot long and without the sharp ends of a normal canoe. It is an ideal canoe for teaching the basic strokes to beginners or rolling to the more advanced. There is also a game called bat polo which is a cross between five-a-side football and basketball, only on water.

Finally, I would like to reproduce an essay which gives a fair insight to a canoe lesson.

"This is a canoe, it is long, sharp at both ends and has a hole for sitting in. You can tell if you're in the right way, 'cause the seat hurts the back of your legs if you're wrong. It floats because it is full of air, keeping it full of air is one of the first principles."

"The canoe floats on water. It is not unusual for a canoeist to find himself out of the canoe into the briny, which is why I insisted you could all swim. Don't look so smug, Corporal, all those life saving badges on your tracksuit do not guarantee you immunity from a ducking."

"At that precise moment when you are inverted into the H_2O, you have a relatively short time to make a decision, either swim or roll. At your stage the swim is inevitable. If you don't make a decision, water will act as a barrier between you and air, then your lungs will trigger a response that in any other game is called panic! Retain your wits and be decisive. Get out! The whole is strung together in a complete drill; the capsize drill. If one forgets

to go through the capsize drill and panic sets in, you may leave the odd kneecap behind, or you get wedged, reducing the ability to make a choice."

"You don't look very well, Snodgrass. Have I said something to put you off? Anyway, continue to look this way and I will give you a complete demonstration."

Off we go, into the deepish water and capsize. Pause, two, three, lean forward, glide out of the canoe and surface, smoothing features into that nonchalant, unconcerned look, much in favour with the experts and cavalry officers.

"Easy, wasn't it? What do you mean you didn't see? Oh, did you get her address? Well, I will do it again and this time look in my direction". Again the icy water grips the stomach and seeps down to the legs. Collect paddle, swim to end of still inverted canoe, then come ashore. "That was pretty marvellous wasn't it".

"OK, let's get on. This is a paddle. It has two flat lumps at each end of a pole. It is not an oar. Paddles are used for paddling, not rowing. The first to talk about oars and rowing will acquire 10 press-ups, which is a terrible fate if you're afloat".

"Right, on with lifejackets. No, Corporal, don't put your arm through that. That's a lifting basket for helicopters to haul you out, and we don't want to confuse the Army Air Corps, do we."

"Getting in can be hazardous, particularly for someone like Pte Snodgrass over there, who has a large differential between calorific intake and energy expended, and it shows. The secret is never to transfer your weight from bank to boat until your boat is balanced to take it. You see what I mean now, you look most odd with one foot on the bank, the other in the canoe, and your rump in the water. I think you'd better start again."

"Now you're all afloat, let's make with the action. Don't go beyond that bushy topped tree (much grateful for the ever present bushy topped tree, an essential to any military strategy), or you'll find a stretch of water that goes downhill. If you get on that you won't stop for a quarter of a mile."

"Who's that who has just gone in for a swim? Oh well, someone give him a hand. Tell him instead of spluttering and thrashing about like that, if he puts his feet down, he will be able to stand up. Remove that acquatic vegetable from his head, he looks like a reject from a third-rate water ballet."

"What's that, the paddle's twisted and that's how you fell in? Never mind, they're meant to be twisted, don't you remember the bit we did on land. Oh, I see, you were in the bushes at the time. Have a word with Gubbins over there, he seems to have worked out the forward movement.

"Everyone listen in. I'm going to let you mill around, get the feel of the boat and see how maneuverable it is. Once you get the idea we'll go on the downhill bit." A lull, whilst the group of six swan around, punctuated by "Oops, sorry" and that potentially expensive sound of smitten glass fibre.

"No, I can assure you that the hull isn't bent; there may be many reasons why you can't go in a straight line, but I can guarantee the kit is all A, OK. When the nose starts wandering off on its own, push it back by sweeping the paddle out a bit on the side to which it is wandering. Sounds technical, doesn't it, but it works."

Another lull, and the bolt upright figures start to relax. Their expressions of concentration, terror (at getting wet and cold more than not getting out), and uncertainty, quickly fade, along with the "Oops, sorry's" and crashes. "Right now have a go at paddling backwards. Yes it is easy, but don't forget to look behind you ..... Pull Snodgrass of the bank can you, Gubbins".

"I think we can now have a dabble at that little rapid around the corner; keep to the deep water channel, remember, the main stream usually flows the outside of a bend. You must keep paddling faster than the current to have steerage. You can see the value of the spray-decks now, can't you? Yes, it does bounce around a bit. Oh, the kicks, man, those glossy recruiting brochures weren't kidding, were they? We will stop at the bridge and round up".

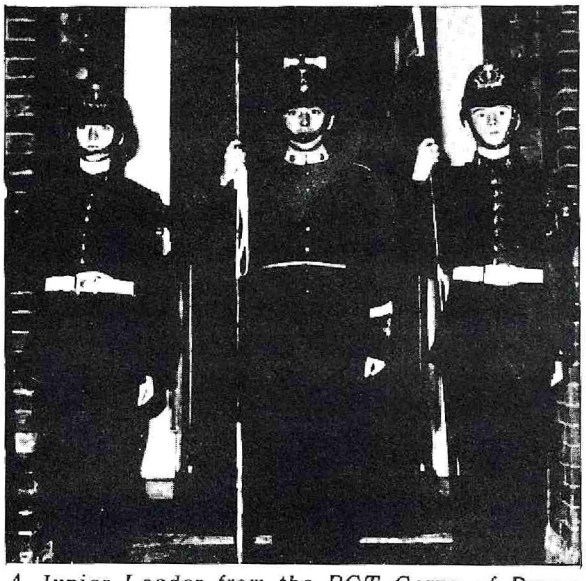
"Right, pull into this little acquatic layby. Now, dear soldiery, just over there is a transport cafe where a fair brew can be acquired. Shall we go now or do we do that rapid again. I warn you we have to walk across that field, cutting off the bend and it's quite a porterage. Well, if that's the verdict of you all, I'm sure the teapot will wait".

CORPS OF DRUMS

Officer in Charge Capt D M M Stobie RAOC

WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC

Sgt C J Taylor REME Sgt K Mitchell RAOC



A Junior Leader from the RCT Corps of Drums being supported by two members of the College Corps of Drums

Another twelve months have passed, all our steady dependable members of the Corps of Drums have gone only to be replaced by those whom it was thought would not make the grade and we are now worrying about the latest recruits. They will of course be just as good in their turn as their predecessors.

The raising of the school leaving age and the resultant alteration to the College training programme made in appear that the Corps of Drums would have to disappear during 1972, but a year's reprieve has been given.

We have again been employed during the past twelve months playing at functions as a complete Corps of Drums or in ones and twos just generally standing by looking pretty. Our range of functions have varied from opening shops for the Spastic's Society to attending parades of various Corps Units. Wherever the Corps of Drums have gone they have been generously praised, if not rewarded. This is quite justified too, for it is no mean feat to practice two evenings a week and achieve the standard attained. The name of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps has become familiar to many, due entirely to the College Corps of Drums.

Much of our recent success has been due to an improvement in our musical ability. We are fortunate in having an extremely good instructor from the RAOC Staff Band to teach the buglers and who has taught us some new tunes. Secondly, we have RSM Dorning who, by a twist of fate, has a musical background and a very sound ability to teach the boys. (Traditionally the RSM always assists with the Corps of Drums.) The triumvirate is concluded by Sgt Taylor who barks very musically to get the boys on parade at the right time and what is more he volunteered for the job.

Junior Drum Major Pickless and Junior Bugle Major Davis are the present leading members of the Corps of Drums. Both took up their appointments at the beginning of the Spring term and will remain with us until August of this year. The appointment of Bugle Major had remained vacant for a term but Drum Major Pickless was preceded by Junior Drum Major French, now enjoying life in Germany. The award of Best Drummer went in Winter term 1971 to JLCpl Urquhart and Spring term 1972 to JPte Towler.

To members of the Corps of Drums past and present, thank you for all the hard work and memorable performances you have given.

Carrying the medal cushion is just one of the many ceremonial tasks of the Corps of Drums Inspecting Officer: Major General The Hon M Fitzalan-Howard, CB, CBE, MVO, MC

CYCLING CLUB

Offier in Charge Lt A F Gibson RAOC

Assistants Cpl S Daniel

Cpl Cox

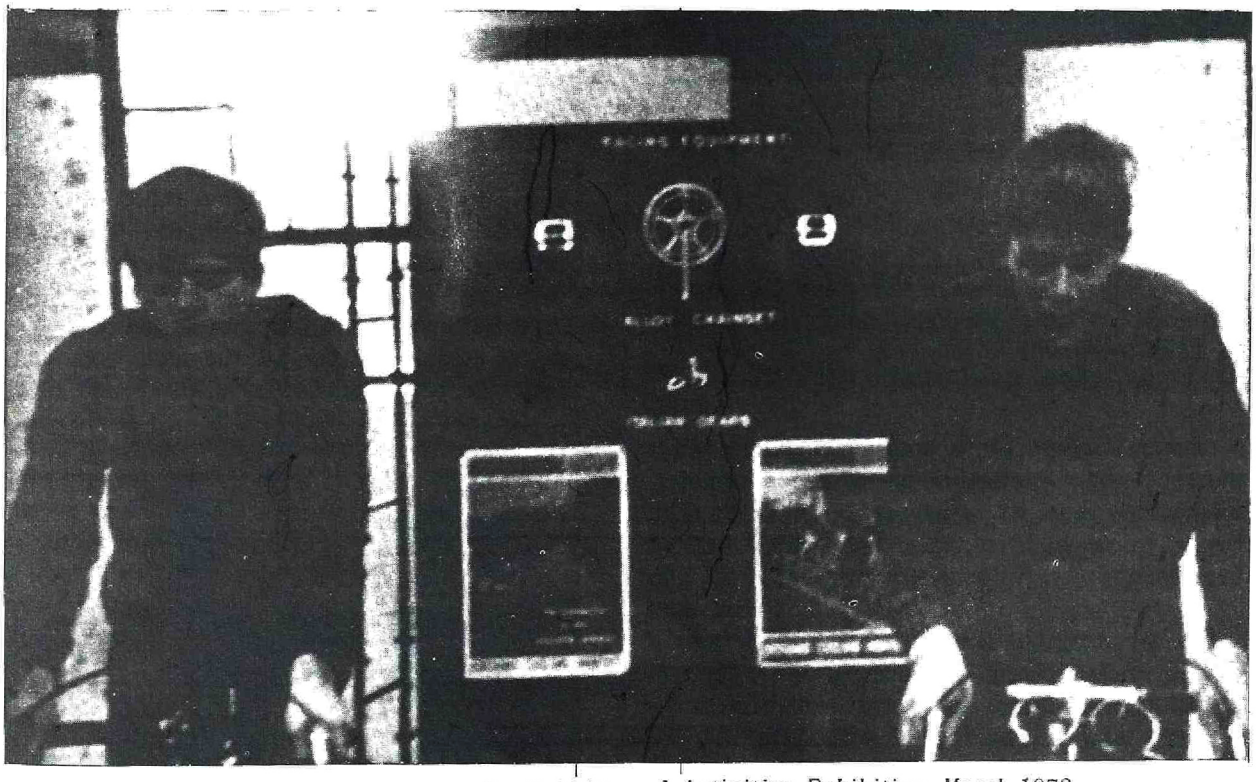
With the cycling club having three different Officers in Charge over the past two terms and with the normal hibernation of activities in the cycling world at this time of the year, the club has gone through a rather uneventful period.

The bad weather and the dark nights have kept us indoors where our efforts have gone into repair and maintenance for the coming season. Now that the nights are getting shorter we are starting to get out on the circuits and the enthusiasm is on the increase.

We have still got a nucleus of keen enthusiastic cyclists next term, who although inexperienced in the racing field (with the exception of Tomsett), will I am sure hold their own in the coming season.

The touring section have great plans afoot for weekend trips using youth hostels and are beginning to put out feelers for a summer expedition.

Cpl Daniels, who has spent a great deal of time and effort in putting the club on its feet, leaves in June and will be greatly missed.



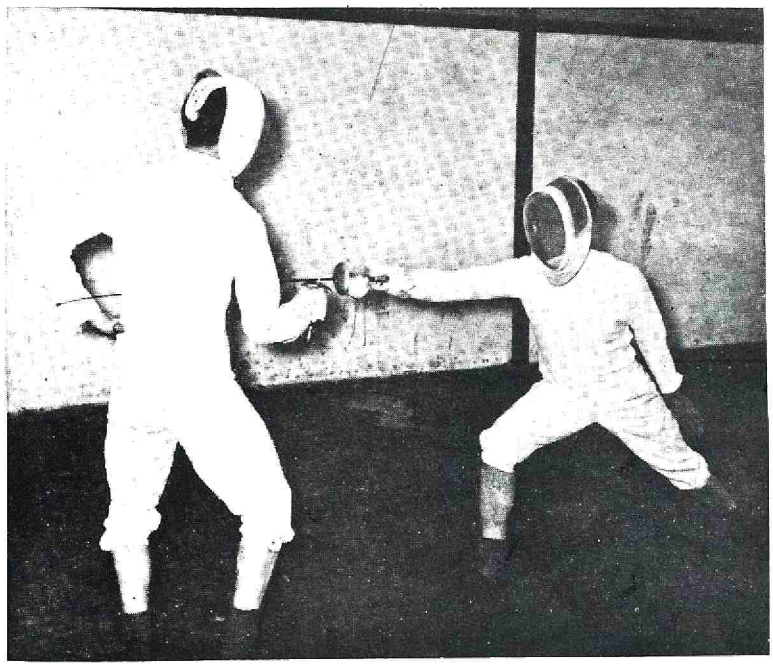
The Cycling stand at the Hobbies and Activities Exhibition, March 1972

FENCING CLUB

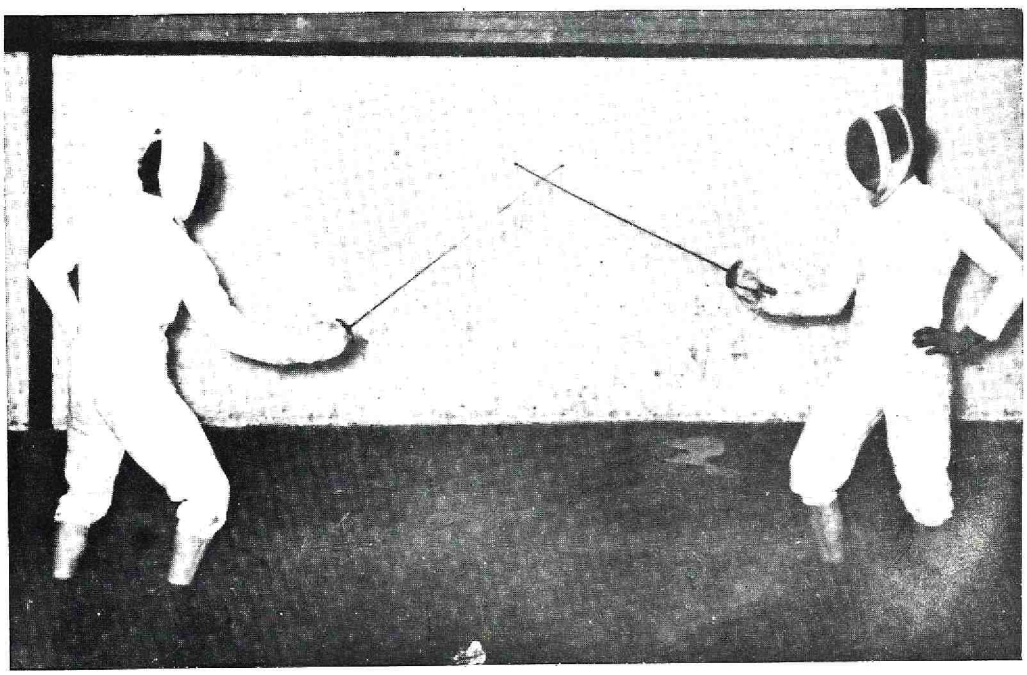
Officer in Charge Mr Paul Heap

The Fencing Club restarted in September 1971 as a minor sport. The year has been unspectacular as everyone had to start from scratch and there have been numerous changes of personnel as fencers have come and gone.

At present there is a small group of enthusiasts, who, though only beginning to get to grips with the sport, show much promise for the future.



Run Through?



En Garde

JUDO

Officer in Charge Lt M W Barton RAEC

Assistant Cpl George

Although for a period immediately after Capt Bill Tate's departure the morale in the Judo Club dropped, the last few months have seen a new spirit appear amongst the Judogi clad members. Our spirits were first raised when we moved into new accommodation and were able to lay out the mats to their fullest extent. Two mats are in constant use at the moment and a third will be available after this year's New Envoy display in Aldershot, in which we are once more participating. The move was accompanied by one jarring note when Judo posters were removed from the walls by persons unknown and sole marks of boots DMS were regularly imprinted over the mats. The clubroom, however, is now secure and the decor is the next aspect to be attended to.

On the instructors' side we have become increasingly luckier. After a period in the doldrums we were inundated with Blue and Brown belts. LCpl Edwards looked in regularly from the Regimental Depot Gymnasium to be followed by Lt Taylor, Cpl Owen and finally Cpl George, the latter on posting into the College. Having training for as long a period as possible we had a go at the Army Junior Judo Championships, with the Junior 'Sappers' acting as hosts. The eliminations took place at Dover and we were duly eliminated 40-10 by our hosts! Smith was our only winner, the other team members being 'Chatterbox' Devine, Handyside, Harvey and Leigh. In a 'consolation contest' against the other losers, we trounced the 'Paras' 40-10 (Mandley, Pryor, Smith and Riley being on the winning end). In spite of our defeat at the hands of a very strong opponent many useful contacts were made and we hope to have some contests "at home" with some of the local military teams.

The Spring term came to a close with Mandley, Cornish, Coning, Young, Gowers and Crowther (all from B Coy) spending a week at the School of PT in Aldershot, on a Judo Skills course from where they all emerged as 'Orange belts' (lower grade). In addition, a most complimentary letter was received from CSMI Gee, the organiser, congratulating them on their behaviour and effort. Well done indeed!

THE KON TIKI CLUB

WRVS Representative Miss Eileen M Jones

After many delays I am pleased to report that our move into new premises has at last taken place. The 'Kon Tiki' Club (name unchanged) is now situated in the NAAFI building which is to be called the 'Amenities Centre'.

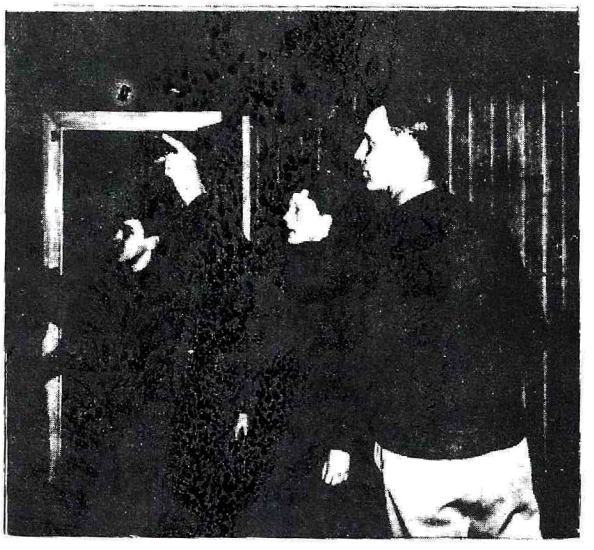
We had a Disco for the opening night on Thursday, 16 March 1972 and several members of the Permanent Staff looked in to wish us success.

The Kon Tiki 'Brains Trust'
The Padre, Capt Playle (PJRC),
Miss Jones (WRVS)

The new club is a tremendous improvement on the old one. The boys can now sit in warmth and comfort to read, play games or listen to records. We have extra space for the dartboards and a comfortable TV room with a connecting door into the NAAFI restaurant, so everything is conveniently placed.

We also had a small party to celebrate the opening. Champagne was provided by the PJRC and an iced cake inscribed KON TIKI CLUB made for us by the College restaurant. The party comprised of the following:

Lt Col R Mathews Commanding Officer
Capt W Playle (Retd) PJRC
Rev S Magee Padre
Lt B Gunson Chairman Amenities Committee
Mr Dorning RSM



The CO at the opening - clear signs of a mis-spent youth

and a representative from each platoon. JLCpl Evans wished the club success in the future, and with all the enthusiasm being shown by the boys, I feel that the Summer term should be 'swinging'.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

Officer in Charge W E Smith Esq

This sounds rather a grand name for what technically is a new hobby group, but by popular request it was considered desirable to extend the Drama Club in order to make provision for selected boys to pursue essential study for GCE 'O' level literature examinations. However, drama has not been neglected nor relegated to the wings. Already serious plans are afoot for a strong play production section next term.

There has been a great deal of serious contemplation and discussion on many topics, quite apart from the critical appreciation of Shakespeare, Shaw and Dickens. It has been most refreshing to debate the more important matters of the moment and contributions, whether 'for' or 'against' the various motions have been brimful of confidence and powers of repartee.

It is always pleasant to hear of success, especially when achieved by former members of our club. Pte Mercer is now 'treading the boards' with the Drama Society of his unit in Germany and apparently, from what we hear, is proving himself no mean performer. Capt Bill Tate has recently been appointed Examiner in Speech and Drama to a northern CSE Board - a well-deserved honour . No doubt he will be adjudicating some of our own work ere long.

Though our society may be reckoned to belong to the educational and academic type of activity, nevertheless a great deal of enjoyment and pleasure has been the reward for a lot of honest endeavour. From a small beginning we have every hope that bigger things are to materialise in the very near future.

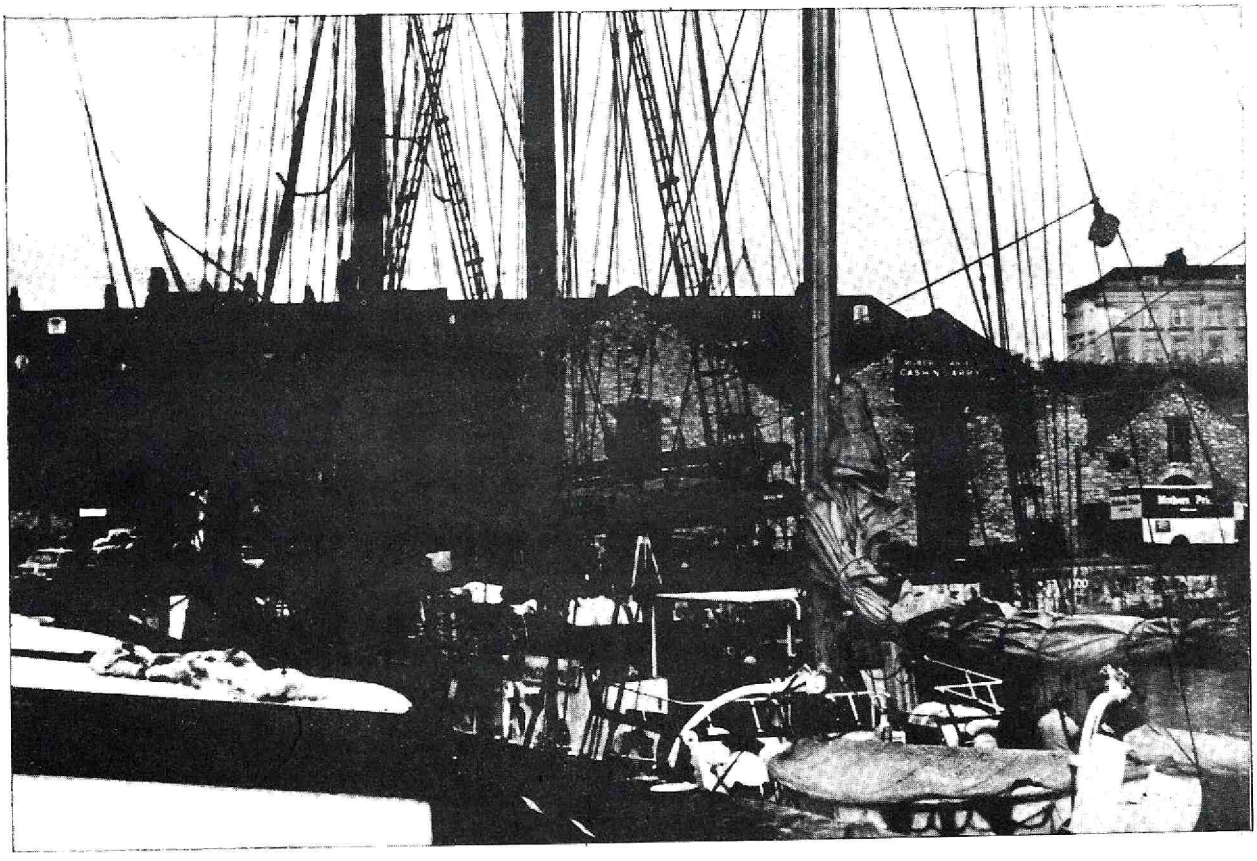
ANCHORS AWEIGH - SHIP AHOY

By JSgt Collier with the assistants of Shipmates

JCpl Masham JPte Higginson, Hollinghead, Knight, Wright

There would be many memorable things to tell about life in the RAOC Apprentices College - educational progress, sporting activities, recreational pursuits, military training - but perhaps one achievement which will be remembered and treasured by me must surely be when I was selected to become a crew member of the STS Malcolm Miller. There were actually six of us from the College chosen and we were to spend some fourteen days at sea "learning the ropes" so to speak. It turned out to be one experience that I most certainly will never forget and I think I can safely say for my shipmates, nor will they.

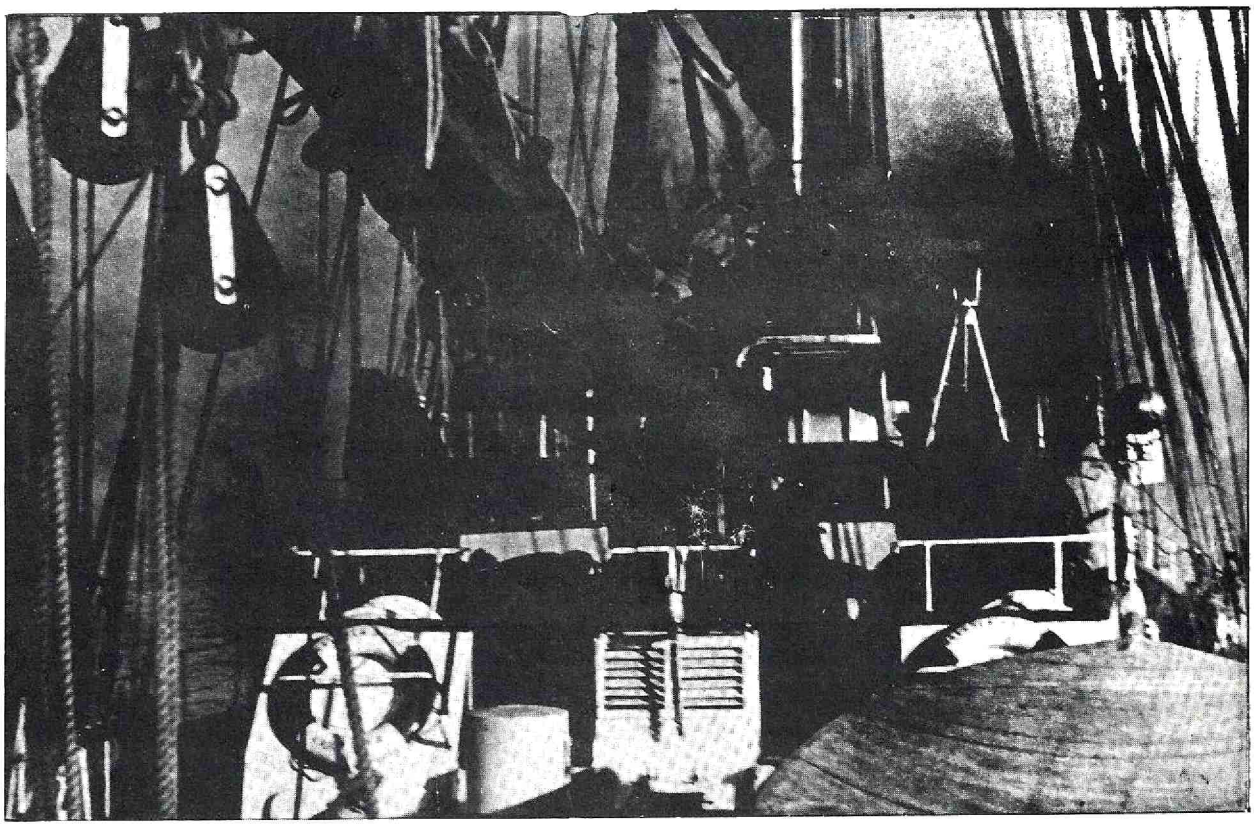
'instant' sailors and even taught how to scrub decks in a jivvy. There always seemed to be that interminable round of fatigues or as the Navy say, 'deck swabbing and brass cleaning'. I never knew a ship could have so many brasses and decks to clean, twice, maybe three times a day - and no fairy liquid to be kind to one's hands either. However, it wasn't all cleanliness drill - we were introduced to the general running of the ship and allowed to practise a few of the skills of seamanship. We did actually put to sea from Falmouth with the intention of crossing the channel to the French coast, but the weather turned against us and we could make little or no



STS "Malcolm Miller" at Falmouth

The first week of the training period was spent mostly in off-shore sailing. I have often heard the expression 'plunged in at the deep end' - now all of us really know what it means. We were most certainly trained to become

headway and were forced to return to the safety of the harbour. At least another part of our training had been crossed - we all knew how to be sea-sick - I don't think I have ever been so sick in my life.



Learning to know the ropes

Our second week at sea proved to be much more interesting. Perhaps we were all able to appreciate it better now that the sickly feeling was wearing off. At long last we went to sea, sailing all through one night and anchoring off Brest at first light. It was jolly interesting to be able to view the French coast quite clearly and pick out the various landmarks. The 'Atlantic Wall', that bastion of the last war, proved to be a popular talking point demanding much explanation. I think we all thoroughly enjoyed this particular voyage to France.

We all had many opportunities to show off our various skills even to taking the helm on occasions and manning the regular watches. I think we were all rather sorry when we had to return to our base in England.

It is often said that it's a great life in the Navy - especially if you don't weaken. After our experience I think I can truly say for all of us that we came back sadder but wiser boys - sad at having to return so soon just as we were really getting the hang of it, but wiser by virtue of our hard, healthy and often humorous adventure. Yes, all in all, it was a great life on the Malcolm Miller, but roll on the Queen Elizabeth II - they tell me it's much easier cleaning a modern liner.

HE LAUGHS BEST WHO LAUGHS LAST

BY JPTE CLELLAND

I am so sure it was a child - the shouting on the banks, no adult-type screams, a faint whimper or two from the water - yes, it must surely be some child in difficulty. Well, if no-one was going to jump in, then it would have to be me.

The water was so cold that it numbed my whole body. Already the very thought of being a hero with my name in every newspaper, which had so boosted my ego, was rapidly beginning to wane. However, I struggled to swim towards that panic-stricken object.

It wasn't until I was about five yards away that I realised that my poor, unfortunate child had suddenly become a dog. "Steady on, old chap, dogs can usually swim", I thought to myself, what am I doing trying to be a hero! Then I noticed a vine-like length of seaweed wrapped round one of the dog's legs.

Down I dived and with all the strength I could muster, I managed to snap the seaweed in two. The dog game me a pathetic, almost pleading look, but once free of the vice-like grip, it swam to the shore as it had never swum before. At that moment I was feeling as though someone would have to rescue me. What a welcome sight that speedboat was! It was even more welcome when I was hauled aboard and given a warm towel.

Of course my mother wanted to know all about it. Wet clothes had to be explained away. How proud she was when I came out with the startling story - somewhat embroidered I venture to add! My father was an entirely different proposition. He burst into fits of laughter interspersed with, "Little hero, jumped into the water to save a dog, thought it was a hairy baby, did you get a medal for saving the little doggy-woggy then!" If ever I had harboured thoughts of killing anyone then now the time was ripe. I had vague pictures in my mind of a body lying on the rug - my father - with his head floating in a pool of blood.

Fortunately my torture was brought to an end by an abrupt knock at the door. There stood a black uniformed figure asking for me. Apparently I was to be rewarded by the RSPCA - money and a certificate too. I just couldn't believe it, nor could my disconsolate father. I just couldn't resist it - "A hairy child eh! A doggy-woggy eh! Ten pounds worth of flesh and blood more likely, ah, ah, ah!"

After all I did have the last laugh if nothing else.

DEATH

BY JPTE PENDLETON

The small village in Somerset was the place where children played happily in the tiny cobbled street, where women stood talking or going from the general store to the dairy opposite, or where the senior citizens sat by the roadside under the shade of the towering chestnut or the majestic oak. All these scenes mingled to paint a picture of complete peacefulness unlikely to be disturbed.

Suddenly, overhead, a high pitched drone was heard, not unlike that of a swarm of angry bees. The invasion had started. At first, all eyes were glued to a point in the sky just above the surrounding hillsides. Then the tiny specks grew bigger and took on a much more menacing look.

The pack of German planes consisted of about twenty planes each carrying four bombs, quite sufficient to wipe out the whole village and its inhabitants. In one blind moment all the women were screaming and panicking, running everywhere trying to find children. Above all the screaming and shouting a high-pitched whistle was heard. The bombs had started to be released above the houses .With devastating accuracy the missiles rained down on the small white-washed cottages. Everywhere splinters of wood and stone were sent hurtling through the air.

All seemed to be lost but at that moment there was heard the steady throb of engines - different and clear above the whine of the German planes. Help had arrived. There were dog fights all over the sky. Burning masses that were once enemy planes and crew were sent plummeting to the ground. Wreckage was strewn all over the ground. Eventually the enemy force had had enough. The remnants turned tail and fled towards the coast with glorious British planes in pursuit.

In the village all was quiet again apart from a child whimpering as she desperately tried to raise her dead mother from the ruins of a house. People stood around like statues, starting with disbelieving eyes at the destruction. The Somerset village will never be the same again. Bitter memories will linger for many years to come.

NOTHING VENTURED NOTHING WIN

BY JPTE McGARRY

"Nothing ventured, nothing win" - this is an age old proverb which contains a distinct element of truth. It does not, however, always lend itself to the many complex situations to be found in our modern society. Indeed its application often results in a great deal of heartbreak and sorrow.

The very idea of acquiring material gains such as money, titles or property, has been with man since time immemorial. It would be certainly true to say that man has always wanted more, no matter how much he already owns. However to gain those extra possessions he so fervently desires, he often has to risk losing what he already has. Thus it would appear that man has a 'gambling' instinct inbred as part of his character and is often prepared to chance losing all to make gain.

There would of course be exceptions to any rule - not every man is a gambler needless to say. Such people usually become the more stable part of our society. They prefer not to take risks at all and consequently do not make marked advances in material wealth. Usually they are quite content to lead their lives in the same old way and conforming to the quite often humdrum pattern of existence.

The 'born' gambler abounds in the spirit of adventure and boldness. He often becomes a leader, in his own right, and is master of the calculated risk. On the other hand there is the compulsive gambler who usually takes his place as the poor man of society or the 'bookies' best friend. He is like Mr Micawber - waiting for something to turn up, that elusive trump card. It never does but that is the lesson he will learn the hard way.

In one way or another all of us are prepared to have a go. It is an instinct, I am sure, which is part of our everyday make-up. Some of us learn the wisdom of controlling it, whilst others are destined to be controlled by it. It is always well worth bearing in mind that chance or opportunity - call it what you like - does take a hand in shaping our lives and it is often advisable to venture something to gain a little.

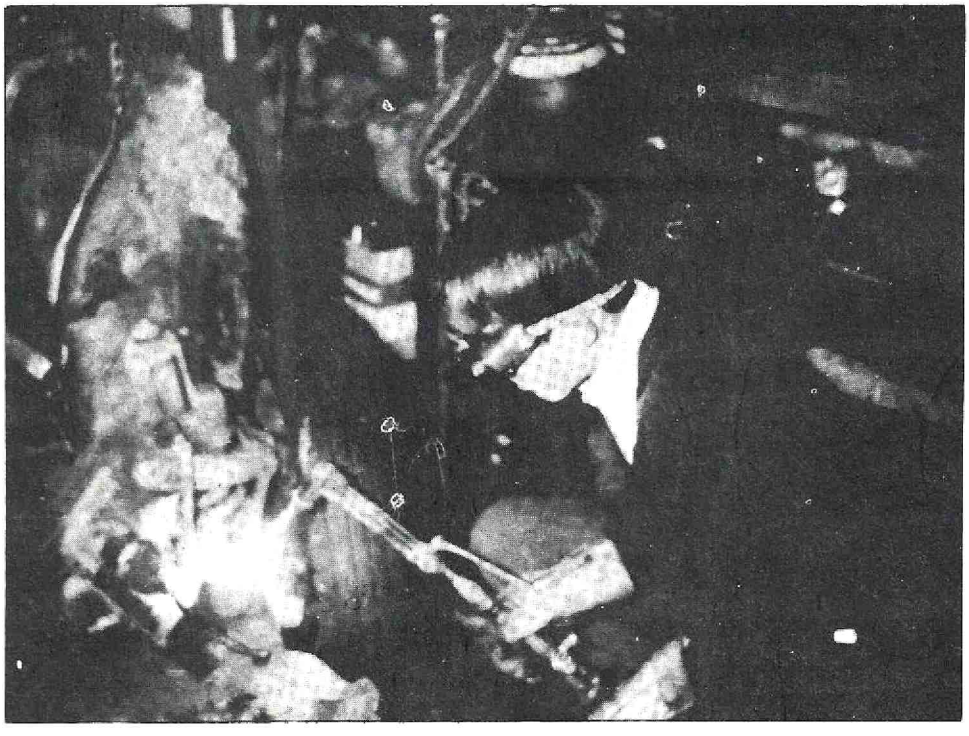
MOTOR CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr W Waddington

Our move, last September, to our new premises has meant the loss of all of our 'old bangers'. Space does not permit the storage of old cars. Nevertheless we have acquired a Wolseley which we are in the process of stripping, and our old friend, the Ford Popular, is back for urgent repairs.

We welcomed Mr Peter Cardy who joined us in place of Mr Les Johnson.. Mr Cardy has served his apprenticeship with Command Workshops REME and he aroused much envy when he arrived, one evening, on a glorious 'chopper'. His knowledge of motor cycles and scooters and his ability with the oxy-acetelyene equipment is greatly appreciated by many who are not members of the club.

It is with some regret that I have to report that our 'production figures' have fallen below our usual standard of one car per year. We look forward to a return to our 'standards' in the near future. I can assure our readers that loss of production was not caused by Industrial Action!!!



JPte Crowther in destructive mood

MODELLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

The Modelling Club has undergone a great period of change during the year. Mr Heap took over the Club from Lt Bicknell and settled in with the help of Sgt Thompson, in September. Almost at once a period of hectic activity started . A display was put on for the DOS followed by a move to new premises, as the old modelling hut was to be demolished.

The move was one of importance, for not only did the club change its location it also increased in size, merging with the model railway club, with whom some space was shared. The club took over Mr Waddington's classroom for a workroom and part of one of the model railway rooms as a store. At this time Sgt Thompson left for other things so the addition of Sgt Darkhouse, who continued mainly to look after the railway side of the club, and Sgt McIntyre, who drifted to the modelling side, was especially welcome.

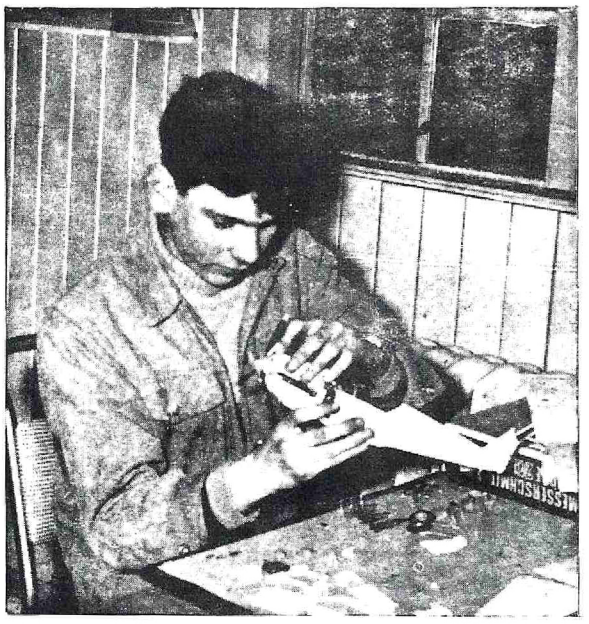
The end of the Christmas term was taken up in a race to finish a crib for the Roman Catholic Padre before Christmas . The club finished it just in time for it to form the centre piece of the display in the Christmas Hobbies exhibition .

After the Christmas leave the club grew in size due to the large number of recruits in the September intake who were starting hobbies. This added to the burden of the two NCOs, as Mr Heap spent most of the term teaching a history study group, so that most of the work fell on their shoulders.

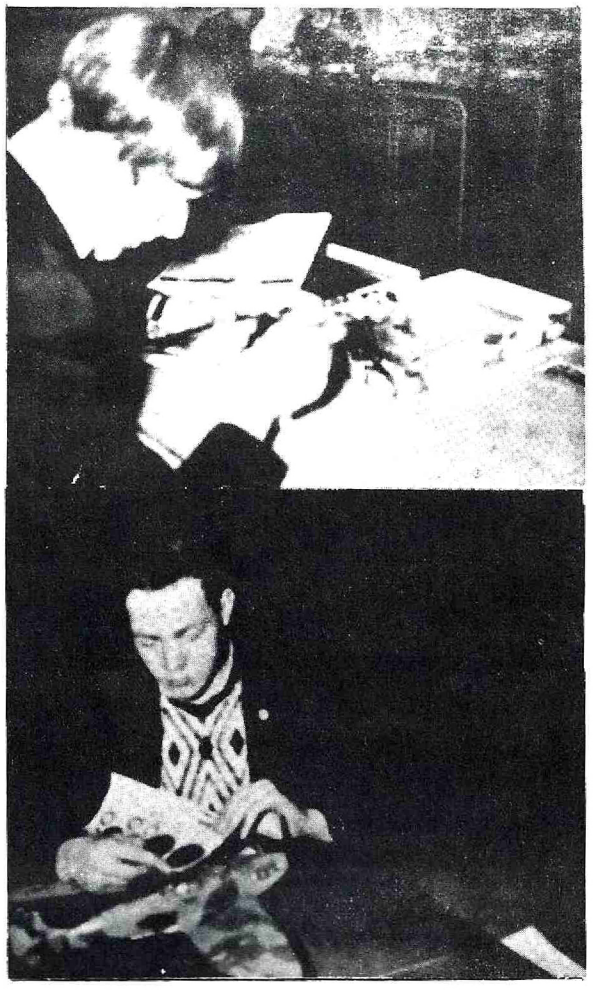
The standard of modelling has slowly risen over the year with some very good pieces of work being turned out. The Model Railway section, however, has had to labour under a number of difficulties, not the least of which is the non availability of track. With a lot of improvisation a circuit was completed which enabled engines to be run, but was not suitable for general operation.

The club has had one severe setback during the year to mar the picture, when early in March the windows of the Modelling Club were broken and several models were smashed, including one which had been worked on for nearly six months .

The club has had a busy year and looks forward to the next with anticipation .



JPte Lawrenson busily engaged



PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Officer in Charge Major G J Forrest (Retd)

Who is covering the swimming gala, Thomas? Tapper and I are both going, sir. How are you off for film? OK sir, we've still got two left. Can we have the lights out now? Just a minute, let me measure out this developer. Is that the film you processed last Monday, Tracy? Yes sir, but one or two shots look a bit blurred. Let me see. OK for the lights now? Open the door, somebody. That will be Rudd, I expect. There's no more Universol left. Right. We'll mix some Microdol X.

....Snatches of conversation overheard in the 'Black Hole' on a typical hobbies night. The first quarter of an hour is usually chaos, until all questions are answered and all jobs are under way . Then the time flies until 7 pm.

For examples of our work, thumb through this magazine.

SAILING CLUB

Officer in Charge J F Watson

The winter months always tend to be a period of rather boring hard work .Cleaning off, rubbing down, repairing - and finally - painting and varnishing. This winter, the Club, which has consisted of twelve boys, has been divided into two groups - a group that has given our unit sloop "Neraida" a major refit - and a group that has concentrated on our dinghies. Both groups have worked long and hard and I hope that all our boats will be ready for launching on 1 May.

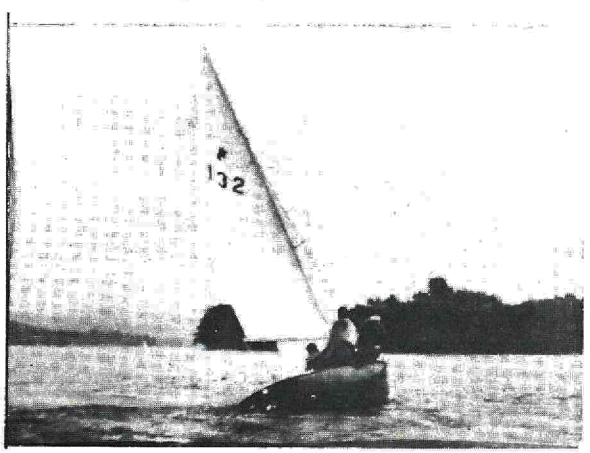
I am looking forward to a good 'Sailing Summer' and to training at least twelve helmsmen - and, I hope, to giving as many boys as possible a taste of 'off-shore' sailing and perhaps giving one or two more boys trips on the big ocean schooners.

The Battalion's 1½ ton sloop 'Neraida' of Torpoint Cornwall

Three of our members did, however, have a welcome break from the Winter routine . JPtes Jones, Goulder and Johnson spent a fortnight on the Sail Training Schooners "Sir Winston Churchill" and "Malcolm Miller". If you read the story in this issue by JPte Jones you will realise not only how exciting their cruises were but also how fortunate they were to be allowed such an opportunity while serving as Junior Soldiers.

Sailing in Cawsand Bay, Cornwall

If you feel that you would like to sail a dinghy - training as an 'off-shore' crewman and perhaps prove man enough for a big schooner - why not join us?



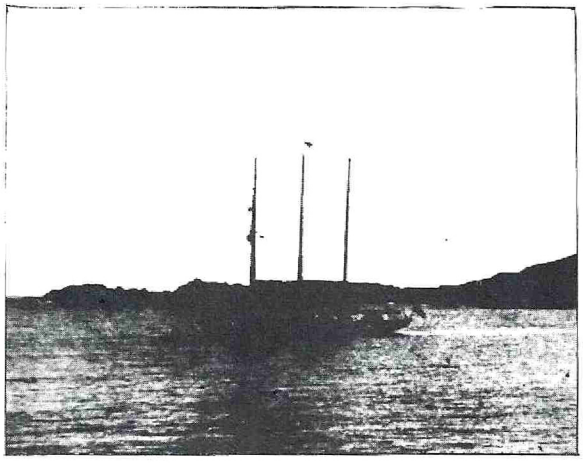
A GP on Lake Rudyard - Summer Camp 1971

APPRENTICES AFLOAT

By JPte Jones (419) RAOC

Last November I found myself as one of three fortunate Junior Leaders chosen to take part in an adventure training cruise with the Sail Training Association .I was to be a member of the crew of the STS "Sir Winston Churchill". I was indeed lucky!

I left Blackdown at noon on Sunday 7 November en route for Southampton docks to join my ship. On arrival at Southampton station, being a Junior Leader - and on the new rates of pay - I had no hesitation in hailing a taxi and asking the driver to take me to the "Winston Churchill". To my dismay his only remark was "You're surely not going on that old tub!"



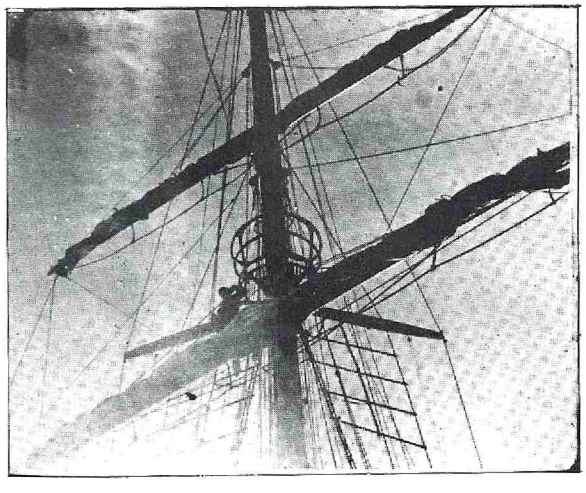
The STS "Winston Churchill"

Ten minutes later and 30p poorer I saw her for the first time. She looked far,, far smaller than I had imagined and absolutely dwarfed. although she is the biggest schooner in the country, by the giant ocean liners and cruising vessels. I was met by one of the watchleaders - a boy of about twenty who had sailed previously on the vessel - taken aboard, shown my bunk quarters, told to change into ship's rig, shown over the vessel and set to work - cleaning brass! Oh my God! Blackdown all over again!

I won't bore you with details of the vessel's layout, her officers and the normal routine duties of all aboard. During my fourteen days aboard I kept a daily log of all that happened to me and to the vessel and in this article I have tried to pick out one or two of the more interesting happenings that made this a memorable experience for me. For the fourteen days I spent aboard the "Sir Winston Churchill" will be one short period of my life I am never likely to forget.

I learnt, and my word you have to learn quickly on the decks of a heaving, pitching schooner, to understand such orders as "Come up", "Belay that", "Set Topsails", "Down Topsails", "Up Main", "Down Main", Up! Down! Up! Down!. In fact, at first I got the impression that the deck officer either didn't know what the hell he did want or that he was just letting rip for the sheer hell of it!

One memorable occasion stands out in my mind. Our watch was told to set the topsails and one member of the watch volunteered that he could tie a bowline. Sixty feet up I had to take the weight of the sail while our volunteer tried to tie his bowline and, try as he would, he just could not tie it! In all fairness to him I am sure that on the stable floor of the sailing club he was probably most proficient. However, sixty feet up is a different matter! Eventually we had to change positions - not an easy and certainly a frightening manoeuvre at that height. I managed to hang on and - thank heavens - tie the required knot! Yes! You have to learn quickly and to be very sure of yourself before you say "Aye Aye Sir! I'll do it!"



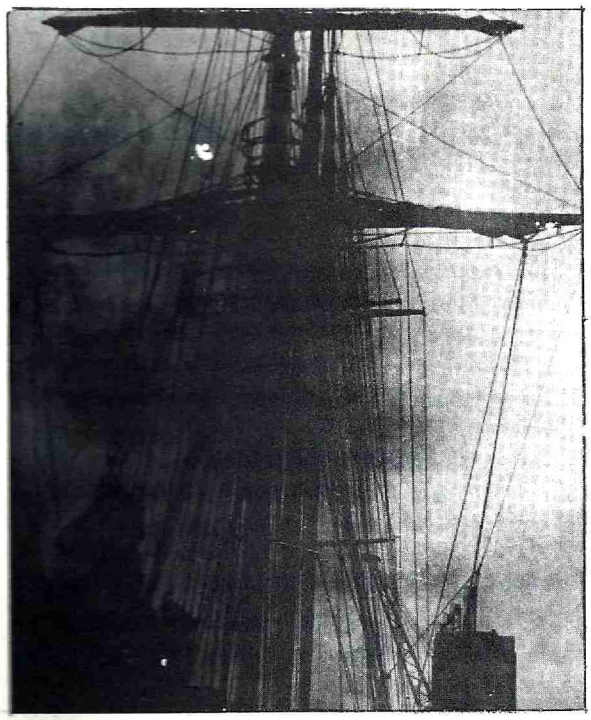
A bowline at sixty feet

My shipmates during the cruise were a real cross section of contemporary youth and I suppose one of the more interesting ones was Willie McGowan. Willie, although seventeen years old was a diminutive four foot ten and of

course was soon known affectionately as "Wee Willie". On one occasion Wee Willie was up in the yards helping take in the square topsail, when, suddenly, because he was too small to wear the issue sea boots, he slipped from the toe lines and found himself dangling on his safety harness seventy feet above the deck. Thank heavens it was 'Wee Willie' - it wasn't too difficult to haul him back to safety!

With 39 youths aboard I suppose it was inevitable that we should have a crop of bumped heads, stubbed toes, barked shins, skinned knuckles, burned hands and at least one person who 'knew it all'. Clive Brown was the 'know all' of the crew and as a result we found it necessary to teach him a lesson in communal living. This would be easy we thought for he was one of the four chaps who spent the entire voyage sleeping in a hammock. By the eighth day we had had enough of Clive Brown. We waited until he was asleep that night and then laced him securely in his hammock with sail ties. We then took him mummified onto the deck and tied him between the shrouds with a line from his hammock to the ship's bell. Everyone aboard accepted our 'prank'. However within a short time the sea turned choppy and Clive and hammock began to rock and the ship's bell to ring. At first it was a laugh. Then it became a bore. Finally it became unbearable and all aboard reluctantly agreed that it would be far better to put up with Brown again than suffer the continuous clanging of that bell all night!

I could in fact relate several amusing incidents but perhaps one of the most amusing happened to me. On the return journey from Alderney to Southampton we dropped anchor at Cowes. It was the 13th day of our trip and we anchored at Cowes in order to bring aboard a Canadian film unit. I have never been superstitious but ... as the anchor was being raised it was my job to hose down the chain before it disappeared down into the chain locker and perhaps I was paying more attention to the cameraman than to my task. Anyhow, the hose became trapped in the anchor chain and the deck officer who was supervising the operation received the full blast of my jet of water! I am still amazed that my final report was so good! Lest any reader should get the impression that it was all merely a holiday jaunt let me hasten to remind them that there was a serious and very often arduous side to the whole business.



"What I need is a bit of string"

Life at sea in a sailing ship is traditionally one of the hardest a man can undertake. My taste of it lasted only two weeks and was certainly no exception. I was indeed a member of the ship's company and as such was fully occupied in the care and maintenance of the ship and its standing and running rigging. I did watch duties as look-out and when off-watch took my turn in the steering, galley work and ship cleaning. I was proud of my little contribution and proud of my ship.

And so we sailed from Southampton to Douarnenez in France, across to Alderney in the Channel Isles, to Swanage and from there to Cowes and back to Southampton. We encountered two Force 8 gales. And what an adventure that was although I was scared stiff in my boots.

I feel sure that this is one of the best ways of finding out of what stuff you are really made of. This is real Adventure Training. Such a trip (if you are not a Junior Leader) costs £65. As far as I am concerned it was worth every penny and if I could get another berth I would start saving up myself tomorrow. May I finish by saying "Thank you" to the RAOC Sailing Association and to the Apprentices College for making my trip possible.

SKI - ING

Officer in Charge Lt A D Bentley RAOC

In January 1972 training began for 23 members of Steevens Platoon, 20 of whom were to go on a Junior Cross Country Ski-ing Course at the Special Training Centre, Silberhutte, in the Harz Mountains, Germany.

After instruction on the basics of ski-ing on the Dri Ski Slope in Aldershot, on 18 March 20 Junior Leaders set off for Germany.

Unfortunately, Germany had undergone a very mild Winter, and ski-ing was only possible on three different days. However, the boys did experience sufficient ski-ing to give them an appetite to do more at a later date.

The party were kept busy on other activities, which included trekking, climbing, abseiling and map-reading. A very interesting visit to a ski factory was arranged and the most fascinating visit of all was to the East/West German border, where one could watch the East German guards in their towers.

In all, a very enjoyable visit.

SUB AQUA CLUB

Officer in Charge Lt H G Denton RAOC

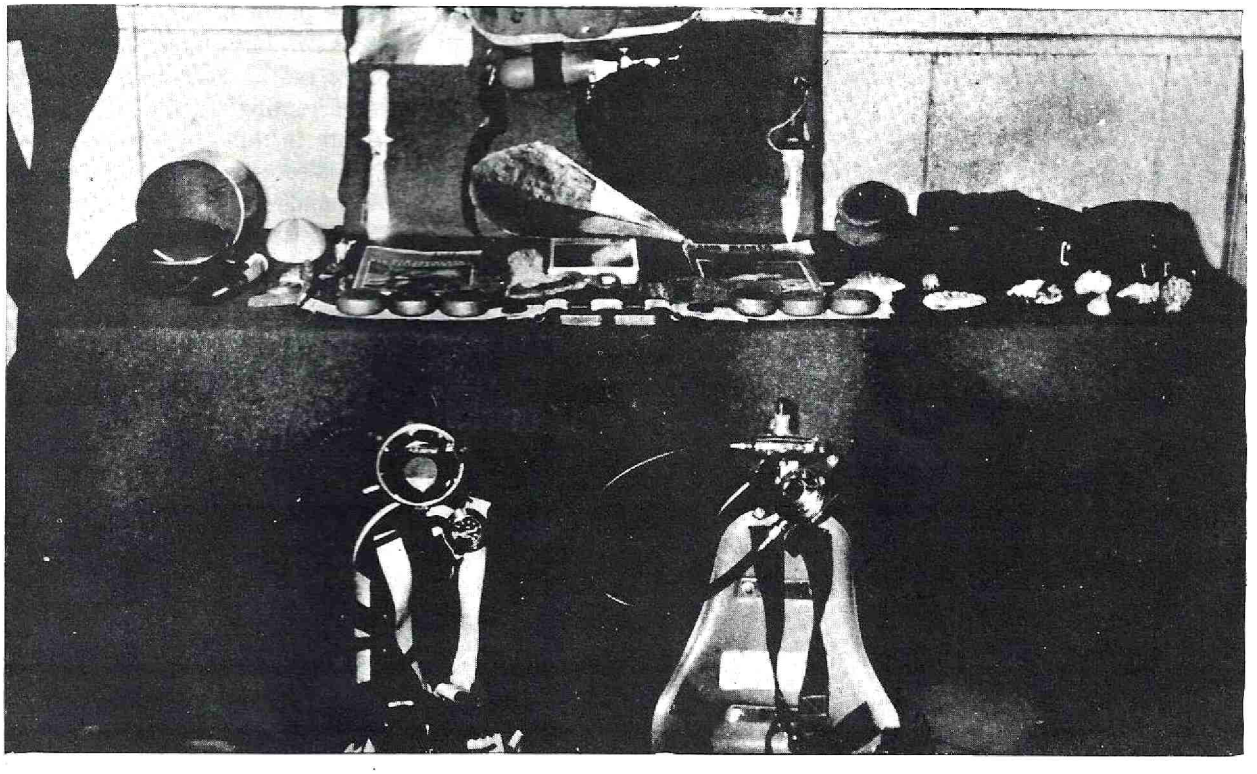
Lt J K Hardcastle RAOC

The Training Centre Sub Aqua has just finished its 'closed' season and now eagerly awaits a busy Summer diving season. The Winter has not, however, been unproductive, far from it. The Club - now under Lt Hardcastle and Lt Denton has consolidated very well, an enthusiastic core of members has been formed, a club hut found and decorated, lectures on safety, technique, watermanship and all other subjects a diver must know about have been given. The club has used the Aldershot pool to give the beginners a solid foundation of experience on air tanks in preparation for their first open water dive.

The club went down to the Royal Engineers diving school in February for a day, a day in which much was learnt. The day started with instructional films, from there we went to the decompression chamber to be taken on a "dry dive" to 60 feet - an interesting and amusing experience as the thicker compressed air makes your voice sound like Donald Duck! The next thing was a dive, using army equipment in the school's pool - 14 feet deep with glass sides. Lt Hardcastle astounded us all by his prowess at draughts at the bottom of the tank. We were also taught and allowed to use the 'seafire' oxy-acetative cutting equipment and the bolt gun that can drive a bolt into 1½ inches of steel. All in all it was a very interesting day and we thank the Royal Engineers for giving up their weekend to instruct us.

Lt Hardcastle and some members of the club here spent Easter leave in Cyprus on an attachment to the Heavy Drop Coy RAOC, but of course finding time to dive as well!

As I close this article we look forward to an interesting season with many visits to the south coast and perhaps further.



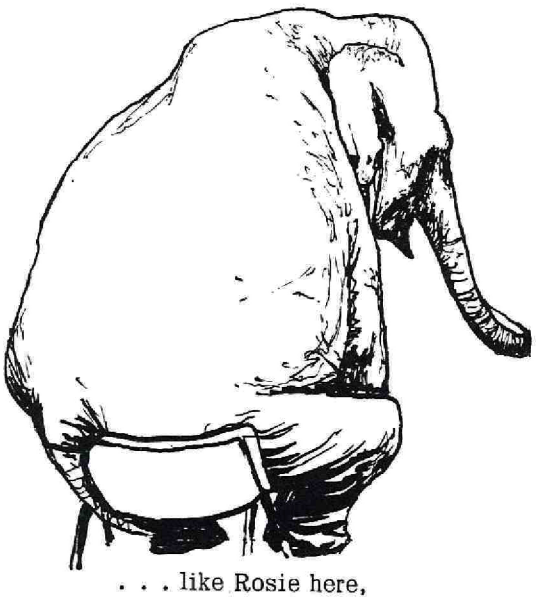
Sub-Aqua equipment on show at the Hobbies and Activities Exhibition, March 1972

WOODWORK

Officer in Charge Capt D G McKeon RAOC

Over the years Nature
has made a pretty
good job of design
but . . . . . .

. . . . . one cannot help but feel that as individuals many of our designs do not always turn out the way we planned them in our mind

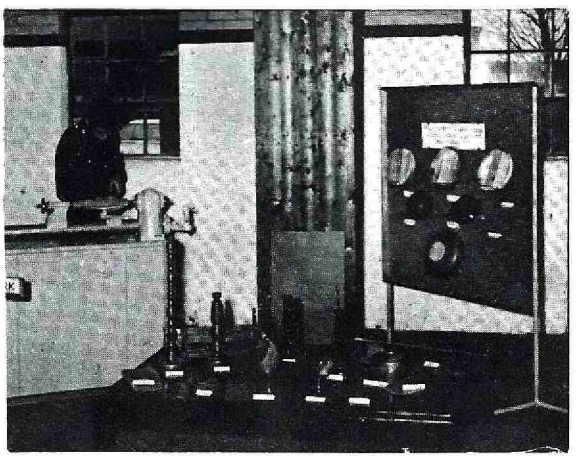


. . . like Rosie here,
quite often the finished
article looks top heavy

Here in the Woodwork Department, both with subject and hobby, we try to encourage the creative approach, the interpretation of the word 'creative' being both realistic and objective, by developing the situation where the participant is involved to the degree that he cannot escape the consequences of some result of his effort and contribution. We believe that in such a situation where interest, thinking and personal contribution are actively stimulated, success is almost bound to follow.

However, design does not just happen by itself. Very often, as many boys have realised, a logical conclusion to the problem cannot be reached and a new starting point has to be selected. In some cases the result may be contrary to the expected, even after the application of specific principles, and the ability to recognize other possibilities is yet another aspect we try to engender in the participant. So that, whilst the technical aspects of the craft and how to use tools are not forgotten, indeed they form the base upon which creative talent may build, within the boundaries of safety and respect for equipment a freer and wider approach has been adopted over the last two terms.

Among many of the completed items have been examples of abstract sculpture, semi-relief and solid carving, and what must take pride of place, a set of Welsh love spoons carved from a single piece of solid timber by JPte Kemp. Interest in lathe work continues to increase and there are at least half a dozen bowls in process of turning at any one time. We welcome the future in this department since as Plato put it ".....direct boys to learning by what amuses their minds so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the particular bent of the genius of each".



The Woodwork section of the Hobbies and Activities Exhibition March 1972

LENDING A HAND

Reprinted from the DIDCOT Advertiser October 1971

Nicholas Blackler, 11, gets the VIP treatment as his two friends Pearse Fogarty, 14, left, and Alan Bosher, 11, carry his kit to the waiting car

An Army staff car left Didcot on Tuesday morning with three boys - two aged 11 and one 14 - with their football boots under their arms.

The lads were going to play football; but this was only part of the day out for Nicholas Blackler, 11, of 3 Cronshaw Close, and two of his pals, that must be the envy of any boy.

Nicholas and his friends, Pearse Fogarty, 14, of 1 Cronshaw Close, and Alan Boucher, 11, of Lydalls Road, Didcot, were very special guests of the army at the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices College, at Dettingen Barracks, near Camberley, Surrey.

Nicholas, Pearse and Alan faced a packed programme including practice firing of sub machine guns, pistols and other arms, playing in a football match, film shows of the army in battle, a visit to the gymnasium where a session on the trampoline had been arranged, as well as lunch and tea.

This schoolboys' treat of treats had been arranged for Nicholas "and two friends of his choosing" following the tragic death of his eight-year-old sister Joanne, and his grandparents, Mr and Mrs Roy Chanter, of Peverell, near Plymouth, in a road accident at Beacon Hill, near Amesbury, Wiltshire on 22 August.

They were in a car which was in collision with a coach on a dual carriageway on the A403. Nicholas suffered a broken arm and bruising.

Nicholas and his sister were being taken for a fortnight's holiday at Peverell by their grandparents when the accident happened.

The army has stepped in because Nicholas's mother, Mrs Margaret Blackler, is a telephone operator at Headquarters Base Organisation RAOC, Didcot.

Civilian and service colleagues at Vauxhall Barracks immediately responded in every way they could. A collection was organised from which a cycle was bought for Nicholas. The balance was given to Mr and Mrs Blackler.

"Mrs Blackler's colleagues felt they wanted to do more" said an army spokesman, "which was why the idea of a day at the Apprentices College was conceived."

Mrs Blackler said, after she waved goodbye to the boys on Tuesday: "We are still trying to pick up the pieces of our lives; and today will, I know, always mean so much to Nicholas."

EXCERCISE CABRO

Junior Leaders Trip to Cyprus

On 4 April, 19 Junior Leaders gathered back at Deepcut before starting their exercise with 16 Para Heavy Drop Company RAOC in Cyprus. We left Deepcut the next morning and arrived in Hullavington to an empty camp. The whole of the Company with the exception of the CSM were on leave and were not due back until Saturday, the day before we left for Cyprus. The time in Hullavington was spent mainly in shaping our newly issued red berets and playing football.

We left for the airport, via an overnight stop at South Cerney, on Sunday afternoon. Why is it that Junior Leaders always leave it till this moment to tell you they haven't got all their travel documents? So on arrival at the movements centre at South Cerney it took some desperate telephoning by Lt Hardcastle and some even more desperate driving by Sgt Walls to deliver the documents on time. We did however all arrive in Cyprus and the lads found themselves billeted in Alexander Barracks, which are very comfortable and are only 100 metres from the sea (very useful after early morning runs).

Our first day in Cyprus was spent listening to lectures on the political situation and what to do if caught by the civil police!

On Wednesday 12 April we moved to AKAMAS Training area, which is the top western point of the island. This is a particularly barren area, the nearest habitation to our tented camp was 15 miles away (this incidently was where our water came from). We did however set ourselves up quite comfortably in bivvies and ate under a large marquee.

Our mornings (and some afternoons) were spent in weapon training and map reading. Although most boys moaned about being trained on weapons again, the senior ranks thought it necessary to get all the boys to the same standard, anyway most boys had not been taught the 3.5 in Rocket Launcher and the 9 mm Browning pistol and none of them had seen a 36 Grenade before so the weapon training was of value. The map reading, judging by the little exercise, was of great value, I am still wondering how two boys can get lost in sight of the camp!

Arrival at Akamas

Still as was expected they found their way back just in time for lunch only to get strong words from the Platoon Commander and the CSM.

The afternoons were spent either swimming or in watermanship. We had with us two Corporals from 9 Independent Parachute Squadron RE who had two boats and engines. The boys found it great fun driving these boats at speed especially when the sea was choppy. All the days activities were preceded by a run from which some got more benefit than others. It was very pleasing to see some boys obviously having trouble, gritting their teeth and going on. It was even more pleasing to see the senior ranks from the Company not giving any of them any sympathy and letting them drop out. Every day we all did the same run, the only difference was that some took longer than others. Immediately after the run everybody went in the sea for 10 minutes and then got ready for breakfast.

On three afternoons Sgt Preston from the Company held a volley ball competition and in

the Junior division the College came 1st and 2nd, convincingly beating the two teams from Junior Parachute Company.

Two days were spent on a patrol exercise. This could not be realistic as we had no blanks or pyrotechnics and also the training area was so small. However we sent the boys off in two sections along the coast and over the second largest feature to the bivouac area. Once there, they set up their 'bashers' and one section went out to recce the other two features in the area, from where it was believed that the 'Akamasians' were transmitting political propaganda. The next day they set out up the highest feature which required a fair amount of courage let alone stamina. From the information gained an ambush was set up and it was fortunate for the Platoon Commander that he went a different way!

On return from Akamas we had a few spare days whilst the remainder were parachuting. On these days visits to a War Dog Training Unit and to Kyrenia were arranged. Kelly and Butler both volunteered to be attacked by Alsatian war dogs but it was strange that it was unanimously agreed that Fox should have the most ferocious one attack him. All, who went, will remember Kyrenia for the journey back, the countryside is really beautiful!!

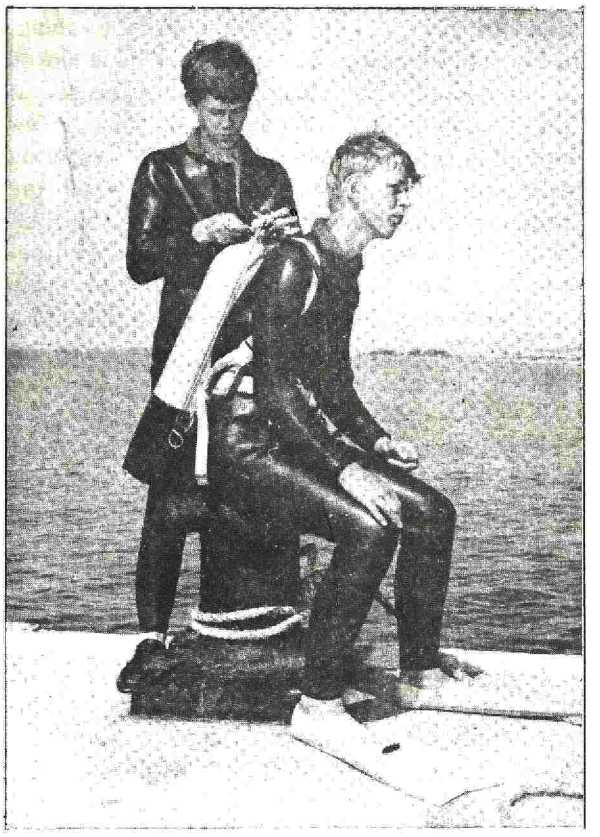
The next week was spent on the ranges firstly throwing grenades which was most enjoyable if nothing like in the 'Training Manuals'. The next day was spent firing the 3.5 in Rocket Launcher in which we narrowly lost to the Junior Parachute Company who hit the target twice more than we did. We can however claim one win, we had more blinds than they did. The remainder of the week was uneventful.

Weapon Training, Pistol, taught by SSgt Bowder

On the Saturday the final and most enjoyable phase started - Adventure Training! The boys were allocated various activities. Tracking, conoeing, gliding, dinghy sailing, water skiing and sub aqua. Some of the boys wanted to do Free Falling but as parental consent was required this was out of the question.

The most unfortunate part of the week was the weather. We had force nine gales starting on the Saturday morning and lasting until Wednesday. This of course put a stop to activities such as sailing and water skiing, but trekking and sub aqua did carry on. When the sun did finally come out all the boys put a great deal into their activities and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. However when the end of the week came most boys were looking forward to returning. It is very miserable to be in an expensive country without any money.

And so we returned to the UK. Red berets were exchanged for blue and as soon as we returned to Deepcut the war stories could be heard all starting "When we were in Cyprus...."



Our picture from the sunshine island of Cyprus shows JPte Bennett checking JPte Handyside's equipment before taking a dive beneath the blue waters of the Mediterranean.

The last phase of the exercise was naturally something to which we all had been looking forward. Adventure training has always been a magic term to me. Of course a violent storm had to hold it all up for a few days - that simply had to happen. But at long last we were well and truly launched in all kinds of outdoor pursuits - swimming, sailing, sub-aqua diving, water skiing and hill-walking - you name it we did it. The hill walk up Mount Troodos was quite something. Needless to say some very high standards of performance in all activities were achieved and received high commendation.

There has to be an end to all things and the time for us to leave this wonderful island arrived all too quickly. The flight home was really pleasant for it took in the Italian coast, many of the small Mediterranean islands, the French Alps and the lowland areas of France. We finally touched down at Brize Norton once again and began our homeward trek to Deepcut. We had left behind many real friends from the other Corps, but now we were once more reunited with old buddies in the Apprentices' College. It had been a tremendous experience for each and everyone of us and we never lacked an audience ever ready to give ear to our startling stories - naturally we added a bit here and there! I think at least we were entitled to that small crumb of poetic licence. Even our Sergeant treats us as 'real' soldiers now.

OLD BOYS SECTION

News of Old Boys

We have recently heard from:

373 Cpl Laver A (1964-66) is now a Tech Clerk I at CV HQ Feltham but is presently detached to the Permanent Staff of the TAVR Annual Camp site at Cultybraggen, Stirling. He is married and has one child.

579 Pte Kidd F is now employed as a storeman BI with the RAOC Display Team and has met:

LCpl Sylvester	-	Para Sqn RAOC
Cpl Owen	-	Hy Drop Coy
Pte Pascoe	-	Hy Drop Coy

632 Sgt Griffiths T (1959-61) is now a Storeman/ Clerk with the Supply Sqn of the Para Logistic Regt in Aldershot. He has recently been in touch with SSgt G Hawthorne of 44 Para Bde (TA) at Hounslow. Sgt Griffiths is married and has three children.

969 WO I Vickers G (1957-59) is now a WSO with the P & WSU RAOC in BAOR (BFPO 40). He is married with three children.

703 WO II Manners I R (1958-60) is now with the Supply Sqn of 1 Para Logistic Regt and stationed in Northern Ireland. With him in the same unit is 632 Sgt T Griffiths. WO II Manners is married with two children.

314 WO II Jones H (1959-60) is now a Tech Clerk with Comp Ord Depot in Hong Kong. With him is **736 Sgt J Newsham (1958-61).**

147 SSgt Chandler J (1957-60) is, like Cpl Laver, with CV HQ at Feltham, Middlesex. He is a PSI to the TAVR. Married with two children.

991 Cpl Sims D (1957-61) is a Storeman B1 with 9 Fd Wksp REME at Bordon, Hants. Married with two children.

374 Sgt Raffan F A (1958-60) is now a Clerk RAOC B1 with 24 Airportable OFP at Stainton Camp, Barnard Castle. He is married with three children.

940 Pte Ward J (1960-61) is a Storeman with 12 OFP in BFPO 36. He is married with four children.

Parents and school-leavers thinking of the Army as a career will be interested in the following letter from an ex-boy of this College. Pte Platt was a member of Richards Platoon and of the Corps of Drums. The Editor would welcome many more letters of this sort from Old Boys.

Just a few linss from a grateful ex-junior leader

24145782 Pte Platt
464 Ground Liaison Section
RAF Wildenrath
BFPO 42

1st February 1972

Dear Sir,

Just a few lines from a grateful ex-junior leader for the invaluable training which I received during my junior service. It has come in useful during my first month of regular service and I hope that future "graduates" from the College also benefit by it . What I thought to be a posting to the Army Air Corps has turned out to be an attachment to the RAF, but the work has proven to be so interesting that I am satisfied to the full. The facilities for bettering onself are immense.

I still continue my sport of sailing and have been offered a place in the RAF team, which incidentally is off to the Baltic this summer . I have also taken up gliding in the hope of obtaining a pilot's licence in the future. Also I am studying German, which I think anyone needs to get on in Germany. So you see, Sir, that I am thoroughly enjoying service life. I hope to visit the College as soon as I return to the UK. I think it will be interesting to see if it has changed any. There are quite a few ex-junior leaders in the Section, perhaps you may recall a few of them such as LCpl Landless, Sgt Hartley and Sgt Wyers. Anyway, Sir, I must cut short this letter but I would look forward to hearing from yourself or the staff in the future.

My best regards to all the staff at the College.

Yours sincerely,
Raymond Platt

ANALYSIS OF EX-APPRENTICE TRADESMEN AND EX-REGIMENTAL BOYS SHOWING LENGTH OF MAN SERVICE COMPLETED AND HIGHEST RANK HELD AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1971

EX-REGIMENTAL BOYS

Regt/Corps	Brig	Col	Lt Col	Maj	Capt	Lt	Total	WO I	WO II	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	Pte	Total	Grand Total
H Cav & RAC			1	8	8	1	18	6	37	72	264	310	321	959	1969	1987
RA			3	34	39	9	85	32	183	71	309	364	417	1356	2732	2817
RE			3	23	44	7	77	3	26	54	114	324	390	915	1826	1903
R Sigs			2	14	64	11	91	32	92	127	335	440	293	370	1689	1780
Inf & Gds		1	2	13	25	10	51	53	148	205	722	1167	1136	4500	7931	7982
Para								4	7	6	18	53	65	273	426	426
SAS									3	5	4	7	8	16	43	43
AAC				2	3	2	7		2	8	4				14	21
RCT	1	1	2	12	16	1	33	12	33	57	80	170	259	547	1158	1191
RAMC			4	1	2	1	8	6	5	5	13	17	7	37	90	98
RAOC	1	2	6	25	55	4	93	93	997	149	283	389	327	493	1795	1888
REME		1	2	36	56	6	101	5	9	19	90	153	107	104	487	588
RMP					2	1	3	1		3	17	194	73	2	290	293
RAVC											1	1	2	3	7	7
RMA Band					1		1		1		2	2		6	11	12
RADC									1		2	5	3	5	16	16
RAPC				1	4		5	2	12	21	33	46		8	122	127
SASC									16		8				24	24
MPSC				2			2	2	1	3	13				19	21
RAEC				2	4	12	18									18
RPC					3		3				4	7	2	7	20	23
Int Corps				2	2	2	6	2	3	13	25	20	10		73	79
APTC			2	2	2		6	2	15	20	23				60	66
ACC					8	8	16	5	4	6	45	103	129	70	362	378
GEN LIST/ LS LIST					2	1	3	3	16	20	10				49	52
TOTAL	2	5	27	177	340	76	627	263	711	834	2419	3772	3543	9671	21213	21840

EX-APPRENTICE TRADESMEN

Regt/Corps	Brig	Col	Lt Col	Maj	Capt	Lt	Total	WO I	WO II	SSgt	Sgt	Cpl	LCpl	Pte	Total	Grand Total
H Cav & RAC											6	18	26	88	138	138
RA			1	1	2		4		16	10	45	83	104	223	481	485
RE			1	18	44	12	75	56	211	268	230	467	547	992	2771	2846
R Sigs		1	3	17	13	7	41	32	71	115	416	666	409	868	2577	2618
Inf & Gds						1	1	2	7	6	37	89	134	527	802	803
Para												1		1	2	2
SAS									1	1		4	7	10	23	23
AAC								1	2	5	3				11	11
RCT			4		1	2	7	2	6	8	38	146	279	502	981	988
RAMC								5	15	30	135	135	89	277	686	686
RAOC		2	2	8	4	4	20	12	19	50	139	78	24	67	389	409
REME		4	5	70	117	17	213	264	338	613	1128	1303	903	1094	5643	5856
RMP				1			1				4	13	18	3	38	39
RAVC											1				1	1
RADC											8	34	8	5	55	55
RAPC				1			1	1	5	10	72	178		26	292	293
MPSC										1					1	1
RAEC					3		3									3
RPC			1	2	1		4				1		1		2	6
Int Corps					1		1	1	5		3	14	5		28	29
APTC								1	5	11	9				26	26
ACC				1	2	2	5	12	29	16	53	170	296	460	1036	1041
GEN LIST/ LS LIST					1		1		10	8	3				21	22
TOTAL		7	17	119	189	45	377	389	740	1152	2331	3399	2850	5143	16004	16381

Visit of

HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
COLONEL IN CHIEF ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

and

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

to the

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

on the occasion of

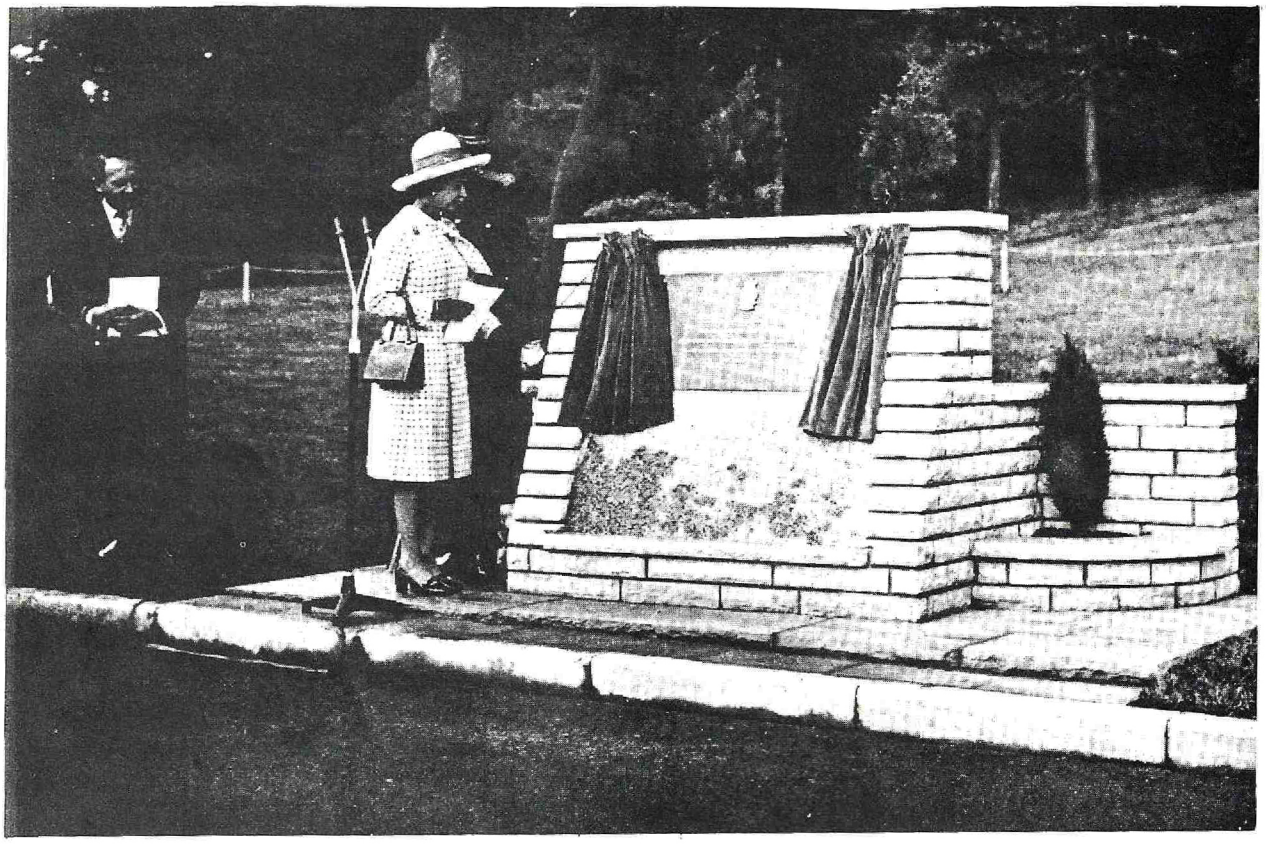
THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
BLACKDOWN BARRACKS

FRIDAY, 9TH JUNE 1972

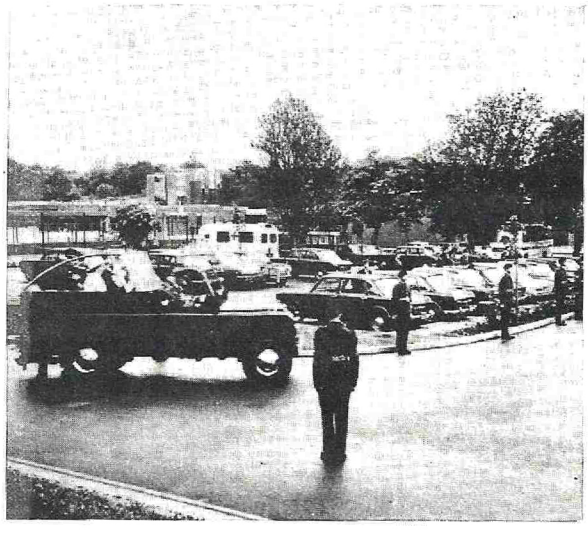
On Friday 9 June 1972 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, opened the new Blackdown Barracks, the home of the RAOC Training Centre.

It was a great and memorable Corps occasion and though the College was not directly involved, since its new accommodation has still to be built, we were, nevertheless, as befits a major unit in the centre of such activity, heavily committed. Our contribution was in two parts. Firstly, in the new Blackdown gymnasium we staged a display of College extra-mural activities ranging from sailing to pottery making. Secondly, all boys not employed in the gymnasium were used to line the Royal route throughout the camp. A great deal of effort was expended, and all who took part richly deserved the tribute paid to them after the visit by Brigadier D H Davies, ADC, the Commandant of the Training Centre.

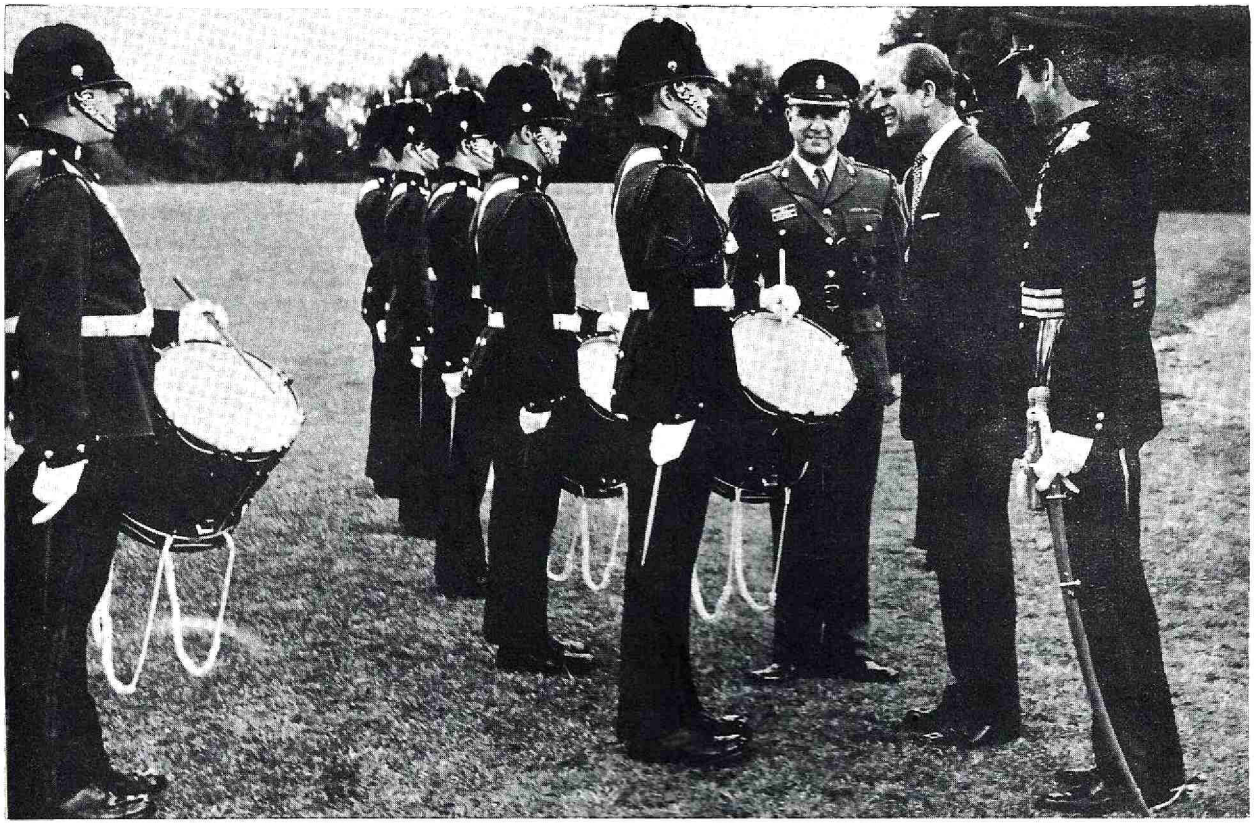
The photographs that follow illustrate only a part of what the College undertook on that unforgetable day.



Her Majesty The Queen unveils the plaque commemorating the opening of the new barracks



Her Majesty moves off from the Parade ground along a route lined by boys of the RAOC Apprentices College



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh inspects the College Corps of Drums, accompanied by the Representative Colonel Commandant Major General A Young CB, and the College 2IC Major E C Goodson

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