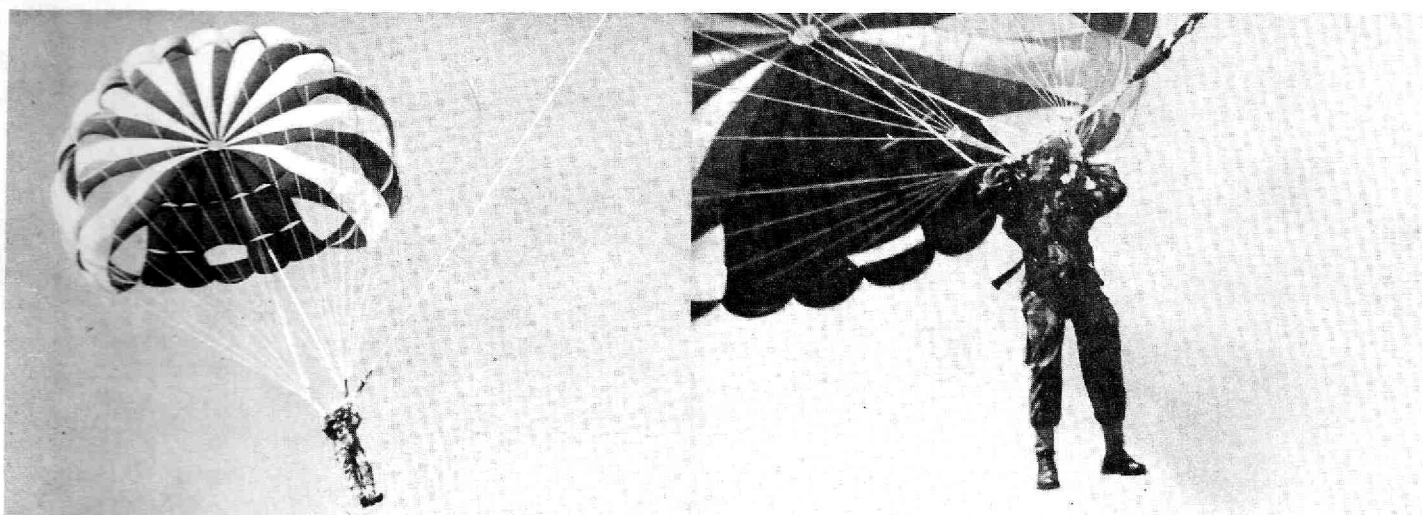
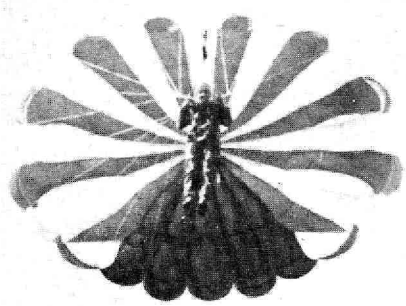
The Thunderbolt

The Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College









Summer 1975 **Issue No 6**

The Thunderbolt

THE JOURNAL OF THE
RAOC APPRENTICES' COLLEGE

Front cover:

Annual Camp 1975. Penally Camp, Nr Tenby. Two facets of ELT. Parascending and Sailing

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Lieutenant Colonel PHJ Vickery RAOC

Commanding Officer RAOC Apprentices College

FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

When I wrote the *foreword* to last year's issue of this magazine the recruit platoon was Rowcroft. As I write now all the members of Rowcroft Platoon have left for man's service and Rowcroft Platoon has been disbanded. That illustrates as vividly as anything I could write, the extent of the change which has overtaken the College. All the eight term, seven term, six and five term boys have gone. Only the four termers remain. Such a change has, obviously, created many problems in the organisation of the College. Some of these problems have been solved satisfactorily, but some are still with us. At least, we have now seen the four-term cycle in full and we know where our remaining difficulties lie. When the next big intake arrives in September I am confident that College routine will be as efficient and effective as it has ever been.

Some Jeremiahs have bewailed the four term concept, arguing that a shorter training period must result in lower standards and that our final product could not now be nearly as good as it used to be. This I will not accept. Obviously, we will not be able to do everything in four terms that we used to do in, say, eight, but there will be no lowering of standards in the things which we do tackle. In fact the standards may well be even higher, for the boys we will now be dealing with will have had an extra year at school, will be (and this has already proved to be the case) better qualified educationally, with better pass levels at CSE and GCE before they arrive, and with a much more mature approach to life in general, and to their careers in particular. So, we are starting from a higher base-line than before and, as I see it, there is no reason at all why we should not reach, and even exceed, ultimately, all our previous standards.

I have already mentioned that we will be getting another big intake next September and the College will again be in the order of some 400 apprentices strong. Taking the forecasts at their face value, this would appear to be the figure at which the College will operate for some years to come. We should, therefore, be in for a period of some stability, though it may be dangerous to say so!

Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate all those concerned with the production of this magazine, particularly our friends at Donnington. I am told that the magazine has important recruiting value. If so, that is a bonus, for the publication is made for purely domestic reasons and for the pleasure of those who are members of, or have been members of, this College. I hope they will enjoy this issue.

STAFF LISTS APRIL 74–MARCH 75

College Headquarters	Summer Term 1974	Winter Term 1974	Spring Term 1975
Commanding Officer	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC	Lt Col P H J Vickery RAOC
Adjutant	Capt A H Wilson-Ing RAOC	Capt A H Wilson-Ing RAOC	Capt A P Haden RAOC
Bursar	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)	Capt W Playle RMP (Retd)
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO I (RSM) N Dorning RAOC	WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC	WOI (RSM) N Dorning RAOC
Chief Clerk	WO2 (SQMS) E S Garner RAOC	WO2 (SQMS) E S Garner RAOC	WO2 (SQMS) E S Garner RAOC
Training Wing			
Chief Instructor	Major M J H Connolly RAOC	Major M J H Connolly RAOC	Major M J H Connolly RAOC
OIC External Leadership	Lt C N Dyer RAOC	Capt C N Dyer RAOC	Capt G J Morton RAOC
Training Officer			Capt D R Marks RAOC
Assistant Training Officer			WO2 (CSM) P D Pheasant RAOC
WOIC Organisation	WO2 (CSM) P D Pheasant RAOC	WO2 (CSM)P D Pheasant RAOC	
WOIC Physical Training	WO2 (CSMI) D W E Bridges APTC	WO2 (CSMI) D W E Bridges APTC	
Admin Wing			
Officer Commanding	Capt M J Duff RAOC	Capt J N Gunson GM RAOC	
Chaplain	Rev J C Vernon CF	Rev J C Vernon CF	
WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS	Miss E Jones WRVS	
HQ Company			
Officer Commanding			Major M J H Connolly RAOC
OIC Admin Platoon			Lt J G Griffin REME
Chaplain			Rev J C Vernon CF
WRVS			Miss E Jones WRVS
A Company			
Officer Commanding	Major J H Rose RAOC	Major J H Rose RAOC	Major J H Rose RAOC
Training Captain	Lt C N Dyer RAOC	Capt I F Sharp RAOC	Capt A P Byles RAOC
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) W Godwin RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J T Foster RAOC	WO2 (CSM) J T Foster RAOC
Senior Platoon	Lt G Cox RAOC	Lt L M Wood RAOC	
Gordon Platoon	Lt M Sullivan REME	Lt M Sullivan REME	Lt M Sullivan REME
Steevens Platoon	Lt P A Henwood RAOC	Lt P A Henwood RAOC	Lt P A Henwood RAOC
Mulcahy/Swiney Platoon	Lt L M Wood RAOC		
Baker Platoon		Lt J C Williams REME	Lt J C Williams REME
Valon Platoon		Lt D J Walton REME	Lt D J Walton REME
Platoon Sergeants	Sgt M J Knight RAOC	Sgt D Watson RAOC	Sgt P M Thain Int Corps
	Sgt R Parsons Int Corps	Sgt P M Thain Int Corps	Sgt R G Anderson RAOC
	Sgt J D Lee REME	Sgt M J Knight RAOC	Sgt J D Lee REME
	Sgt D Watson RAOC	Sgt J D Lee REME	Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC
	Sgt A H Rowlands RAOC	Sgt R G Anderson RAOC	
B Company			
Officer Commanding	Major H D Lucas RAOC	Major H D Lucas RAOC	Major H D Lucas RAOC
Training Captain	Capt M R Beer REME	Capt M R Beer REME	Capt M R Beer REME
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 (CSM) G K Maule MSM RAOC	WO2 (CSM) G K Maule MSM RAOC	WO2 (CSM) G K Maule MSM RAOC
Senior Platoon	Lt R J Jordan RAOC	Lt N C Smith RAOC	
Cuthforth Platoon	Lt M Blatherwick RAOC		
Rowcroft Platoon	Lt J P Inman RAOC	Lt J P Inman RAOC	Lt J P Inman RAOC
Mathew Platoon	Lt N C Smith RAOC		
Tyler Platoon		Lt M Blatherwick RAOC	Lt J D Hart RAOC
		Lt H A Jones RAOC	
Watts Platoon		Lt R J Jordan RAOC	Lt J S Lamb RAOC
		Lt I Marshall RAOC	
Parsons Platoon		Lt A T Bettaney RAOC	Lt A T Bettaney RAOC
Hill Platoon			Lt P A Ball RAOC
Platoon Sergeants	Sgt S C Bonta RAOC	Sgt S C Bonta RAOC	Sgt S C Bonta RAOC
	Sgt F M Preece RAOC	Sgt M O'Malley RAOC	Sgt M O'Malley RAOC
	Sgt M O'Malley RAOC	Sgt T J T Flowers RAOC	Sgt T J T Flowers RAOC
	Sgt T J T Flowers RAOC	Sgt D G Hardstaff REME	Sgt D G Hardstaff REME
		Sgt P M Carrick RAOC	Sgt P M Carrick RAOC
Education Department			
Senior Education Officer	Major P A Easton RAEC	Major P A Easton RAEC	Major P A Easton RAEC

Military Lecturers	Major G H W Neal RAEC Capt G D Beaumont RAEC Capt G A Page RAEC Lt C J Martindill BA RAEC Lt A G Thomas RAEC Lt R R Stuart RAEC	Major G D Beaumont RAEC Capt A G Thomas RAEC Lt C J Martindill BA RAEC Lt R R Stuart RAEC	Major G D Beaumont RAEC Capt A G Thomas RAEC Lt C J Martindill BA RAEC Lt R R Stuart RAEC
Civilian Lecturers	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd) Wg Comd P W Hope BA RAF (Retd) Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd) Mr W E Smith Mr J F Watson Mr M F Johnson BA Mr W J Waddington Mr A C F Legg Mr P Heap BA	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd) Wg Comd P W Hope BA RAF (Retd) Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd) Mr W E Smith Mr J F Watson Mr M F Johnson BA Mr W J Waddington Mr A C F Legg Mr P Heap BA	Lt Col S Schofield MA (Oxon) R Signals (Retd) Wg Comd P W Hope BA RAF (Retd) Major G J Forrest RAEC (Retd) Mr W E Smith Mr J F Watson Mr M F Johnson BA Mr W J Waddington Mr A C F Legg Mr P Heap BA

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief Major PA Easton RAEC

Editor Lt Col S Schofield MA (oxon) Royal Signals (Retd)

Photographic Editor Maj G J Forrest RAEC (Retd)

Again the magazine is being finalised at the beginning of May and though a number of contributions still have to come in, after a rather late Easter recess, it would appear that the copy and photographs are well up to the standard of recent years. One problem, however, still remains and that stems from trying to produce a balanced account of the activities of the College over a period of 12 months. Generally speaking, it is not difficult to get accounts and articles of recent events. What is much more difficult is to get detailed reports of events which happened two or three terms ago particularly when the people most intimately concerned may well have been posted and when faces on photographs are not nearly as well-remembered as an harassed editor might expect. The answer of course is that those in charge of camps, hobbies, pursuits and activities should write up their accounts as and when anything specially interesting occurs and not wait for the final demand notice towards the end of Spring term each year. This is even more true of photographs - for here, once an opportunity has passed, it has usually gone for good and no amount of faking and re-construction can re-capture it. So, please, contributors, file your copy and photographs (with captions) as soon as possible after the events take place for which you are responsible. It will make for a much better Journal and a much less fractious editor.

This may well be the last time when the magazine is produced at this time of the year. With the raising of the school leaving age and the advent in College of the 'four term concept', the majority of apprentices arrive in September one year and leave in December the following year. To publish a magazine in August of every year recording activities from April to April is scarcely in phase with this time-table. It would seem much more appropriate to record from September to September and publish when the bulk of the boys are leaving in December. In the end, of course, printing and reproduction factors will probably have the final say.

Once again the printing of this journal will be in the hands of the Printing and Reproduction Branch, COD Donnington, by kind permission of the Commandant, Brigadier G D M Landy OBE ADC and the OIC Branch, Major Freddie Love. As always we are extremely grateful to all in the branch for the time, trouble and effort they spend on our behalf and we trust they will accept these few inadequate words as an expression of our sincerest thanks for the work, guidance and skill which they have contributed to the production of yet one more 'Thunderbolt'.

VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS

VIP Visits

During the year since publication of the last 'Thunderbolt' magazine, the very important visitors to the College reads like a Who's Who in Army circles. The College has been visited by the following senior officers who were then holding the appointments shown:

13 June 74 74
Brigadier E J D Snowball OBE (Retd)
Schools Liaison Officer, HQ Scotland

23 July 74
Brigadier A G C Jones MC BA
Chief of Staff South East District

1 August 74
Lt Gen Sir Allan Taylor KBE MC
Deputy Commander in Chief UKLF

19 September 74
Lt Gen Sir Terence McMeekin KCB OBE
General Officer Commanding South East District

25 October 74
Brigadier L Howell CBE BSc AFR AeS
Chief Education Officer HQ UKLF

30 October 74
Brigadier O J Waldram AFC
Inspector of Physical and Adventure Training (Army)

11 November 1974
Maj Gen A M McKay C Eng F/Mech E, MBIM
Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Army)

14 November 74
Brigadier E F Faulkener
Director of Army Catering Corps

6 March 75
Lt Gen Sir James Wilson KBE MC
General Officer Commanding South East District

All of the above named officers were given conducted tours of the College seeing the amenities the College has to offer and the type of training the apprentices receive. Many apprentices were introduced to the senior officers who were all impressed by the self confidence of the boys to whom they spoke. Visitors to the College never cease to be amazed at the many varied activities in which the boys take part.

Inspections

Routine inspections by specialized officers continue more or less throughout the year and it is on these routine inspections that the efficiency of our College is judged. The result of one inspection in November 73 by the establishment inspection team was that the establishment of the College was completely re-organised and a more streamlined organisation produced. As a result of that establishment inspection, certain appointments were lost due to financial considerations. We hope, however, to continue to offer the same service to the Apprentices as always.

ACF Visits and Attachments

During the past year a number of ACF units have visited the College. Perhaps the most interesting of these was the attachment of five cadets from the Isle of Dogs to Rowcroft Platoon during Company Camp at Warcop in February 75. These lads showed a high standard of training and fitness which enabled them to play a full part in all platoon activities. Another notable visit on a much larger scale occurred over Easter weekend when the 1st Cadet Bn, The Queen's Regt took over two barrack blocks in Alma Lines and carried out their training amidst several inches of snow. Still, they seemed to enjoy themselves and we look forward to seeing them again next year.

Passing Out Parades

Over the past year, yet again, hundreds of parents, relatives and friends have enjoyed visits to the College to see one or more of the three Passing Out Parades. This year, however, only the Summer term parade was in the traditional style. It was, as usual, commanded by the A/RSM with all parade appointments filled by apprentices and followed the standard ceremonial routine. The Winter term parade was quite different and took the form of a pageant depicting the progress of an apprentice through the various stages of his military training, hobbies and sporting activities, from his first day to his last at the College. Only when the senior platoons marched on did the parade revert to its former pattern, and then, to a very much reduced extent. Despite the bitterly cold December weather, the new parade form was highly successful and it is intended to hold this type of Passing Out Parade once a year.

The Spring term parade in April saw ceremony restored to its full glory. The difference this time was that the Adjutant was in command, platoon commanders were on parade with drawn swords and permanent staff instructors filled the supernumerary ranks. It was a measure forced on the College to some extent by the difficulty of training up apprentices in command techniques to the exacting standard required in the very short time now available. It might be a different story by the end of Summer term each year. Nevertheless, whatever form of parade they witnessed, all our Inspecting Officers paid tribute in their speeches to the steadiness and precision of the apprentices on parade. They also recognised how much effort and work must have gone into these parades in order to show parents and visitors what the College and its apprentices are capable of achieving. Our Inspecting Officers during the last year, with their appointments at the time, were

August 1974	Major General N H Speller, Director of Ordnance Services
December 1974	Lt General Sir Allan Taylor KBE MC Deputy Commander in Chief UKLF
April 1975	Major General J T Stanyer CBE Commander Base Organisation RAOC



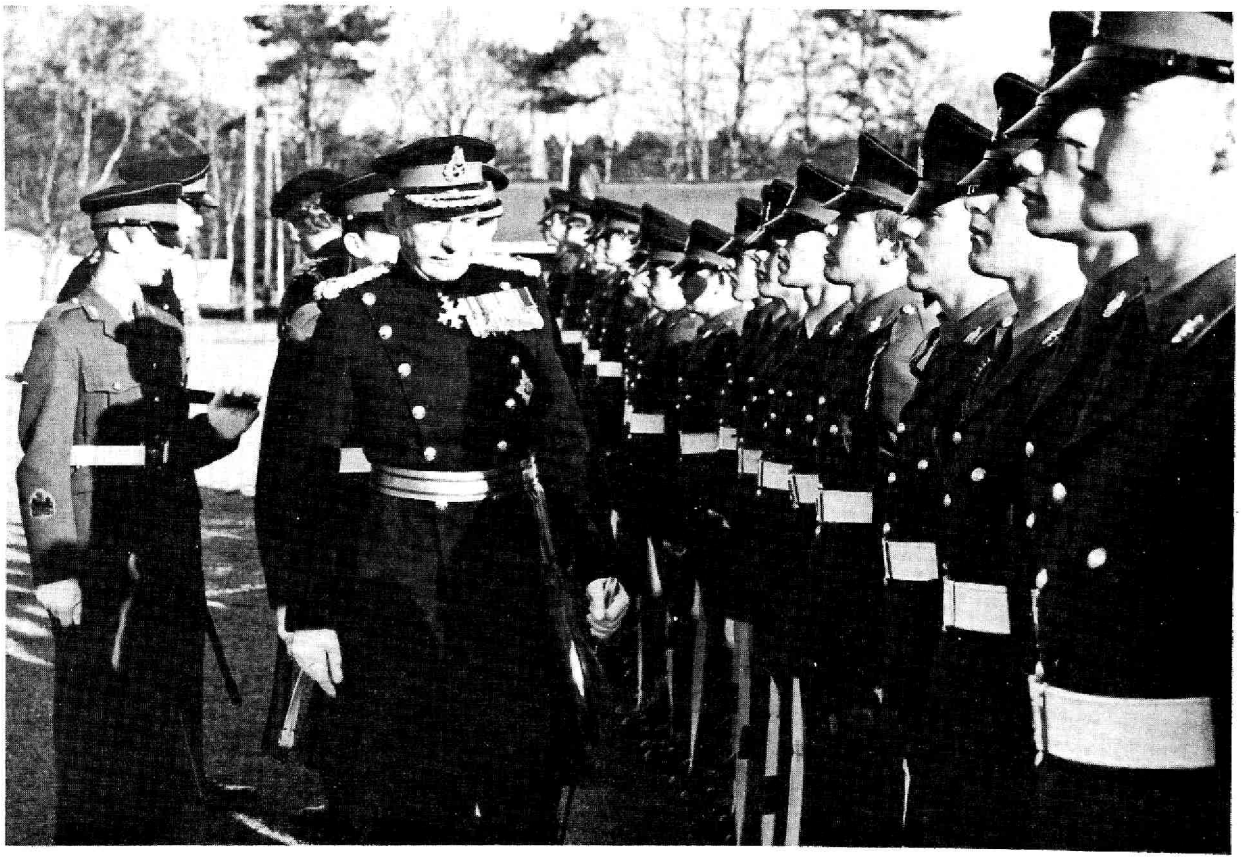
Major General N H Speller, DOS, inspecting the Senior Platoon during the Summer Term 1974 Passing Out Parade



General Speller presenting Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to: Ssgt J W Speller, WO2 A Codd, WO2 B C Mason, Sgt L Baker, Sgt B Collisson and Lcpl A Ripley, all RAOC



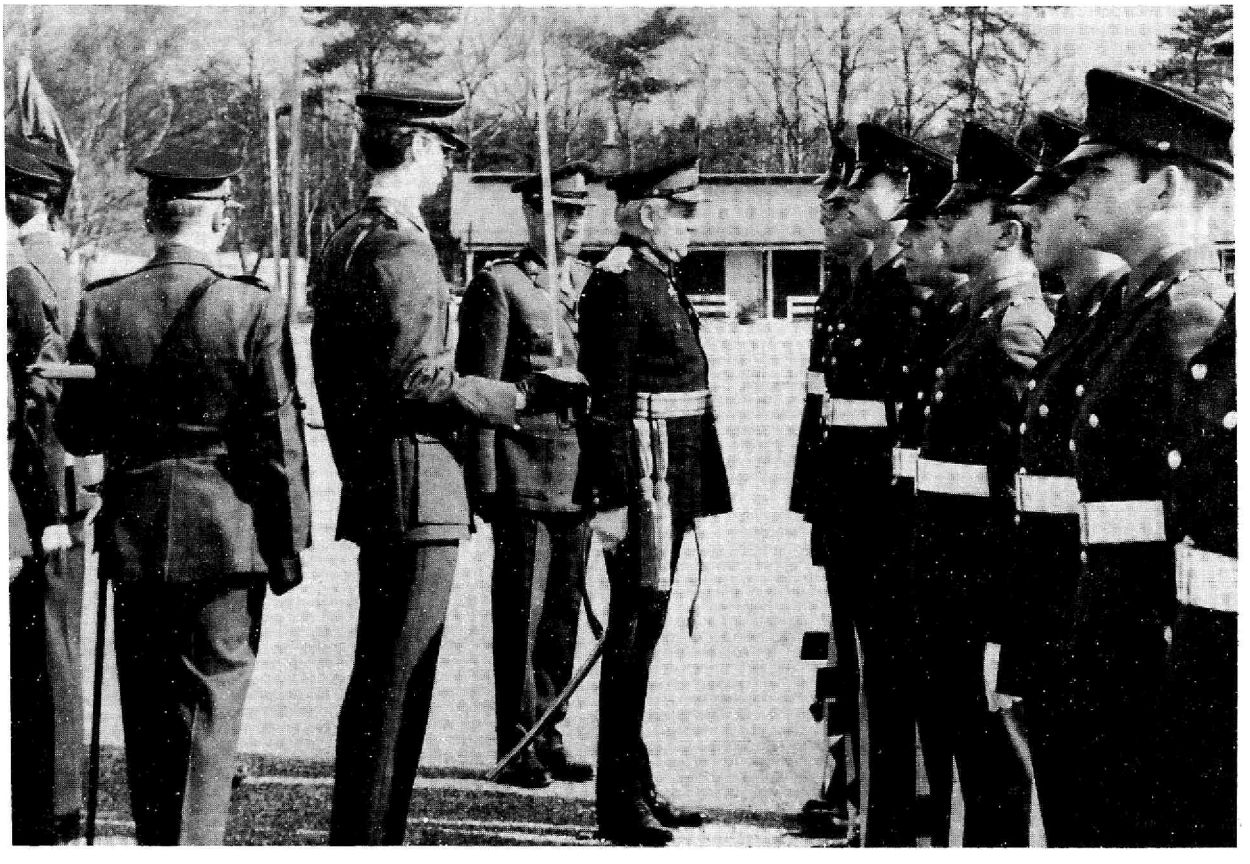
General Speller presenting the massive Championship Cup to A/Lcpl Draper, the Army Junior Rifle Champion



Lieutenant General Sir Allan Taylor KBE, MC, inspecting the Term Leavers during the December 1974 Passing Out Parade



The reward of every A/RSM is the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Tankard. In December 1974 it was presented by General Taylor to A/RSM T H W Crawford REME



April 1975. General J T Stanyer CBE inspecting the Passing Out Platoon. For the first time since 1962 members of the Permanent Staff paraded with Apprentices



General Stanyer presenting the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Cpl N Ramsbottom ACC of the College Restaurant



Mrs Stanyer receiving her reward after presenting the prizes, from the apprentice who won the Sergeants' Cup for the best all-round performance - A/Sgt Patterson

A COMPANY

OC Major JH Rose RAOC

Training Officer Captain AP Byles RAOC

CSM WOII J Foster RAOC



Standing: *Sgt A H Rowlands* *Sgt R G Anderson* *Lt G Cox*
Lt D J Walton *Lt R Knight* *Sgt P M Thain* *Sgt J D Lee*

Seated: *Lt M Sullivan* *Capt A P Byles* *Major J H Rose*
WO2 J Foster *Lt J C Williams*

The end of Spring term 1975 will see the departure from the Company of the last eight term apprentices. It is, therefore, the end of an era, and the past year has been concerned with balancing the requirements of the old and new systems. Contraction of training into four terms has given a sense of urgency whilst some of the 'enjoyment' periods have had to be cut from the programme. Whilst changes have been going on in the training cycle personalities have continued to come and go in the Company.

One departure which will be felt in many ways in the Company will be that of Vivienne Gibbs, our civilian clerk, who has been with us some 13 years. Viv joined us straight from school and has been, in her quiet and unobtrusive way, a tower of strength. Her efficiency and dedication will be sorely missed, so we wish her well in her new role of 'Mother'.

We welcome Mrs Sylvia Fielden who we hope will enjoy her stay with us.

Lt Henwood arrived in June but stayed only until Christmas when he departed for the Ammunition Technical Officers Course. The festive season also saw Lt Wood off to learn all about food technology, the wiseacres making such remarks as "He's off to learn which side his bread's buttered"! In February 1975 Captain Sharp was posted on promotion to CVD Ashchurch. We wonder if he will do as much riding as he did on our Camp at Fremington. Another changeover in the year which made its mark felt particularly among the apprentices, was the departure of CSM Godwin to 24 OFP and the arrival of CSM Foster. We swopped a Welshman for the Irish variety. CSM Godwin's sense of humour and understanding will be missed - but not by prevalent offenders. Other notable depar-

tures were those of Sgt Parsons who went on promotion to the Intelligence Corps Depot at Ashford and Sgt Knight also on promotion to the Command Logistic Regiment at Plymouth. There is always a twinge of sadness on losing our Permanent Staff but it is a pleasure to know that they are going on worthwhile courses or good postings, particularly when it is coupled with promotion.

Our replacements have been Captain Byles, Lt Walton, Lt Williams, Lt Knight, CSM Foster, Sgt Thain, Sgt Lee and Sgt Bennett all of whom have settled in well and have rapidly acquired the dreaded 'Apprentice Twitch'.

It must be very rare for Camp to take place three times running at the same location but that is what happened in 1974. Fremington became very familiar to us and so did the 'fleshpots' of Barnstaple. Each camp was a success because good use was made of the facilities in and around the area. We ranged over Exmoor on foot and horseback, walked the Devon cliffs and canoed at Saunton. Two officers, who shall be nameless, even managed to play golf! In February 1975 we had a complete change of scenery and went to Warcop in Cumbria where the weather was magnificent for the time of year. The ranges were very different from the type we see at Ash so shooting was far more interesting and standards did improve. One apprentice was overheard to say "The CO and OC followed me down the alley and that's my excuse for a bad score". Walking along the Pennine Way, riding and map reading were our other activities at Warcop.

During the Winter and Spring terms platoon weekends and visits to places of interest have increased so that at times people wondered if A Company ever occupied their blocks at weekends. The New Forest has been particularly popular whilst Baker and Gordon Platoon will remember a weekend at Westmoors where they were indoctrinated into the mysteries of petroleum. That same weekend Steevens and Valon were located at Marchington which enabled them to sample the delights of Southampton.

In the past year the Company has done well on a sporting level, in particular taking the Athletics and Cross Country. The enthusiasm generated for athletics made the OC come out of retirement and do the last leg of the chain of command relay. He really had no choice as he or the Training Officer had to run.

We held on to the Hockey Cup but have not been too successful in the soccer where B Company seem to have the players. The inter platoon competitions have continued to generate great interest with a good show of success and the innovation of an indoor games league at the start of Spring term went down very well. The platoons will be left to crow about their achievements in the reports which follow. They will no doubt give you their excuses as well! We will not say much about the College rifle meeting, suffice to say that it took the officers to save our prestige by getting to the final of the balloon shoot and then they lost to the Training Wing professionals. Such is life!

VALON PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt PJ Walton REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt RG Anderson RAOC

With the new recruit intake in September 1974 the present Valon Platoon was born and soon distinguished itself by coming well and truly bottom in the inter platoon cross country competition. Still you can not be good at everything immediately and this was well made up for later.

College annual camp at Fremington passed with a few blisters and a few more bouts of homesickness but nothing that was not cured by some hard work on the drill square, and the acceptance parade was rapidly approaching. This latter provided parents with an opportunity to see their sons and the Army at work and there were many surprised comments of how 'human' the Army seemed!

The platoon partly vindicated itself for its earlier sporting defeat by winning the A Company inter platoon hockey championship, beating the senior A Platoon in the final, in a very good, though hard game.

End of term came and the Christmas party went with a swing, some having to be put to bed more than once and others not finding their beds at all. The Passing Out Parade pageant task for the platoon was to demonstrate drill from the recruit intake level to final term leaving level. The first part was easily achieved..... and Sgt Anderson was frequently heard muttering about strangling and locking people up!

The Spring term started with the inter platoon indoor games league which we eventually won after a close finish with Parsons Platoon. This represented a really good effort by everyone in the platoon and was well deserved.

While A/Pte Holder went skiing in Scotland, the rest of the platoon went to Warminster to see the Infantry Firepower demonstration. A grandstand seat was provided for the platoon in amongst the officers, much to the chagrin of the Paras who were there and had to sit on the wet grass, but more attention was probably paid to the high ranking foreign officers than to the actual demo.

Platoon weekend camp was held in the New Forest and horse riding at the start soon sorted out the cowboys from those that always had trouble with the brakes and steering. Some of them were even seen instructing members of the public, needless to say young ladies, in the art of horse riding. A trek across the Isle of Wight the following day was welcomed by those who prefer to keep their feet on the ground, but the occasional cry of "If only I had a horse" was still to be heard.

Company camp at Warcop started with a few blisters which quickly disappeared when the extent of the fatigues back at camp was known. Despite a good try by a certain member of the permanent staff on the map reading exercise, no one got lost on the moors and the platoon enjoyed some good shooting on the ranges.

A visit to the New Forest again in March saw the fourth time that the platoon had been horse riding, but did not stop everyone from getting soaking wet on a tramp across the heath.

The term ended with the College rifle meeting where the platoon shot very well, but slipped just when it mattered and ended up 3rd overall in the College but coming well top in A Company In the balloon shoot knock-out competition we were just beaten in the final, again by a B Company team. Still, when it comes to money there was no shortage of winners. A/Pte Francis won the "Face at the Window" competition outright and collected £4 and A/Lcpl Painter shared the pool bull with two others.

Promotions during the year have been fast for some, due to the senior boys leaving. A/Lcpl Forsyth won the prize in the Autumn term for the best recruit in the College and is now an apprentice sergeant. Two members of the platoon have been given the dubious honour of looking after the new recruit platoon (Swiney Platoon) this summer. They are A/Sgt Sheldrick and A/Lcpl Eades to whom we wish the best of British.

STEEVENS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt PA Henwood RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt JD Lee REME

Steevens as Light Cavalry by A/Pte S Mastin

Throughout the last two terms, at various camps all over the country, we of Steevens have indulged in various forms of recreational training, but none has ever been as popular as horse riding.

We were introduced to the skills of riding at last September's College camp at Fremington, near Barnstaple in Devon. We arrived at the stables with mixed feelings although some of the experts who had actually ridden before were looking forward to it!

The first ride took us up a bridle path which we negotiated at a walk and now and again at a trot. Upon coming to a big field, however, there was quite a change as the horses were allowed their heads and set off at a canter and even at a gallop at times. Percival, Parsons and myself were hanging on for dear life, while others such as Parromon were trying to get every ounce of power and speed out of their mounts. We then arrived at the road back to the stables and the horses took us back without being asked. I think everybody enjoyed the ride and the seed was sown.

The next ride was at platoon camp at Beaulieu in Hampshire near Southampton, most of the platoon managing to get in two rides at Decoy Pond Farm stables. The facilities were second to none and the horses the best we have encountered so far. The funniest thing that happened was when Percival's horse, Rory, had to go through a river which, luckily, wasn't very deep. Rory stopped in mid-stream and began to paw the ground like a bull, and then, abruptly, rolled

over. Luckily Percival was able to throw himself off just in time.

We were back in the saddle in February 1975 at Brough in Cumbria while the platoon were on a week's battle camp at Warcop. Again most of the platoon were able to get in at least one ride and a few managed two in one morning. Later on that day certain members of the platoon were not a little saddle-sore, especially one A/Pte Miller and myself.

On one occasion we walked our horses along a road through a village and when we came to a bridge the instructress called a halt and an about turn. As we went through the village for the second time, A/Pte Wilson's horse, Drummer, got restless and set off up the road at a gallop, closely followed, most unwillingly, by A/Ptes Mathews, Percival and Miller who all clattered through the village in a manner not unlike that of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. They were pursued by a somewhat frantic instructress. The rest of the rides at Brough, however, passed without incident.

We soon found ourselves in the familiar scenes at Decoy Pond Farm on a Company week-end when we were camped at Marchwood. The ride was eagerly awaited and as we left the farmyard we soon saw what our horses were made of. The ride went along at a fast pace without mishap until we came to the river which had to be forded again. To our delight Rory did his party piece again and A/Cpl Sharp had to take an early bath this time! Finally, Rory bolted and A/Pte Taylor decided to try to catch him. So off he set at a gallop with almost all the rest of the platoon after him. It was a great ride which culminated in A/Cpl Marshall, A/Pte Taylor and myself hanging on to Rory while the instructress berated us for exciting the animal.

We went back to the stable to await the remainder of the party. When they finally arrived it was with A/Cpl Sharp riding two up with Lt Cox. It was also revealed that at one time A/Cpl Sharp and A/Pte Upton were riding two up when both were thrown!

Steevens at Marchwood by A/Cpl Alexander

We set out for Marchwood Camp at 1435 hrs. For a while we sang and the singing was strong but soon, as the bus made its weary way, we began to falter and after "Father Christmas do not touch me" we gave in completely and silence reigned which was indeed a surprise because the singing usually goes on through the best part of the journey. It may have been the fact that most of the platoon had been on education all morning that had tired them out and were all in need of a rest because everyone knows what a tax education is on one's strength.

Nevertheless, when we finally arrived at Marchwood we all jumped off the bus and it was like something out of 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' (minus horses, though we were to get them later), as we made our way to the front door of the block where we were met by the Frankenstein like features of A/Cpl Marshall who had somehow wangled a lift in the CSM's car earlier on. We were shown to our rooms and immediately set about making our beds. which was in fact a great idea since we were all knackered and ready to indulge in some 'Egyptian PT' even though it was only 1600 hrs.

We were wakened next morning by the joyful cries of Cpl Rosceles trying his best to imitate a bugle. We washed and dressed quickly and ran down to the cookhouse to indulge in A/Pte Ratcliffe's favourite pastime of eating. When we returned from breakfast we were told by A/Cpl Marshall we had to go horse riding in boots, denims and tracksuit top and as most of us were in civvies we were going to mug him for not telling us earlier. However, we quickly changed and the 10 who were going riding went out to the transport and the canoeists stayed behind because the canoeing began later. I will skip over the story of Decoy Pond Farm as I believe A/Pte Mastin has already written at length about that exquisite form of tortune.

In the afternoon we did a recce of Southampton in readiness for the evening's onslaught. All we succeeded in doing was to get drenched as it did nothing but rain, and being apprentices, we didn't have the sense to find cover. That night we all went into Southampton again and as soon as we got off the bus we bombed off on our different ways, promising to be back at 2300 hours to catch the bus. Most of us spent the night in a cinema or a disco and when 2300 hours came we were ready to call it a day.

Next day we got up not knowing quite what we were in for, but after breakfast we found out that we were going ice skating in Southampton. We were soon there - the Top Rank Ice Rink - and after a short wait to get our skates we were on the ice. A few of us could skate but CSM Foster was more than a little apprehensive. still after a few falls on his posterior, even he seemed to get the hang of it. Soon most of us were going round the rink and I think most of the civilians were trying their best to keep out of our way as we tended to knock them down an awful lot. We spent a very enjoyable morning at the rink. Sgt Lee took it as a chance to show

off his skating ability but it was hard to see him amongst so many people. Lt Cox also showed us his ability on ice but he seemed to wait till nearer the end when most of us had finished. I wonder why?

We came back to camp, had dinner and then went across to the NAAFI to have a last game of bar billiards. The machine did not need any money as A/Pte Nicholls had found an ingenious way of fixing the gate which stops the balls coming down, with a cigarette packet. Soon we were on the trucks and after a short argument about who had the room key, which Sgt Anderson found later on, we were off back to glorious Deepcut.

GORDON PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt M Sullivan REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt PM Thain Int Corps

The Platoon began the year 28 strong. By the 10 March the numbers had decreased to 25. Two took their discharge and one emigrated.

Since joining the College most have become experienced travellers. The September camp was spent in Fremington, near Barnstaple, Devon and the Company camp at Warcop, Cumbria. We also went to Longmoor and Westmoors for week-end camps.

Fremington was a very popular camp. The platoon took part in canoeing, riding and swimming, along with carrying out normal training. A/Pte Richards was unfortunate in that he was injured early in September and missed many of the activities. The platoon had their first taste of route marching, embarking on a two day 14 mile trek along the Somerset and North Devon coast road. They camped in a field in pouring rain, and then, at breakfast, were visited by the Commanding Officer and the Second-in-Command, complete with Public Relations photographer. In spite of the cold and damp, morale remained high.

There were several casualties in the past six months; a few examples are given below.

A/Pte Rodrigues crashed to the concrete floor of the stables at Middleford when the farmer yanked his horse to a halt. He spent the next few days in the tender care of the nurses at the Royal North Devon Hospital recovering from concussion.

Again, whilst on weekend camp at Longmoor, Rodrigues was also unfortunate; a thunderflash exploded near his ear. He was put under the guidance of Sgt Hogg to go back to the Base area from the exercise area, but Hogg lost his way, set off one of our defensive trip flares and they both returned to the exercise area. Rodrigues again wound up in bed. He recounts his experience elsewhere.

At the Warcop camp, during the exercise, both Fletcher and Richards (again) became casualties.

During the ten mile march at Warcop, the Platoon Commander offered £1 to anyone who would jump (from a wooden bridge we were crossing) into the fast-flowing deep torrent below. Cavanagh plunged into the icy waters and waded ashore. The Platoon Commander paid up muttering imprecations about money and Scotsmen.

On the sporting scene, the Platoon produced some gladiators. A/Lcpl Mulloy soon came to notice as a College rugger player, boxer and cross-country runner. Hesling and A/Cpl Jacques represented the College at soccer. Among the hockey players who played for the College were: Fairlie, Fawcett, Sneddon, Mulholland, Macmillan Varker, Kuzera and Cavanagh. Purves is a strong swimmer and captained the platoon side. Cavanagh is another versatile sportsman who has represented the College at boxing and hockey.

Some of the platoon have become very good shots. Hesling, Mulloy, Fairlie, Fletcher and Kuzera obtained the highest possible score firing the Sterling sub machine gun. Richards, Buckland and A/Lcpl Pratt are members of the College shooting squad. Other notable shots with the self loading rifle are Purves and Macmillan, who both had the best score on the Automatic Range at Warcop. Other good shots are Fawcett, Kuzera, Fletcher and A/Cpls Kidd and Jacques.

The term leavers go soon: A/Sgt Hogg to HQ 1 Div in Germany and A/Lcpl Macdonald to Salisbury. Our best wishes for a successful career go with them. The remainder of the platoon soldier on and we depart for an 18 day camp in South Wales on 10 May 1975.

Gordon Platoon in the New Forest
by A/Sgt Patterson

Unlike many normal camps, our platoon camp can provide a variety of entertainment. Even though, regrettably, it was only a weekend camp, it gave a pleasant relaxing time for the men of Gordon Platoon.

Almost as soon as we arrived the platoon went horse riding. There were three groups and each group had one hour on a combination of ponies and horses. Each man in the platoon had three rides. I myself enjoyed it so much that I bought a ride off A/Pte Bruddock, making my total four rides. Out of the rides on Friday I went on the last two. I rode a fine black horse, which without doubt, could move a bit. After two hours riding, I felt an agonising ache creeping over me. I believe it is called 'saddle-soreness'.

The following day after breakfast we had a mini-map reading exercise, which even though it involved marching through acres of marsh, was quite enjoyable. We were split into pairs and had to pass six check points. We had one hour to complete the course but it was two hours before my partner and I returned to camp. We walked in with our heads hung low, but cheered up when we found out that we had really done quite well.

The afternoon involved more horse riding. Even though I was determined to stand-fast and not use my last ride till Monday, someone came offering a ride. Without thinking twice I took the offer and promptly ran to join the others. I thought I had been very lucky to find spare a most lovely animal. With a wide smile on my face I let all the other horses be claimed. Unfortunately, the horse I had picked happened to be a £1,500 racehorse! So reluctantly I had to forget this beautiful beast and try to come to terms with a huge white horse which knew exactly what it wanted to do - and did it!

Sunday was to be the inter-section orienteering competition. It was a course of some 15 miles. We were again divided into pairs and after choosing our two check points carefully, we set off. We marched by compass across open fields and deserted lands and taking bearings was very difficult. However, we reached our first check point and got our cards stamped and that was worth 30 points. Our time limit was 1½ hours and as it had taken us one hour to find the first check point we decided to run for home because every minute over 1½ hours would lose us one point. We struggled across fields and tripped over ditches and furrows, but we pushed on. I thought we were going to make it but my partner wrenched his ankle and we were eventually 27 minutes later, thus gaining only 3 points. When everyone was back we found that we were the only pair in our section to have a positive score and we were placed 5th overall. After lunch we visited the motor museum in Beaulieu, but I am not a car enthusiast. The boys who are thought it was great!

All good things must come to an end, however, so Monday was our last day. In the morning we got ready to leave but before departure I had to have my final horse ride. The horses seemed to sense our sadness and they really gave us our money's worth. Frequently one horse would gallop off ahead and all the other horses would follow suit irrespective of whether the rider wanted to or not. At first, the instructress was worried but when she saw we could all stay in the saddle, she did not mind. It was great! Then we left the the stables and climbed aboard the Army bus to take us home.

But the camp wasn't finished yet, for on our way home we visited 17 Port Regiment RCT which is situated at Marchwood near Southampton. Our stay there was eventful, beginning with a cool trip around the harbour in the Regiment's latest launch which really gave one a feeling of power. We learned a lot about the regiment - the small company of shipwrights, the REME vehicles and the arms and ammunition which are ferried all over the world. We also noted that this was where troops going to Northern Ireland by sea are embarked.

Looking back on the camp I don't know whether it was the military organisation that made it so good or just the Forestry Commission. The platoon's view of this camp was exceptionally good. I, myself, sincerely hope that the Army will be generous and let us have many more camps like this one.

Gordon Platoon at Short Heath Camp
by A/Lcpl Kidd

We arrived at the camp site approximately midday on Sat 18 February 75 in pouring rain and we were fed up straight away because everything was wet through before we started. The main camp had been situated beside an average size lake and the surrounding area was almost all marsh, but there were a lot of ferns and they made it ideal fighting ground.

We had to prepare for an evening attack from Baker Platoon who were also camping in the surrounding area. Before tea we went out to the area which we would be defending and planned

our various positions. When all this had been done we retired to the base camp and had a comparatively good meal. Meanwhile, the senior NCOs went out and set up trip flares for the enemy to stumble across. After tea ammunition was issued and at approximately 1900 hrs we set out to take up our defensive positions to await quietly for the attack. At about 1930 hrs Baker Platoon attacked. There were a lot of bangs and flashes but after about 10 minutes the attack was over. It had all been very exciting and I think, had it been real, we might have been able to hold off the enemy.

In no time we were formed up and ready to counter-attack. We moved off to the hill which we had been told they were defending. We spread out around the hill and then we attacked. Yet again it was all over in no time. We formed up on the other side and returned to base where there was a cup of tea waiting for us. This night was very enjoyable and amusingly the rain held off and the sky was clear.

Next morning we found that there had been the hell of a frost and all our gear was frozen stiff, but at least the sun was shining. During the Sunday we went out on a map-reading course. Most people found this enjoyable and comparatively easy. My section got disqualified because a couple of us broke away from the others and arrived 20 minutes too soon at the correct position.

In the evening we had a section attack - Kidd's Commandos versus Mulloy's Marauders! Mulloy was defending the same hill as used the previous night. This group set out at about 1900 hrs and we, the Commandos, about half an hour later to attack. We arrived at our start lines at about 1940 hrs. A green flare was fired and battle commenced. It was really good fun. We had lots of rounds, plenty of thunderflashes and quite a few smoke canisters. I think that undoubtedly Kidd's Commandos won the battle outright and took the hill. Once we had finished we set off back to the camp for a meal and drinks.

Unfortunately that night it rained very heavily and the next morning everything was soaking wet. We were really fed up but most managed somehow to survive. We had a pleasant surprise, though, when Lt Walton came to tell us that the OC had sent the truck out early to pick us up. This cheered everybody up. I think it was pretty considerate of the OC but because we are Gordon Platoon we didn't really want any special treatment because we can put up with it and suffer and still keep going. We arrived back at the College with everyone soaked to the skin but all pretty cheerful. We unloaded the stores and then went to dinner. Personally, I think the weekend was a great success and good experience even though the weather turned bad. I enjoyed myself very much.

A Short Heath Common Casualty

by A/Pte Rodrigues

It was raining quite heavily when we arrived at Short Heath Common and we were already quite cold and miserable, but soon we pulled ourselves together and got stuck in. During the day we recced the area and planned our defensive positions. Purvis slaved over our No 1 cooker and produced a good hot meal before we went to our position. We each had 10 rounds of blank ammunition and we lay in wait for Baker Platoon. There was silence for some 30 minutes and then we heard shots and the mock battle started. Sgt Thain told us to save our ammo and to watch our arcs of fire. Then it happened!

I was lying down by a small bush when a thunderflash landed in it. I lay flat and guarded my head. I waited...and then I heard a loud bang. Thinking the device had exploded I looked up again - just as it went off close to my face! It nearly deafened me! Soon the attack was over and I got up. I could scarcely stand and my ear was ringing with a constant howl like the engaged signal on a telephone.

Lt Sullivan ordered Sgt Hogg to take me back to base but on our way we set off a trip flare. After that I don't remember much until I arrived in hospital where I was tested and tested. I was confused and uncomfortable. I felt uneasy. I hated every minute in the hospital. The smell of the disinfectant seered my nostrils. I felt sleepy but I was frightened to sleep. I suppose it was my sub-conscious fear of the hospital that kept me awake.

Eventually, Sgt Thain picked me up and took me back to Deepcut Camp. I felt relieved to be out of hospital and the fresh air was beautiful to my lungs. Sgt Thain told me that a police car had taken me to hospital after the Landrover had broken down!

We arrived at Deepcut and Sgt Thain took me to the block. I climbed out of my damp combats and got into bed. My mind was in a state of hollowness and my eyelids were heavy. I dozed off and for me the exercise was over.

Gordon at Warcop by A/Pte Rodrigues

The first morning in Warcop was devoted to shooting on the 30 metre range and zeroing our weapons ready to use on all the ranges during the week. We also had a competition between sections and challenged the permanent staff. Section One were the winners.

The afternoon was a tough one. We had a 10 mile assault course to finish. We had to double some of the way back to camp and down to the assault course. Despite our very tired condition we soldiered on over the assault course and we finished the job. Morale was very high in the platoon.

The next morning (Sunday) we set off to 'E' Range. This was a good range. We were taught to fire from different kinds of cover and in different positions. We even shot while advancing. When we weren't firing Sgt Thain gave us instruction on the LMG. Both the OC, Major Rose and the CSM, WO2 Foster, came to watch the shooting. In the afternoon we went to the Jungle Range. This is also a good range. The targets popped up as we walked along and we had to fire two shots into each target before going on to the next. In all there were seven targets and, of course, we each had 14 rounds. After we had all shot we returned to Warcop Camp, showered changed and relaxed.

Monday was devoted entirely to the best exercise we've had yet. There were loads of blank rounds and thunderflashes. The exercise involved a lot of organising. The platoon represented British troops in Northern Ireland and the permanent staff and term leavers were IRA terrorists. The exercise ended with the platoon laying an ambush for the terrorists in a gulley. The whole thing was full of excitement with flashes, explosions and incendiaries.

Tuesday morning was given over to map-reading on the moors in preparation for the fell walk. The weather was windy, ice-cold and very misty, a real pea-souper. With all this someone had to get lost and someone did. That particular party ended up miles from where they should have been, but the fog cleared and we saw some very fine scenery. Tuesday afternoon was an easy one. Some played football and the physical fitness enthusiasts did some running.

Wednesday morning was for horse riding but I didn't go because I am not very good with horses. I was stuck in the cook-house on fatigues. In the afternoon we were on 'A' Range. This range, too, was very good. The targets were electrically controlled and disappeared when hit. The practices were the same as on 'E' Range.

Thursday was devoted to a 15 mile fell walk. This was excellent and we saw some fantastic scenery. Lt Cox also gave us some instruction on the geography of the hills.

On Friday we returned to Deepcut. My opinion of Warcop is that it is a very fine camp for training. Even the accommodation was somewhat better than Deepcut. The NAAFI was excellent but the night life in the surrounding villages was zero.

BAKER PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt JC Williams REME

Platoon Sergeant Sgt MJ Knight RAOC

Sgt AH Rowlands RAOC

The date of Tuesday 10 September 74 is one that will be unforgettable for 33 young men who came together on that day to form Baker Platoon of the RAOC Apprentices College. They came from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Plymouth and Durham, even from Germany and the Caribbean, some shy, some brash, but all a little curious.

After a gentle introduction to army life, off we went to sunny Devon for the annual camp. This served to separate the wheat from the chaff, and soon three of the original number were quickly returned to the security of mother's apron strings.

Despite the unkind weather, the camp proved enjoyable in providing a balance of training and recreational activities. The first produced the first signs of teamwork and military bearing, the latter some of the lighter moments of the fortnight. The horse riding was a new and novel experience for the majority and although thoroughly enjoyed, at least one member of the platoon discovered an unorthodox method of

dismounting when the horse suddenly stopped.

The camp provided a number of enjoyable visits, the Maritime Museum at Exeter being both unique and interesting. Swimming at Ilfracombe and "banger" racing at Bideford also helped to break up the normal training routine and get the platoon out of camp for a spell. The visit to the REME Fording Trials Branch will best be remembered for the trip round the bay at Instow, not as one would suppose in a pleasure launch, but atop a 60-ton Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle. Perhaps also the look on a dozen faces when the DUKW in which they were travelling hit the water at 30 mph, and they suddenly realized that the resultant bow wave was meant for them!

Back in Deepcut with so many new things to learn, time passed quickly. Under the capable instruction of Sgt Knight and other members of the permanent staff, the standard gradually improved. Upside down gaiters had almost disappeared by half-term and the "flying-saucer" beret (used to smuggle plates out of the cookhouse) had given way tomore individual fashions.

watching the performance. The platoon party produced the inevitable crop of two-pint wonders; the shandy's will have to be even more diluted next year!

Finally laden with hefty giro cheques and the inevitable brown paper bag, the platoon dispersed for a well deserved Christmas recess, during which we said goodbye to Sgt Knight on promotion and wish him the best of everything in his new job with the Commando Logistic Force.

Sgt Rowlands was soon cracking the whip at the beginning of the new term and after a few weeks of training at Deepcut, it was time for the Platoon Weekend Camp which we carried out on the Bordon Training Area. Most of the platoon still think the 'Training Area' part is a myth, being convinced that Bordon is just one large Irish bog, or perhaps an extension of the Everglades. Admittedly, firm ground was at a premium but we managed to find sufficient on which to pitch the tents. With Lcpl Denwood itching to get the feel of his new stripe, he was chartered to take the platoon on a guided tour of the area.



Gymnastic display by Baker Platoon at the December 74 Passing Out Parade

The end of the first term arrived. The platoon contributed a gymnastic display to the Passing Out Parade pageant. No potential transfers here to the APTC, but a lot of effort (and rehearsal) made everything go right on the day to the pleasure of the many parents and spectators

which almost resulted in a mass drowning. The best was yet to come, for once darkness had spread its blanket over the scene, the war games started. The next few hours were straight out of Jungle Book, but all survived and returned to the Admin area in the early hours of the morning to

discuss the experiences over hot soup and tea.

A hard frost that night turned wet footwear into solid chunks of ice and the hexamine blocks were used in their secondary role of boot melting. The frost soon disappeared, to be replaced by pouring rain which persisted all day. Despite this, the training went on as planned and in general the platoon gained from overcoming the adverse conditions, and from that point became a more integrated unit and a better all round team.

The platoon have supplied a number of gladiators for the various College teams. At soccer, Street, Denwood, Cousins, Buttery, Oakes, Young, Howat and Wilson have featured consistently in the College XIs. Balfour and Platten have turned out regularly for the Hockey XI and the Rugby XV have had the services of Madine, Barnes, Haynes and Brown C. At cross country, Beaumont has run consistently well and recently took first place in the RAOC Training Centre event, defeating adult opposition in the process.

Late February saw the platoon up at Warcop in Cumbria with the rest of 'A' Company. We enjoyed seven days of glorious weather, into which was packed a variety of outdoor training and sport. On return to Deepcut, the platoon were a lot fitter than when they set out, which was just as well with the ELT camp next on the schedule. This took place at Harlech in North Wales from 14 to 20 March and was, without exception, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

At the time of going to press, the platoon are relaxing on Easter leave and looking forward to fine weather, the Summer term and would you believe, another camp, this time at Tenby in South Wales. The saga of Tenby will have to wait until the next issue of Thunderbolt.

'A' COMPANY AT WARCOP



L to R: Lt Cox CSM Foster the CO

"Company funds or no company funds, I'm not paying for this cuppa!"



Sgt Smith working the On/Off switch on A/Pte Hambleton's back



"You don't get a stoppage with a spear!" Pte Wilson and Lt Williams of Baker Platoon



A/Ptes Cavanagh and Mulholland leading Gordon Platoon on the Pennine Way walk



"I'm only here for the beer!"
Capt Byles as OIC Range



Security is a warm bottom
Pte Cavanagh of Gordon Platoon

'A' COMPANY AT WARMINSTER

'A' Company at Warminster
by A/Pte M A Fishwick

The demonstration was held at Warminster on 17 January 75 and the purpose was to show the people watching what sort of fire-power an Infantry Company has in today's modern weapons. The weapons available ranged from the self-loading rifle right up to the 120-mm heavy anti tank weapon which is called the 'Wombat'.

First of all they showed us the 'Viper'. The Viper is a piece of cord shot from a launcher which, when detonated, clears a piece of ground 100-feet long by 2-feet wide of all types of mines. It does this by means of a shock wave and is quite devastating.

After the Viper came the basic infantry weapon - the SLR. In a well put-forward manner, they showed us the speed with which a rifle section could destroy the enemy. This was done by laying three rows of red plates which indicated the enemy. Within 11 seconds all the plates were flattened. This was just another part of a marvellous demonstration.

Then came the GPMG. This was demonstrated in three ways - sustained fire, light fire and anti-aircraft fire. In particular we watched the anti-aircraft role. The guns were mounted, one on a four tonner, one on a landrover and two (twin) on an APC. The target was a radio-controlled model aircraft flying above them. It was not shot down but only because I don't think they wanted to lose it.

Afterwards all sorts of weapons were shown such as the Wombat (120-mm), the light mortar (81-mm), the 30-mm Rarden cannon, the 84-mm MAW Carl Gustav and the 66-mm anti-tank rocket. In addition we saw all sorts of mines, eg, the anti-vehicle Bar mine, the anti-personnel Claymore mine and, as I have said before, the Viper.

Altogether the demonstration was conducted very well, putting into action all the weapons of an Infantry company. The day was very educational and, as we have been training with some of the weapons but have not seen their full value, it was very good to see what destruction they can cause.

The weapon which impressed me most during the day was the 120-mm Wombat mounted on an APC. This is a very nice piece of machinery and it was the first time I have seen it in action. It impressed me very much and many of my friends were just as impressed.

A very well spent day!

'B' COMPANY

OC Major HD Lucas RAOC

Training Officer Captain MR Beer REME

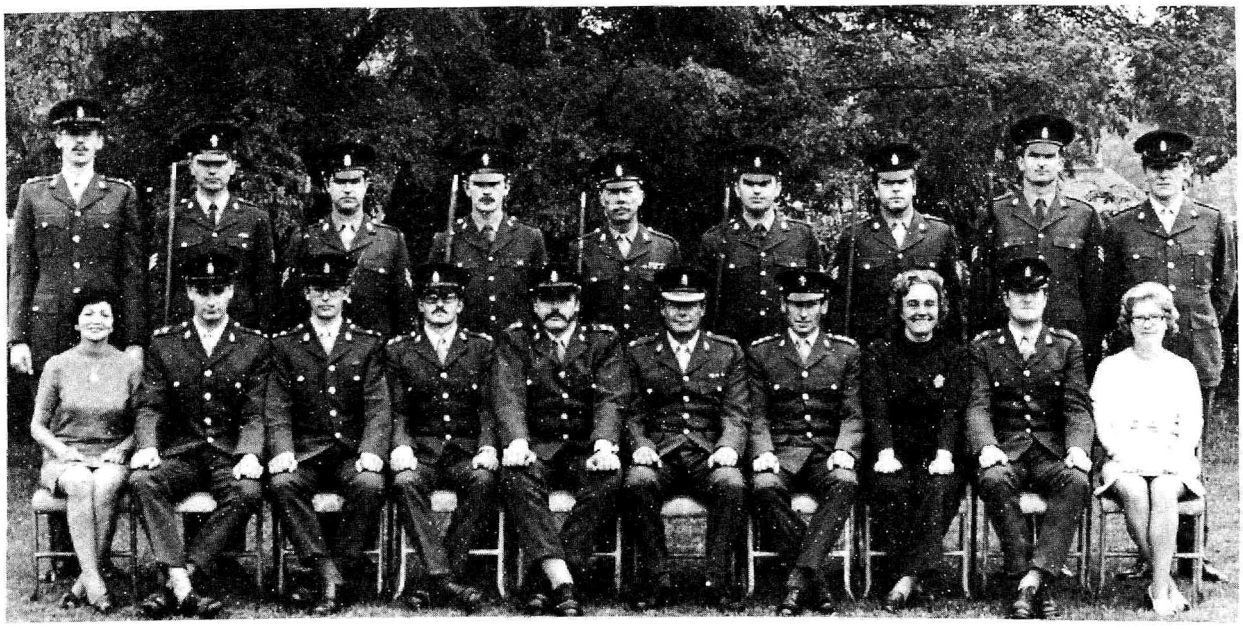
CSM WOII G K Maule MSM RAOC

It will be noted from the photograph that the Company has seen a significant turnover of permanent staff.

In April Lt Dyer left the Company for the sedentary occupations of the Training Wing and has now moved to the sunny shores of Cyprus on promotion. Fortune it appears continues to smile upon him but we wonder for how much longer he will evade marriage. Likewise Sgt Michael departed to the Training Wing but was diverted to a tour as treasurer in the Sergeants' Mess. However, promotion to Ssgt is no small consolation.

Lt Inman joined us in May from his attachment with 19 Fd Regt RA to start up the mercurial Rowcroft Platoon. Sgt Preece must have found the platoon a tough assignment as he left in August on promotion to a CQMS appointment at Porton Down. He appears from time to time to commiserate with his late Platoon Commander.

Sgt Douglas also left in August to complete a course and he is now a CQMS in the Regimental Depot. His cheerful countenance frequently breezes through the College lines.



B COMPANY PERMANENT STAFF

Lt J Inman Sgt D G Hardstaff Sgt M A O'Malley Sgt R D Smith CSM G K Maule
Sgt P Carrick Sgt T Flowers Sgt S C Bonta Lt A T Bettaney

Mrs E Redman Lt I Marshall Lt H A Jones Lt N C Smith Lt R J Jordan
Major H D Lucas Capt M R Beer Mrs B Titmuss Lt M Blatherwick Mrs A Jenkins

In September Lt Bettaney arrived on commissioning from Sandhurst where he achieved the distinction of passing out as the top Ordnance Officer. Lts Marshall and Jones also joined the Company in September to take a three month break from the academic grind of three years at Shrivenham followed by the Ordnance Officers' Course. It is noted that fortune has at last smiled upon them and they are off with their families to Germany and Hong Kong respectively.

Also in September we welcomed Sgt Hardstaff from 19 Fd Wksps and Sgt Carrick from 4 OFP BAOR.

At the end of the Autumn term Lts Blatherwick and Jordan left us to start the Ammunition Technical Officers' Course and Lt Smith departed to the Long Petroleum Course without, sadly, his python. The Platoon Commanders' office is now a great deal tidier but their cheerful choruses are missed.

In January Lt Ball joined from 1 BR Corps Combat Supplies Bn, Lt Lamb from the Ordnance Depot in Cyprus and Lt Hart from an Infantry attachment with 1 Staffords.

The Company Office staff at least remains unchanged since the last report with Major Lucas at the helm, Capt Beer doing the navigating and CSM Maule keeping a vigilant eye on the crew. To date the good ship 'Busy Bee' has succeeded in sailing through many storms on an even and well scrubbed keel.

Mrs Titmuss keeps track of the paperwork in her inimitable manner and Mrs Jenkins is now an expert in deciphering the illegible scripts of a number of the permanent staff. Mrs Ester Redman continues to keep the establishment spotless but even her willing nature was sorely tried by the supposed redecoration during the Christmas recess.

In the space available it is impossible to record our best wishes to every apprentice who leaves but A/Pte Mills must be singled out for his decision to exchange the rigours of the Apprentices College for the Israeli Army and likewise A/Lcpl Garrick who has left us to join the Senior Service. We wish them well for the future and trust they will keep us informed of their exploits.

As promised in the last edition of Thunderbolt the Inter Company Football Cup was returned to its rightful place with a spectacular 7-1 win over A Company in December. The Company now fields nine out of the College A team. For good measure Watts Platoon won the Inter Platoon Shield in March.

Watts Platoon also won the Inter Platoon Rugby Shield and it was interesting to note how ably the football players took to seven-a-side rugby.

The Company also shone on the cricket field winning both the Inter Company Shield in an exciting match and also the inter platoon six-a-side competition which was won by Cutforth Platoon.

The inter platoon tennis final was an all B Company affair with Cutforth Platoon beating Rowcroft in a play off between Williams and Scarlett, the excitement of the match was of almost Wimbledon proportions.

The inter company boxing was a real cliff hanger with the Company holding on to a narrow lead to win. Both teams put up a sterling display.

A/Pte Hamill who has had a splendid season showing a clean pair of heels in the South East District Cross Country League led the Company to a convincing win in the inter company cross country match.

The College Rifle meeting again found the Company carrying away the lion's share of the prizes. Tyler Platoon won the Full Bore Cup as Champion Platoon and for good measure also won the Association Cup (the Gallery Match). Parsons Platoon won the Moving Target Match and Watts Platoon the Tile Match. A/Cpl Jepson won the Rifleman's Cup and for good measure was also awarded the SMG Cup. Finally A/Lcpl Gaines with consistent, determined and accurate shooting, became the College Rifle Champion.

In the academic field the standards are higher than ever before with Apprentices achieving an impressive level of successes in CSE and GCE 'O' level examinations. In the space available it is impossible to record the results but it is most satisfying to note the continued improvement.

1974/75 has in every sense been a vintage year and I have every confidence that the coming year will find the Company continuing in the same vein.

'B' COMPANY SUMMER CAMP AT TREGANTLE - JUNE 1974

The sun did not shine upon the Company as it should have done during the last week of June. The grey stone victorian pile of Tregantle Fort is an ideal setting for a summer camp, being situated just across the Tamar from Plymouth with the long beach of Whitesands Bay stretching just below the battlements. However, despite indifferent weather Exercise Cornish Challenge was a definite success.

The high spots of the week were manifold. A 36 hour map reading exercise on Dartmoor, of the type programmed for Royal Marine Commando recruits, highlighted the success of the training at the College, in that the Senior Platoon were manifestly superior in the map reading skills to those with fewer terms behind them at the College. Rowcroft, the Recruit Platoon, had their moment of glory when they beat the College shooting team in a Falling Plates competition. Mathew and Rowcroft Platoons were shown around a Sioux helicopter which flew over from the Commando Air Squadron at Plymouth, to Tregantle, and the pilot demonstrated the aircraft's flying capabilities. Regrettably the limitations on fuel and flying hours prevented the boys from having a trip in the machine. Mathew Platoon gave a demonstration of a platoon attack to the rest of the Company and most of the Company attempted the Commando assault course at Bickley. This included the death-slide on a single cable from a 100-feet high cliff face, an ordeal which the boys came through with remarkably few cases of heart failure.

Other diversions were: a visit to HM Dockyard, Devonport; boating at Pier Cellars and Jupiter Point; an inter platoon 'cross country' race around the battlements of Tregantle Fort.

CSM Maule laid on a superb sea-food supper at which some of the permanent staff entertained some of the staff of the HMS Raleigh Training Establishment who had given us such excellent adminstrative support during our stay.

The weather spoilt the beach barbeque, and the event was moved to the dining hall where A/Pte Carlile gave a rendition of an extract from one of the West End's current nude pop musicals.

We returned to Deepcut with an overall desire to return, someday, to our not-so-little grey home in the west.

'B' COMPANY CAMP
AT WARCOP, CUMBRIA - MARCH 1975

Although the weather in the Lake District during the first week of March did not excel itself to the same extent as it had done for A Company in the previous week, it was never-the-less remarkably favourable for the time of the year and permitted the Company to enjoy a wide range of battle shooting on the ranges, the quality of which has earned international renown, and the standard of our weapon handling and shooting improved accordingly.

A full day was spent by the Company on dry training in the range area when live shooting was suspended for maintenance to be carried out. Each of the three second term platoons was required to 'fight' a platoon battle against an enemy from our Senior Platoon (Rowcroft) which also contained five renegade ACF cadets from the Isle of Dogs detachment of the Royal Green Jackets. The Company Commander adjudicated Watts Platoon's performance to be best by a very narrow margin, with Tyler and Parsons Platoons each producing good results.

Our night patrolling exercise provided plenty of opportunity for bangs and flashes by way of pyrotechnics and remarkably few apprentices got lost on the Fells.

The Queen's Yeomanry with their 76-mm Saladin armament and the 5th Dragoon Guards with their 120-mm Chieftain Tank guns entertained most of the apprentices on at least one occasion.

In addition, the External Leadership aspect of the training comprised a day on fell-walking covering about 12 miles, in which the compass work of at least one platoon was severely tested by low cloud and poor visibility. An initiation into pony-riding provided a welcome change from the foot work of walking the fells, albeit most of the apprentices returned to camp with muscles aching which they never knew they had.

Apart from a couple of film shows, and the facilities of a well-appointed NAAFI, there was little by way of off-duty entertainment, but a successful bingo night was held on the last evening.

SENIOR PLATOON - SUMMER 1974

Platoon Commander Lt RJ Jordan RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt SC Bonta RAOC

This final term for the apprentices of Senior B has been eventful, to say the least.

It is odd, but when anyone speaks of term leavers, they blithely quote trade and driver training as being all they do - we should be so lucky!

In chronological order, this term we have completed all our trades as follows:

RAOC Storemen - 14 took the course, 13 obtained 'A' gradings, one a 'B' grading. This was the best course result ever obtained at the Trade Training Centre. Congratulations to A/Lcpl Barratt at 100%.

Clerks - Technical, Staff and REME - everyone passed well, A/Pte Kay getting the top College result at 97.3%.

Despite cutting the course by one week, nearly all the REME Storemen passed, A/Pte Warner getting the College best result with a 'B' at 86%.

During the term we saw A/Sgt McGrath, A/Ptes Walls and Curtis go off to Plymouth for an attachment to the Commando Brigade. The brain-washing was successful and we wish A/Sgt McGrath good fortune in his Commando Course after he leaves the College.

Four of our number, A/Ptes Linford, Mann, Naylor and Parry went to Wales to train for the Welsh 3000 event. Shattering, but good fun so they say.

Furthermore we have had our clerks, smart and intelligent of course, giving typing displays on both the Aldershot Army Display and the Royal Tournament at Earls Court. All reports

say that A/Sgt McGrath, A/Cpl Artlett, A/Ptes Dear and Dewar had an 'interesting' time, working with WRAC clerks.

The above is but the tip of our iceberg. Six staff clerks were attached to a 3 Divisional Headquarters exercise *in the field* - a tough initiation into the Staff clerk's work.

12 REME storemen were attached to 43 Command Workshop for a week - plying their new trade.

14 RAOC storemen worked for their pay in 43 Command Workshop Stores Section .

Continuity on the Driver Training side was somewhat lacking through Contract problems with the outside organisation who instructed us, but we finally produced the same pass average as last term's Seniors - on only 25 hours instruction as compared with their 44. I am sure that those who failed will find the training was of value in the future.

The hanging over of instruction in driving to almost the end of term unfortunately made it necessary to drill for the Passing Out Parade in the evenings, but we achieved a pretty good standard ..... considering ....!

Of course, with so many away at any one time, our sporting side suffered somewhat, but we did win the inter platoon football, were knocked out of the tennis in the semi-finals and were beaten in the cricket six-a-side competition by the eventual winners.

The Senior Platoon's camp, on the fifth re-write by the organisers Lt Jordan and Sgt Bonta, was finally cancelled when we realised that out of nearly 90 term leavers about 15 were available. Ah well, c'est la vie, - don't like Wales anyway. At least this gave us time to attack the veritable mountain of admin for the postings and passing out. Postings were: REME - 2 to Germany, 14 to Bordon for further training, 4 to other UK units. RAOC - 14 overseas, mostly to Germany, 16 to UK units. A/Pte Crombie must be the saddest - his Cyprus posting was cancelled and replaced by one to London District - or is he sad?

Overall it has been an, er, interesting....term, not without its problems. Good luck to all you term leavers in your adult careers, and our very best wishes!

MATHEW PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt N C Smith RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt MA O'Malley RAOC

Mathew Platoon have enjoyed a full and varied final term. On the military side the majority of the platoon have completed RPC II. Shooting in particular has been the platoon's forte. Nine of the platoon have been in the College squad at one time or another and two, A/Ptes Mason and Duncan, were in the top ten of the Army Junior Rifle Championship.

We spent a few days at Portesberry School, Camberley, constructing a sand pit, rope walks and clearing a small area. Portesberry is a school for mentally retarded children. The platoon also took part in the Army Benevolent Fund collection in the Crowthorne area.

On a Saturday in June, 13 of the platoon left in a minibus for France to canoe down the Loire. The minibus was packed to the gunwales having six canoes, paddles, lifejackets, in addition to tentage and one week's supply of compo. We arrived at Le Havre after a placid crossing at about nine o'clock that evening and immediately headed south to Orleans. Doubtful suspension on the minibus caused a change of plan and so we decided to stay at Orleans and canoe from there to Villandry rather than from Roanne to Orleans. We reached our first camp site at about four in the morning and gratefully unrolled our sleeping bags and fell asleep as the sun came up.

The next morning swimming tests were completed in a particularly fast-flowing stretch of river. After this the canoeing proper started. For each of the next five days six canoeists paddled down stream while the remainder moved in the minibus to set up camp for the next night at a camp site along the river. Meung-sur-Loire proved to have the most exciting white water which some of the canoeists found to their cost - notably Drabble and Oliver.

All the camp sites we stayed at were situated on the river bank and were generally quite good.

We received many curious looks when our five-man para-tents were erected. Our camouflage colours provided an amusing contrast to the three room continental brightly coloured tents. Similarly our hexamine cookers seemed to make people curious.

We found time to go shopping in Tours and Le Mans on the way home and made a visit to the unique chateau at Villandry. In addition, a few of the party took part in some wine tasting before an enjoyable and educational week came to an end.

Other visits of a more mundane nature included a morning ice skating at Richmond and a day out canoeing on the Thames.

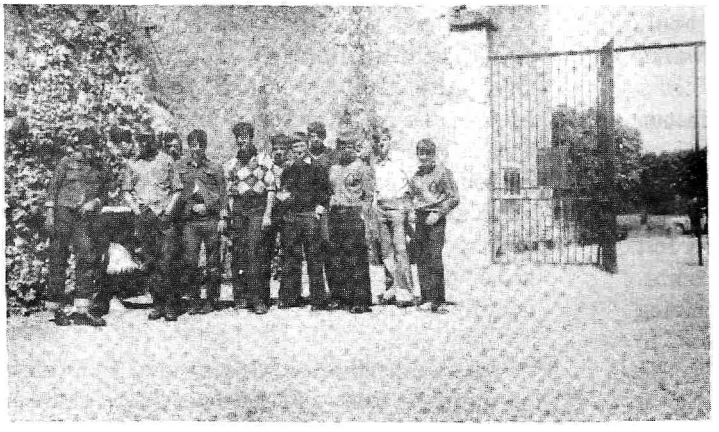
In sport we have won the inter platoon hockey and swimming and came second in the athletics standards competition. A/Lcpl Wootley, A/Cpl Lonnen, A/Lcpl McMillan, A/Ptes Oliver and Stray have been the mainstays of platoon teams at all sports.

(This platoon disbanded at the end of Summer term 74. The OC, the Platoon Sergeant and the majority of the apprentices formed Senior B Platoon and Winter term 74 was their final term. Further notes appear under the heading of Senior Platoon Winter 74. - Editor)





Mathew Platoon canoeing the Loire



SENIOR PLATOON - WINTER 74

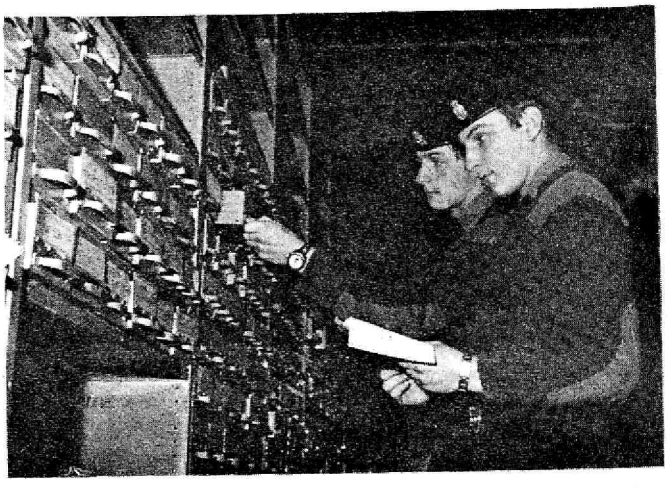
Platoon Commander Lt NC Smith RAOC

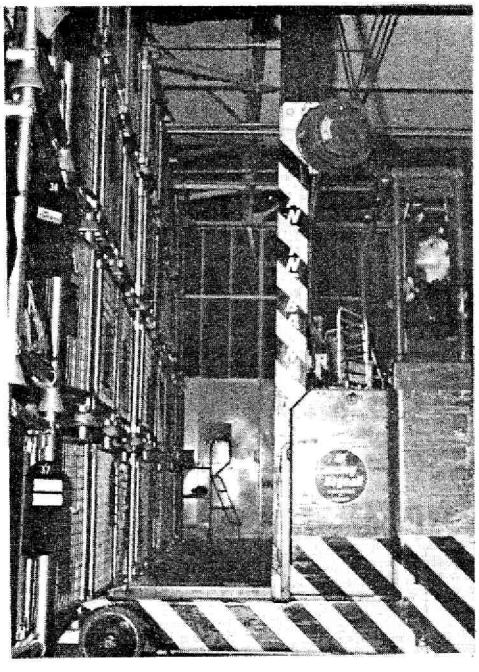
Platoon Sergeant Sgt MA O'Malley RAOC

Senior B had a hectic final term. The platoon was split up into its various trades with the result that it was only occasionally that we were together as a single entity. Some went to Fremington with the College camp and took advantage to re-new old acquaintances. Others were less fortunate and spent a cold ten days in Sennybridge on the final term's camp.

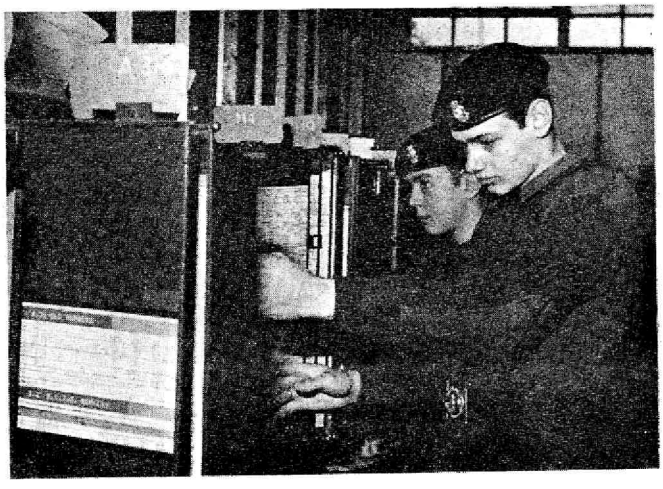
With the exception of two apprentices no-one had any difficulty passing trade. Malbon was the best REME storeman. Jones also won the prize for perseverance. On reflection, seven terms hard graft at Deepcut takes some perseverance! On the other hand we appeared to have a high percentage of lunatic drivers. Many were not even allowed to take the test!

The end of term came upon us quickly but, when the dust finally settled, everyone had completed his final documentation. The Passing Out Parade, though different, was still a success.





Senior Platoon attachments to 43 Command Workshops



Senior Platoon in Antwerp

On Saturday 23 November 74, 13 apprentices from Senior B and three of the permanent staff left Deepcut for Antwerp. The visit was primarily to visit the battlefield of Waterloo and additionally to have a brief tour of the Ordnance Depot Antwerp.

We left Deepcut at 0500 hours and arrived in Antwerp, by courtesy of British Rail and a very indifferent and over-priced cross-channel steamer at 2100 hours.

On Sunday we had the use of a coach which took us into Antwerp itself. Most of the party sampled eating horse-meat and tried the local beer. Monday was taken up with a visit to the battlefield of Waterloo. This included a tour round the waxwork museum, the Wellington Museum in Waterloo town, the headquarters of Napoleon and other historical buildings.

The tour of the Ordnance Depot gave the apprentices the opportunity to drive 10-tonners, fork-lift trucks and other uncommon vehicles. We also had several talks explaining the role and organisation of the depot. Regrettably we had to leave too soon for Deepcut and we arrived back very tired but having thoroughly enjoyed our visit.



The Party



The Modern-day Iron Duke

ROWCROFT PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J Inman RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt T Flowers RAOC

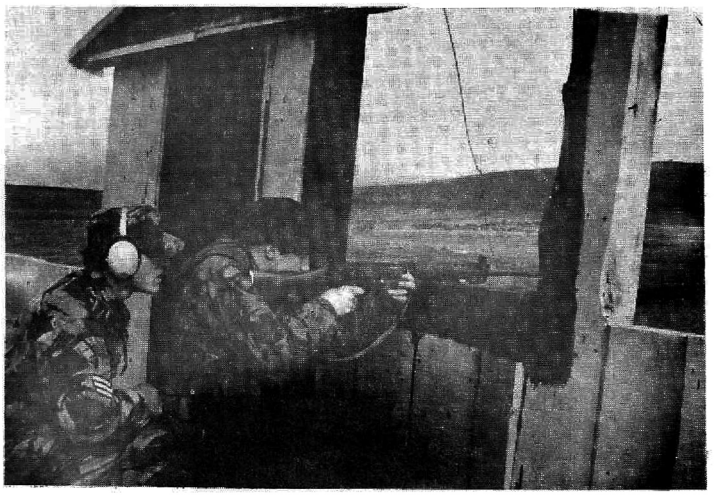
Summer Term 74

The opening of the Summer term saw a reforming of Rowcroft Platoon which was to consist of 26 new recruits and five A/NCOs, with one more recruit to join later in the first month.

The platoon lost just one member back into civvy street during the term so that the final strength of the platoon was 26 recruits.

The term proved to be a very good one for the platoon and has gained them a good reputation in the College. On the military side the platoon has welded into a good team, the drill has improved steadily and weapon training has been very effective, as was seen when the platoon shooting team beat the College shooting team in a falling plates competition at Fort Tregantle, during the Company Camp.

On the sports field the platoon has been very successful throughout the term. As a platoon we reached the cricket semi-finals to lose to the eventual winners, Swiney Platoon. We reached the inter platoon football final to lose in the last 30 seconds to a strong Senior B side, the score being 2-1. We also reached the tennis finals and came within an ace of defeating the previous winners, Cutforth, who sported 2/3rd of the College team; again we lost 2-1. The platoon has also provided the College with the Army Junior Golf Champion, A/Pte Ron Mohamed, who also plays College cricket. A/Pte Butler also represented the College at golf. A/Pte Connors represented the College swimming team on more than one occasion.



A/Pte Smith engages the enemy at Warcop
Sgt Raynor looks on



Sgt Flowers mans the LMCT wearing his cap reversed for security reasons. A/Pte Edwards spectates.

Winter Term 74

Rowcroft Platoon had a very mixed time during the Winter term 74. We started off with a new Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Smith, as a newcomer to the College and early on we went to Fremington for the College camp. A good time was had by all during the camp where the training included horse-riding, para-ascending and a ride in a DUKW.

After the Camp we lost Sgt Smith to Training Wing and Sgt Flowers took over as Platoon Sergeant. Shortly before half-term the platoon spent five days at Harlech hill walking, map reading, rock climbing and abseiling. The exercise proved to be very enjoyable and we convey our gratitude to Chris King on whose farm we stayed and to Sgt Bottomley and the rest of the ELT staff who helped us during our stay.

After half-term the platoon regained some of its former prowess at football by victories against some very strong recruit sides (ie 9-2 against Parsons, 3-1 against Tyler). Later on in the term we had a platoon camp in the New Forest where, despite the poor ground conditions, we had a good time, especially enjoying the horse riding which we are now quite good at. Our thanks go to Lt Inman and Sgt Hardstaff for their hard work in making the weekend a success.

This term the platoon went on two visits to London, the first to the Imperial War Museum and the second to the Planetarium and Madame Tussauds, both of which were of great value and we look forward to more visits next term.

Colours were gained this term by:

A/Pte Spittle for Cross Country

A/Pte Moyles for Hockey

A/Sgt McMillan for Football

Other members of the platoon who represented the College were A/Pte Harris at hockey, A/Lcpl Mohamed and A/Ptes Martin and Lord at football.

Spring Term 75

Rowcroft Platoon has been on the move this term. After sailing through our RPC III drill tests before half term, we went off to Tweseldown on a tactical exercise with Watts Platoon. We practised patrols and ambushing and succeeded in terrifying A/Pte Taylor, who was in Sgt Flowers' landrover, by an unexpected attack.



Rowcroft Platoon being shown round Aldershot by the Para Log Regt in March 75

L to R: Moiser Woodhouse Lord Flynn Moyles Butler
Yearnshire Edwards Smith McKenzie Connors Spittle

Unfortunately a number of apprentices were struck down with a dreaded bug (A/Ptes Lord and Taylor in particular) and during our escape and evasion phase of the exercise A/Pte Connors fell, like a victim of a nerve agent, with a touch of 'hyper-ventilation'. He followed this up with an 'attack' on the nursing staff at the CMH in Aldershot. Whilst this was happening A/Lcpl Mackenzie lost several bits of his rifle (including the gas plug, piston rod and spring) and A/Pte Smith 'captured' two of Watts Platoon single handed. During this engagement Lt Inman and A/Pte Harris were both singed by blanks from Watts Platoon rifles and later, in an unexplained but perhaps not disconnected incident, one of Watts Platoon lost a tooth. Lt Inman went to great trouble relearning the mechanics of putting up a tripflare only to see A/Pte Flynn, who had helped in the setting up, set it off himself.

After half term the platoon went to Warcop, where we learned to shoot again, saw a Chieftain Tank range practice and went horse riding. There was nowhere to go in the evenings, so we were kept busy on night exercises and by the company bingo night, which was a great success.

There have been a few comings and goings inside the platoon of late, which have resulted in the formation of a good football team despite our shortage of numbers. Unfortunately the end of term is destined to result in the break-up of a workmanlike team. The platoon has seen the arrival of A/Ptes Williams, Yearnshire and Martin during the term but now, with A/Ptes Flynn, Gellissen, Butler, Connors, Williams and Lord leaving for Bordon or Arborfield, Rowcroft Platoon is about to disband.

PARSONS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt AT Bettaney RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt S C Bonta RAOC

Winter Term 74

Parsons Platoon was resurrected this term due to the large numbers of boys entering the College and on 10 September 74 Parsons Platoon had a strength of 33 boys, including four apprentice NCOs from the senior boys.

The term got off to a good start and the boys quickly settled into their training, with up to four terms ahead of them at the College.

Towards the end of September the College went to Devon for the annual summer camp where the boys were able to try their hand at pony riding, canoeing and map reading. The platoon won the College orienteering competition. Apart from normal military training the majority of the boys fired the self loading rifle for the first time, spent a night under canvas and also enjoyed lots of sport. Unfortunately the weather was against the platoon when it came to sailing, but did not affect them doing their military swimming tests.

Shortly after returning to Deepcut a request was made from a local school for mentally handicapped children for assistance in developing their adventure playground. The response was magnificent with all the boys volunteering to help, but alas only 12 could go. A/Pte Lowrie was in charge of concreting and A/Pte Cherry in charge of carpentry. On Sunday 13 October the party set off and by early afternoon had laid foundations for a greenhouse, cemented the base of a sand pit, laid a wooden floor to a milk float, and finally re-sited a rowing boat, embedding it into the ground so that it did not rock about. The whole party enjoyed themselves and the school was most grateful.

On the sporting side the platoon has not won any major College events, but A/Ptes Copley, Jepson, Watson and Cherry have played rugby for the College. A/Pte Bradley, basketball for the College and A/Pte Middleton has represented the College at cross country.

Spring Term 75

The term started with Parsons platoon, much to everyone's amazement, still intact, as usually two or three boys had decided that the Army was not for them.

Right from the start the pressure was on preparing for a weekend camp in mid-January, without tents or sleeping bags. This turned out to be a great success from the point of view of training and well into the night one could hear 'war' stories being tossed to and fro around the camp fire, which was producing succulent jacket potatoes.

Back into barracks again; and in no time at all, the platoon was flung into the inter-platoon indoor games competition, with McDonald bluffing his way, as usual, with excuses as to why he could not get double top to win his game. Successes were numerous, with Hill winning all of his chess games and Smith doing extremely well in squash. The indoor five-a-side football team battled away, furiously led by A/Cpl Mohamed and A/Pte Jackson, in goal, diving everywhere to secure victory. Other successes were achieved by Mohamed and Jones on the snooker table and before long the platoon was way ahead in the platoon league. But alas victory was not to be for Parsons, as Valon pipped us by two points to take the trophy.

The highlight of the term was a week spent training at Warcop Training Camp in Cumbria, where the platoon practised its shooting prowess and its section and platoon tactics. Here members of the platoon excelled themselves with Jones diving for cover on the jungle lane and firing off an impossible shot which miraculously scored a hit, whilst Archibald, Copley, Shelton and McGaughey took things at a quieter pace and produced some excellent results.

Fun and games occurred when the platoon took an afternoon off from training and went pony-trekking. Many were complaining of sore spots the following morning, whilst Mohamed was thinking himself lucky after escaping the hooves of a disturbed pony. Not so McDonald, who was thrown and trodden on.

The last day of the exercise was fell walking. A cold wet misty day that made map reading difficult and descents into valleys sometimes dangerous, resulted in Hall breaking a wrist when he slipped. He was very courageous and is now fine.

The term is now rapidly coming to a close but the boys haven't finished yet. A platoon camp has been arranged at Portsmouth, including a visit to a working submarine.

Finally the platoon has continued assisting Portesbury School, the school for mentally handicapped children and has erected the greenhouse, after laying the foundations last October.

Pony Riding by A/Pte Jones (Parsons Platoon)

Dear Mum,

After winning the Assault Course competition on Saturday 1 March 75 the platoon went pony trekking at Brough in Cumbria. Once we got to the stables the platoon was split into two groups and I was in the first group to go.

We set off, trotting and keeping to the left hand side of the road. All went well until about half way when Peter Bradley's horse started kicking other horses when they overtook him. After that we all kept well clear of that beast.

Half way back Colin McDonald's horse started to play up. Cpl Ronnie Mohamed was racing his horse against one ridden by one of the stable girls named Julie. Cpl Rice, our weapon training instructor seemed quite content with his horse as long as it trotted or walked. And then it happened. McDonald's horse broke into a gallop for about 25 yards, with Colin hanging on for dear life. But slowly Colin began to slide under the horse's head and in no time at all he was hanging around the horse's neck, staring into a set of baleful eyes. Colin hung there praying for the horse to stop, but it just carried on, throwing him onto the ground and walking all over him. Luckily he suffered no worse than a bruised shoulder. Ronnie Mohamed raced up to the scene like a member of General Custer's 7th Cavalry retreating from the Indians. Colin McDonald refused to mount his horse again, so our resident 'Knight in Shining Armour', Ronnie Mohamed, offered to exchange horses for the rest of the ride.

Cpl Rice was having fun in the meantime by shouting 'whoa' but his horse only increased its speed. Needless to say he was the next to suffer when he noticed a car heading towards him. Ashen faced he said afterwards "I thought the horse was going to jump the bloody thing".

Meanwhile back at the stables, Ronnie Mohamed got off his pony, only to be set upon by 500 lbs of horse flesh. He tried to defend himself but the horse struck him on the head, so he scarpered quickly.

After the return of the second group we boarded our transport and headed back to sunny Warcop Training Camp, exhausted, injured, but nearly all feeling better for the experience.

More about our next camp in Wales next time.

Bye for now, your ever loving son

John

PARSONS PLATOON AT WARCOP MARCH 75



Crawling under barbed-wire
A/Lcpl Bradley



Swinging across an 8-ft ditch
A/Ptes Middleton, Gunner and Pool



Monkey Walk
A/Ptes Wilkie and McDonald

PARSONS PLATOON AT PORTESBURY SCHOOL



Laying the foundation for a sandpit
A/Ptes Archibald and Lowery

Laying a new floor to the milk float
A/Ptes McDonald, Cherry and McGaughey





Re-siting and securing the rowing boat
A/Ptes Cherry and Smith
A/Lcpl Bradley

TYLER PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt H A Jones RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt D G Hardstaff REME

Spring Term

Despite our nation's present problems, Tyler Platoon still thrived. During this unspringlike Spring term, Tyler has begun to establish a tradition of success in most of what it does. Near the beginning of term, in the inter-platoon indoor sports competition, we advanced from seventh to fourth place and in subsequent games, though the sports weren't always suited to us, we always managed to reach the final rounds.

After returning from Christmas leave we went straight into our basic training and went on exercise in the Longmoor area. On this we learnt how to set up a 'hide' and in daylight we carried out section attacks. During the night we went patrolling in two groups and this resulted in open confrontation! Confusion reigned as to who was on whose side and a lot was learnt about night patrolling. Climax to the term was the Company camp at Warcop. We had a varied time-table and good weather for most of the time. Earlier in the week we entered the inter-platoon assault course competition which we came very near to winning. The next few days were enjoyed by all, particularly the battle shoot where we fired under realistic battle conditions. In the afternoon we went horse riding which we were all keen to try, though some of the horses did not take to their riders with the same enthusiasm. However, no-one fell off and that must show some measure of competence.

On the Wednesday the platoon went on a hill walk. It was very tiring but the views were spectacular and well worth the effort to get to see them. At one point, coming across some bog-land several sank up to their knees, though Sgt Hardstaff went one better and fell in head first. The final evening at Warcop was spent at a Bingo session followed by an orgy of beer and fish and chips, which was an excellent way to finish the camp.

The platoon weekend in the New Forest also went well. By courtesy of 44 Sqn RCT we arrived there and eventually, several collapsed tents later, we had set up camp. We then embarked on the event of the day - pony riding. Of course, our two platoon show-offs, A/Ptes Burnlees and Nellist had to show us a few circus tricks like falling off a galloping horse. Or, perhaps they were testing the organisation to see if we had brought the medical kit! The following day we woke to find that our dry camp site had become a quagmire of mud after heavy rain during the night. But a delicious compo meal of grilled bacon soon restored our confidence. It was to be another day of horse riding, followed by swimming and a visit to the motor museum at Beaulieu. The final day was spent in map-reading which, for some was a quick tour of the New Forest, but, notwithstanding we all arrived back at our camp to begin our homeward journey.

So here we are back in Deepcut, awaiting the end of term and hoping next term will be just as successful and enjoyable.

Fieldcraft and Tactics by

A/Pte Burnlees REME (Tyler Platoon)

Fieldcraft and Tactics are subjects that I really enjoy and of which we have had a certain amount of experience this term.

Before the first training period no-one knew what they were letting themselves in for.

We were walking down a track when we suddenly heard the shout "Grenade!" and everyone hit the dirt. We later moved on and we were given hints on camouflage and how to put on 'cam cream' correctly. We went into the woods at the side of the track and started tearing out ferns and leaves for use in personal camouflage, so that when we had all been fixed up we all looked like something out of "The Black Lagoon". We then went into the field to test our camouflage in two groups. The first group went to the top of a nearby hill while the rest of the platoon were concealed on the ground. Some were spotted but others who were well camouflaged were not seen at all.

After this we were shown different formations such as Spearhead, Diamond and Arrowhead and the different signals that can be used to deploy a section into any of these tactical formations.

The next thing we tried was the different ways of moving unobserved with a rifle. This was agony in some cases. The crawls we were shown included the monkey run, leopard crawl, kitten crawl and ghost walk. All these things made up a fascinating subject.

First views of the Army
by A/Pte McIlwaine REME (Tyler Platoon)

I came to the RAOC Apprentices College on 7 September 74. I suppose at that time I was like most other boys, a bit homesick. After the first two days I started to settle down and after two weeks of training we went on camp to Fremington which is down in Devon. This is where things really started to come good. In the two weeks that the College was at Fremington I got to know my Platoon Sergeant and my Platoon Commander well. Also at Fremington I sampled a lot of activities, including swimming, cycling, canoeing and sailing in boats and rubber dinghys. I myself also started football and boxing. As for military training at camp, we did a map reading exercise which I really did enjoy. I was put in charge of a group of three and we got round the course very well, my section coming in joint first in the College. A few days later we went out to the hills on an exercise. This exercise lasted about 36 hours. We slept in tents and lived it rough. I really enjoyed it and by this time I had made some very good mates which altogether made the exercise very enjoyable. I was sad to leave Fremington. At night times, myself and a couple of friends used to go out to Barnstaple, sometimes to the fair and once to see stock car racing.

We arrived back in Deepcut on a Saturday night and on the following Monday started training again. Things at the College were starting to get a bit easier for us by this time. I found out that after a few weeks you get to know most of the permanent staff and get on very well with them - this makes life a lot easier. By this time, about four boys had left the Army. I think that was stupid as I don't think they gave the Army a chance. My personal view is that the Army is far better than the civilian way of life.

I have not seen much of England, but since I've joined the Army I've seen a lot of London, a lot of Surrey. I've been to Portsmouth, North Devon and several other places. To me this is a great achievement in only 17 weeks, and as far as I know I should be going to a lot of other places whilst I am at the College. At nights in the College there is a club which is called the Kon Tiki. There is a good selection of games and also a colour TV. I am now in my second term and I think the Army life is brilliant.

WATTS PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt J S Lamb RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt P Carrick RAOC

College Camp

Fremington camp nestles in the rich fertile soil of North Devon. It is near the town of Barnstaple, an old fishing port which has in latter years turned more and more to light industry.

The camp itself looks like a film set with the breeze block buildings that were built in the second world war. Most of the blocks are just one big room with a small separate section which in the case of our block was where A/Ptes Brighton, Farr, Kennedy, Standing and Standley had the honour of a bit of privacy. Later, however, we moved to a more modern block with four to a room.

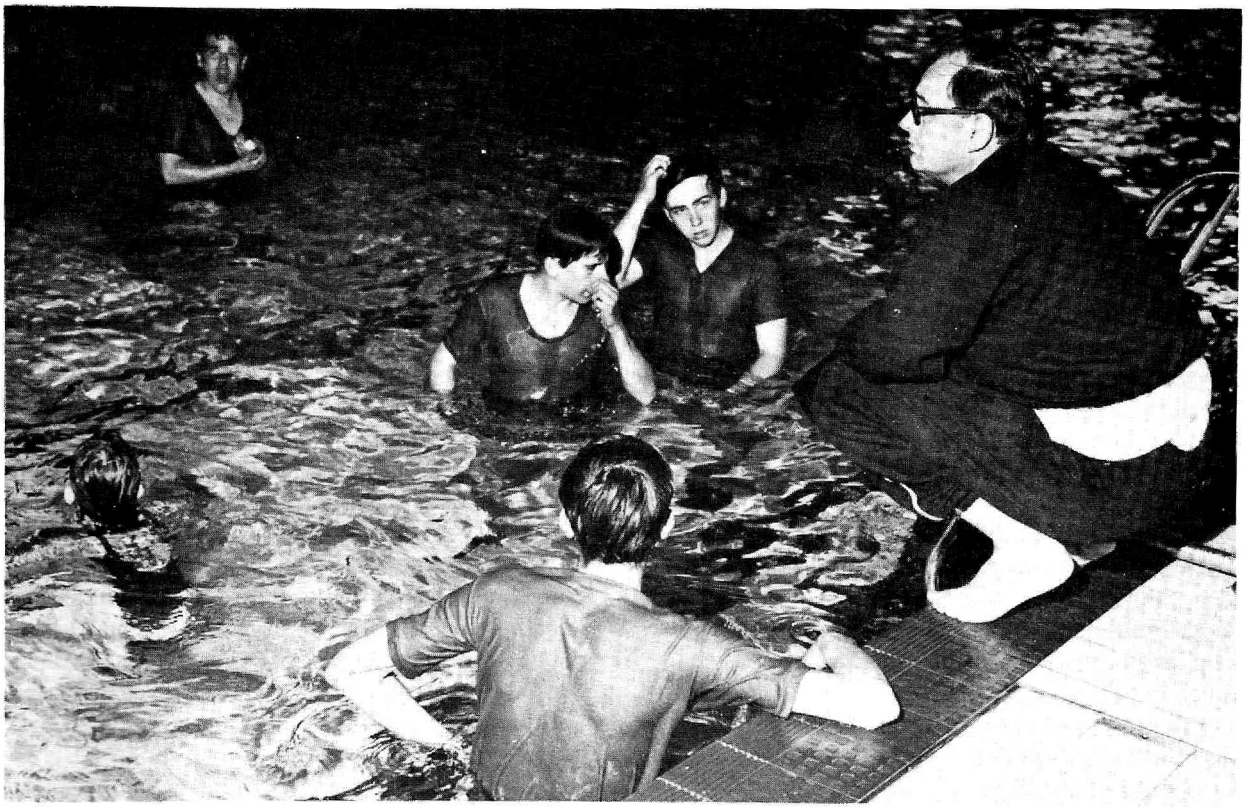
Our second and third weeks were spent doing foot and rifle drill and although some of the platoon didn't 'catch on quick' they soon improved and caught up with the rest.

During our time at Camp we had an ELT Course. We also went cycling, canoeing on a freezing river and horse riding, which provided most laughs of all, especially when our A/Sgt Craig nearly got his head knocked off when his horse decided to walk under a very low stable door. A/Pte Hoyle also fell off his horse which provided plenty of entertainment for the rest of us.

Games and sport all went well with football and basketball being the most popular. The inter-platoon football provided some good matches with the main scorers being A/Sgt Craig, A/Ptes Dagnall, McNie and Napolitano. The basketball team was captained by A/Pte Pfluger with the top scorer being A/Pte Parnaby with A/Pte Evans playing very well.

While we were at Camp we had a map reading exercise with the groups from Watts Platoon being headed by A/Ptes Frampton, Farr, Neat and McNie. In this Watts became a close second.

We also had a platoon shooting competition on the .22 small bore indoor rifle range where A/Pte Parnaby came top, O'Keefe second and Standing



The SEO, Major P A Easton, supervising the activities of some very cold bathers in the Barnstaple swimming pool

third. We also had our first taste of an assault course. While yachting A/Ptes Standing and Heynes, in company with an ELT Instructor, capsized owing to strong shoreward currents. There were also several other near capsizes and while the lads had a hard time in the sailing boats the Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Carrick, and Lt Marshall had it easy in the safety motor boat.

We also visited the REME Fording Trials Branch at Instow. Amongst the displays laid on there was an amphibious landrover, which travelled under 5' of water. The electrical components were all waterproofed with rubber. We were able to rub shoulders with tanks and other armoured amphibious vehicles, but were disappointed at not being able to take a trip in a DUKW.

We went swimming at Barnstaple in a freezing open air pool. The temperature was 56°f and with a strong cold wind it wasn't something to enjoy. However, our second swim was at a pool at Ilfracombe which was a new indoor heated pool.

Life at Deepcut by
A/Ptes O'Keefe and Hoyle (Watts Platoon)

On our return from Fremington we were determined to make the latter half of our first term a very profitable one. Profitable in that we were going to give all our energy to perfect any faults that we might have. Unlike other platoons we knew our faults and not only were willing to admit them, but we were going to change them.

The first major change was that we moved from Block 36 to Block 2. Block 36 had no heating whatsoever, and with winter coming along there had to be a change. Block 2 had just been modernised with a central heating system and the floors had been re-linoed. Although we moved into the block in one night, three days after our return, it took about four days before we were adjusted. This was because we had to clean the block from top to bottom as the civvy workers had left it in a right mess.

After our break from half term, which we all seemed to enjoy very much, Lt Jordan and Sgt Bonta of Parsons Platoon took us for swimming tests at Aldershot. We are glad to say all our lads passed save two, who couldn't swim to begin with.

The inter-company boxing was staged soon after this. One must praise the high standard of courage that was shown throughout the competition. Although the skill wasn't really of championship standard it is quite sure that if our boxers carry on with the enthusiasm shown they will progress far in the world of boxing. Watts

Platoon was well represented in the ring with A/Ptes Atkins, Glover, Taylor, Hoyle and Evans punching for all they were worth.

The inter platoon assault course competition followed this. Each platoon put forward four teams, who had to get around the course as fast as possible without missing an obstacle, whilst still being correctly dressed and equipped at the end of it. The four LCpls (Stray, Mason, Lowry and Pattison) were each in charge of a team. Each of our four teams did very well but this did not take the fun out of it. For example, A/Pte Kennedy misjudged the 'Bloody Mary' and went crashing into the wall, and ended up on his back in the water.

Lt Jordan and Sgt Carrick arranged a visit to the Imperial War Museum nearing the end of the term, which went down very well. We stayed in the museum until about 12 o-clock and then we went where we wanted to go. Most of us had never been to London before so we took this opportunity to see the sights. We suspect that some of the lads had a drink or two in one of the many pubs that seemed to surround us, but I'm sure they would deny it if you asked them.

The next day was Battalion Christmas Day and we went to London again, this time to see the night life. In our opinion our platoon commander, Lt Jordan, had the best idea, letting us see or do whatever we wanted. Thus we enjoyed ourselves more than if we had all been taken to see a particular show.

7 December was the date of our platoon Christmas party. A lot of work went into the decoration, buffet and layout of the party, but in the end it was all worth while. Invited to the party were the Commanding Officer and his wife, Major and Mrs Lucas, Captain and Mrs Beer, Lt and Mrs Jordan, and Sgt Carrick, all of whom said that they enjoyed themselves very much. The party commenced at 2000 hrs with games between the lads and ended at around 0100 hrs, mainly because we had reached our breathaliser limit. One reason that the party was such a success was that as soon as anyone had had 'enough' they went upstairs to bed and stayed there.

On the whole however the platoon has done very well, we only hope that we can keep it up and go even better.

Watts at Warcop by A/Lcpl O'Keefe

Warcop was our first company camp and went extremely well. Watts Platoon were determined to do all we could to make it a successful camp.

Warcop is situated in the picturesque scenery of the Lake District. It is within striking distance of Appleby and Penrith, but is secluded enough to make it the ideal place for such a camp.

The purpose of the week was to give us a taste of fell walking, battle shooting and platoon battlecraft all of which I believe was done superbly.

We arrived into the organised atmosphere of Warcop at approximately 1800 hrs on 28 February after a very long trip from Deepcut. On the train journey we passed through some of the home towns of our lads. A/Pte Hoyle even got off the train at his home station, just so he could say he had been 'home'.

The 15 mile fell walk was the first exercise we were given to do. It is a very picturesque route some of which is along the famous Pennine Way. The weather was good for walking although in places the ground was boggy enough to slow our progress.

Shooting was the main event of the camp, and it almost seemed that we were living at the ranges, although we thoroughly enjoyed the chance to shoot so much. We were easily the best platoon on the ranges, even though we didn't have the best shots in the company. A very good overall average gave us the advantage over the other platoons.

One of the competitions held was an assault course competition, which, although we had no time to practice, we won overwhelmingly in terms of time. However, due to a technical infringement spotted by CSM Maule we were disqualified. This didn't shatter our confidence, however, as our lead over the other platoon was two minutes.

The other notable event was the platoon attack competition. Even though the OC, Major Lucas, did boost the other platoons and mark us down, we and the other platoons know in their heart of hearts that we won convincingly. (Watts were in fact placed equal first with Tyler. Ed).

On our last day we were meant to have used the Electric Target range but due to bad weather it was put off until the following morning. This meant that we missed the train back home to Deepcut and had to go back in a four tonner, which was very uncomfortable, although at the same time it was a 'bit of a laugh'.

As a summary I would like to say that our morale was high during the whole period, in the best Watts tradition.

Watts at Harlech by A/Ptes Standing, Farr, Frampton and A/Lcpl Dean

On 20 March 75 Watts Platoon, B Company, led by Lt Lamb and Sgt Carrick went on an ELT Camp to Harlech in North Wales. The journey to Harlech was quite interesting even though it took approximately eight hours to get there. We were picked up by two landrovers and a trailer which took us and our kit-bags to Ffridd Farm which was our destination.

Ffridd Farm is a very old house (about 300 years old) but very well preserved. There were two rooms for our party so we were split up, one group of eight which had to come back after two days for CSE exams and the other group which stayed the whole week.

The next day the whole party had to go on a hill walk. They were split up into three groups all going separate ways to the rendezvous (RV) point where we had dinner. We stayed for packed lunch for about half an hour then we were on our way back to the farm. After reaching the farm we were very tired and hoped we would never have to do it again.

The very next day we were told that there was another walk ahead of us. We got all of our equipment ready and started off. On the way we were told that we were to visit the old quarries. They were very interesting and there is many a story to be told about them. After coming out of the quarries we had a long and difficult walk ahead of us.

But eight of us (including we scribes) had to return to Deepcut in time for the CSEs. The rest of the lads seemed to enjoy it very much although it was a bit cold and it rained all night. On the following morning they started back to the farm and spent the rest of the day rock climbing which seemed to fill them with excitement for they have since talked loud and long about it.

The whole week seemed to go very fast and was full of adventure and thrills. Everyone wished it could have lasted longer but the next day saw the return to the Apprentices College.

The platoon are now looking forward to the Summer camp, and hoping it will be as good as Harlech.



Watts Platoon at the beginning of their Pennine Way walk

Watts at Tweseldown by A/Lcpl Dean

This was a short weekend camp which was part of our normal training. It was all based on fieldcraft and tactics.

When Watts Platoon set off from the College everybody was smiling, but as soon as we saw

where we were to sleep faces dropped. All we had was a wooden hut with a tin roof and draught holes everywhere. Very soon we got over that and started to get on with our training. First of all we had night attacks, our enemy being Rowcroft Platoon. Lt Lamb and Sgt Carrick divided us into two sections, Lt Lamb's section consisting of A/Ptes Brighton, Evans, Farr, Napolitano, McNie, Glover, Dagnall, Hoyle, Lawton, Roberts and Ryan, while Sgt Carrick's section consisted of A/Ptes Dean, Frampton, Green, Heynes, Neat, O'Keefe, Parnaby, Pfluger, Standing and Standley. Lt Lamb's section was positioned so that they could ambush the enemy and Sgt Carrick's section acted as the decoys. When Rowcroft came along they discovered Sgt Carrick's section first. We were 'captured' and were left at the bottom of a field with a guard while the rest of Rowcroft set off towards our ambush. When they reached the point a flare went up and Lt Lamb's section opened fire, catching the enemy unaware and giving us the overall advantage.

The next night we carried out night attacks consisting of patrols which went out to locate the enemy, followed by a platoon assault on the Rowcroft position which we succeeded in over-running. The rest of the time was taken up in map craft and fieldcraft, which rounded off a very good camp.

HILL PLATOON

Platoon Commander Lt P A Bell RAOC

Platoon Sergeant Sgt M O'Malley RAOC

The recruits arrived on 7 January and totalled 34. Since a large proportion of them came from Scotland language problems have never ceased to be present!

The initial training started off well enough but it eventually proved more difficult than the platoon expected and this unfortunately resulted in failing the first Acceptance Parade. A week later, however, this was put right, with compliments from the Adjutant, and steady progress has continued for the rest of the term.

In sport we have been steady rather than spectacular. At the beginning of term we came fourth in the indoor sports league, mainly because of some very good snooker play by A/Ptes Welford and Brown. The platoon also did well in football, basketball and shooting. In addition we have provided the College with a number of first team 'gladiators'. A/Ptes Brown, Aisbett, Liddle have played football for the College: A/Ptes Bryan, Lewis and Hart have played rugby; and A/Pte Moyles has represented the College at hockey. We also have two very good swimmers in A/Ptes Austin and Hart who were largely responsible for our third place in the Company Swimming Gala.

We now have to say goodbye to A/Lcpls Gooderson and Woodhouse who leave us for Man's service in May and we also have to congratulate A/Ptes Brown, Martin and Bryan on being promoted to A/Lcpl.

All in all, the platoon has had a good first term and a very successful first Company Camp.

TRAINING WING

Chief Instructor Major M J H Connolly RAOC

OIC External Leadership Capt G J Morton RAOC

Training Officer Capt D R Marks RAOC

Since the last issue of Thunderbolt, the Welsh mountains have echoed yet again with the cries of lost Apprentices. Rowcroft Platoon, in two groups, each attended a camp based at Harlech during October. Often a sunny month in West Wales, October however turned out to be an exceedingly wet one, and a hard time was had testing and instructing Rowcroft in map reading far from the civilization of barracks and training areas. Despite the unpleasant conditions the weather managed to produce, the comforts of the farmhouse used for accommodation proved a veritable palace for a fortnight, and the cooking of Cpl Nonis did much to keep the morale of the Apprentices at a high level. Much was learnt and in particular map reading was very much improved. It was more than a few boys, who found that hanging off the side of a rocky crag with

nothing but a rope and a smile from Sgt Devlin between them and an uncomfortable finish to the exercise, demands more than many an average boy of 16 possesses. However, all came away having experienced new feelings and having learnt a great deal from living rough in very rugged surroundings. All were looking forward to attending the next ELT camp.

The ELT Platoon has had a great changeover of staff during the last six months. Cpl Nonis has left us for a tour in Belize, British Honduras, newly promoted Sgt Bottomley has decided to emigrate to Wales permanently and Captain Dyer, our leader, took off in his matchbox Citroen to drive overland to Cyprus at the beginning of March. We welcome Captain Morton who takes over and is now our present leader. With further camps at Harlech in March and May and the College Summer camp at Tenby in Wales, and a further Harlech camp later in the summer term, we all look forward to a busy and exciting time.



Some of Baker Platoon believed to be enjoying a rest on the top of Moel Ysgyfarnogod, 2400-ft



A/Pte Wilson (Baker) learning to abseil on a 40-ft sheer rock face. He doesn't appear to be enjoying it. Nor did he ever admit it!



Nevertheless, a little coaxing and over he goes!

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

ELT, as the official abbreviators would have it, allows junior soldiers to test their leadership, determination and self-reliance on adventure training pursuits.

In this college, we concentrate on mountain walking, rock-climbing and canoeing, although sailing is taught at College Camp, and, if Mr Weatherman is kind next winter there may be some skiing.

This last term has seen platoons carry on their 'in camp' training, mainly with classroom work but with also some practical activity as well. As a culmination of the ELT teaching each platoon spends five days in the Rhynog Mountains near Harlech, North Wales. The camp includes two days of hill-walking followed by a 24-hr expedition. Both Baker and Watts Platoons sampled the changeable weather of the mountains this term and, despite their occasional problems, they all appeared to enjoy it. After the walks a visit to a disused gold mine is arranged. This includes entering a tunnel on the side of a hill, then burrowing deep into the hillside and descending two levels lower (there are seven in all) by a hair-raising system of old steel and wood ladders in a wet slimy shaft. Then comes the search for gold bearing quartz. Remembering that it takes 50 tons of quartz to get one ounce of gold, the visits are rarely profitable. After a final wade through a partly-flooded tunnel one emerges lower down the hill to the delights of fresh air and brightness.

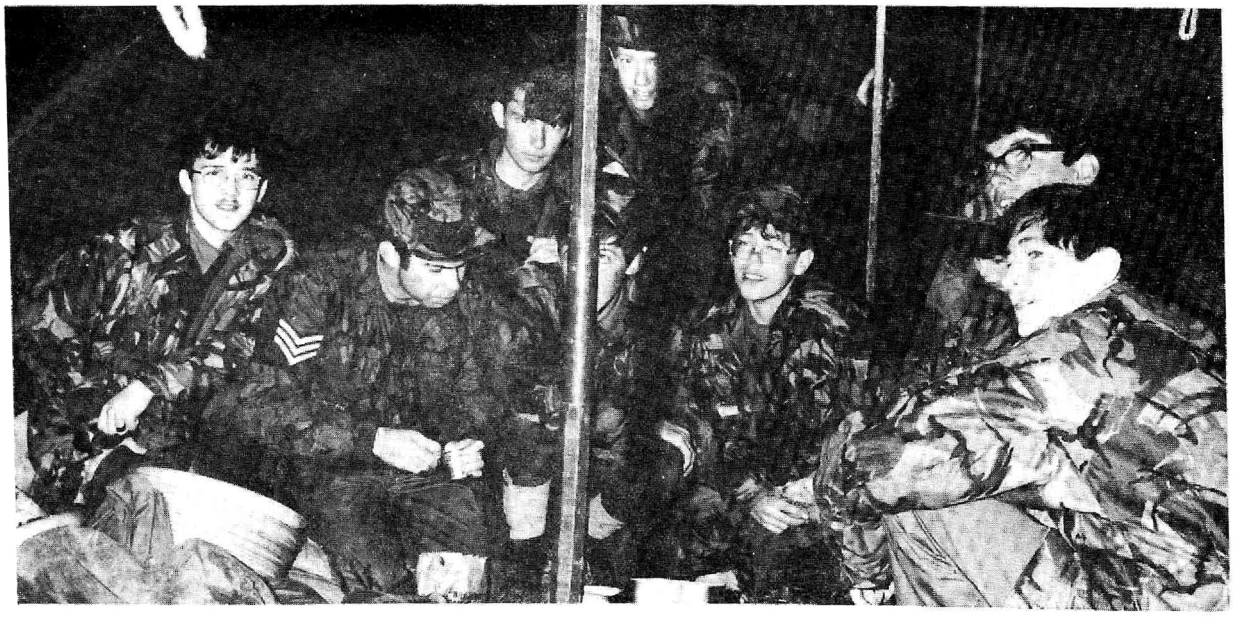
The final day is spent rock-climbing and abseiling. They say the men are sorted from the boys here. No names are mentioned but there were some highly worried and puce-coloured faces at times. However, everyone had a go and admitted afterwards that it was not quite so bad after all!

The boys and staff live in Ffridd Farm and are well away from civilisation to learn how to look after themselves, which is, after all, what outward-bound training is all about.

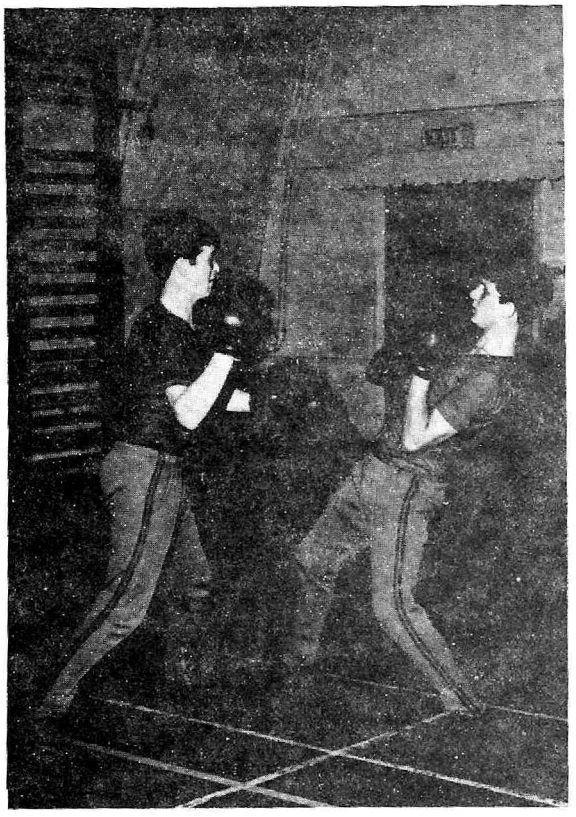
It is planned to introduce canoes in future camps, spending a day in canoes (or out of them!) in the river estuary at Barmouth. Canoeing from College is practised on Mytchett Lake or at Hambledon (Henley) on the River Thames. The worst part of canoeing is always that first forced "capsize-and-swim" as proof of ability. The reluctance rate is usually extremely high but the actual pass-rate was 100%, pretty good, considering the water was ice-cold and there was occasional snow.

With summer upon us, canoeing will come into its own and the true enjoyment of the activity, in the many varied types of water that can be used, really appreciated. With camps at Harlech for the Summer term and three planned in the Autumn term the ideas and delights of adventure training will, we hope, be fully savoured.

COLLEGE ANNUAL CAMP FREMINGTON SEPTEMBER 74



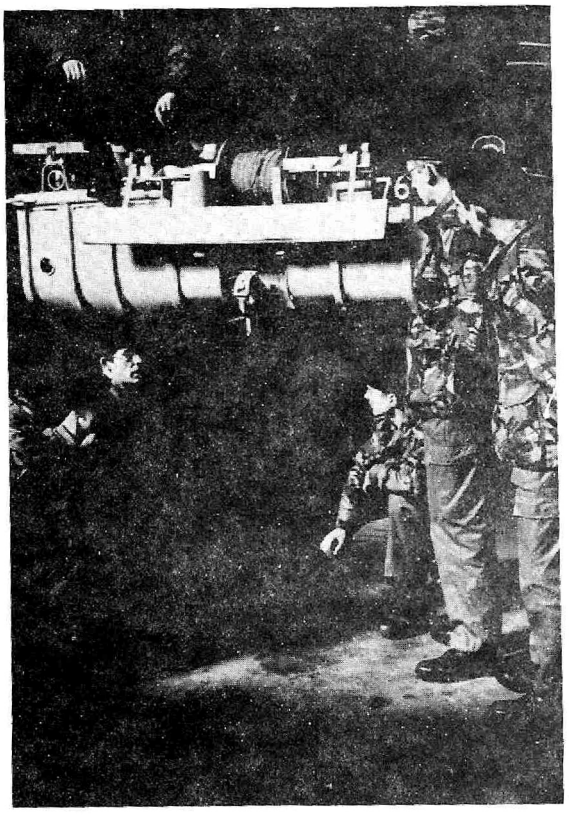
In the field



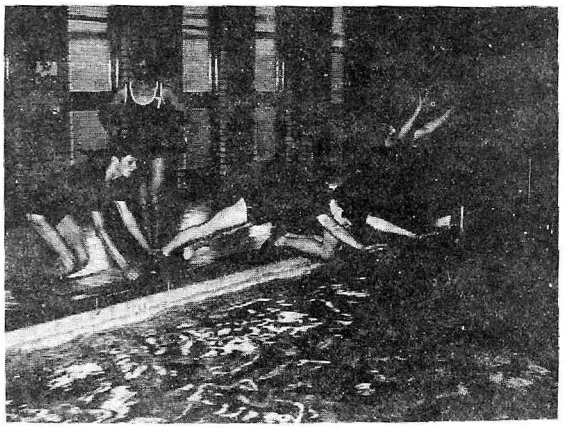
The Gymnasium



The Obstacle Course



The amphibian



The Pool



Introduction to the SLR



"Halt and Search"



At sea the easy way



At sea the hard way



In the NAAFI

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Education Officer Major PA Easton RAEC

The past year has been one of continuing change, the first full year of the four term concept following the raising of the school leaving age. As a result of the extra year spent at school apprentices are joining the College with more academic qualifications than in the past and as a result the time available for education has been used, in many cases, to develop skills more directly applicable to their military and trade training. In addition to English, Mathematics, World Affairs, General Science, Woodwork, Geography and German, courses are now run in Office Organisation, Computer Appreciation and Typing, all of which are designed to prepare the apprentice for his future career in the Army.

The apprentices continue to produce impressive educational examination results. During the past year 359 pass grades were achieved in the Certificate of Secondary Education, (39 of them at Grade 1). In addition 14 apprentices gained passes in the General Certificate of Education and two apprentices gained the College's first passes in the Royal Society of Arts Typing examination.

The three most recent winners of the Senior Education Officer's prize for the Best Scholar have been:

August 1974	A/Pte Ellis
December 1974	A/Sgt Littlewood
April 1975	A/Cpl Sharpe

The department continues to offer a wide range of hobbies. More than 20 activities have been available in the past year and new clubs are being formed. The Printing Club has got off to a good start - the possession of personal headed notepaper being something of a status symbol! The new Astronomy Club should soon be seen scanning the night sky with the College's 6 inch Newtonian reflecting telescope.

The educational staff has lost the following officers during the period:

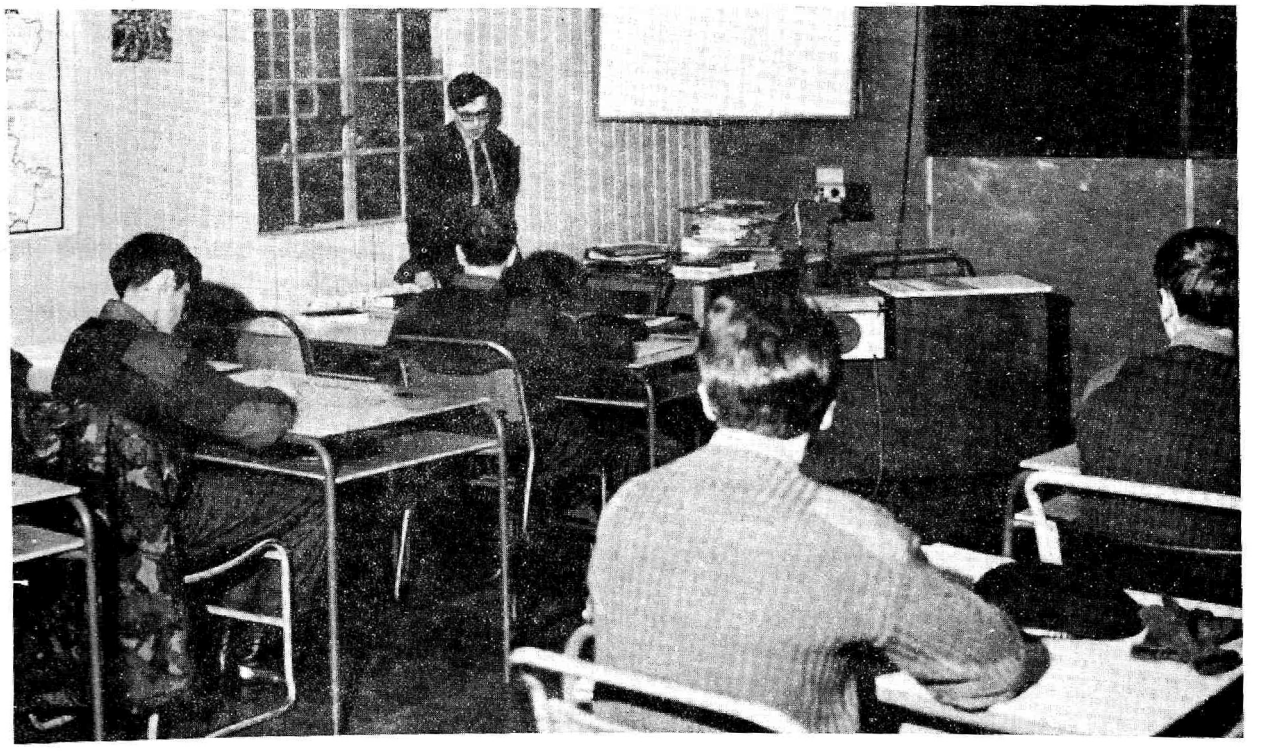
Major G H W Neal RAEC, who has returned to civilian life after more than 30 years in the Army and is now teaching in Surrey.

Capt G A Page RAEC transferred to the RAOC in November 1974.

Lieutenant C J Martindill RAEC is posted to Hong Kong in July 1975.

The educational staff, both civilian and military, continue to play a very full part in the life of the College. Mr Watson has again been organising sailing expeditions. Mr Waddington has master-minded several deep-sea fishing trips and Major Beaumont has introduced both apprentices and permanent staff to the wonders of Parascending. Lt Martindill, winner of last year's Army 'Wappenschaw' and secretary of both the Army and RAEC rifle clubs, has continued to run the successful small-bore shooting club. The cross-country club has done particularly well under the watchful eye of Lt Stuart.

All in all, the department has had a pleasing and encouraging year despite the usual but generally accepted interruptions to the programme. Nevertheless, now that we have been through the full cycle of the four term pattern of training, we can amend and develope the programme and look forward to an improved year, yet again, from September 75.



A typical classroom scene. Not immediately noticeable is the fact that Mr Paul Heap is here beginning a new educational adventure - the reconstruction of famous battles of history with the boys playing all the parts

MY TRIP TO CANADA

by A/Pte E O Percival REME (Parsons)

On Saturday 22 February 75 I received a telegram to say that my grandmother, living in Canada, was dangerously ill. I had always been very close to her and wanted to see her again before she passed away.

After four days of dashing to and from London, getting my documentation sorted out, I was all set to fly out on Friday 28 February 75. The journey was from RAF Brize Norton to Washington and from there overland by Greyhound Express to Toronto, where my grandmother was living. I slept most of the way on the aircraft, but on approaching the USA I was able to see the Statue of Liberty and the sky-scrapers of New York. Before my coach left, I had a chance to spend a few hours

in Washington, get a good meal and escape from the traffic of the capital city. My coach journey took 12 hours and as it was overnight I had a chance to catch some further sleep whilst we sped through Pittsburgh and Buffalo.

Within a few hours of arriving in Toronto, I was home, and had a chance to soak in a hot bath and gorge myself with some wonderful home cooking. During the next few days I visited my grandmother in hospital, looked around Toronto and met the rest of the Percival family. The weather was bitter, with snow feet thick and icy cold winds.

But all good things must come to an end and it was time to return to England. I travelled to Ottawa on Friday, spent the night in an hotel and flew to Brize Norton on Saturday 8 March 75. I arrived back at the Apprentices College on the following Sunday evening.

It was a wonderful trip, especially as I had travelled as an "indulgence" passenger, and my grandmother is still fighting for her life in that Toronto hospital.

BE IT KNOWN – ANON

A GENERAL

Leaps tall buildings with a single bound
Is more powerful than a locomotive,
Is faster than a speeding bullet
Walks on water
Gives policy to God

A BRIGADIER

Leaps small buildings with a single bound
Is more powerful than a shunting engine
Is just as fast as a speeding bullet
Walks on water if the sea is calm
Talks with God

A LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Leaps low buildings with a running start and favourable winds
Is almost as powerful as a shunting engine
Is faster than a speeding air gun bullet
Walks on water in an indoor swimming pool
Talks with God if a special request is approved

A MAJOR

Barely clears nissen huts
Loses tug of war with a locomotive
Can fire a speeding bullet
Swims well
Is occasionally addressed by God

A CAPTAIN

Makes high scratch marks when trying to leap buildings
Is run over by locomotives
Can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self injury
Dog paddles
Talks to animals

A LIEUTENANT

Runs into buildings
Recognises locomotives two out of three times
Is not issued with ammunition
Can stay afloat if properly instructed in the Mae West
Talks to the walls.

A SECOND LIEUTENANT

Falls over door steps when trying to enter buildings
Says "Look at the Choo Choo"
Is not issued with a gun
Plays in mud puddles
Mumbles to himself

A NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER

Lifts buildings and walks under them
Kicks locomotives off the track
Catches speeding bullets in his teeth and eats them
Freezes water with a single glance

A PRIVATE

Sweeps under buildings
Puts locomotives back on tracks
Picks up spent cartridges from speeding bullets
Carries the water to be frozen
Is the Son of God

SPORTS REPORT

OIC Sports Co-ordination Captain M R Beer REME

Summer 1974

The Cricket XI reached the final of the Army Junior Soldiers Cup, losing to the RAPC Apprentices College in a close fought finish.

A/Pte Mohamed won the South East District Junior Golf Championship.

The College entered crews for the RAOC regatta for the first time and A/Ptes Oliver and Paton were selected to crew in the Tall Ships Race in August.

A/Pte Draper won the Army Junior Skill at Arms Championship at Bisley for the second year running.

Autumn 1974

In view of the size of the recruit intake and of the number of Term Leavers, who were seldom available for sports due to the demands of Trade Training, the College managed to raise a Boxing squad which acquitted itself remarkably well in the Junior Army Boxing competition. In the semi-final, the result hinged on the outcome of the final bout - our opponents earned a place in the final by the narrowest of margins (17 points to 16).

The Rugby XV with a squad composed largely from first term recruits did well to lie second in Division 2 of the SE District League Table at the end of the term.

However, the most gratifying achievement of the term has been the success of the first and second Soccer XIs. Each team heads their particular league as this term ends and A/Sgt Wells has played for the Army Youth XI on a number of occasions.

Spring 1975

The promise of last term was achieved when both 1st and 2nd XIs won their league championships.

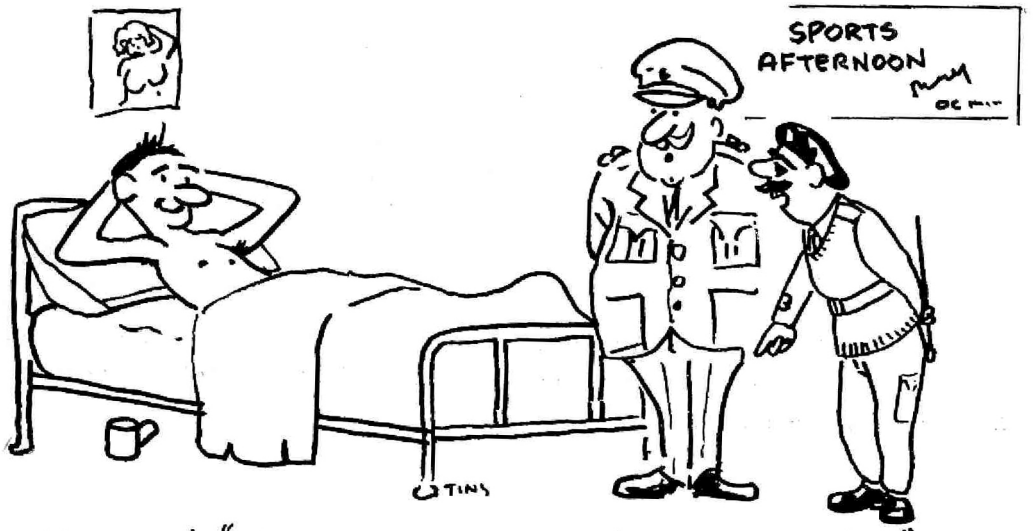
On the hockey field a team of virtual novices did well to lie fourth out of nine in the SE District Junior League at the time of going to press, and our goalkeeper A/Cpl Moyles was selected to represent the Army Under 22 Club.

Our Champion Cross-Country runner A/Pte Hamill won each of the six SE District league runs in which he took part, and four of our boxers reached the semi-finals of the Army Junior Boxing Championship in their weights.

On the inter-company front over the year the honours lay as follows:

A Company Athletics and Hockey

B Company Cricket, Tug-of-war, Soccer, Boxing and Cross-country



HE SAYS "THIS IS HIS FAVOURITE SPORT SIR"...

CRICKET

Officer in Charge Major G D Beaumont RAEC

Assistant Wing Commander (Retd) P W Hope

The College team reached the final of the Army Junior Soldiers Cup where we were beaten by RAPC Apprentices College in a very tight match. RAOC Apprentices College 60, RAPC Apprentices College 61-4.

The star of the team was the skipper, A/Cpl Littlewood who came top of the batting and the bowling averages for the season with: Batting 7 innings, 107 runs, average 17.7. Bowling 31.4 overs, 7 maidens, 70 runs, 13 wickets, average 5.8.

The team's record was:

Played 7 Won 4 Lost 3

The inter-company match was won by B Company and the inter-platoon six-a-side knock-out by Cutforth Platoon.



Rear Row: *A/Ptes Jones, Walls, Howson, Atkin, Austin, A/Lcpl Parrott A/Pte Ratcliffe*
Front Row: *A/Cpl Milner, A/Cpl Littlewood (Capt), A/Pte Pritchard, A/Cpl Wells*
Kneeling: *A/Pte Manning* *A/Pte Mohamed*

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

Officer in Charge Lt RR Stuart RAEC

If a season can be said to belong to anyone, then this season must surely belong to A/Pte Hamill. He burst on the scene when on his arrival in the college, he won the College Annual run in October, and then followed this with successive wins in the South East District League. In point of fact, he took part in six of these races (against other Apprentices Colleges) and came first in all six. Needless to say, he took the Individual prize.

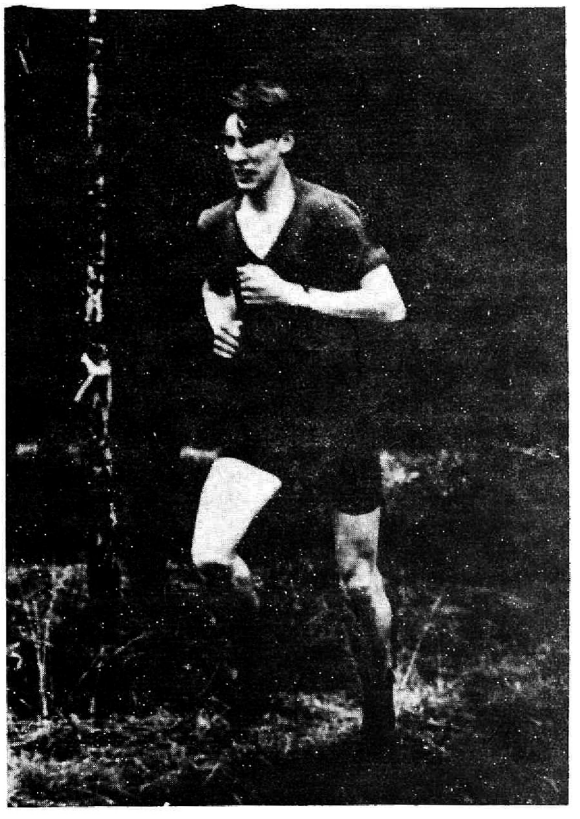
However, an individual runner does not make a team, and when A/Pte Hamill was doing his stuff way out there in front, he was being chased by the remainder of the team. For example, we had runners such as Beaumont, who ran extremely well in the RAOC Training Centre race and who came first, against a lot of adult opposition. This particular race was run in appalling conditions, and this probably accounts for the fact that a cairn terrier owned by one of the runners came third.

In addition to his success in the South East league, Hamill ran for the Army Youth team at Chepstow, in which he came second, and in the Surrey Association of Boys Clubs, where again he came second. In the latter race the team also took second overall position, and there was some suggestion that a special *map reading* prize should be allotted to A/Pte Gaines for his fearless navigation. It took the team an hour to find the running track - and that was after we had arrived in Epsom!

Two other members of the team (they only ran on one occasion) richly deserve a mention. In the REME Corps Cross-Country race at Bordon, they were observed running (and limping) round the course *in the opposite direction* to the remainder of the field. When we finally tracked them down to earth, one of these erstwhile heroes had sprained his ankle and the other had stopped to give him succour. They could offer no rational explanation as to why they had decided to run the course backwards, but reluctantly agreed that cross-country was not fo them. Unfortunately, I cannot quite remembe their names . . . . .



Hamill, in his usual position, leading Beaumont and the rest of the field.



Beaumont winning the RAOC Training Centre Championship



"S'now joke", as Hamill leads Beaumont and Gaines through the woods

GOLF

Officer in Charge Lt M Sullivan REME

Golf was introduced as a College sport in May 1974, though some years ago it featured as a hobby.

Some clubs were available from the sports store, whilst others were donated by Col Schofield. After some practice on the "Golf Platz" of the sports field, membership of the Army Golf Club was obtained.

Several apprentices played Aldershot golf course, under the close supervision of Lt Sullivan and a team was entered in the South East District Junior Army Championship.

Our team consisted of Ptes Green, Butler and Mohamed and Cpl Matthews. Mohamed had a very successful round, eventually winning by one stroke with a nett score of 65.

He came away with a new putter, a pewter tankard and the South East District Championship.

The sport of golf gained in popularity as the season progressed, so much so that several "non golfers" would appear to try their hand.

Our main stalwarts, however, were Cpl Matthews, Ptes Green, Low, Patterson, Smith B, Butler W, Johnson and Butler R.

A successful beginning has been made which we hope will continue in future terms.

HOCKEY

Officer in Charge Lt M Sullivan REME

Assistants Sgt Raynor

Sgt Anderson

Sgt O'Malley

Winter Term 74

The team made good progress and it improved with every game. It was built around a few of last year's regulars, who successfully welded the newcomers into an enthusiastic team. Our thanks for this were due to A/Pte Robinson (Senior B), A/CSM Wooldridge and A/Pte Johnson of Senior A.

In the SE District league we played 4, lost 3, won 1. We were knocked out of the SE District Cup by B Coy AAC Arborfield.

Some of the team had not played hockey before, but they improved steadily. Colours were awarded to the following apprentices who not only represented the College but were also most enthusiastic in minor games.

A/Pte Moyles A/Pte Sneddon
A/Pte Eades A/Pte Balfour
A/Pte Woodcock

In an inter-company friendly game played on Saturday 30 December 'A' Company beat 'B' Company 2-0.

Spring Term 75

The team began their season in October 74 with the squad composed of three term leavers and a dozen recruits most of whom had not played hockey until their arrival at the College.

Although they lost their first two matches the team did very well in the third game by beating the ACC Apprentices 3-0. They finished the first half of the season second from the bottom of the League table. They had the misfortune to be drawn against AAC Chepstow in the first round of the Army Cup and they lost heavily. However it was in this game that A/Cpl Moyles, B Company, played such an outstanding game in goal that he was given a trial for the Army under 23 team.

After the Christmas break (and in spite of losing three term leavers) the team played much better together, won three matches and moved up the league table into equal fourth position.

In the inter-company Cup, A Company beat B Company 3-1.

Some of the players in the team will be here in September 75, so that the new team will be built on a solid foundation.

Some new talent has been discovered among Hill Platoon and A/Pte Blackburn has already made the College XI.

The following have been awarded colours:

A/Ptes Harris, Green, O'Hara (B Company)

A/Ptes Fishwick, Fairlie, Fawcett, Woods, Mulholland and Wagstaff (A Company)

RUGBY

Officer in Charge Lt G Cox RAOC

Assistant A H Rowlands RAOC

The College XV had a very good season in as much as it was formed almost entirely from the recruit intake of September 74, with only five members of the 73/74 season remaining The first match was basically a trial match which we played against Barnstaple Colts during the College annual camp at Fremington. From this tough beginning we were able to build up the nucleus of a very good team.

January saw the XV in the first round of the Junior Army Challenge Cup against the RAMC and we managed just to win by 4-3 in a very hard fought match. Unfortunately in February, in

the second round, the score was exactly reversed against us by the Junior Leaders RCT.

Over the Easter period we were hosts to the Barnstaple Colts and we played them on a snow covered pitch. We prefer not to dwell on the scores in either of the Barnstaple matches. Suffice to say that both teams thoroughly enjoyed them and we certainly benefitted greatly from the experience.

Now it is back to the drawing board to form the team for 75-76 season with the expected intake of 60 boys in summer and some 200 in winter, we ought to be able to raise a pretty strong team, though all those who gained such valuable experience last year will be gone before Christmas and before the cup ties begin.

During the course of this season A/Sgt Jones was selected for the Junior Army Squad and A/Sgt King played for the Training Centre RAOC on a number of occasions.



Standing (L to R) Sgt Rowlands, A/Ptes Hawken, Mastin, Shelldrick, Watson, Crawford, Marshall, Haynes Crawley Cpl Smith

Kneeling (L to R) A/Ptes Mulloy, King, Ross, Jepson, White, Coppley, Jones

SOCCER

Officer in Charge Lt J C Williams REME

In general, the College can reflect on the 1974-75 soccer season with a good deal of satisfaction. Both College representative sides won their respective league championship trophies, and additionally, reached the semi-final in three out of the four cup competitions for which they entered. Perhaps more important, they established a reputation as a sporting and skilful football side.

The SE District 'A' league was contested during the Winter term. 1974. At this time, the College was fortunate in having a squad of mature first-class players, who in their previous season had won the Johnson Cup.

The 1st XI squad were entered for the SE District 'A' League and comprised the following:

Goal	Oliver
Backfour	Milner (Capt), Littlewood, Holmes, Low, Whitley
Midfield	Wells, McMillan, Russell, Young
Forwards	Crawford, Daniels, Smith (244), Smith (895)

Here was a well balanced side with an abundance of skill, particularly in midfield. Under their team coaches Ssgt 'Shanks' Grimes and Cpl Jim Earl, they progressed through the season on a wave of success, finishing clear winners of the league and scoring 33 goals at the cost of only 12 against. Wells was top scorer with 11 goals, some of which would have graced BBC Television's 'Goal of the Month' for their conception and execution.

The 2nd XI squad was entered for the SE District 'B' league, and consisted almost entirely of new recruits from the September 1974 intake. Again, this league was contested during the Winter term and the squad consisted of:

Goal	Weightman
Back four	Brighton, Lord, Napolitano, Francis
Midfield	Martin, French
Forwards	Mohamed (Capt), Street, Dagnall, Cousins, Denwood, Stray

Although not lacking in skill, this side relied for their success on determination and aggressive attacking football. Their first game together in the league resulted in a 1-3 reverse against the RAMC Apprentices. They never lost another match, and finished the season clear winners of the SE District 'B' league to complete a remarkable double for the College. Additionally, for a new team to come good so quickly is a tribute to the players and also the coaches, and here Sgt Bob Smith and Cpl Bill Crosby deserve special mention. In many of the games, cool and often brilliant goalkeeping by Weightman kept us in the hunt, whilst in front of a resolute defence, Mohamed and Dagnal supplied the killer punch with their prolific goalscoring.

The end of the Winter term saw the departure of almost the entire 1st XI and set the problem of how best the College could contest the forthcoming Cup competition with it's remaining resources. After much heart searching, it was decided to promote the previous term's 2nd XI' to 1st XI status to contest the Sutton Cup and the SE District Youth Cup. At the same time, a rather green 3rd XI were thrust into the deep end to contest the Collins Cup. Fortunately a few older players remained from the previous term who had by now finished Trade Training, and they proved invaluable in providing the blend of experience necessary to any side. The squad was made up from:

Goal	Strickland
Back four	Milner (Capt), Oakes, Buttery, Brownson, Wilson (965), Jacques.
Midfield	Young, Howat, Smith (887), Hesling
Forwards	Sharp, Parrot, Wilkie, Aisbett.

The task of moulding a side for the Collins Cup was given to Cpl Jim Earl, and amazingly they reached the semi-finals, beating the Junior Guards 10-1 in the quarter final. They were drawn against the Junior Riflemen in the semi-final and established a comfortable 2-0 lead, both goals being scored by Parrot. The College appeared to be coasting to a place in the final with only five minutes to go when, inexplicably, they relaxed. The Junior Riflemen scored three amazing goals in the last five minutes and we were out! Perhaps the result can be explained by the relative inexperience of our side, but whatever the reason there lies a salutory lesson for football teams at all levels.

The 1st XI fared similarly in the Sutton Cup, reaching the semi-final with wins over 'D' Coy AAC Arborfield and the ACC Apprentices College. They were well beaten eventually by a mature RAPC side from Worthy Down. They had the misfortune to meet the same side in the first round of the SE District Youth Cup and again suffered a reverse.

The remaining competition for which the College entered was the Army Junior Leaders Challenge Cup. We got off to a good start with an 8-3 win over the Guards in the early rounds and progressed to the semi final. This was played at Oswestry on 6 November 74. We lost to a very good side, the Junior Leaders Infantry Battalion who later went on to take the trophy in the final against the Royal Engineers.

The following apprentices, by their consistence, sportsmanship and football skill, contributed to the excellent reputation of the College, and were awarded Colours during the 1974-75 season

Littlewood, Low, Whitley, Russell, Crawford, Smith (244), Young and Francis of A Company

McMillan, Daniels, Weightman, Lord, Martin, Mohamed, Stray and Dagnall of B Company.

Congratulations to all!

Finally it just remains for me to thank the players for their efforts, and also the permanent staff, for making the season such a successful one! To Ssgt John Grimes, Sgts Bob Smith, Tom Flowers, Phil Carrick, Cpls Jim Earl, Bill Crosby and Paul Gill, thank you for your hard work throughout the season and may we have similar, if not better, fortune in 1975-76.



COLLEGE 1st XI - WINTER TERM 1974

Back Row (L to R) A/Lcpl Low, A/Pte Crawford, A/Sgt Smith, A/Sgt Russell, A/Lcpl Smith
Centre Row A/Cpl Milner (Capt), A/Sgt Littlewood, Lt J C Williams (OIC Soccer), A/Sgt McMillan, A/Sgt Wells
Front Row A/Lcpl Oliver, A/Pte Daniels, A/Pte Whitley



COLLEGE 2nd XI - WINTER TERM 1974

A/Pte Martin A/Pte Dagnall A/Pte Brighton Sgt Smith (Team coach) A/Pte Weightman A/Pte Cousins
A/Pte Lord A/Lcpl Street Lt J C Williams (OIC Soccer) A/Pte Franois A/Pte Napolitano
A/Cpl Denwood A/Lcpl Stray A/Cpl Mohamed (Capt) A/Sgt French

SQUASH

Officer in Charge Lt P J Walton REME

The Autumn term started with the squad being composed mainly of recruits who had never played before. Good progress was made throughout the term and the beginning of the Spring term, building a number of the squad up to a sufficient standard to enter the Army Junior Inter Unit knock-out competition in March.

A/Cpl Forsyth, A/Ptes Archibald, Gellison, Perry and Smith were entered for the team event. The college was drawn against the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College who narrowly beat us 3-2 a result which reflects how close the matches were fought.

A/Pte Smith was entered in the individual championships but found the competition a bit too stiff for him.

Despite these setbacks on the competition side, a great deal of enthusiasm has been shown on the apprentices squash ladder, the top position being regularly contested and changed.

On the permanent staff side, a team was entered in the RAOC Squash Championships in January and put up a very creditable performance. The College permanent staff knockout competition, held in April, was won by Capt A P Byles of A Company who beat Cpl Smith of the PT staff.

SWIMMING

Officer in Charge Lt G Cox RAOC

Assistant Sgt S C Bonta RAOC

The College has really only one good term a year for swimming and that is Spring term. This year it began with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm. There was no shortage of contenders for places in the College team and to survive the competition required a lot of hard slogging, sprinting and distance swimming. For A/Cpl King and A/Lcpl Wootly, it paid off. Their efforts were rewarded when they were asked to swim in the Army Junior Team.

One of our biggest set-backs was in not having a pool of our own, especially as our usual pool, Aldershot Command, was closed down for a long period because of filtration troubles. In the end, however, this turned out to our benefit as we found ourselves mixing more freely with other units. We found ourselves, for instance, swimming with the Junior Guardsmen at Pirbright every Friday evening. We also shared the RMA Sandhurst pool two evenings a week. But the biggest treat of all came when the Guildford Sports Centre allowed us into their open-air pool at half price. The most difficult problem Sgt Bonta had was in convincing the team that swimming practice was more important than judging the bikini fashion parade!

Nevertheless, much serious swimming was achieved and most matches were closely contested affairs in which we more than held our own. Our main competition was the Army Junior Swimming and Water Polo Championships which were held at Dover. We were soon knocked out of the water polo but we tied for first place in the swimming with the RAMC Apprentices. Unfortunately, the winner's award was made on the result of the Medley Relay, which, much to our disappointment, the Medics had won. The weekend was a great success, notwithstanding, and A/Ptes Mason and Crombie were sorry to leave their newly-found heartaches!

During the year 49 apprentices passed their survival tests - A/Pte Walls with Honours.

ANGLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr WJ Waddington

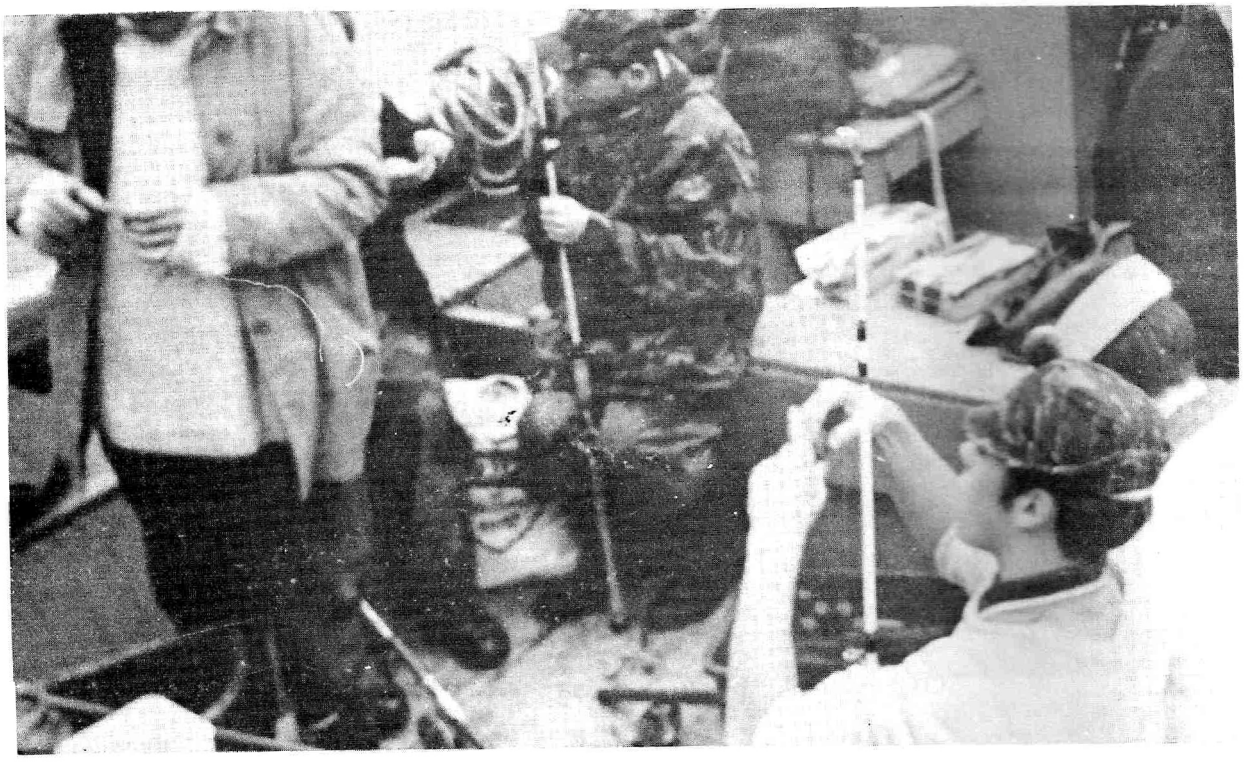
The highlights of the year have been the sea-angling trips from Portsmouth Harbour with bass, flounders and whiting being the main catches. These expeditions have proved so popular that, frequently, extra boats have to be hired.

Regretfully, the Club has had to relinquish its coarse fishing permits at the gravel pits in North Camp but the increased costs were more than the Club could stand. We now use Mychett Lake, by the very kind courtesy of the RAMC and we are extremely grateful for the privilege. We have gained more than we lost!

Finally, on the asset side, we now have our own (albeit small) motor boat and we look forward to next year's magazine when we hope we will be able to report vast quantities of fish caught.



Herrings, Hornback Ray and Dogfish caught in Morte Bay during A Company Camp



Preparing tackle before leaving Portsmouth Harbour

ART CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr A C F Legg

During the year we have continued our artistic efforts along the same lines as before, following any current interest and offering as many new fields to explore as possible. The facilities the Army can supply provide a great opportunity for indulging a momentarily-considered whim which may reveal a talent leading to a lifelong hobby. Some of the results will be entered in the Surrey Association of Boys' Clubs Art Festival.



Front to rear: A/Ptes Garrick, Gray, McGaughey



Left to Right: A/Ptes McGaughey, Neat, Garrick, Gray

CAR CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr W J Waddington

It would appear that we are to specialise in the Ford Popular 'Sit up and Beg' type, for we have been fortunate enough to become the owners of yet one more such car.

Like our previous cars, this one is also in very fair condition and should be well worth the time and money that has to be spent on it. I am told that their value is increasing!

We have spent most of the year dismantling a couple of old bangers and a few old mopeds and have now built up quite a considerable spare parts section. We were pleased to be able to help the local Round Table in their search for a back axle assembly.

The Club has been fortunate in having Lt Williams REME to give talks on the theory of engines and Sgt Hardstaff REME who gave an illustrated talk on using oxy-acetyline welding equipment. These talks were welcomed in more ways than one, for they took place in a warm classroom. Our hoped for heating in the workshop has not yet materialised.

Even more unfortunately, we have had to say farewell to Mr Peter Cardy who decided to change his job and could not then continue to get to the club in the evening. We wish him success in his new venture.

CANOEING

Officer in Charge SSI T R Hewitt APTC

The club continues to make progress even though oil and inflation crises knock us hard. Under the direction of Lt Smith, the club launched a very successful canoeing expedition to France. It was said, whilst inhaling noxious fibre glass fumes, that after the trip to France Lt Smith passed his French exam with honours. I wondered why France and not Switzerland or Austria. Lt Smith has now moved on and will be sadly missed for his expertise in keeping the club manufacturing plant running by his persuasive ways of getting materials. Sadly his contacts and technique remain a secret between him and his pet python!

With the faster turn-over of apprentices it is increasingly hard to achieve the high standards required for wild-water conditions so we have had to change our policy and make do with running an efficient workshop, day trips to nearby lakes and playing under the weirs on the Thames.

The construction side of our sport has gone well. A kayak has been sold and a special exhibition boat and two kayaks built to join our present fleet. We now look forward with Capt Morton in the ELT chair - a keen, enthusiastic canoeist - to more help and improvement of the club standards. With Cpl Rosales showing more confidence daily as the club stalwart, myself soon to return from my travels, and Capt Morton, I think we can look forward to higher achievements in the not too distant future.

Permanent Staff activities

Since arriving at the College, I have been completely occupied in 18 months of Army, National and International canoeing. Because of a very generous licence to be the College floater I can report a few successes:

3 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand

National League Championship Slalom

National League Championship River Racing

National Open Championship Slalom

National Open Championship Wild Water Racing

3rd in European Championship Series

Gold medallist at Llangollen

Selected to represent Great Britain in World Championships 1975

At present my civilian partner and I are in hectic preparation for the coming World Championships in Yugoslavia. This consists of making boats, raising funds, training in Wales, Scotland

and on the continent but, above all, in making sure of being in the best possible physical condition. We hope that our position in the World Championships of 1971, when we came 12th, will be improved upon this year and that we will be amongst the medals. (And so says the entire College - Editor).

CYCLING CLUB

Officer in Charge Lt A T Bettaney RAOC

Winter Term 74

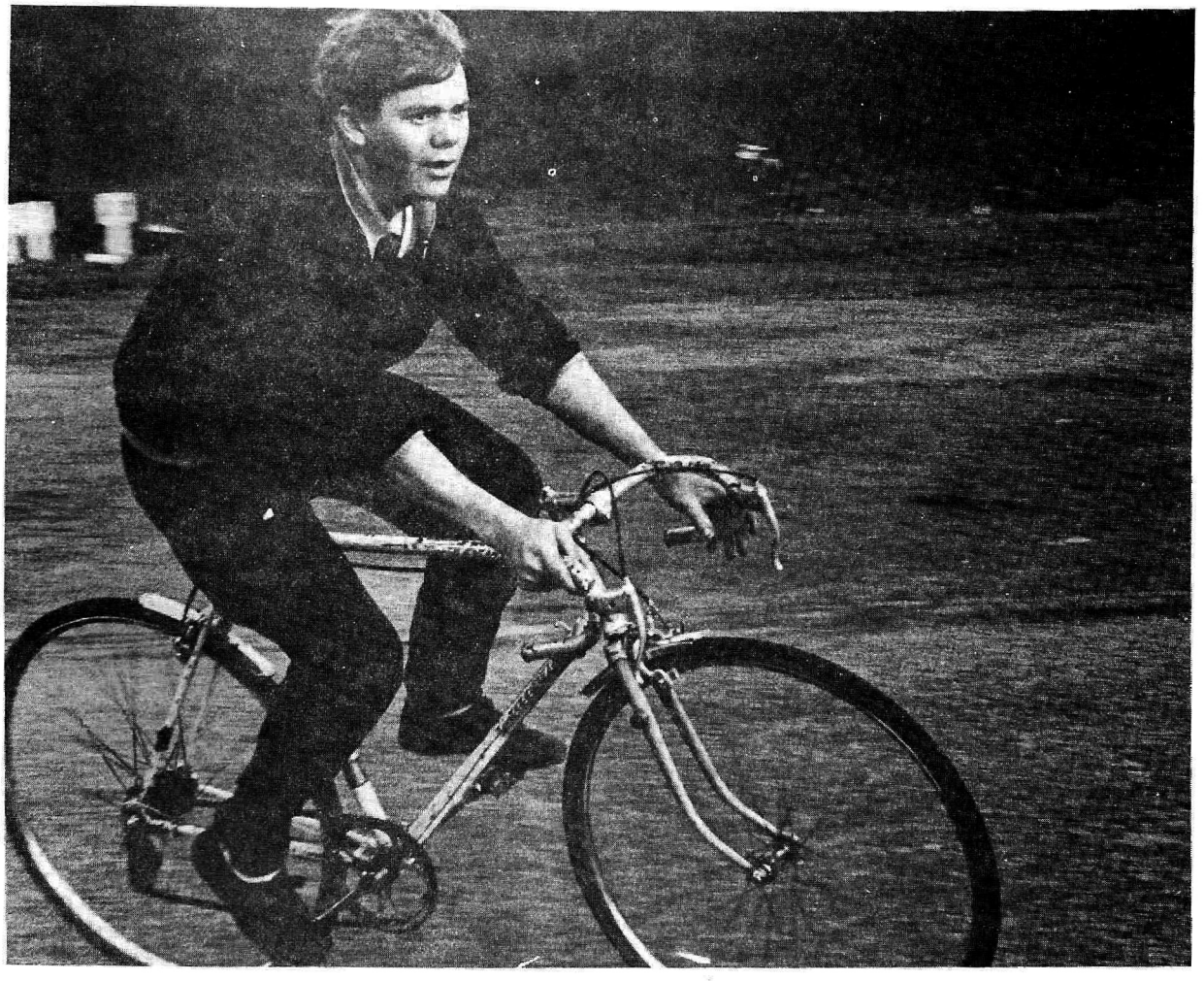
The season started off in September 74 with the mammoth task of getting as many cycles roadworthy as possible.

After College camp only nine were roadworthy, but now, with much hard work and patience there are a total of 20, of which 11 are for general use and nine kept specifically for racing or inter-unit competitions in the summer season.

Spring Term 1975

This is the worst of the three terms from the point of view of cycling, as the weather is usually wet and cold and the nights draw in rather early.

Most of the boys time has been spent in getting the bicycles into tip top condition for the summer term, and in preparation for taking them to College camp in Wales during May 1975.



A/Pte Brooking on a time trial in Deepcut



A/Ptes Butler and Drew battle it out

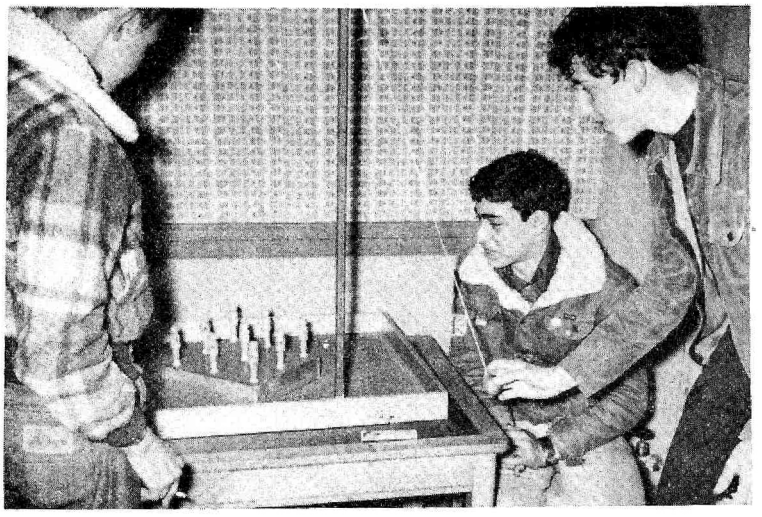
THE KON TIKI CLUB

Officer in Charge Miss Eileen Jones WRVS

A very busy time in the Club these days with the boys making full use of available facilities. We started out the term with a cupboard full of games, but owing to the continuous wear and tear, I shall soon be needing a new stock. It is a pity that they are so expensive. I'll need to "chat up" the PJRC!

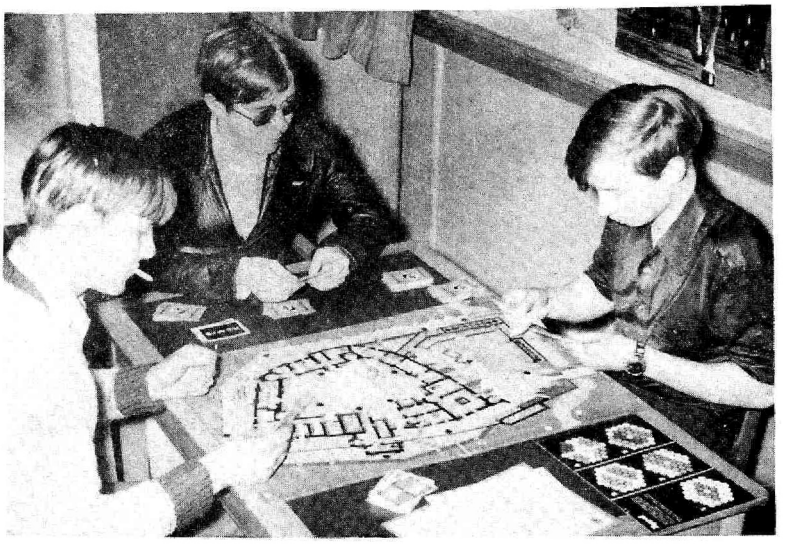
Everyone had a chance to go away to camp during the Summer term. A Company to Fremington, B Company to Tregantle and Term Leavers to Sennybridge. As the Company camps were held during the Aldershot Show week, WRVS was unable to visit them. However, I did go to our annual camp at Fremington in September. We took all our new recruits and although the weather was frightful, I think on the whole it was quite an adventure for them, although I did overhear one of our 'veterans' remarking bitterly that he'd "never moan about Deepcut again"! I felt a bit that way myself after constantly squelching around in "wellies", being locked out of the Mess at night, and being told that I was to be given the 'haunted' room for my 'pad'. However, it's all in the good old Army tradition of having fun!

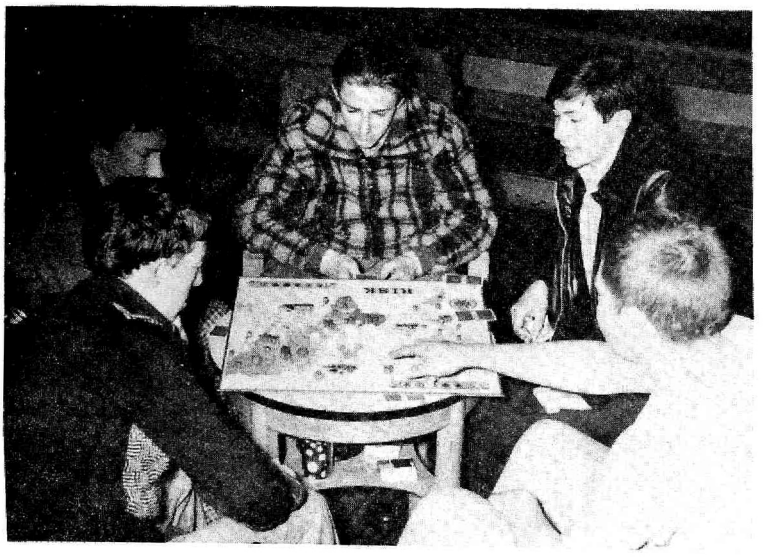
To return to more domestic matters, we have had new curtains hung in the TV room, and cushion covers are being made for the lounge. I haven't been given nearly as much mending to do lately so can only assume that our 'young men' are spending more money on clothes these days. Or perhaps they are just fed up with my rotten sewing?



Relaxing in the Kon Tiki.
Old-fashioned skittles

New-fangled "Colditz"





Even newer-fangled "Risk"

MODELLING CLUB

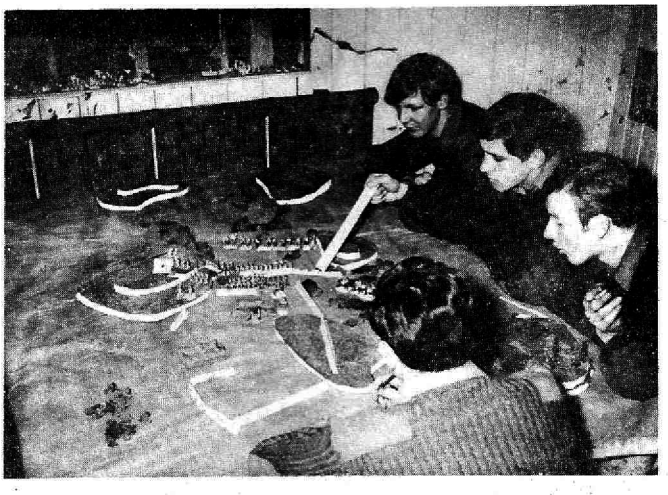
Officer in Charge Mr P Heap

Assistant Lt J P Inman RAOC

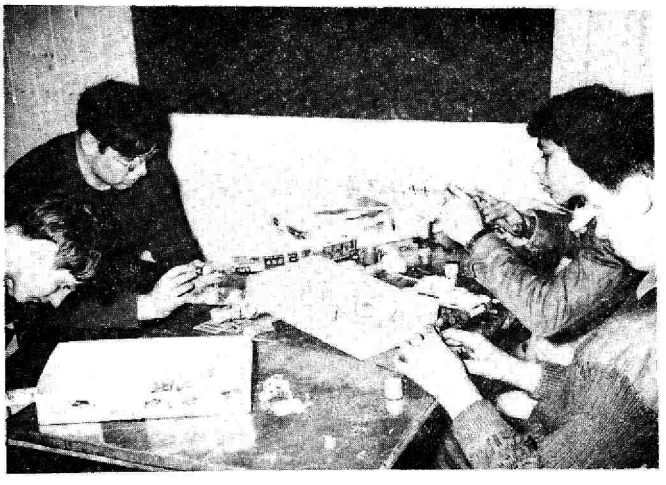
The Model Making Club has been hard hit this year with the inroads made into hobby time by other activities, with the inevitable consequence that 'production' has suffered and 'output' has declined. Though numbers have reduced, the individual boys are more interested, especially in the new offshoot of 'war gaming'. This has been introduced by Lt J P Inman, who joined the club in October as an assistant but has completely taken over this new activity. It has proved to be very popular both as regards playing and watching.



The constructive part of the club at work. Ratcliffe, Upton, Rodrigues,



'General' Butler plans his next move while the spectators advise



Work on some of the smaller parts

SAILING CLUB

Officer in Charge Mr J F Watson

Assistants Mr M F Johnson

Capt A G Thomas RAEC

The Spring and Summer of 74 proved disastrous for the sailing fraternity. Gales! Gales! and more Gales! Never in the last ten years have we been so frustrated.

Autumn came and annual camp at Fremington could have compensated for our disappointments. Alas, it was not to be! Once again the inevitable wind. During our fortnight in Devon we managed to launch our boats only four times and even then in the most miserable of conditions.

Enough of 1974. Let us look forward to 1975.

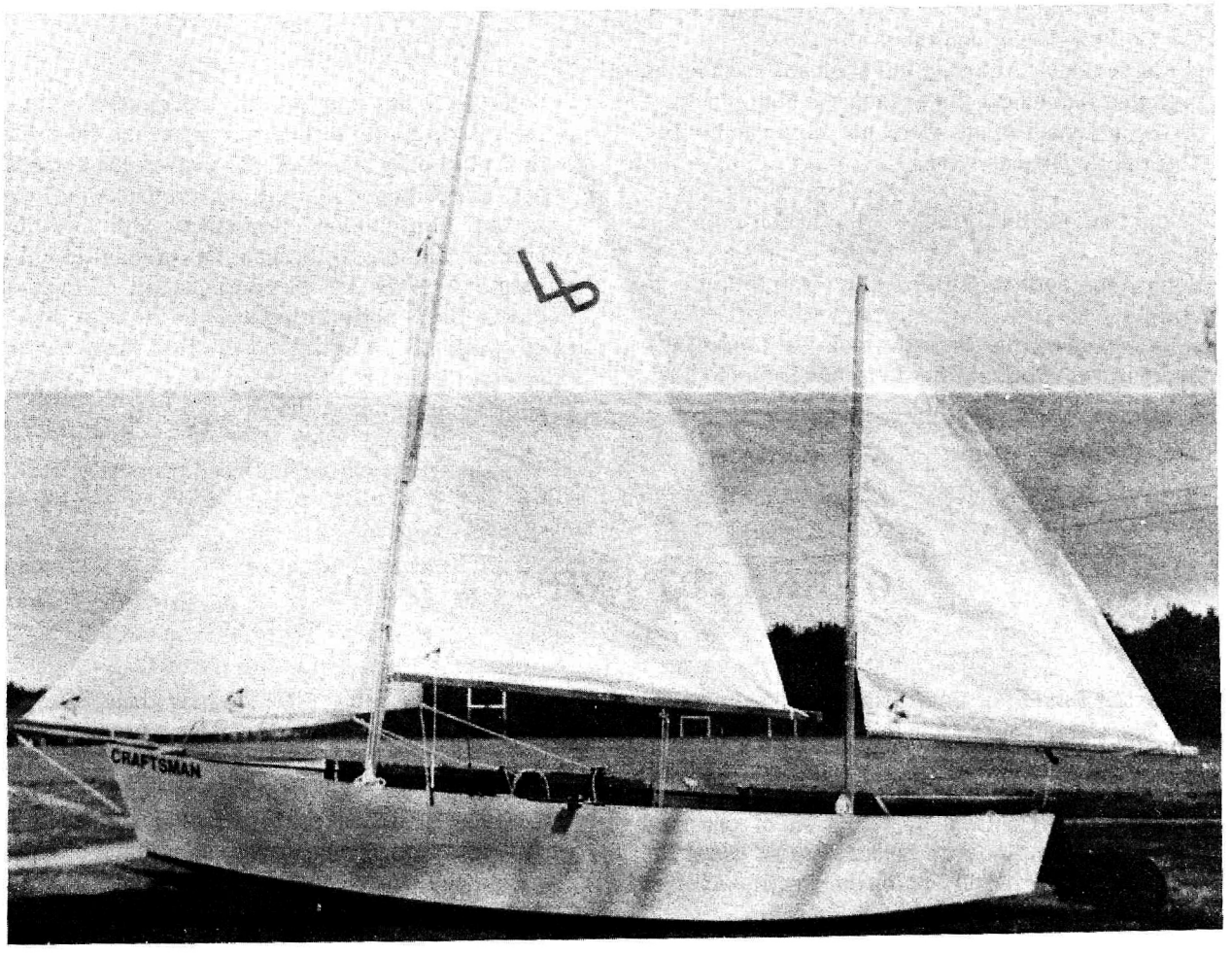
The winter has seen the inevitable 'rubbing-down', painting and varnishing. Hard, boring work . . . but very necessary.

We have, and are very proud, finally completed our 'Longboat'. She has cost us £150 to build. Yes, we are very proud of her, because to buy her from a professional yard would cost....£500.

Thank you, REME, for the financial assistance you have given us.

Thank you, Colonel, for being so patient with us during the building of the boat.

We look forward to our camp in Wales, but we pray for reasonable weather and hope to put as many people from the College onto the water as possible.



'Craftsman' ready to sail at last

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

Officer in Charge Lt C J Martindill BA RAEC

The season began with the inter-platoon competition, contested in three stages. With none of last year's team members available for selection this provided an excellent opportunity for talent spotting. The results were as follows:

		Won	Lost	Points
1	Baker	7	0	14
2	Valon	6	1	12
3	Hill	5	2	10
4	Gordon	3	4	6
4	Parsons	3	4	6
6	Tyler	2	5	4
6	Watts	2	5	4
8	Steevens	0	7	0

It was particularly pleasing to see the new recruits in Hill Platoon doing so well.

With the inter-platoon competition completed, the College teams continued their efforts in the RAOC leagues. Although the standard of shooting improved throughout the season the high placings of the previous years were not quite achieved. The final positions were:

Baker Cup (Target Rifle) 4th Match Points 11

Horne Cup (Service Rifle) 4th Match Points 5

In February the College took on the RAMC Apprentices College in a shoulder-to-shoulder match at Keogh Barracks. The result was a convincing win for the RAOC Apprentices College.

Scores: RAOC Apprentices College: 321

A/Pte Wragg (A)	78
A/Pte Cousins (A)	87
A/Pte Kidd (A)	81
A/Lcpl Roff (B)	75

Reserves: A/Pte Dean (B) A/Pte Platten (A)

RAMC Apprentices College 290

The Cup for the best Small-Bore rifle shot was awarded to A/Pte Wragg for his consistent performance throughout the season.

The following represented the College in matches:

A/Pte Wragg	A/Pte Platten
A/Pte Cousins	A/Pte Beards
A/Lcpl Roff	A/Pte Oakes
A/Pte Kidd	A/Pte McLeod
A/Pte Dean	

In all it has been a fairly successful season. Interest is likely to increase when the No 8 rifle is replaced by the SLR .22 conversion for competition purposes. These conversions were used in the inter-platoon competition with excellent results and the relevance to training is clear. Next year will see the introduction of the new Junior Units competition and the College should do well. It is to be hoped that many of the apprentices who have been introduced to competitive shooting at the College will continue to take an interest when they enter adult service. The sport is good fun and good training.

OPERATION WHITE LODGE

At the Service of Dedication on Monday 7 April 75 Mrs Carol Smith, Administrator of the White Lodge Centre for Spastics, Chertsey, presented the College with an engraved rose bowl as a token of the Centre's appreciation of our fund raising activities on its behalf. In two years the College has raised £1700 for the Centre. Another collection is being organised for June 75 when all previous records are expected to be broken.

The picture shows the Commanding Officer receiving the bowl on behalf of the College. It will be awarded annually to the Platoon which raises the most money for the White Lodge.



COLLEGE PRIZEWINNERS 1974-75

The boys who win prizes each term are the top twenty (or so) boys of a College some 300 to 400 strong. To be included in this select few is no mean feat and we intend to pay more attention to their achievements. Admittedly their names are engraved on the trophies they win and they take home with them replicas and other prizes to remind them of their moments of triumph. But it is felt that a more permanent record is needed. The lists covering August 74 to March 75 are printed herewith.

PRIZEWINNERS SUMMER 74

Recruit Awards

McEwan Shield	Best Recruit	A/Pte Lewis (B)
Recruit PT Cup	Best Recruit in PT	A/Pte Mohamed (B)

Education Awards

Section A1	A/Pte Palin (A)
Section A2	A/Pte Sandon (B)
Section B1	A/Pte McFarlane (A)
Section B2	A/Pte Gelisson (B)

Trade Training Awards

Best Staff Clerk	A/Pte Pattinson (B)
Best Tech Clerk	A/Pte Kay (B)
Best Clerk REME	A/Pte Clarke (B)

	Best Storeman RAOC	A/Pte Potter (A)
	Best Storeman REME	A/Pte Warner (B)

College Individual Awards

Crawford Tankard	Best All-round Shot	A/Lcpl Draper (A)
MacDonald Shield	For Perseverance	A/CSM Holroyd (A)
St Albans Cup	For Initiative	A/Sgt McDonald (B)
Education Cup	Best Scholar	A/Pte Ellis (B)
Military Proficiency Shield	Most Proficient Soldier	A/Cpl Littlewood (A)
Sergeants' Cup	Best All-rounder	A/Pte Potter (A)

College Team Awards

	Athletics Cup	B Company
	Cricket Cup	A Company
	Tug of War Cup	B Company

Special Awards

	Officers'/Sergeants' Mess Tankard	A/RSM Crawford
	Commanding Officer's Special Award	A/Cpl Lonnen

PRIZEWINNERS WINTER 74

Recruit Awards

McEwan Shield	Best Recruit	A/Lcpl Forsyth (A) A/Pte Garrick (B)
Recruit PT Cup	Best Recruit in PT	A/Pte French (B)

Education Awards

	Section 3	A/Pte Averiss (A) A/Pte Neat (B)
	Section 2	A/Lcpl Denwood (A) A/Pte O'Keefe (B)
	Section 1	A/Pte Ratcliffe (A) A/Sgt Williams (B)

Trade Training Awards

	Best Storeman REME	A/Lcpl Flemming
	Best Storeman RAOC	A/Pte Green
	Best Tech Clerk RAOC	A/Pte Manning
	Best Clerk REME	A/Pte Malbon
	Best Staff Clerk	A/Lcpl Blackburn

College Individual Awards

MacDonald Shield	For Perseverance	A/Pte Jones
Education Cup	Best Scholar	A/Sgt Littlewood
Sgt Albans Cup	For Initiative	A/Sgt Williams
Trade Training Cup	Best Tradesman	A/Sgt Littlewood
Military Proficiency Shield	Most Proficient Soldier	A/CSM Wooldridge
Sergeants' Cup	Best All-rounder	A/Sgt Littlewood

College Team Awards

	Soccer Cup	B Company
Special Awards	Officers'/Sergeants' Mess Tankard	A/RSM Crawford
	Commanding Officer's Special Prize	A/RSM Crawford

PRIZEWINNERS - SPRING TERM 75

Recruit Awards

Recruit PT Cup	Best Recruit in PT	A/Pte Hart (B)
McEwan Shield	Best Recruit	A/Pte Brown (B)

Education Awards

	Section A1	A/Cpl Denwood (A)
	Section A2	A/Pte Averiss (A)
	Section B1	A/Pte Astbury (B)
	Section B2	A/Pte Copley (B)
	Section B3	A/Pte Lewis (B)

Trade Training Awards

	Best Staff Clerk	A/Sgt Patterson (A)
	Best Tech Clerk	A/CSM Craig (B)
	Best Clerk REME	A/Pte Parrott (A)
	Best Storeman REME	A/Sgt Jones (A)

College Individual Awards

Small Bore Prize	Best Small Bore Shot	A/Pte Wragg (B)
SMG Cup	Best SMG Shot	A/Lcpl Jepson (B)
Crawford Tankard	Best All-round Shot	A/Lcpl Gaines (B)
St Albans Cup	For Initiative	A/Sgt French (B)
MacDonald Shield	For Perseverance	A/Pte Jackson (B)
Military Proficiency Shield	Most Proficient Soldier	A/Sgt Young (A)
Education Cup	Best Scholar	A/Cpl Sharpe (A)
Sergeants' Cup	Best All-rounder in military training, education, conduct and sport	A/Cp A/Sgt Patterson (A)

College Team Awards

	Inter Company Cross Country	B Company
	Inter Company Hockey	A Company

Commanding Officer's Special Awards

Awarded to the apprentices who have contributed most to the College during the term, but who do not qualify for any other award	A/Sgt Jones (A)
SE District League Cross Country Champion	A/Pte Hamill (B)

VALETE

COLLEGE LEAVERS SUMMER TERM 1974

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Arnold M W
A/Cpl Artlett S J
A/Pte Clayton W E
A/Pte Cotton A
A/Pte Crombie R
A/Pte Douglas K
A/Pte Fitzpatrick J K
A/Lcpl Harrison P
A/Pte Haslam Q N J
A/Pte Ladley D
A/Pte Pattison C P
A/Pte Reeby B R
A/Cpl Thomas J D W
A/Pte Williams S B

TECHNICAL CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Dewar D A
A/Sgt Hamilton G T
A/Pte Helsby K
A/Pte Huzzey A C R
A/Pte Kay G
A/Sgt McDonald G T
A/Sgt McGrath B J
A/Pte Popyk S R
A/Lcpl Scarlett A V
A/Pte Sugden S C
A/Pte Walls S G

STOREMAN RAOC

A/Pte Anderson M T
A/Lcpl Barratt M P
A/Lcpl Brown G C
A/Pte Cox M D
A/Pte Cureton J E
A/Pte Ellis I M
A/Pte Goodall T A
A/Pte Heddon W
A/Pte Howson M S
A/Pte Hysted S S
A/Pte Lake R J
A/Sgt Marson P L
A/Pte Ormrod D M
A/Pte Ovens H R
A/Pte Paton J B
A/Pte Porter J
A/Pte Potter P W
A/Pte Richardson A E
A/Pte Saunders L
A/Pte Start H W
A/Pte Sylvester R A
A/Pte Williams B

DRIVER RAOC

A/Pte Chipperfield S P
A/Pte Doherty S
A/Pte Hogg D T
A/Pte Kelly S J

COLLEGE LEAVERS WINTER TERM 1974

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Allan J B
A/Pte Berwick A J
A/Pte Blackburn C P
A/Pte Broughall J V
A/Pte Brown J W
A/Pte Cowman A J
A/Lcpl Crighton R
A/Lcpl Frodsham A R
A/Pte Hale R N
A/Pte Johnson I P L
A/Sgt King D R
A/Pte Lampert S
A/Pte Pritchard A L
A/Pte Studholme D
A/Lcpl Woodrow A
A/CSM Wooldridge S A

TECHNICAL CKERK RAOC

A/Cpl Charlton R W
A/Pte Jones W
A/Lcpl Low R E
A/Pte Manning M J
A/Sgt McMillan D T
A/Pte Paton C
A/Pte Reeve R J
A/Pte Roylance N P
A/Pte Whittington C M

STOREMAN REME

A/Lcpl Atkin S G
A/Pte Baptist D J
A/Pte Borrett P B

A/Pte Daniels K
A/Lcpl Drew M J
A/Lcpl Fleming K W
A/Pte Fox-Russell M H
A/Lcpl Jeffrey D M
A/Pte Jenkinson I P
A/Pte Jobson K J
A/Pte Johnson D P
A/Pte Keast A C
A/Lcpl Lynch G J
A/Lcpl Mason S R
A/Pte Pattison J
A/Pte Pritchard S R
A/Pte Rennie I
A/Pte Palmer P R M S
A/Lcpl Roe A D
A/Lcpl Sinnott J B
A/Lcpl Taylor F R
A/Pte Watkins D
A/Cpl Woodall C S
A/Lcpl Wootley T D

CLERK INTELLIGENCE CORPS

A/Pte Ballentine J A
A/Sgt Littlewood G
A/Pte Whiteoak R

STOREMAN RAOC

A/Pte Ash G D
A/Pte Blackett M V
A/Pte Carlile G H M
A/Pte Carter S J
A/Pte Casey T J
A/Pte Chapman A
A/Pte Collins D C
A/Pte Cone M C
A/Pte Crawford I
A/Pte Drabble P J
A/Pte Duncan A J
A/Pte Goodwin J M
A/Pte Green P M
A/Lcpl Holmes D C
A/Pte Jackson G C
A/Sgt Lonnen S T
A/Sgt Mackey A W
A/Pte Markham A D
A/Pte McDougall T D M
A/Pte Milner S E
A/Pte Noden D
A/Lcpl Oliver J
A/Lcpl Rees N G
A/Pte Richards P
A/Lcpl Rowley D A
A/Sgt Russell P P
A/Pte Servante M S
A/Lcpl Smith P
A/Lcpl Stray H R
A/Lcpl Tumilson M S
A/Pte Wedlock R H J
A/Pte Weissgerber J J
A/Pte Whitley R J
A/Pte Wilson D E

REGIMENTAL DUTIES RAOC

A/Sgt Wells P A

CLERK REME

A/Pte Allsop P R
A/Pte Braddock C E
A/RSM Crawford T H W
A/Pte Gloster P A
A/Pte Hall S G
A/Lcpl Lowry R J
A/Pte Malbon C M
A/Lcpl Matthews C P
A/Lcpl McFarlane S R
A/Pte Palin K G
A/Pte Palmer P R
A/Pte Sandow F J
A/Sgt Smith G M
A/Pte Smith A F
A/Pte Wood S R

COLLEGE LEAVERS SPRING TERM 1975

STAFF CLERK RAOC

A/Sgt Hogg D J
A/Cpl MacDonald D C
A/Sgt Patterson M A
A/Pte Williams W T

TECHNICAL CLERK RAOC

A/Pte Craig R
A/Pte Ratcliffe P L
A/Sgt Young A

CLERK REME

A/Cpl T Howat
A/Pte Parrott D L

STOREMAN REME

A/Sgt Haynes C D
A/Sgt Jones M A

CLERK INTELLIGENCE CORPS

A/Cpl Alexander C
A/Cpl Milner I C

POTENTIAL REME TRADESMEN

A/Pte Butler R
A/Pte Connors S J
A/Pte Gellissen H W
A/Lcpl Gooderson F
A/Pte Lord T A
A/Lcpl Woodhouse D H

PERSONALITIES LEAVING THE COLLEGE WINTER 1974

APPRENTICE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR CRAWFORD THW REME

Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major T H W Crawford joined Steevens Platoon A Company in September 72. He was promoted to A/Lcpl in April 73 and rose through the Apprentice ranks, attaining his present position in June 74.

During his time at the College he attended an Outward Bound Course at Aberdovey, obtaining an excellent report.

He has represented the College at Rugby and Gymnastics and his Platoon at Football.

His immaculate turnout and bearing, coupled with his polite manner, have made him an excellent example to the rest of the College.

NEWS OF OLD BOYS

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Allport D	SSgt	Jun 64	HQ RAOC NEARELF	Tech Clerk. Married one child. Has served in Singapore, Borneo, Sharjah, BAOR, MOD and Northern Ireland
Baker G	Pte	Apr 74	HQ Land Forces Hong Kong	Staff Clerk BIII. Single. Has exercised in Brunei with 1 R Hamps as a rifleman. Due for posting to 19 Bde HQ Colchester.
Ball P	Pte	May 71	7 OFP BFPO 23	Storeman. Married, two children. Detached for 4½ months to Canada where he married. FA referee. Due to move to 16 Para Hy Drop Coy in May.
Bremmem E	Ssgt	Apr 59	HQ Ord Services Singapore BFPO 5	Storeman BI. Married, three children. Has served in Didcot, Aden, Chilwell, Hong Kong, BAOR, Bramley and Malaya

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Broadbent J	Sgt	Dec 59	HQ Ord Services Singapore BFPO 5	Tech Clerk. Married, 1 child. Has served in Singapore and Borneo, Swindon, Aden (including 4 months in Zambia), BAOR, Recruiting Office in Crewe and now again in Singapore.
Chandler J	WO 2 CSM	Sep 60	HQ Ord Services Singapore	Stm B3. Clerk B3, Dvr B3. Married, 2 children. 3 years in BAOR, 3 years with 1 A/P OFP in Tidworth. 3 years with CVHQ and 1 year with 19 OFP before present posting.
Dyson P	Cpl	Sep 66	Regtl Depot Deepcut	Staff Clerk. Married, 2 children. 2 years BAOR. 2 years HQ 3 Div. 2 years JOC Maastricht and 2 years Regtl Depot. Has been detached to Cyprus and has met Lcpl Flower of 1 Para Log Regt.
Garrow G	Cpl	Aug 65	Anzuk Ord Depot BFPO 5	Staff Clerk. Married, no children. Service in Bahrein, BAOR, Aden, Libya, Cyprus and is now due for posting to HQ 3 Div in UK.
Greenleaf I	WO2	Apr 60	DOS (Recruiting) Blackdown Bks HQTC Deepcut	Tech Clerk. Married with 4 children. A Corps sailor and Rugby player. Served in BAOR, HQ FARELF and BAOR yet again. Water skiing instructor.
Grey J	Ssgt	Dec 59	Ord Services Singapore BFPO 5	Ammo Tech TI. Married, 2 children. Boxed for RAOC in Far East. Served with UN in Cyprus and with RAF in Libya. 2 years in BAOR. 2 years inspecting ammo at 1 AIDU. Now doing the same in Singapore.
Henty D	Ssgt	Jul 61	Ord Services Singapore BFPO 5	Tech Clerk. Married, 3 children. Served in Didcot, BAOR, Aden, Bicester, Cyprus, BAOR again, Anzuk
Holt F	Cpl	Aug 67	Cdo Ord Sqn	Stm BI. Clerk BI. Single. Has served in Bahrein and represented his unit at swimming and water polo. Is now serving an extended tour with Cdo Forces. Has been selected for the Army water polo team.
James E	Cpl	Apr 65	Regtl Depot Deepcut	Storeman. Married, no children. Has served in Aden 65-67, BAOR 67-70, Kineton 70-74 and with UN in Cyprus. Wife is expecting a baby
Jenkinson J	Pte	Jan 70	7 OFP BFPO 23	Storeman. Married, 1 child. Has served almost entirely in BAOR since leaving the College. Is now both a BAOR Corps and BAOR Army Hockey player.

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Jones J	Pte	Dec 72	7 OFP BFPO 23	Staff Clerk. Single. Has so far served only in BAOR but in April won the Young Soldier Trophy in the RAOC Corps Shoot at Sennelager.
Lane R	Pte	Sep 69	7 OFP BFPO 23	Storeman. Single. Arrived in BAOR after service in Bicester and Antwerp. Is obviously enjoying himself.
Palmer M	WOI	Jun 55	HQ BAOR	Tech Clerk. Married, 2 children. Has served in Chilwell, FARELF (with Gurkhas), BAOR. Was a member of 16 Para Bde and 'visited' Greece, Cyprus, Libya. A further tour in Singapore preceded his present posting. Is due to join MOD in Ord 1.
Paton C	Ssgt	Jun 61	HQ BAOR	Tech Clerk BI. Married, no children. Has served in Cyprus, BAOR and with 19 OFP in UK. Owes almost all his success to moving Lt Col Vickery's washing machine and dish washer from BAOR to UK
Sims D	Sgt	Apr 61	HQ Ord Services Singapore BFPO 5	Storeman. Married, 2 children. 3 years in BAOR and 3 years at HQ ALFCE (then in France). Two years in HQ Aldershot Garrison, now since 71, in Singapore.
Williams H	Sgt	Aug 64	7 OFP BFPO 23	Tech Clerk BI. Married, one child. Has served in BAOR, Bicester and in Libya. His present posting follows 18 months at Bramley and 18 months in Northern Ireland.
Young J	Pte	Dec 73	Cdo Log Regt (Ord Sqn)	Staff Clerk B2. Single. "During my time with the Regt I can say that versatility and adaptability are pre-requisites". Due to be posted to HMS Ark Royal with 55 Gd Liaison Gp.
Purkins M	Lcpl	Dec 72	19 Airptbl OFP	Tech Clerk. Has skied in Cyprus and Norway. Is now on BI upgrading course
Clarke T A	Lcpl	Mar 73	19 Airptbl OFP	Tech Clerk B2. Has been adventure training at Penhale
Briggs S	Pte	Sep 73	19 Airptbl OFP	Staff Clerk. Has visited Bavaria, Austria, S Germany, Norway. Has had 3 month attachment to Queen's Own Hussars. For Northern Ireland in July.
Walton R	Pte	Jul 72	19 Airptbl OFP	Storeman BI. Married with one daughter. Has exercised with 3 Queen's in Kenya.

Name	Rank	College leaving date	Present Unit	Remarks
Bolton J	Pte	Dec 70	19 Airptbl OFP	Storeman BI. Visited Barbados and Virgin Islands with 24 OFP. Was a member of RAOC Shooting Team 74 and is a 3rd Class Sub-Aqua diver. Wedding bells January 76.

CANOEING SUCCESS BY EX– APPRENTICE



Lt Col D J Porter RAOC, 2 Sub Depot, COD Bicester, who, as a Major, used to command B Company of the College some four or five years ago writes:

"Just a line to enclose a photograph of Pte Summerbell late of Mulcahy and Baker Platoons of the 'other' Company. I was congratulating him on winning the Catterick Cup in the recent Army Whitewater Canoe Championships. I am sure Mike Johnson will be delighted to hear the news, as Summerbell only started canoeing at the college and has obviously made considerable progress in the sport. Incidentally Summerbell is getting married on 20 December to a WRAC girl in CICP."

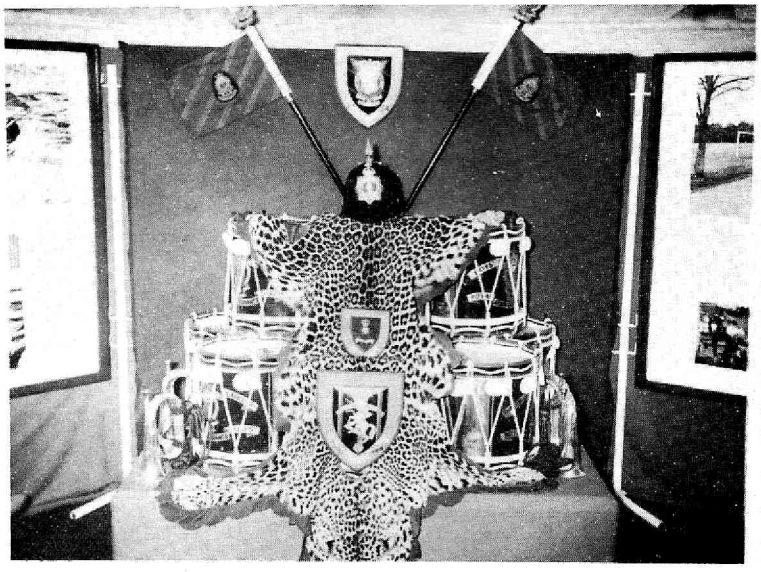
MISCELLANY

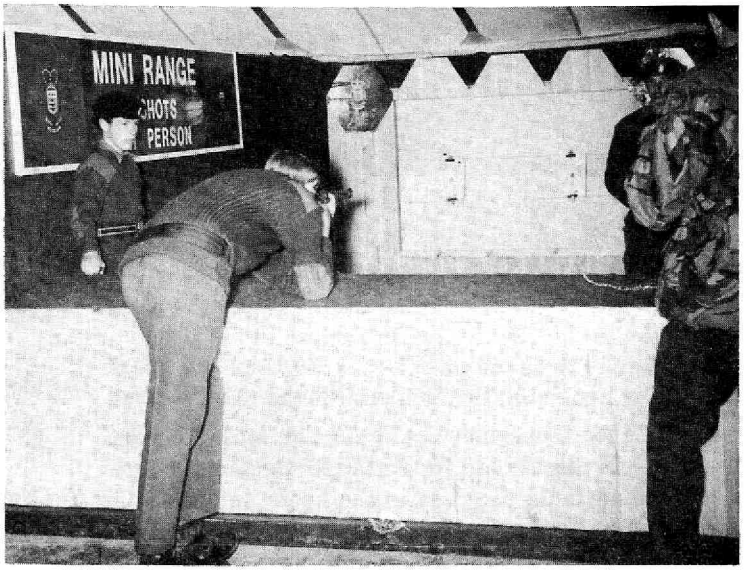
New Envoy 74 - College Contribution



'Outside'

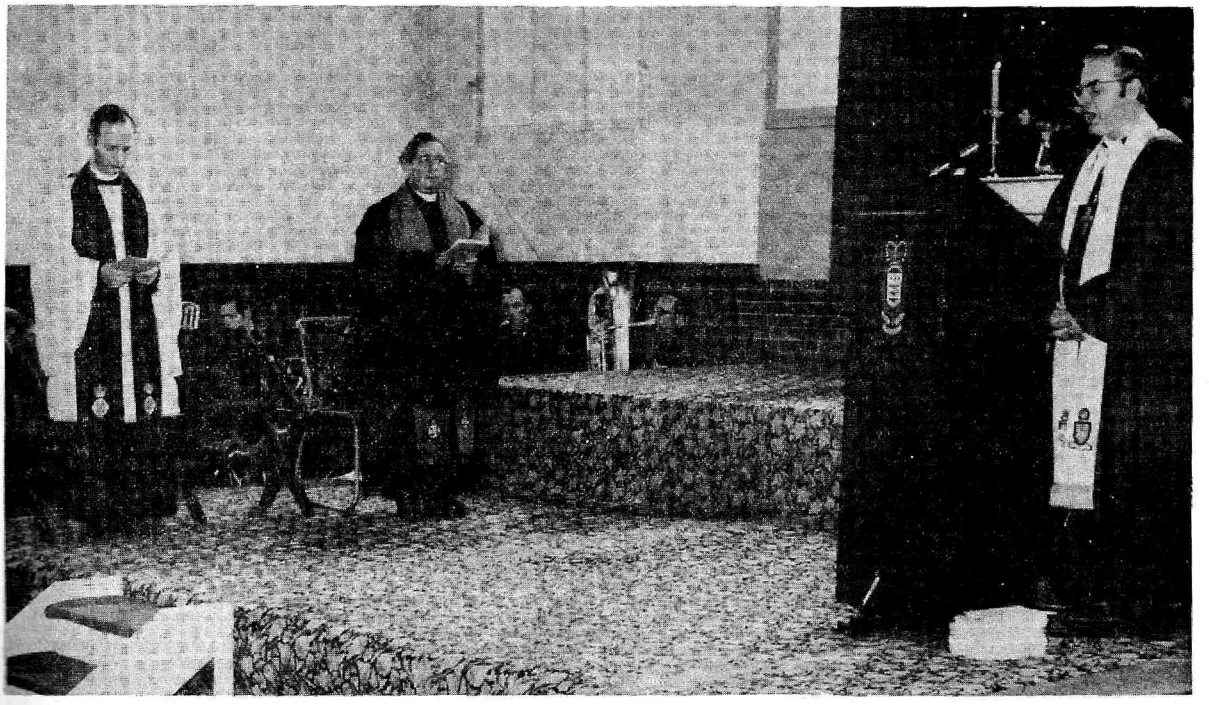
'Inside'





'Side-show'

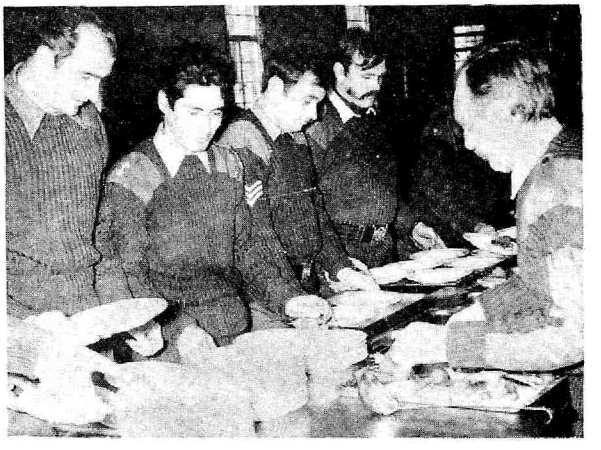
Service of Dedication

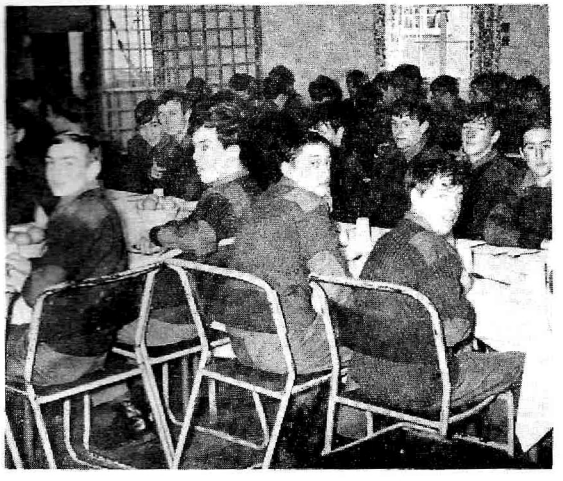


At this service each term, Term Leavers re-affirm their Oath of Allegiance
Padres Vernon, Kelly and Carruthers

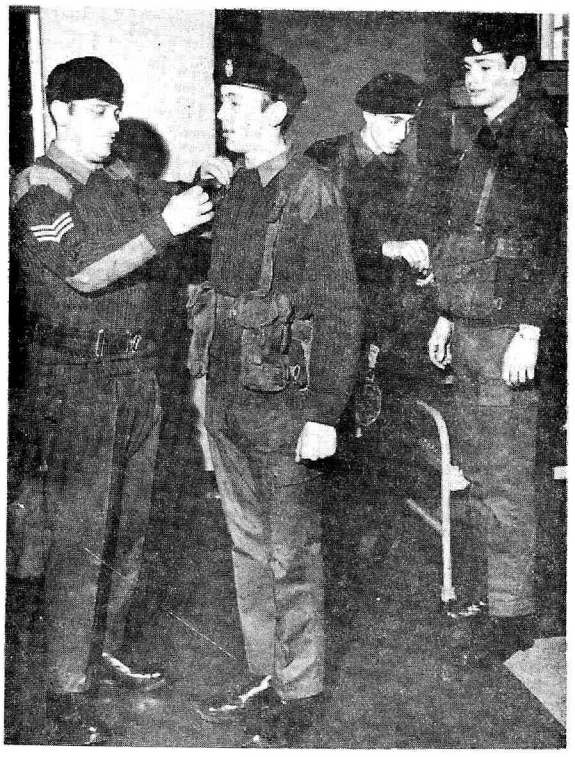
College Christmas Dinner - December 74







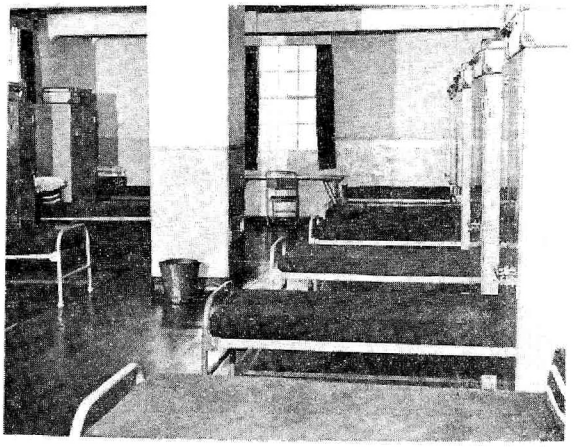




"First Fitting"



"Strength through Joy"



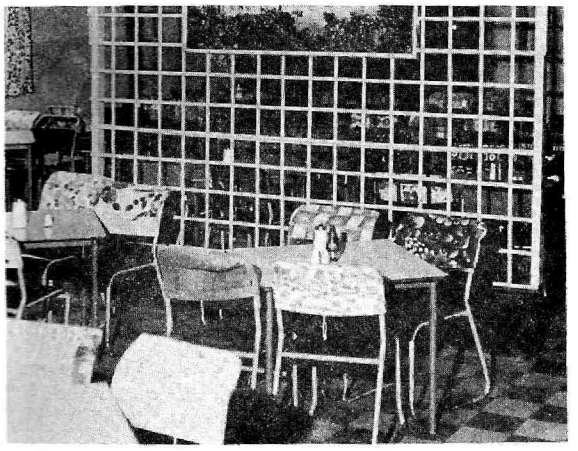
1914-1939 - 1975 Any difference?



OC's Interview



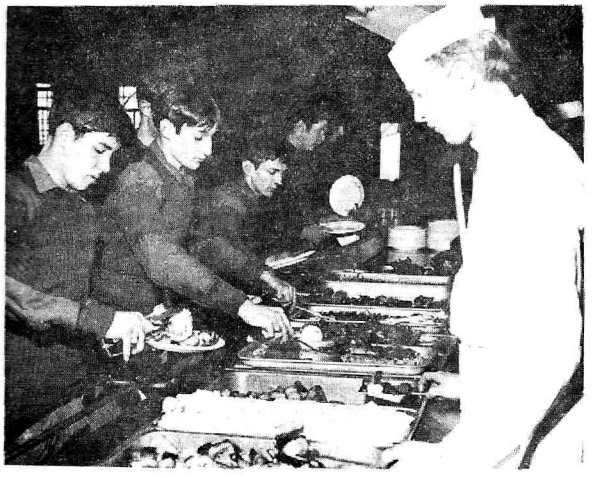
Driver Training through BSM



A corner of the Restaurant



On the ranges



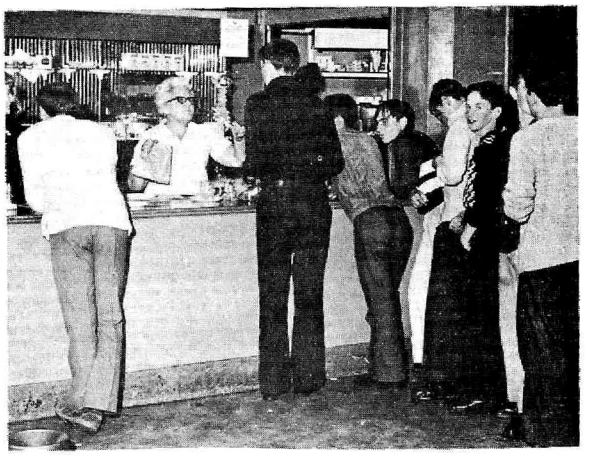
"Help yourself"



No wonder the Library is popular!



"Any complaints"



The NAAFI is the NAAFI is the NAAFI