

THUNDERBOLT

Journal of the RAOC Apprentices College

FOREWORD BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER



Lt Col M L C Jiggens BSc MBIM RAOC

The time has come to mark the end of an era in the RAOC. On the 31st December 1985 this unit disbands and the RAOC loses its own independent junior unit. We have had our own junior units for some 60 years and 50 years ago the first Apprentices in the Army were recruited. These first Apprentices wore the RAOC cap badge.

Many thousands of young men have started their Army service in this unit and its predecessors and have gone on to provide the backbone of Sergeants' Messes throughout the RAOC. Many have also been commissioned and reached senior posts in the Army. All those who have been associated with training them over the years, not only the instructors but also those, both military and civilians, who have provided the administrative support, can take pride and satisfaction in the success of those trained here. I would particularly like to thank the loyal and devoted service of our civilian staff over the years.

This edition of 'Thunderbolt' chronicles the last 2 terms of the unit's existence and I hope that it shows that we have succeeded in maintaining standards and activity levels right up to the end.

Although this is the end of one era another starts. Our colleagues in the RCT also lose their own independent junior unit on the 31st December. On 1st January 1986 a new amalgamated Junior Leaders' Regiment RCT/RAOC is to be formed at Colerne in Wiltshire. My final comment in this foreword must be to wish it the best of fortune for the future.

EDITORIAL

It is with great sadness that I begin to organise the last edition of Thunderbolt. For many years it has been the RAOC Apprentices College 'in house' journal and has provided many accounts of college routine, no doubt full of 'in' jokes, which have gone to remind people of their years in the College.

The last edition once again reflects the many and varied activities which have been undertaken by the apprentices over the last few months.

My thanks, as usual, to all the contributors and to the Printing Section at Donnington who have done a wonderful job for us over the years - thanks for everything folks.

Finally I would like to wish the 'joint venture' at Colerne every success for the future. Who knows, they may even decide to produce their own college magazine - suggestions for the title could be a competition.!

Designed and printed by Reproduction Branch, COD Donnington

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THE HISTORY OF JUNIOR TRAINING IN THE RAOC

The Early Years 1925-1930

In 1925 a policy decision was made to increase the establishment of unit armourers from one SNCO to a Staff Sergeant and a LCpl as an assistant. It was this move which brought to the RAOC Depot in Hilsea Barracks an intake of approximately 100 junior entrants of 'boys' as they were called, mostly for training as armourers but a handful were chosen as trainee buglers.

To foster an immediate and lasting competitive spirit within the new barrack block the intake was divided into four teams, each occupying its own room, to conform with the competition requirements of the Boys Army Cup, a popular and much coveted prize right across the ranks of junior units within the Army.

Boys were enlisted at the age of fourteen, the then legal minimum school leaving age, and were given a long and lasting training in military subjects, with some education, and by all accounts a disproportionate amount of sport, soccer being the principal pursuit: a factor reflected in the number of Corps soccer players to come from the ex-boys.

The newly formed boys school soon began producing results and because of its active fostering of competitive spirit was host to the Boys Army Cup many times over this period.

Life for the boys, as indeed for servicemen in general, was not an easy one: their accommodation was spartan, and a constant complaint amongst the boys was that of hunger and it is in pursuit of an answer to this problem that the boys showed themselves to be at their most resourceful.To combat their hunger the boys would frequently break into the dining hall to feast on what ever food had been left out, desperate measures indeed! Such activity cannot, however, go unnoticed and consequently all the windows were wired up to prevent the thefts, the cookhouse now secure, the staff content. Imagine their surprise at the steady, albeit decreased disappearance of tasty morsels from the apparently impregnable cookhouse, a mystery never to be solved. A point proudly made by Major (Retd) H T Humphrey MBE as he reveals of his service as a boy soldier at the time ".... the point is that I was looking after the Roman Catholic Church Hut and we discovered that the key fitted the back door of the dining hall ..."

But punishment was frequent and carried no frills in those days, one of its principal exponents naturally being RSM Bill Cooke, who was a great believer in 'short and sharp' being the best policy although it is said he gave his 'victims' the choice of him or the Officer Commanding, a choice indeed for a trembling boy! Corporal punishment was allowed if parents consented.

1931-1939

During this period the events in boy service within the RAOC are slightly more elaborated on, the memories fresher, the details clearer.

Boys at this time were housed in 'J' block at Hilsea Barracks although there were a few with No 5 Section RAOC at Bramley. The Barrack block was now completely full, housing some 200 boys, all the rooms being of uniformly spartan composition. The beds were simple and unsprung; the rooms contained one six foot table and only the necessary cleaning implements to keep the stained wooden floors highly polished. The room would also have a coal tub and box which became purely decorative due to there being no coal issued and no fires allowed anyway!

Primary heating was by hot water pipes which were temperamental at the best of times and not employed during daytime. No hot water was allowed in the washrooms either, which makes one wonder how 200 boys managed to turn out well scrubbed every day.

The food, by all accounts, had made no significant improvement in either quality or quantity: it was plain if palatable and was prepared and cooked by RAOC storemen; bread was limited and the humble crust was regarded by all as a desirable extra occasionally available. Trainee armourers were entitled to an extra half a slice of bread and margarine on their return from evening classes twice weekly, a privilege which occasionally became exploited by those not entitled to it, as Major (Retd) S H Spanner, at this time a trainee bugler, recalls.

"I have dressed up in my best SD suit with white belt and puttees and queued at the cookhouse pretending to be an armourer just to get the half

slice".

Training at this time was primarily trade orientated with Saturday mornings only being reserved for parades and military training. Military training itself was confined only to the very basics although the length of time spent in boys service, around 3 - 4 years, meant that such subjects did not have to be crammed. Despite the time spent there the days were well filled and leave kept to a minimum.

Reveille was 0600 on weekdays, including Saturday, and was followed by PT at 0630 to start the day off 'healthy and glowing' before the work parade at 0800. Trainee armourers underwent instruction in the Hilsea Depot workshops under the guidance of the permanent staff there, travelling to Portsmouth Technical School for further instruction for two evenings every week.

Trainee buglers had a less variable day learning calls and spending most of their time out in the middle of the sports field practising them.

Education was regarded as extremely important as most boys were expected to be promoted to Lance Corporal almost immediately on reaching adult service and to achieve this the various qualifications had to be gained during their time at the depot. To this end each evening was occupied with instruction for the third, and eventually second, class Army Certificates of Education.

Boys were paid 6/5d per week of which they received 1/- until they were 16 years of age when their cash in hand was doubled to 2/-. The balance was put into credits after deductions for damages, laundry and the weekly haircut. There were no pay increases until entering adult service at the age of 18, save that of a bugler on appointment who received an extra 2d per day; needless to say money was scarce among the boys and luxuries were unheard of.

All potential clerks underwent initial training as buglers and those boys quite often had close family connections with the Corps, usually coming from military posts or schools. The depot had 3 established buglers with half a dozen or so undergoing training, and buglers were posted to outstations on completion of their initial training doubling as orderly room clerks as they continued their education. Bearing in mind the difference between 'boys' and 'men' as regards pay and experience, life for buglers in a unit must have been hard.

Early in 1936 the RAOC took on an extra 200 boys for training as fitters, a task later to come under the auspice of the REME on its formation. These boys were housed and trained in Hilsea in the School of Instruction. There were now some 400 boys undergoing various forms of training at Hilsea and it is interesting to note that the level of exposure at a public level was virtually nil. Entry was through internal and well subscribed channels and obviously the need to advertise was not thought unduly necessary.

In 1937 the junior ranks of the RAOC were again swelled by the recruitment of a further 100 boys earmarked for the resurgence in fitting and armoury trades. They were housed in the old first world war prisoner-of-war camp at Bramley which had enough hutted accommodation and workshop area to temporarily accommodate them until the opening of the Army Technical School (Boys) at Arborfield in March 1939. The initial intake at Arborfield numbered 200 but by early 1940, as obviously demand for qualified tradesmen increased the numbers had shot up to nearly 1,000.

It is interesting to take note of the enlistment procedures and career prospects of junior entrants in the pre-war years:

a. **Armourers**

Armourers enlisted in the RAOC from school and, depending on their suitability, underwent training at Hilsea as already described. On completion of their training at the age of about 19 they then moved to Woolwich and regular employment.

b. **Buglers**

The majority of buglers (if not all) went on to become clerks and most progressed to Ordnance Executive Officers (OEO) with the rank of Lieutenant by the age of 40-42. The age of entry being around 14 for Buglers and armourers alike.

c. **'Special Enlistment'**

This was an enlistment option designed to attract those who had stayed on at school until Higher Certificate level. The enlistment age was 17½, ie 6 months before the commencement age for 'man' service. It was a restricted method of entry and was intended to provide suitable material for consideration for a 'Y' Cadetship at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The 'Y' Cadetship was a limited

scholarship of which only 12 per year were available to the whole Army. For a Corps man to achieve this meant 18 months service in a line regiment before even being selected. Failure to be selected for Sandhurst did not mean disaster, however, as the candidate would return to the ranks of the RAOC, thus safeguarding his career and the prospects for a well-educated man in the RAOC ranks were quite promising. It is worth noting that several 'specially enlisted' RAOC candidates were awarded 'Emergency Commissions' at a Field Regular Commissions Board when the outbreak of war disrupted the planned path to their 'Y' Cadetship.

1950-1956 - Toy Soldiers - New Moves and the Miller Report

The emphasis on the boys training had been slowly changing since the pre-war years and the boys school now employed a much more military orientated syllabus. It was much like a boarding school in establishment, being divided into houses and competing against each other in this way. The entry age to the RAOC Boys Training School, Gosport, as it was now titled, was 15 years old except for those enlisting from Northern Ireland who joined at 14 ½. There was very little, if any, trade training at the school, the principal occupation being education; this was regarded as extremely important and was well organised involving a sizable education staff under the command of one Major Legge with a Captain James to assist him.

It is interesting to note not only the change in direction of the syllabus, but also of the approach to the public. The boy service now adopts a much higher profile and to project this image the school formed a display team to perform at public functions and exhibitions as public relations and recruiting medium. The activity was described as the 'Toy Soldiers Display Party' and comprised of about 90 boys at full strength, divided into two 'armies' dressed in mock period uniforms. The spectacle opened in the arena at a venue with the two armies drawn up in review order facing each other across the arena. The two 'commanders' would then meet in the centre and one would be invited to review the other's "troops" which was done with all due ceremony before returning to the centre of the arena where an 'insult' would be made, a gauntlet thrown down and the challenge taken up. Both 'commanders' would then return to their respective armies. 'Cavalry Charges' and 'artillery exchanges' were made before the two sides became locked in a well orchestrated 'mortal combat' to the accompaniment of the smoke and din of the battle. It provided an exciting spectacle for all who saw it and was testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of the boys and permanent staff who staged it, under the careful control of Sergeant Les Jordan. The Display Party performed at many public events including the Edinburgh Tattoo, Jersey Flower Show and the Royal Tournament, the latter providing the venue for the boys to perform in front of Her Majesty The Queen in 1952.

The projection of the Boys School into the public eye was obviously a successful one and the decision was made to increase the strength to two companies of junior soldiers, the new company to be located at Fort Gomer about three miles down the coast from Haslar. The accommodation at Fort Gomer had been unoccupied for several years and needed extensive clearing and restoration work at the hands of boys work parties who were given an additional incentive by being paid for each rat they caught; it is no surprise to discover that there was much rat catching and very little cleaning, and progress was slow.

There was now an establishment of two companies both operating from separate locations, 'A' Company under the command of Major Underwood at Haslar and 'B' Company at Fort Gomer under the command of Major Vaughan-Griffiths, and the development of individual identities was inevitable. Also, to increase the numbers in the intake, a lowering of entry standards had been implemented and several boys turned out to be totally unsuitable for army life as their training progressed. An added difficulty for the staff was the number of boys who had chosen army life only in preference to borstal when given the option by the juvenile courts, bringing several discipline problems into the school. The senior ranks of this era must obviously have had their work cut out and the task of WO1 Musto of the education staff must have occasionally been an unenviable one.

The permanent staff were assisted in the running of the school by boy NCOs in much the same way as the present day. Each team or house had a regular sergeant and JNCO with a boy sergeant or corporal to assist, and 1952 saw the promotion to boy sergeant major of Frank Webster, the first in the history of the RAOC, who became commissioned shortly afterwards and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring in 1980.

Later in 1953 the army began to undergo a period of consolidation, more activities being centralised for ease of administration and to reduce running costs.

To this end the Boys School, as one of many junior units in the army, was disbanded and after the Christmas leave the boys reported to Blackdown to form A and B companies of 1 Regular Training Battalion RAOC, C and D Companies comprising of regular soldiers in training.

The boys had their own wing in North Frith barracks across the road from the main Alma Barracks and had their own guardroom and entrance. The move was considered by many to be a wise one, bringing the two companies together as a distinct unit and making communication and competition between the two more practical.

The syllabus became broader in its outlook if not changing significantly; military subjects such as weapon training and first aid were well established and drill became much more evident, education remained an important part of the training and the emergence of trade training as a subject was popular. Boxing was a much expounded sport and shooting competitions were popular amongst the boys and permanent staff alike. A highlight of the syllabus was the regular visit to the Isle of Wight where the boys were introduced to adventurous activities such as rambling and rock climbing and practised sleeping out under canvas. The exercise usually involved a certain amount of military pursuits, giving the boys some excellent ground to practise their skills, and these exercises were the forerunners of the modern day External Leadership Training which forms an integral part of the syllabus.

The final term saw a moderate relaxation and the commencement of trade training, a surprisingly low priority consideration over the years before. Leave passes became available to worthy cases, and 'walking out' privileges were occasionally granted providing those walking out passed a pre-inspection as to the smartness of their civilian clothes. The final term also saw the importance of the ever-present progress reports in the eyes of the boys, the prospect of failure at this stage being an unlikely one for some, a more worrying one for others; despite the privileges available to the boys in the final term they were still kept well in check under the watchful eye of the legendary CSM 'Baggy' Hall.

1954 also saw the formation of the boys band using the surplus drums and bugles from 2 Regular Training Battalion and provided a viable if somewhat less flamboyant successor to the Toy Soldiers Display as a means of advertising the boys wing, albeit on a much less grand scale, and provided the accompaniment at parades and the traditional 'compulsory' church attendances on Sundays.

By 1954 therewas some doubt nationally, as to whether Boys' Units were developing their full potential. In November a new selection procedure was introduced to improve the standards of entry of boys and cut down in service wastage. This was followed in December by the setting up of a committee to report on the organisation and administration of Boys' units.

The Committee, known as the Miller Committee after Lt Gen Sir Euan A Miller who was a member of the board, reported in February 1955, after visiting several units including the Boys' Company RAOC at Blackdown.

The findings altered the way of life in boys units and is still an important factor in junior entry administration. The Committee saw a need to treat the boys as boys and not as adult soldiers. There was a need for 'free time' to be limited and special facilities to be provided. Compulsory hobbies were started in the evenings and sport began to fill a much larger part of training time. WVS clubs were set up to provide a female touch and improve recreation facilities.

The training year was altered to a school term system with only three entry points instead of the steady trickle of boys joining as before. The Ministry of Education was invited to inspect the Boys' Schools. The Committee recommended that the three boys' units in the Aldershot area from the Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps, be amalgamated to form a larger unit and moved elsewhere. This was not taken up.

1956-1960

The RAOC Junior Leaders Battalion, as the title had become, were continuing to use the Isle of Wight as their base for adventurous training but the emphasis had moved more towards adventure pursuits and away from the military subjects. 1960 also saw the first junior RAOC team competing in the Nijmegen Marches, making a good show of it too, and received decent coverage in the Corps publication of the time. Mention should also be made of the Junior Tradesmens Regiment at Rhyl which trained some RAOC boys, amongst others, over the period 1962-1974.

1966-1972

In 1966 the Junior Leaders Battalion went to Camp, under canvas, at Castlemartin in Pembrokeshire. Trouble broke out when the Commanding Officer

restricted off duty visits and struck the Sergeants' Mess tent after the senior ranks had kept him awake. Later in the year the Padre was told to move out of the Mess as he had upset the Commanding Officer. During the rest of 1966 and early 1967 morale in the unit went down, both permanent staff and juniors being affected.

Matters came to a head at Easter when a riot broke out in the Restaurant and, as one ex junior put it, the last he saw of the orderly officer was him backing into a corner, sword drawn, trying to stave off his attackers. The juniors then went on the rampage causing a lot of damage both inside and outside the unit before the Brigadier intervened and promised to look at their complaints.

The Commanding Officer and several other members of the permanent staff were rapidly posted and after the press had had its fill, life quietened down and the Battalion went about its business.

In the long run the so called 'Easter Mutiny' and several similar occurrences in other junior units brought some benefit. The policy of offering offenders the option of a borstal sentence or joining the Army ceased, leading to the removal of some of the less desirable elements.

Also it was realised that asking a 15 year old to sign away his freedom for so long was wrong. A new system was instituted in which a soldier under the age of 17 would give 2 weeks notice during his first 6 months service if his parents agreed and the minimum amount of adult service was cut to 3 years.

The RAOC Junior Leaders Battalion had its 2 year syllabus split into terms over this period. Between 1967 and 1969, when Lieutenant Colonel Ridgeway was the Commanding Officer, the terms were divided into 4 terms of military training, 2 of education, 1 spent on trade training and 1 term spent studying for Regimental Proficiency Certificates. Education covered subjects such as Geography, History, Maths and English as well as map reading, which was considered an educational subject for qualification to grade 3 and 2 in the Army Certificate of Education.

There were 3 companies in the Battalion which was housed in its present location and shared Dettingen Barracks with 1 Regular Training Battalion. The junior soldiers undergoing training with the battalion were drawn from 3 Corps, the RAOC, REME and RE, all under the eagle eye of RSM Ward who was succeeded by RSM Carr in 1968. Adventure training and Company camps took place at Tregantle Fort in Plymouth and at Fremington Camp. The Junior Leaders were also actively involved in providing manpower during the Royal Tournament for arena tasks and the like and they were also involved in the same capacity at Wimbledon.

The blocks contained no baths or showers as these were located centrally in the bath house situated just across from what is now the NAAFI, and platoons were marched over in sports kit carrying soap and towel for their scrub down. The system of having boy NCOs had by now increased to encompass an apprentice or boy RSM and these apprentice NCOs were paid a small increment on reaching their particular rank, the weekly cash in hand payment for an apprentice being 20/-, the balance being held in credits.

In 1970 the Intelligence Corps began to accept junior soldiers. As numbers were small they were trained alongside the RAOC and REME Junior Leaders. A Sergeant from the Intelligence Corps was posted in to represent the Corps and to supervise Intelligence Corps training. The name 'RAOC Apprentices College' was adopted on 1 May 1970.

In June 1972 Her Majesty The Queen, the Colonel in Chief of the RAOC, came to Deepcut to open the newly built Blackdown Barracks. The Apprentice College lined the route through Deepcut to the Barracks and, later, from the Barracks to the Headquarters Mess. The Apprentices put on a display of hobbies and sports for Her Majesty in the Gymnasium.

In the Autumn of 1972 a group of Senior Apprentices, who were disenchanted with the College in general and their company in particular, started a group called 'The Young Mental Terror'. This began by bullying recruits and led in turn to demanding money with menaces, attacks on the guard and eventually to arson. After a series of fires in derelict buildings, the group burnt down 'A' Company office. As a result of the investigation 3 Apprentices were convicted of arson while the other members of the group were discharged.

1972-1984

In 1972, in preparation for the 'Raising of the School Leaving Age' (ROSLA) from 15 to 16, the College expanded taking 248 apprentices in the September intake. As this would have produced too great a strain on the existing organisation a third company, C Company, was set up while the remainder of the

College went to camp at Leek in Staffordshire. C Company only survived for a year as numbers fell throughout 1973 due to the Raising of the School Leaving Age.

The Raising of the School Leaving age caused many changes in the College. No longer would apprentices arrive at 15 to stay for an undefined number of terms until they reached the age of 17½. A definite length of 4 terms was introduced. Recruits over the age of 17 went to the Depot to be trained with adult recruits. Apprentices undertook a 3 term course, divided more or less evenly between military training, education and sport and ELT. Trade Training took place in the 4th term at the Employment Training School. All Apprentices were also trained to RPC3 standard.

Because of the short time spent in the College it was not considered that Apprentices could fill the appointments of Junior RSM and Junior CSM so these appointments were abolished. As a consequence officers had to appear on Passing Out Parades as there were insufficient Apprentice NCOs to take it themselves.

In the Spring of 1973 Lt Col Mathews left and was replaced by Lt Col Vickery who saw the College through the many changes of that year. Camp was held in September at Cultybraggan Camp. The weather was not kind, the the College undertook most activities in the rain. During the Winter Term full time driving instruction was provided by the British School of Motoring so that all senior apprentices could learn to drive before being posted. On the sporting front the College started to compete in the 'Welsh 3000', a most demanding race in the Welsh mountains. The football team won both the South East District Cup and League, coached by Ssgt Grimes, who served with the College after retirement up to its disbandment as a Patrolman.

Things settled down during 1974 when the lessons of the previous year were learnt and small improvements made to the programme. In March 2 platoon commanders led 51 apprentices on a battlefield tour of Normandy, looking at the battlefield of the 1944 campaign. Also in March the Corps of Drums was disbanded as it was felt that the apprentices would not be able to learn enough musically in the short time that they would be at the College to reach an acceptable standard.

Camp was held at Fremington in Devon. Again the weather in September was not kind. Many activities had to be curtailed or cancelled.

Lt Gen Sir James Wilson KBE MC, the General Officer Commanding South East District, visited the College on 6 March 1975. During his visit he offered a prize to the best sports report written by an apprentice.

The College went to Penally Camp near Tenby in Wales for camp in May 1975. For once the weather was good and all activites were enjoyed to the full. Since then the College has always held its camp at Penally in May or early June, except for 1977. In September the College re-named its platoons after battles beginning with 'A' or 'B', depending on the company, instead of after Ordnance Officers.

Lt Col Vickery left in February 1976. His place was taken by Lt Col Bruce.

The 1976 Summer Passing Out Parade was taken by the Quartermaster General, General Sir William Jackson on the 12th August. It was decided to put on a special show for him and the term leavers, together with the RAOC Staff Band, and an Apprentice 'Battery' fired a Feu de Joie. The two cannons displayed on the square were used to provide the 21 gun salute though disaster nearly occurred when wadding from them nearly 'shot' the Inspecting Officer.

During the Summer Term the College was visited by a team of HMIs, who looked at all aspects of the College, especially the educational content. They went away generally satisfied with the way the College was run. Also during 1976 the Corps of Drums was re-formed in the hope that it would be able to provide a reasonable standard in the short time available.

1977 was a busy year for the College. In June the College went to camp at Cultybraggan in Perthshire. The weather was cold and wet but was unable to dampen the enthusiasm for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations which were held during camp with a lunch and various sporting activities. The Jubilee holiday was added to half term when the College returned. On its return there was a certain amount of hard work as the Education Wing eventually left the wooden 'spiders' and moved into three converted accommodation blocks in the main camp. At the same time Training Wing moved into Heather House, a converted quarter, after several years moving about the College with no permanent home. This was followed by a charity walk of 40 miles of the South Down Walk to Eastbourne where the College marched in behind the Corps of Drums. A platoon was entered for the Nijmegen March which it successfully completed.

The Summer Passing Out Parade was taken by Major General Callan and was important because the College said farewell to the Intelligence Corps; the last 6 members of which left to go to Ashford. To mark the end of Junior Service in the Intelligence Corps a Feu de Joie was again fired. In September the first REME Company Commander, Major Galbreath, arrived to take over the command of A Company. REME continued to supply the Commander of A Company until REME apprentices ceased to be trained at the College in 1983.

At the end of 1977 the College became involved in Operation Burberry, the Services' plan to deal with the Firemen's strike. Many of the Permanent Staff departed to become firemen while the College continued training on an improvised programme. All the military training was successfully completed although the Christmas Passing Out Parade, which was to have been a pageant, had to be cancelled and the Term Leavers were inspected at a small ceremony in the gymnasium.

The College returned to Penally for Camp in 1978. The weather was good and the adventurous training was enjoyed. During Camp the Corps of Drums beat the Retreat in Tenby in front of the Mayor, starting a tradition that has been carried on and cementing the good relationship with the town. On returning from Camp the College was joined by 2Lt Flaherty WRAC, the first female officer to serve in the College. She joined the Education Wing teaching English. In July the College spent a Saturday walking part of the Ridgeway Walk.

Lt Col Bruce left at the end of the Summer Term and was replaced in September by Lt Col Curtis who was no stranger to the College, having been Training Officer in the early 1970s.

The Passing Out Parade in December took the form of a pageant, charting the history of an apprentice as he passed through the College, showing aspects of his training, sports and hobbies and ending with a parade and inspection of the Term Leavers. Earlier in the year, in April, the College had taken part in another theatrical presentation. Together with the WRAC from the Depot Staff, the apprentices had put on a production of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', under the direction of the Padre, the Rev Stockbridge, at the Tela Theatre in the Depot.

1979 was a busy year for the College. It was visited by the Quartermaster General, General Sir Richard Worsley KCB, OBE and the GOC South East District, Lieutenant General Sir George Cooper KCB, MC, who also returned to take the Winter Passing Out Parade.

Unfortunately the College Training Officer, Captain Hayes, was killed in a climbing accident in Snowdonia while leading a party of apprentices on an External Leadership Exercise.

In the autumn the 'Blackdown Fives' started. This is a series of 5 competitions in shooting, a command task, assault course, obstacle course and a quiz run by the College for local youth organisations. Teams of 4 compete to become the champions. The College provides the staff to run and host the event as well as providing sideshows to amuse and instruct waiting competitors and their supporters. This has become a highly successful annual event with an ever increasing number of entrants. Again the College entered a team for the Nijmegen March which was successfully completed.

There was a change of policy in 1979 towards the Corps of Drums. Instead of calling for volunteers to play, a platoon was nominated as 'band platoon', regardless of the musical ability of its members. Normally the band platoon would spend a term mastering the basics when it would take over the job from its predecessor for 2 terms. At the same time bell lyres were added to the drums and bugles and less emphasis was placed on the bugles.

Two major changes to training took place in 1980. To improve the standard of fieldcraft and minor tactics, a College Training Officer's Exercise was set up. This tested the Apprentices' skills and made sure that the instructors were kept on their toes teaching. The Junior Army Education Certificate was introduced to the Junior Army. This consisted of work in 8 modules of 24 hours each. Two modules were set and controlled through the Education Branch at Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces, the other 6 being set by the unit. A certificate was awarded at the end of the course while certain students were allowed to go on to sit 1 or 2 subjects of the Education for Promotion Certificate (EPC) while still juniors.

The College was visited by General Sir Edwin Bramall KCB, OBE, MC, ADC, then Chief of the General Staff, while the Quartermaster General, Sir Richard Worsley KCB, OBE, inspected the Winter Passing Out Parade.

1981 was a quiet year. Lt Col Curtis left after the Summer Passing Out Parade, which had to be cancelled due to a very heavy downpour just as the

parade was due to begin. This was the first time in 20 years that bad weather had led to to Passing Out Parade being cancelled. Lt Col Curtis was replaced by Lt Col Putt

In a minor reorganisation all the permanent staff not in A or B companies became part of Headquarters Company which now took under its wing cooks and educators amongst others.

1982 saw the Corps of Drums in Germany. They were requested to perform as part of the celebration of the granting of the Freedom of Viersen to the RAOC.

The biggest event of 1983 was the move of REME Apprentices to Arborfield. The last REME Apprentices passed out at the end of the Summer Term. To mark the occasion REME permanent staff trooped a REME flag during the parade and the REME Term Leavers marched off behind it. In September the College began to practice its war role of providing Home Defence troops to guard key installations. To improve the training of the senior apprentices a 4th term battle camp was introduced to be a hard test of their skills in fieldcraft, minor tactics and shooting.

In January 1984 the College took a group of Apprentices who had joined the Army under the Youth Training Scheme. Some left very quickly but 16 stayed and later in the year decided to take the RAOC up on its offer of a permanent place in the Corps by transferring to become 'proper' Apprentices.

In May Lt Col Putt left and was replaced by Lt Col Jiggens.

No sooner was Lt Col Jiggens in command than the College was told in July that it was to amalgamate with the Junior Leaders Regiment RCT to form a new Junior Leaders Regiment and to move to Colerne. The two apprentice Company Headquarters moved out of the old wooden huts which they had occupied for years and took over a converted barrack block. The old offices were pulled down in July 1985. The Blackdown Fives competition was enlivened in 1984 when a Marching Band Tournament was held on the College Square at the same time, providing a lot of entertainment for waiting contestants.

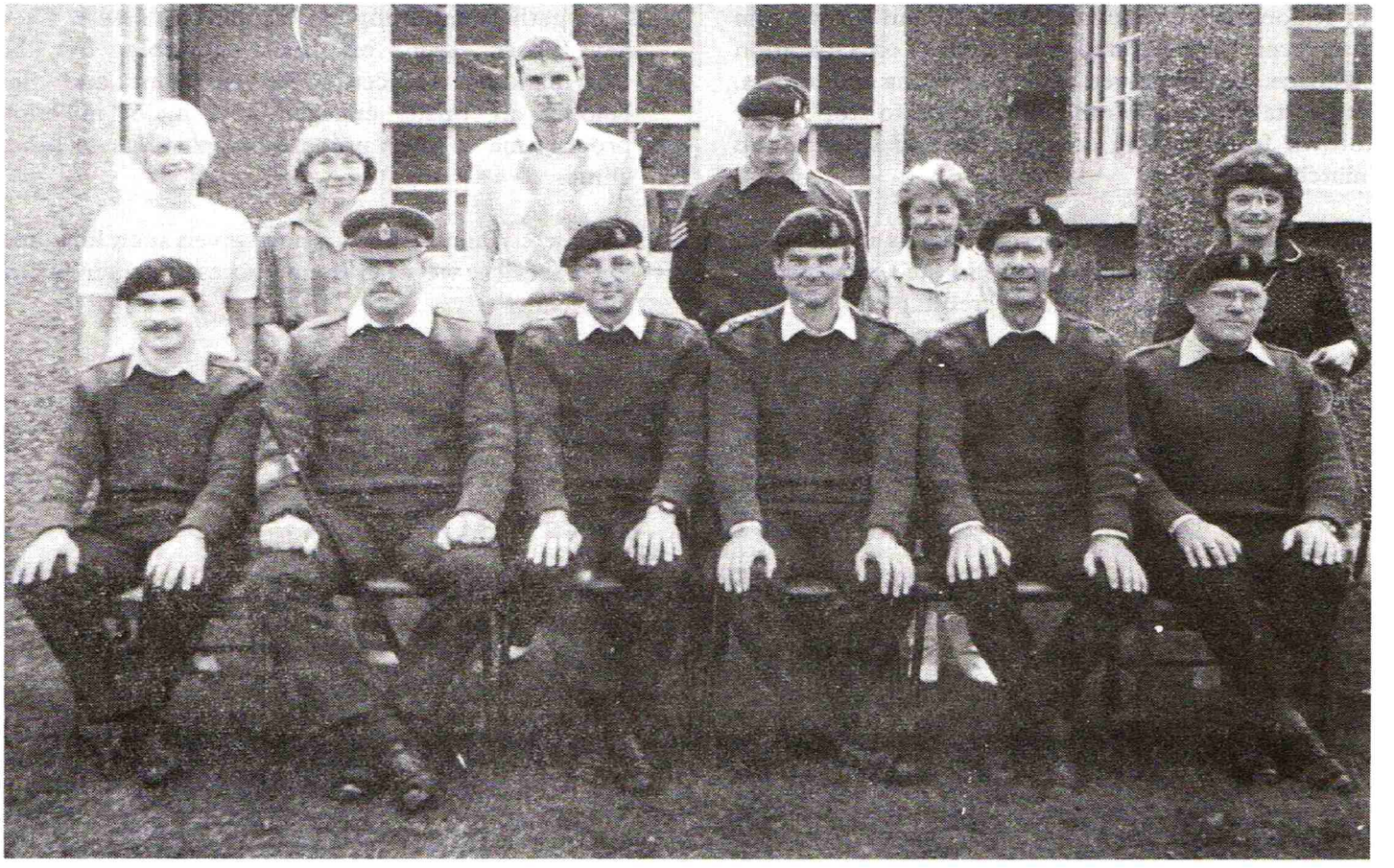
To keep the College in the public eye to the very end it was decided to form an Indian Club Swinging Display Team. QMSI Martin researched the now obsolete physical training routines at the APTC Museum and the Royal Navy PT School. Arnhem Platoon was nominated as the Club Swinging Platoon and started training after Christmas leave. In 1985 the Club Swingers performed at many functions.

In January the new 3 term course was introduced. Trade Training will be carried out after the Apprentices leave the College. Lt Simms WRAC became the Platoon Commander of Burma Platoon during the Spring term, becoming the first WRAC Officer to be a Platoon Commander. The Pay Review of 1985 increased the apprentices' pay. A 16 year old on arrival in the College in its last year was paid £7.47 per day, a far cry from when the first 'boys' joined.

Commanding Officer's Footnote

I am indebted to the research work undertaken by Lt C Rushworth RAOC and Mr P Heap in preparing this history. They have been assisted by many ex-boys to all of whom we extend a grateful thank you.

COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS



COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Back row: *Mrs E Martin Mrs G Malz Mr P Donnellan Sgt C Rhodes Mrs N Morrey Mrs M Bradshaw*

Front row: *Lt D A H Gibbons WO1 (RSM) Brierley Lt Col M L C Jiggens Capt W O Cole Maj J J Brown WO1 (SSM) D Gosling*

Major changes have occured within CHQ. The old 2IC's office has taken on the guise of a branch of DSCS. Four computers digest and discard vast quantities of paper. Their aim is apparently to make our amalgamation with the JLR RCT more efficient. The amalagamation team, or 'A' team as they prefer to be known, is masterminded by Major Robin Farey. The other members of the team are Lt Duncan Gibbons, recently returned from the Falklands. He quickly settled into his new appointment and became the principal contributor to the Orderly Officer roster, winning instant popularity with fellow subalterns. Sgt Rhodes, the other member of the elite team, has become adept at avoiding work, spending most of his time drifting between the Barber's shop, CHQ, Heather House and the cricket pitches!!! He has changed his hairstyle three times in as many months. At present it appears that a hedgehog is sitting on his head but this hairstyle has finally met with the RSM's approval.

One thing that has not changed is the Adjutant's continued absence. After recovering from the effects of PQS2, he departed on JDSC. He was last seen at Tenby slinking away at dawn to play golf in an ill-fated match with CSM Bill Rice. Once again it was time to search for a 'temp'. This post was admirably filled by Capt Simon Wilson and the Adjutant's absence went unnoticed. Major Robin Farey seems to spend most of his time at sea which I am sure is no reflection on his abilities at work.

Recent arrivals to CHQ are WO1 Don Gosling from MS taking over as Chief Clerk. It was time he learnt about unit documentation after 22 years. He appears

to be coping under the extreme pressure of CHQ but is occasionally heard to mutter "This has been a terrible mistake". Stepping out of the 'jungle gloom' of Indonesia we welcome Major Shaun Brown who has recently completed four months on Operation Wallace. This involved collecting fauna and insects. It has taken considerable persuasion to stop Major Brown from putting cockroaches and spiders into matchboxes.

The RSM, WO1 Stu Brierley has, as usual, been extremely busy leading a team in the Great British Fun Run raising a most creditable £850 for BLESMA.

As the College prepares to disband vultures have been gathering hoping to pick our best assets. They have been seen off most forcibly by the Commanding Officer. The Adjutant and Sgt Rhodes are busily engaged in a major injection programme as they prepare for postings to other climes.

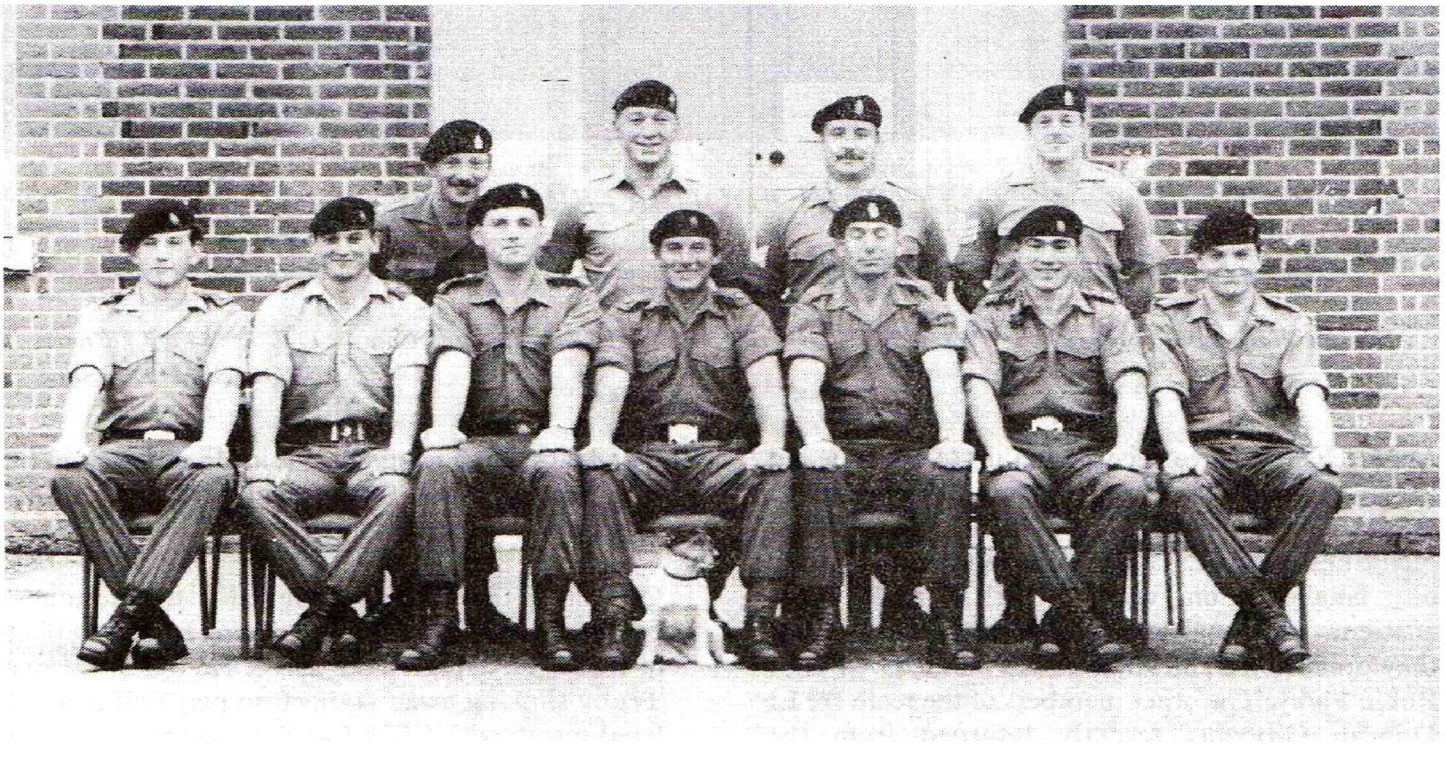
To our civilian staff who have given such long and loyal service, we wish them success in their future jobs.

A COMPANY

OC - Maj D R Marks RAOC

2IC - Capt S P Wilson RAOC

CSM - WO2 W L Rice



A COMPANY PERMANENT STAFF

There have been many changes in A Company since the last edition of Thunderbolt was published in April (is it only 6 months since I last wrote these notes?), with so many new faces appearing in the Company offices to replace those that have moved on to new pastures.

The major change occurred when the OC, Maj Ginn, handed over the reins of the premier company to Maj Marks and his assistant Jack, the Jack Russell terrier (or is it Jack and his assistant Maj Marks?). The Company said farewell to Maj Ginn at the Company revue that was held in July. After an

emotional speech by CSM Rice the 'Ginns' were presented with a barometer and clock by CSM Crawford before the apprentices 'made fun' of the OC during the revue. Other changes have seen Lt Burton moving to play 'Space Invaders' at DSCS Bicester to be replaced on Pl Comd of Arnhem Platoon by Lt Wilkes, a refugee from B Company, while Sgt Dunne, Arnhem's Sergeant has been replaced by Sgt Barry. Arnhem seem to 'wear out' their staff far more quickly than other Platoons.

We have also seen the arrival of the new recruit platoon - Arakan - under the guidance of 2Lt Fisher and yet another transferee from B Company, Sgt Willis. The platoon have now been in the College for one term and have settled down to enjoy the trials and tribulations of being an RAOC apprentice. One final farewell is to Lt Astley who has been sent to Sandhurst to learn how to be an Officer. Lt Astley served as Pl Comd of Alamein Platoon for four terms and left with them in the Summer, though for the last half term he was the Company Second in Command as well as Pl Comd while Capt Wilson was playing at being the Adjutant in the 'Think Tank' of CHQ.

During the past 6 months the Company have been very busy, involved with the College camp, Nijmegen Marches and adventurous training exercises as well as all the normal battle camps, range days and training period but I shall leave it up to the various Platoon Commanders to tell their own tales.

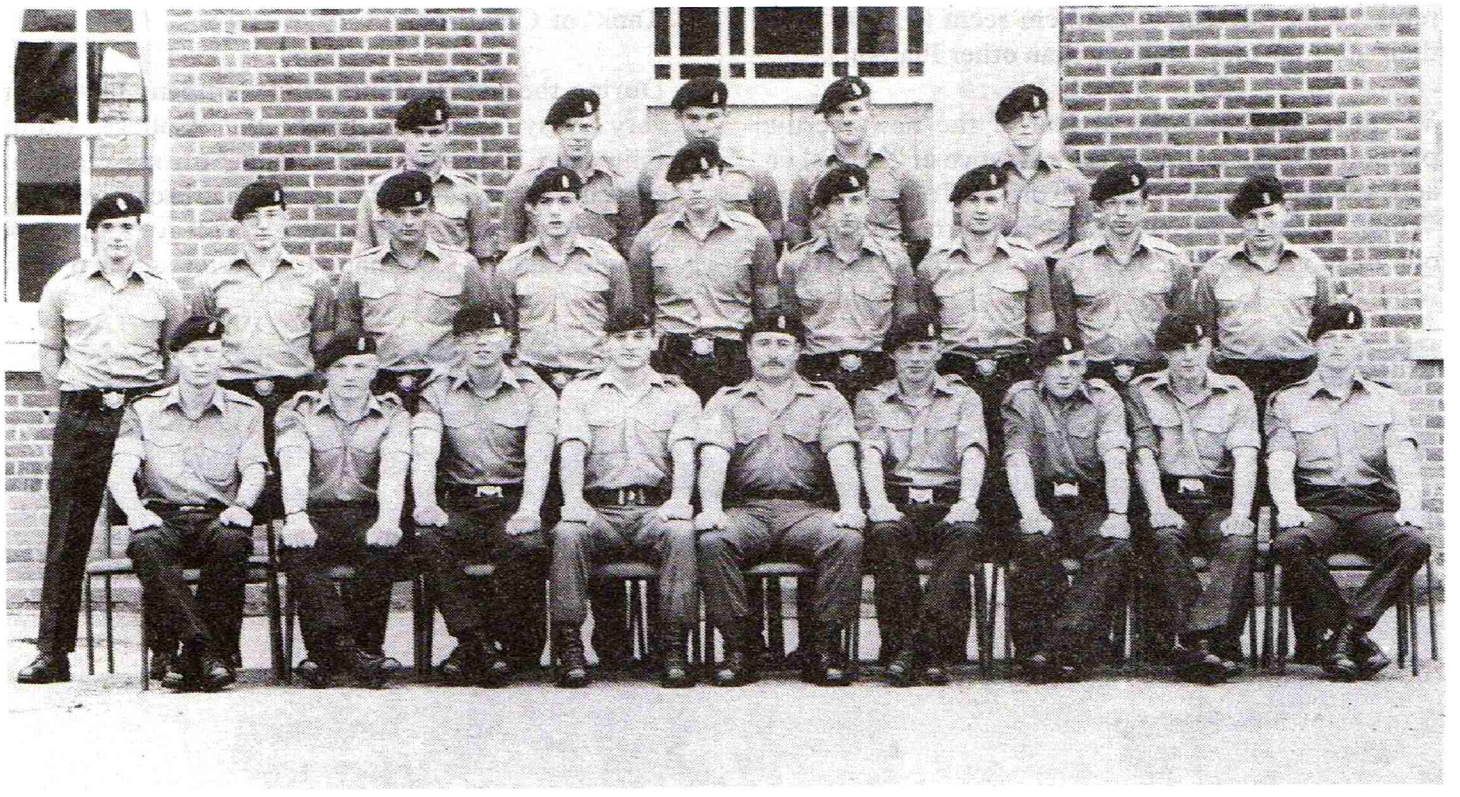


A and B COMPANY CIVILIAN STAFF

ARDENNES PLATOON

Platoon Commander - Lt Hayward

Platoon Sergeant - Sgt Beddows



ARDENNES PLATOON

For the majority of time during the past 14 weeks Ardennes Platoon have been sitting down. This has been due to the efforts of the Education Wing in trying to educate the platoon - a hopeless and thankless task if ever there was one!

As always, however, there are exceptions to the rule and to this end the apprentices took part in Platoon, Company and College camps.

During the Platoon exercise the apprentices were present when Sgt Beddows, the Platoon Sgt, demonstrated how to win a fire fight during section battle drills. A stray Thunderflash turned his enemy position in the gorse into a miniature inferno, which was extinguished with a combat jacket and water bottle - much to the amusement of the watching troops!

During the Company Camp, which took place at Okehampton, the Platoon discovered the effectiveness of the layer principle. APte Keenan was extremely impressed as he collapsed with heat exhaustion in sub-zero conditions during the infiltration phase of the exercise. Soon the lesson was learnt and soon after that Platoon members collapsed from hypothermia! The balance of clothes versus conditions was never really reached but the Platoon certainly learnt from the experience of being wet, cold and miserable. During the first 2 weeks of June the Platoon enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of College camp. They were, however, brought back to their senses by the staff of Ex Cambrian Caper.

This excursion from the beaches of Penally was held in the idyllic scenic area of the Elan Valley. The aim of the exercise was to teach and test the apprentices in survival techniques. All the apprentices found hidden reserves of energy - this was mainly stored around their stomachs. To the PS's surprise they seemed to enjoy the cuisine offered. APte Rooney especially enjoyed the nettle and egg soup.

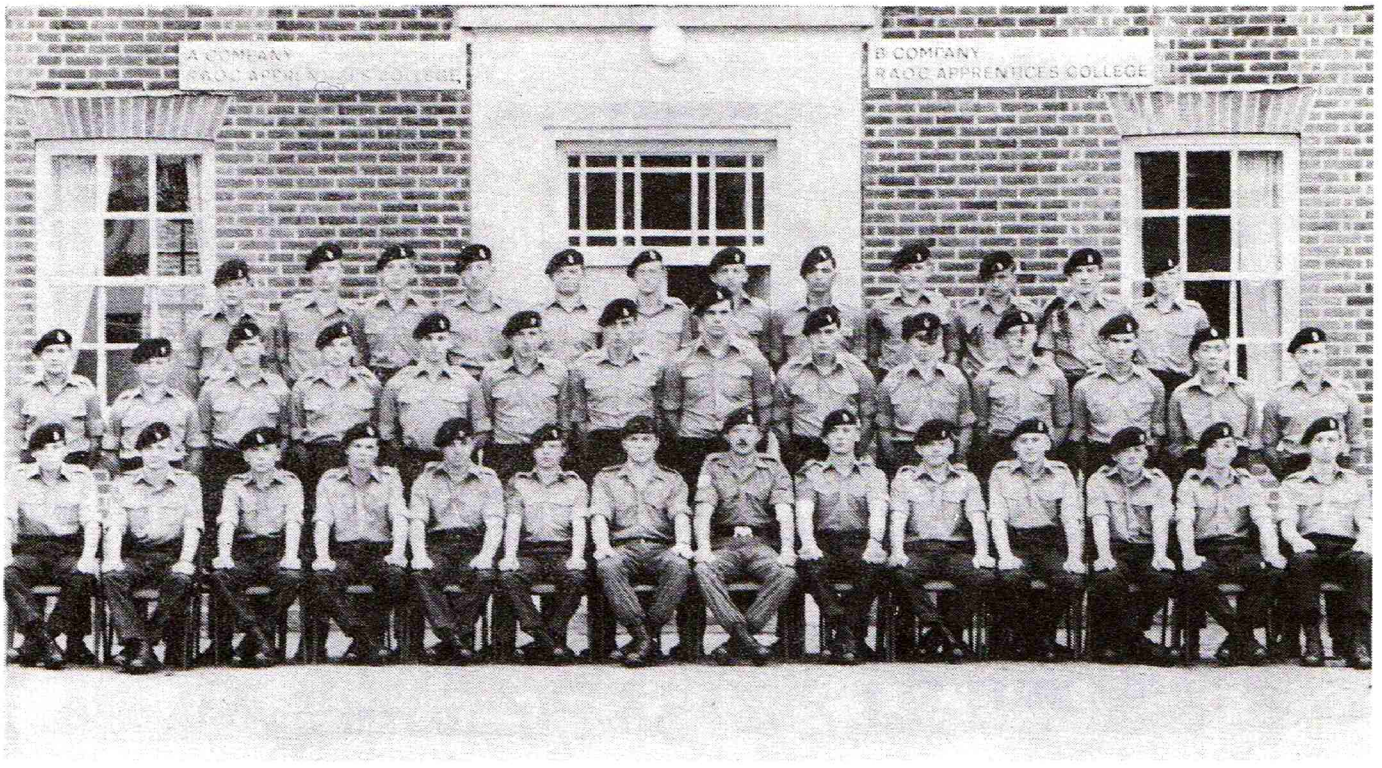
With all this excitement going on the routine of Barracks seemed somewhat dull. Lad's room inspections may be dull, but when you get them

right there won't be any more - promise. As the end of term draws near the excited buzz enters nearly all conversations, apprentices and staff alike, let us hope we all return refreshed and ready to tackle next term with a vengeance.

ARAKAN PLATOON

Platoon Commander - 2Lt Fisher

Platoon Sergeant - Sgt Willis



ARAKAN PLATOON

The new Arakan Platoon arrived on 18 June to begin their intensive training programme which meant working through the half term in order to catch up with some of their lost time. This gave the platoon permanent staff time to mould the new arrivals into the military frame without the interruption of the usual goings on that occur during the normal working week.

Unfortunately the platoon has had to live in two seperate accommodation blocks but they seemed to cope well under the guidance of the room Apprentice Corporals. On their first outing back into 'civvy' street they helped make a collection with the rest of the Company for the White Lodge collection and managed to collect the most money which was commendable. Perhaps the fact that the prize for collecting the most money was a weekend pass motivated them and was the deciding factor.

On the weekend of the 13-14 July the Platoon went on Exercise Brown Down Trail which was a march of 23 miles across the South Downs on the only hot day of the year. This was enjoyed by all except APte Hurley who couldn't believe the pace that some people march at.

Their first night out, Exercise First Try, was their first introduction to living in the field out on G1 training area. A fairly successful first attempt and many have now learnt the penalties incurred when they leave their weapons unattended.

Part of the leaving programme for Maj Ginn was a

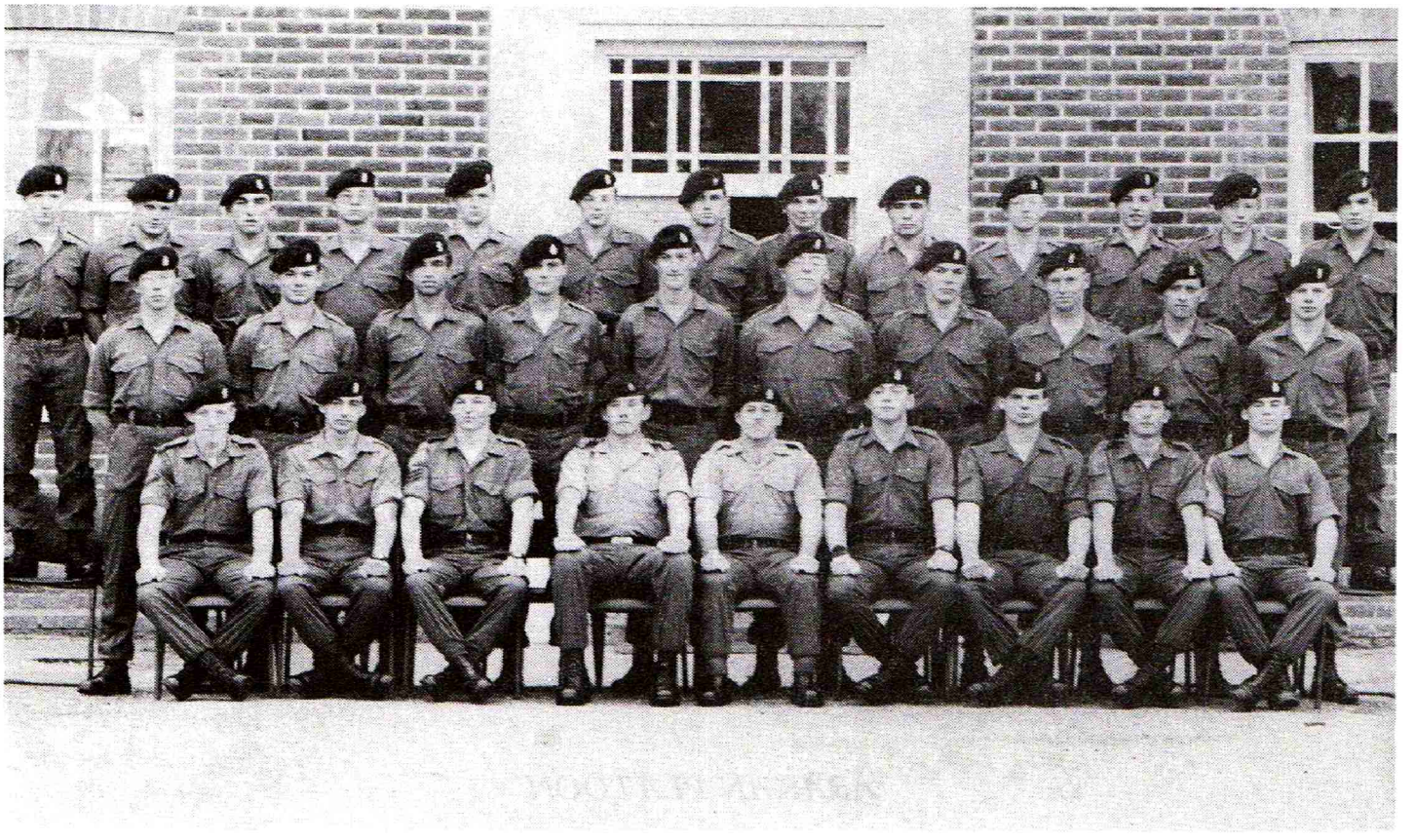
Company barbeque and skits. The Platoon performed a memorable version of Snow White and the seven dwarfs and now APtes Mason and Hurley have moved into their own accommodation to practice.

During the Summer Recess (rumour has it that it is in fact the Winter) four of the Platoon are going walking in the Lake District with 2Lt Fisher; and two others are going to the Ascension Islands on a sub aqua trip.

ARNHEM PLATOON

Platoon Commander - Lt Wilkes

Platoon Sergeant - Sgt Dunne/Sgt Barry



ARNHEM PLATOON

Anybody who says that the third term is a monotonous three months of education should think again as a result of this term for Arnhem Platoon.

The term was just five days old when we packed our kit and trundled all the way to Halton, near Lancaster for our week at ELT camp. This time more emphasis was placed on adventurous pursuits rather than just walking although ALCpl Nyboer and APtes Ballinger, Bennett and Williamson enjoyed the walking so much that they did the three peaks walk twice! Returning from there on Saturday there was just time to get cleaned up before shooting down to Hythe for Range Camp on the Sunday.

Throughout the term we have been exceedingly busy in our capacity as the Indian Club Swinging Display Team and our first two performances came in rapid succession following our return from Hythe. The Corps open day was the first and most important appearance, followed the following Saturday by appearing at Maidstone as part of a Royal Engineers Open Day.

The following week the whole College got a taste of leaving Deepcut because it was off to Tenby for College camp. As far as Arnhem were concerned this was old hat and just to prove it we left early in order to carry out another engagement, this time up in the

unchartered regions of Tyne and Wear. Is there life beyond Manchester, well there certainly was that weekend and if anyone wants the details of a nice hotel for a weekend break just ask one of us!

Two more weeks of education included JAEC 2 and we were ready for another move. This came in the form of the Army Exhibition for Schools at Bassingbourn. I've never seen so many girls interested in joining the Army! (For names and addresses contact ACSM Crawford in Block 42).

O horror of horrors! Military training and battle camp, what are they? After having reminded the platoon what 'combats' and 'rifles' are we set out onto Barossa for the Platoon's defence exercise, which had been postponed from the previous term. A week of gassings, attack patrols and sentry duties later it was back to the now common situation of get off the bus on Friday and get on the bus on Saturday - this time at 0600 ready to begin the Company weekend at Browndown near Portsmouth. Since then we have actually been back at camp apart from one rather wet club swinging performance down at Stroud, preparing for EPC. Congratulations must go to all who qualified to sit the exams, especially to ACSM Crawford, ALcpl Dulston and APtes Maass and McHugh, who qualified to sit both MC and ACW - hope the results justify the congratulations! What's this, the PC off again, this time on the 4 termers Battle Camp - steady on, Sir, that's a bit keen isn't it?

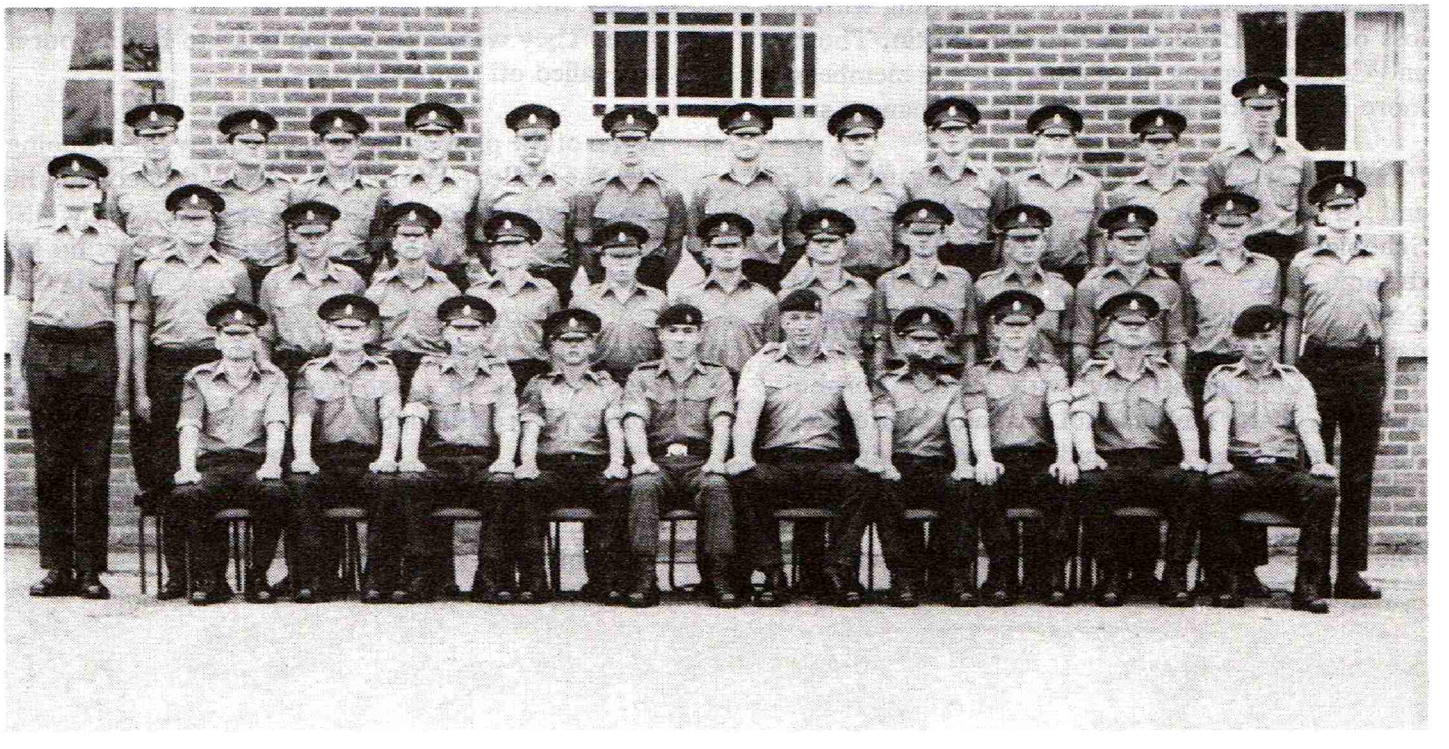
Well, recess is almost here and we look forward to next term with some joy (we're SWETS, so not long to go!) and some apprehension (trade and driver training and 4th term battle camp - in November!). One thing which we are all looking forward to is a trip to Berlin in September which will be the last public performance of the ICST. We will also be wishing a fond farewell to Sgt Dunne who is off to 6 Ord Bn in Bielefeld ("see you there in January" - Lt Wilkes) and welcoming Sgt Barry who will see us through to the end or rather the beginning.

Just as a postscript - attention all Platoons. Arnhem will be here in force next term so you might as well forget about winning any trophies!

ADEN PLATOON

Platoon Commander - Lt Ness

Platoon Sergeant - Sgt Wells



ADEN PLATOON

Aden Platoon, the first of the 3 term Junior Leader entries, have just begun their final term under the leadership of Lt Ness and Sgt Wells. Here in their own words is Aden Platoon's account of life so far at the RAOC Apprentices College.

During the last 2 terms Aden Platoon have been busy with JAECs and other military training such as NBC, FA, SAA, Range days, etc.

In the first half of the last term they uprooted themselves and moved to Tenby for two weeks along with everybody else in the College. Upon arrival they were split into two sections and on the whole they enjoyed themselves despite the survival exercise in which everybody got cold and wet and decided they wanted to leave the Army.

Other activities included sailing, canoeing, wind surfing and other beach activities. The most exciting thing we did was parascending at which ALcpl Hayes broke his ankle, leaving Aden without their star runner for a while. I am glad to say that he is back on form to keep Aden top on the running scene. The inter coy road race was won by ALcpl Hayes with the rest of the competitors left far behind. Still on inter coy sports, Aden did not do too bad at all, with APte Lowton coming 4th in the discus, APte Miller was 3rd in the 1500m and ALcpl Arnold 1st in the Javelin, beating B Company's so called champion. As a team they came 3rd in the tug-of-war.

The ranks of Aden are slowly diminishing with the loss of Colohan, Blewitt, Randall, Aitkin, Thomas and Coulter, leaving the platoon with 34 members, a more manageable number for the permanent staff.

Promotion wise, ALcpl Callan was made up to ACpl and APtes Arnold, Anderson, Hagen, Hayes and Schooley were made up to ALcpls. They all went through a nice week with Ssgt Cook on the RSM's Cadre Course and all successfully finished it with a pass. The platoon put forward an excellent sketch for the Company revue with APtes Turnbull, Murphy, Platt, Young, McLenaham, Guffogg and Stead, and stunned the audience with a drop of a towel!!!

The whole platoon enjoyed themselves immensely on the Company weekend at Portsmouth with plenty of sore feet to prove it, especially when Sgt Dunne had finished with the first aid (pain in a tin).

The meals were great, but the NCOs complained that it was a bit cold when they got to it, having been sent to the back of the queue on the pretence of 'feed the lads first' Huh!

Some of the platoon were lucky enough to be chosen to go to Kenya where they all enjoyed themselves especially on the way back, courtesy of the RAF 47 Sqn. While four of the lads (ACpl Callan, ALcpls Arnold, Schooly and APte Murphy) were sunning themselves in Kenya, the rest of the platoon were living it up in sunny Hawley on a really relaxing NBC battle camp with Lt Ness, 2Lt Fisher and Sgt Wells supplying on site entertainment consisting of showing the troops how to build their own first class accommodation on which they worked all night. When the gas attack came they all thought it was Norris's socks so they were double quick about putting respirators on.

When they were bored they went out on a quick scout of the area to try and find some talent to amuse themselves especially when Sgt Wells had gone for his beauty sleep (boy, does he need it) and he thought he had left them looking after the camp site.

This term the Band have been working hard rehearsing and it has paid off with three performances out of the College during the term and a very successful passing out parade at the end of term. They were also hoping to go to Berlin, but it was called off unluckily.

Seven of the platoon went to Germany for a canoing exercise called Trier Trek. They canoed on the Mosel river and quite often got wet, even Sgt Wells, who came back with a good tan, especially on his head where he suffers from a bad case of 'alapetia'.

The platoon took part in a map reading exercise with Ssgt Tarwacki in which everybody failed abysmally except APte Willoughby.

The platoon are now looking forward to their final term and they are already beginning to wish they had not come back from leave.

B COMPANY

OC - Maj N N Wylde QGM RAOC

2IC - Capt A D Farrow RAOC

CSM - WO2 (CSM) E E BLUNN

In the 2 terms since the last Thunderbolt notes there has been a great diversity in Company activities. Skiing to sailing, drill to diving and marching to music. During this period there has been quite a number of face changes in the Permanent Staff.

We say goodbye to Capt Tom Mouat, who leaves for Tidworth, Lt N Wilkes who deserts to A Company with Sgt Nigel Willis. Also leaving are Sgts Mark Snelson, Dick Turpin and Alan Zycinski (alphabetical order), who departed for 61 Ord Coy, FAD Wulfen and Manchester UOTC, respectively. Also leaving us were Burma and Benghazi Platoons at Easter and Brunei Platoon in August.

Arriving in the Company were Capt Andy Farrow from RMCS Shrivenham, 2Lt Andy Salmons from the Factory and Sgts Taff Shaw and Gavin Beveridge from Bracht and Bicester.

The Spring Term saw a number of camps and exercises. Brunei Platoon went to Capel Curig for their ELT Camp (Sgt Silcox part time only), Berlin Platoon went to Scotland, skiing (Lt Watkins managed 3 weeks more than everyone else), and a wet and windy Company Camp at Okehampton.

During recess Sgt Snelson started his CQMS Course and Capt Mouat and Lt Watkins went on a board sailing course. All others were more successful at avoiding interruptions to their leave.

The return in May heralded a very busy term. ELT and Range Camps for Berlin Platoon, Freedom of Surrey Heath and Corps Open Day for all. The College Summer Camp was at Tenby with detachment at Abergwesyn (Cambrian Mountains) and Haverfordwest (Pembroke Coastal Walk). Also during this term 5 members of Berlin Platoon went to Nijmegen and the majority of Balaclava Platoon disappeared sailing.

APte Rutterford was selected for Combined Services, Junior Athletics team and the College Tug-of-War team competed at the Royal Tournament.

During the Summer recess, Lt Chris Rushworth took an expedition to the Lake District and Capt Farrow went to the Moselle Valley, canoeing.

BERLIN PLATOON

Platoon Commander - Lt Watkins

Platoon Sergeants - Sgt Snelson

Sgt Beveridge

As reported in the last Thunderbolt, the Platoon Commander had decided to take his Platoon on arctic training.

Aviemore became populated by the best dressed skiiers in the world, football hats and green Army waterproofs much in evidence. The highlight was the 27 man snow train on the top of the Ptarmigan slope. Following this exercise the Platoon Commander sneaked away for a further 3 weeks skiing and the Army Championships (93rd in Regular Army Individuals).

Company Camp at Okehampton was eventful, particularly for APte Grove who spent his time in the cookhouse doing fatigues.

Back after Easter leave the first Platoon event was ELT Camp at Halton near Lancaster. During this ALcpl Eddington and his team set a world record in

the 3 peaks slow walking competition.

Back at camp we had missed the Freedom of Surrey Heath Parade but not the Corps Open Day where the platoon was employed as car park attendants.

College Camp was at Tenby with everyone participating in the full range of sailing, walking and survival exercise. Unfortunately, due to bad weather the parascending was somewhat limited this year.

The day after we returned from Tenby we were away again to Hythe for a very successful range camp with 95% of the platoon passing their APWT.

The second half of the term went very quickly. The major event was the demise of Sgt Snelson who left the platoon after the POP for Gütersloh. His replacement, Sgt Gavin Beveridge, arrived in time to have his leave cut short by Exercise Brave Defender, where the platoon demonstrated to adult REME soldiers how much better the RAOC really are

We are now well into the final term, Sennybridge looming on the horizon for the final Battle Camp, and the final term for the College.

BENGHAZI PLATOON

Platoon Commander - 2Lt Salmons

Platoon Sergeant - Sgt Silcox

June 18 saw the looks of expectancy/bewilderment/ trepidation that one always expects when 39 recruits arrive to begin their Army careers. Fill out the paperwork, get them into College tracksuits and start making bed blocks - Sgt Zycinski does not hang about. Naturally, there was no drill until after the medicals but the whole platoon got into the habit of 'walking in 3 lines' from day 1!

It was not all work though with APtes Chambers and Pugh spending a few days on the Corps yacht and the platoon putting up a team for a local six-a-side soccer competition.

The highlight of the term for 2Lt Salmons was the first battle camp - "Right, monkey crawl up that hill; now leopard crawl down" - and running over the '7 sisters' early in the morning.

After 6 weeks the platoon was despatched on 5 weeks leave. APtes Brannan and Mayes spent part of their leave on a canoeing exercise in Keswick.

Only one lad failed to return from leave and he was not the sort to be sorely missed by the Army! For the others a varied programme is planned to ensure that all those going to Colerne do the Corps proud. No-one can accuse Sgt Silcox (who took over from Sgt 'Z') of going easy on the platoon.

HEATHER HOUSE

Behind the wooden fence and tall trees stands Heather House where within resides the 'Think Tank' of the College, or so they claim! It is from an attic in this building that the College training programme is produced by the CTO, Capt Ball, and the CSM, WO2 Fellowes; this frantic activity of fitting magnetic strips on to blank squares has been likened to a blind man playing scrabble, but as the Sergeant Major says, the amendments are the bits he likes doing best.

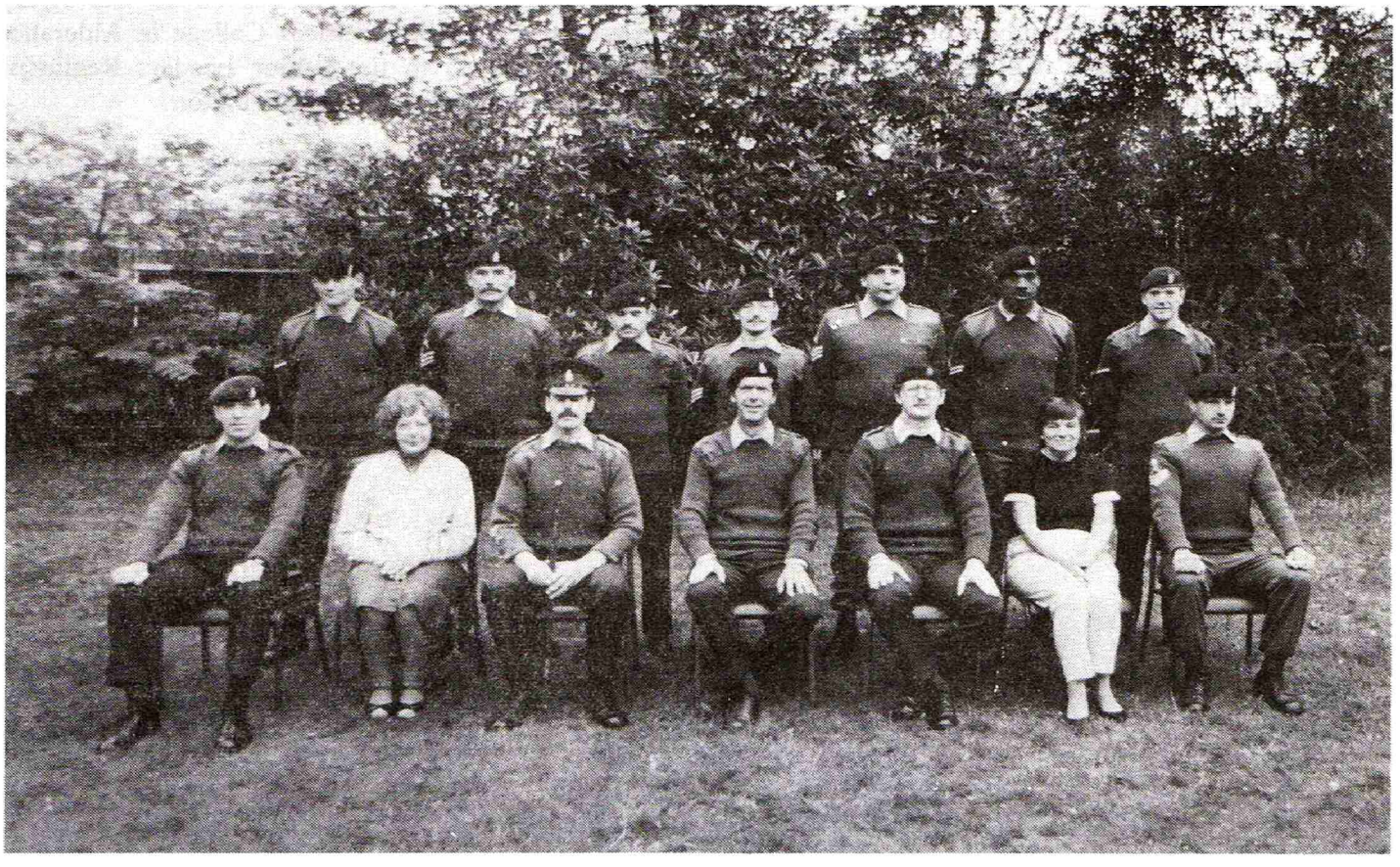
Mrs Joan Lungley keeps the College transport requirements ticking over as well as many other jobs, and keeps a protective eye over us all, none more so than Lcpl Simpson.

Lcpl Simpson is our Chief Clerk. As well as doing that job he also assists in the organisation of driver training, booking of exercise areas, cycling around the College to deliver messages and the making of coffee. His posting has now arrived from the great Mecca at Leicester and judging by the amount of thermal underwear on the office floor, we don't think it is Cyprus.

We still continue to time share typists, however, our

afternoon typist, Audrey, has just left us to move to Pirbright and her place is taken by her daughter (got to keep these things in the family).

The ELT Wing (who can't write) continue to plan ELT camps with the same fine detail accorded to an Everest ascent - pity they only go to the Lake District. Postings too have struck them (is nothing sacred?) with Ssgt Tarwacki posted to Trg Bn and Depot and Sgt Starbuck who isn't. It's a toss up betwen the CSM and Sgt Starbuck who cancels the milk and papers, leaves the key under the mat before the College closes on 13 December.



The Heather House Gang

TRAINING WING

Since the last issue of the Thunderbolt, Training Wing has seen a steady turnover of personnel. Among the many characters who have been and gone, we wish to make a special mention of the following - Lcpl Jock (I'll do it) Bruce, Lcpl Paddy (what staff!) Hodgen and Lcpl Garry (TA) Hearns, who were all on loan from the Trg Bn and Depot. Also extracted from our midst to the sunnier climes of Belize, Sgt Del (I hate 'em!) Free. Meanwhile those who remain eagerly await their posting orders, except, of course, Sgt John Hutchinson and Cpl Glen James, who are both going to Colerne, and Lcpl Mick Brookes (will he go Commando or not?) still remains to the end, as do Sgt Dick Rainey and Ssgt Jack Cook.

Finally, we wish all past and present members of the Training Wing good luck and good postings.

EDUCATION WING

Senior Education Officer - Major M J McManus MA MLitt RAEC

The Wing has continued the work of preparing Apprentices for the Junior Army Education Certificate and the Education for Promotion Certificate. In addition, members of the wing have been involved in other College activities. Mr Johnson took part in the Sailing Exercise in the Mediterranean and Mr McShea took part in Exercise Swahili Ascent in Kenya.

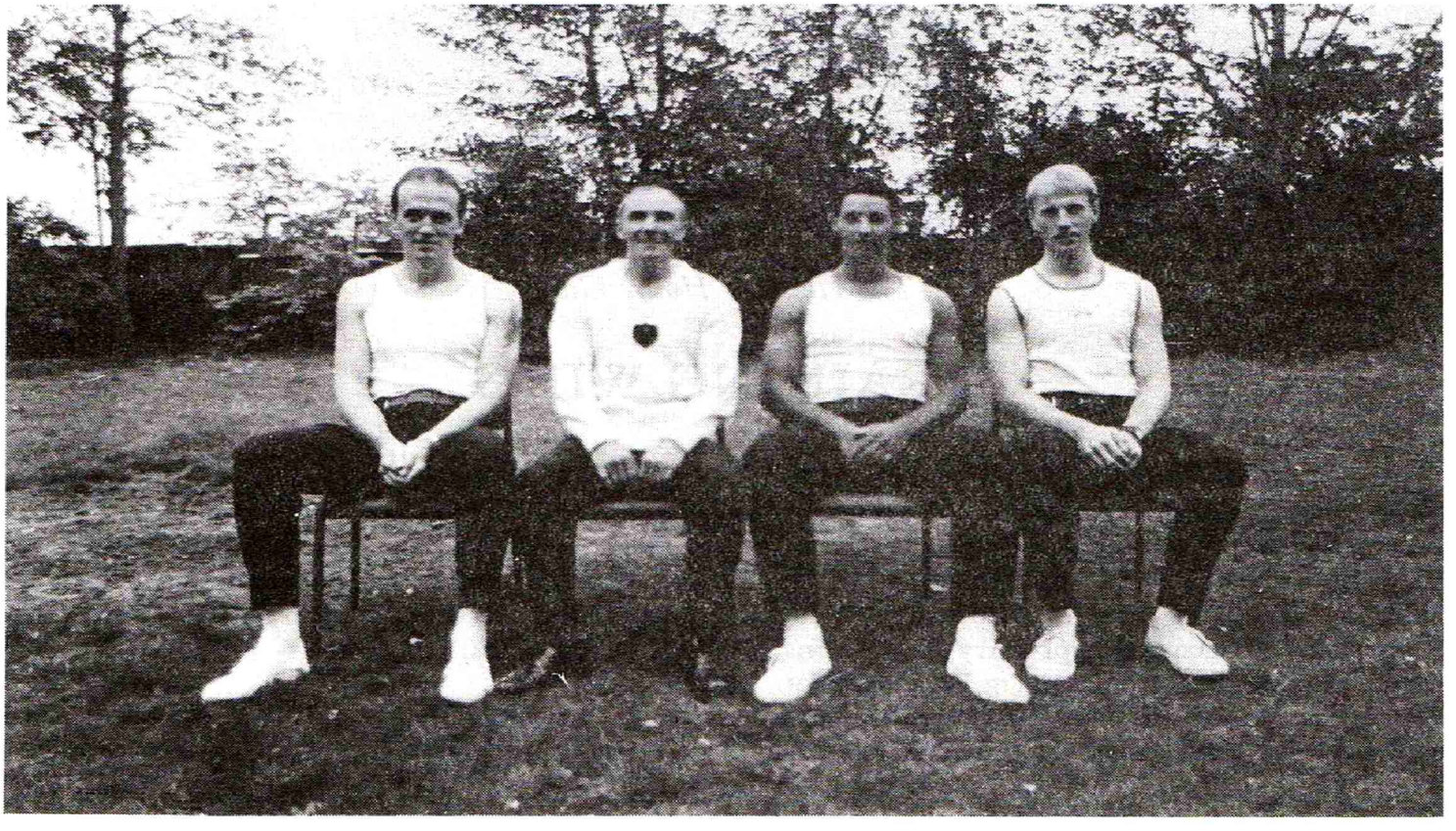
When the move to Colerne takes place, Mr Johnson, Mr McShea and Mr Watson will go there, thus ensuring continuity. Mr Heap is going to the Light Infantry Depot in Shrewsbury.

None of the uniformed staff are going to Colerne. The SEO is posted to 18 Army Education Centre in Colchester, Capt Ellis is posted to the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College in Aldershot and Lt Simms to the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington.

It is worth noting that the combined service of Mr Heap, Mr Johnson, Mr McShea and Mr Watson to the College totals 58 years, which is no mean achievement. They take with them our very best wishes for the future.

GYMNASIUM LIFE

by WO2 (QMSI) J F Graham



The staff of the Muscle Factory

The 'den' is now back to its usual glory. Stories of triumph and tribulation are now no more than a fleeting memory from the sunny Summer Camp we had!!! Though we remember with much fondness the bravery of our QMSI as he hunted down the Tenby Moby Dick (alas) only to achieve in the first week two small mackerel (Mackrelie Pannely) and to grab the first chef at hand to supply the five loaves in

order to feed the hungry troops.

But enough of the past as our wind-burned weary warriors have now returned, eager to bestow more enthusiasm to our 'little flock' in yet another wonderous term. The final term, the end of an era.

To help us our forces have been strengthened by the young might of a new APTI, LCpl Ellis, who gallantly arrived in the nick of time to help us with our leave, and also to volunteer to take a week extra.

Now we are back, Cpl McCarter has a new gleam in his eye. Is it, we ask ourselves, a full recovery from his past injury or could it be the fact that he has managed to retain most of his basketball squad from last season.

Cpl Morgan also looks forward to his band of merry warriors, or should I say 'Judoka', in having their final fling before the College closes, the sun going down on the muscle factory for the final time.

EXERCISE SNOWCROSS MINOR

by APte D J Cook

After the rest of the lads had gone home on half term we had only 2 days left before we left for Germany and we were all looking forward to it.

The night before we were due to leave we were all making sure we had our kit packed and then we sat down for a game of cards to pass the time.

The next morning we were all outside Company office raring to go. The transport arrived soon after and we were finally on our way.

We arrived at St Martin's Plain at 1130 hrs and were told we had to wait half an hour for the rest to arrive, but it ended up being 3 hours before we left for Dover. We boarded the ferry at about 1800 hrs and whilst on the ferry they had films and cartoons to watch. We had a free meal and there were plenty of machines to play.

We arrived in Zeebrugge at 2300 hrs and set off for Silberhutte. The coach journey was long and tiring and most people fell asleep. We arrived in Silberhutte at 0900 hrs. We all got off the coaches and were shown to our rooms. In our rooms they had all the skiing kit laid out on our beds and we had to sort it out.

There were 3 rooms altogether and each room slept 50 people. They had triple bunk beds and if you slept on top it was like climbing a mountain to get to bed.

After we had settled down we were split into groups of about 15 and went out for an afternoon skiing which we found quite difficult, but good fun. That night in bed everyone was looking forward to the next day's skiing.

The next morning we got up and dressed in our skiing gear and after a wash and shave we went to breakfast and picked up our lunch box. We were then taken to Sonnenburg where we were to start the day's skiing. Once we arrived our instructors started teaching us how to ski. The first half an hour was quite difficult because everyone's hands were freezing up.

The first day was mainly taken up with how to hold the sticks, how to do snow-plough and generally getting used to the skis.

One of the best parts was falling over because you did it so many times you couldn't afford not to like it. At the end of the day everyone was dripping wet, but we all enjoyed it. After tea that night we had a couple of briefings and then we went to recce the NAAFI.

The next day we were taken on tours all over the place. In all it was about 15 KM, but we did a bit of downhill skiing in the afternoon which was great fun. The speed you pick up is amazing.

The next couple of days were getting us used to the different styles of langlaufing for the big race. We also took a trip to the East German border which was quite good. Also during those 2 days quite a few funny things happened, for instance APte Young dislocated his knee, APte Phillips went down with exhaustion and ACpl Ewen accidently tried some 'hotdogging' and ended up on his back.

The day of the race and everybody was nervous. When the race started the Apprentice College was one of the first to set off. The course was 5 Km and as everybody said it was the worst 5 Km in their life. Overall, out of 12, we finished 8th which to us was quite good as the group that went from the Apprentices College before us came last.

The next day was our final day skiing and during that day we had our skiing tests, which everyone but two passed. The rest of the day was spent doing 'Franz Klammer' impressions down the slopes because by this time we were all perfected skiers.

The night before we were due to leave we were presented with our badges and we had a briefing on how the week had gone. The next day we got on the coaches and set off for Deepcut.

I can honestly say that we all thoroughly enjoyed it and that it was a worthwhile trip.

EXERCISE HIBERNIAN SNOW

By APte K A Pugh

Well, here we were, 25 budding Franz Klammers off to the skiing slopes. Berlin Platoon were on their way to the Cairngorms, Aviemore, Scotland, for a week's skiing.

Accompanied by Superman himself, Sgt Snelson, we departed at1930 hrs and by the time we got to the train at Euston we had lost £200 worth of camera equipment and what turned out to be a bag of APte Stephen Kirby's, full up with cheese and pickle rolls which the ACC had so kindly laid on for us.

We arrived at Newtonmoor for a week, after trying the almost impossible by trying to get comfortable and sleep on the train going up. Our accommodation was quite comfortable.

The next day we had instruction for three quarters of the day and ACSM Steve Bowerbank must have taken a liking to the Skiing Instructor as he would insist on bumping into her as often as possible. We were then left for the remainder of the day to our own resources, but after falling over more times than actually standing we decided to call it a day.

I won't say much about the night life but the highlight was an under 13s disco with Coke and crisps. We tried to relax as much in the evening as we could but the thought of the next day's skiing was part excitement and part apprehension.

We had come to the conclusion that it was easier walking up slopes than using the T bars. APte Pete Bamforth got frustrated when he decided to take on APte Andy Thompson on the T bar. They got three quarters of the way up when Andy decided he wanted to get off and ski down from there also taking Pete and another half a dozen people with him on the way down.

I think the best skier overall must have been ACpl Jason 'Klammer' Wright, who picked up the sport very quickly. Most deadly had to be APte John Simmons, who I saw at least 4 times piled up with 3 or 4 different people at a time. Sgt Snelson had the best technique for stopping. He would crash into the safety fence, leave the skis behind and fly 20-ft through the air, (after all he was a Para). Best dressed had to be ALcpl Steve Ashton who had a lovely pair of sallopettes and a wonderful blue hat.

Most hideous looking skier had to be our cook, Lcpl Trevor Boyt, who looked absolutely out of this world with his wet suit on. Most courageous looking skier was APte Andy Thompson who just got to the top of a slope and managed to get down with eyes closed and hands together praying not to hit anyone or anything.

I would just like to mention Lt Watkins at this time as he was the hero of the hour to me personally. He saved me from being sucked into a safety fence or I think I could have still been there now.

On the last day, Lt Watkins and Sgt Snelson took us to the top of the hills. Oh, boy, when you have got a 51 mph wind blowing right down on you, you really feel like giving up the sport. With mostly ice all the way down it was pretty hard going but using our own methods we got to the bottom safely. I think the worst bit of the skiing was when we were sitting in the cafe three quarters the way up the slopes on our way to the top - trying to drink coffee without chucking it over each other with the thought of going right up to the top in our heads.

Thanks go to Lt Watkins and Sgt Snelson for a most memorable exercise.

EXERCISE BRAVE DEFENDER

(or how we won the War)

At the beginning of September, 80 willing volunteers gave up the last few days of their leave to return to College to form up as 6/1 Composite General Reserve Company. A CGR Company is formed by most of the training establishments in the country in time of war. These companies consist mainly of recruits who have achieved a certain standard of training but have not yet entered full adult service, with a hierarchy of permanent staff to run the company. The job of a CGR Coy on mobilisation is to guard certain vital installations known as Key Points, from enemy attack.

Exercise Brave Defender was the largest Home Defence exercise since the last war with 65,000 troops taking part. 6/1 CGR Company made up part of this number and our 3 platoons were attached to various other CGR Companies in Wiltshire, Devonshire and Cornwall.

Two of the apprentices who took part in the exercise have written their own accounts of the war as follows:

Account by APte Maass

Our platoon consisted of Arnhem, Aden and Balaclava, members of the RAOC Apprentices College. We were 2 Platoon 7/1 CGR Company. One platoon were members of the Junior Leaders Regiment RAC and RMP based at Bovington in Dorset.

We arrived back at the Apprentices College on 5 September 1985 and started our journey to Bovington on the 6th. Our platoon then joined up with 1 Platoon and set off again an the 7th to Predannack Airfield, not far from Lizards Point in Cornwall. It was a 7 hour journey and most of the boys slept for the journey, although sleeping on the Army coach with all the kit was like sleeping in a microwave oven with it switched fully on.

The time went quickly and we arrived there at about 4 pm. Tents were set up and a clearing patrol was sent out to search for any bombs which the enemy may have planted before our arrival.

During that clearing patrol led by the gallant Capt Wilson we discovered 4 enemy intruders. Carrying out procedures previously taught, we disarmed the intruders, one armed with a Russian AK47.

These Redland agents left behind an explosive device which was discovered by the Brave Defender APte Maass. He was told to stay and wait for the EOD team to arrive but they failed to arrive by nightfall so he went to bed only to be called out half an hour later. By the time he arrived at the scene of the incident, escorted by one of the guards guarding the bomb, it had been exploded, much to his disappointment.

APte Harris and ALcpl Hagen who got lost in the mist and decided on a night out, were nearly shot the next morning by the Quick Reaction Force.

There were a number of tasks which had to be carried out during the exercise. These were guarding one Vital Point which was a control tower, and a second Vital Point - an underground fuel store. The VCP - (Vehicle Control Point) at the entrance to the airfield had to be manned and one section provided the QRF - (quick reaction force) which backed up the guards at the vital points when under attack, the GDA - (Ground Defence Area) patrol was the final major tasks.

Also men were required for fatigues in the field kitchen.

The two girls, drivers from the WRAC, boosted the morale for which the boys were glad as the exercise was not one of the most interesting ones. The boys complained that there were not enough contacts with the enemy (members of 1 Para). Only a few of the rounds which were allotted to the defenders were fired.

To the credit of the cooks the food was not bad but not good, although poor old Lcpl Bates had to suffer with a WRAC cook known as 'Jock' who liked to give the fatigue party on duty hundreds of spuds to peel.

As time went on shifts changed and on the last morning, the exercise reached its rapturous climax with an air attack followed up by an assault on the control tower which was defended fiercely by all Brave Defenders.

Overall the exercise was certainly different to any other exercise which the RAOC Apprentices had

been on and gave them some insight on how they would deploy in the event of a war or an internal threat from terrorist activities. Vital experience and knowledge was gained from it and it was very worth while. Any apprentice who unfortunately missed it lost out on an enjoyable exercise overall.

Account by ALcpl Vrac

Between 5 and 13 of September Exercise Brave Defender took place involving some 65,000 volunteers, TA's the new Home Guard and other assorted units. It proved to be the biggest Home Defence exercise since the Second World War and the College took part. Berlin and Balaclava, including platoons of A Company, were briefed and ready to go on the morning of the 6th, there was no particular segregation, A mixed with B and the officers mixed in even more, constantly checking and rechecking kit. Finally at 1230 pm, three platoons departed from the College to entirely different locations. Platoon 2 became attached to 7/1 Composite General Reserve (CGR) and proceeded to Bovington. From then on everything was taken seriously, and the guards at Bovington proved this when later on in the evening, after we had settled in, Capt Wilson was stopped, body searched and marched to the Guardroom. He was released later, but the point was brought home, this Exercise was no game.

Platoon 2 then amalgamated with the Royal Armoured Corps and the Royal Military Police. It must be pointed out that our entire force consisted of junior leaders and soldiers, aside from, of course, the four members of staff.

We became acquainted with Drill Sgt Shearer SG and Sgt Lip 3 RTR, who aided and abetted by Capt Wilson and Sgt Willis took us down to Predannack Airfield in Cornwall on the morning of the 7th.

After a brief period of admin we quickly settled in to guard two Vulnerable Points (VP 1 and 2). VP1 provided communications to the entire South East District and VP2 was an underground fuel dump, cunningly disguised as a black, shed-like lean-to, with a solitary chair inside it.

The distance between the two provided the most difficult part, but that was soon overcome by bumpy rides in the back of a 4-tonner truck. Main camp was set up in VP1, and VP2 became the weakest point in our defence with heavy scrub land all round.

On the day we arrived, Capt Wilson took a small clearance patrol to VP2 to check for bombs, and bumped into our first bit of action.

We captured a four man patrol of the enemy attempting to plant a bomb. Had it been properly planted VP2 would have been destroyed.

From 7th-11th consisted of guard duties and admin, with most of the emphasis being placed on VP2. We received contact sightings and the Quick Reaction Force (or as Capt Wilson called it, the Slow Reaction Force) was often dashing out to one point or another to chase any of the enemy.

Almost every night the enemy either tried to sneak in or make a full assault (about 3-4 or them) on VP2, with the usual result being that they either ran off or were chased away by our QRF. The weather considerably aided the enemy, with visibility down to 30m on some nights due to the infamous Cornish fog, 1 Para, the enemy, even got in close enough to fire off an anti-tank device.

Finally, on the last day, the enemy called an air strike and during the early morning made a heavy attack against the heavily defended VP1. Capt Wilson grabbed a few men, dashed off to the perimeter of the field, and in the early morning mist, soon sorted them out. The men returned joyous and victorious in having at last seen some action. The Mobile Relief Force was quickly despatched to come to our aid, and it took them over an hour to get from Penhale Camp. During this time there was a quick breakfast and ammo redistribution.

When the MRF arrived they deployed along our front and waited. Then the air strike came. We quickly dashed to cover only to be chased out again as the enemy made a violent assault on our right flank. While the MRF sorted them out, we provided all round defence on VP1 and awaited the airstrike.

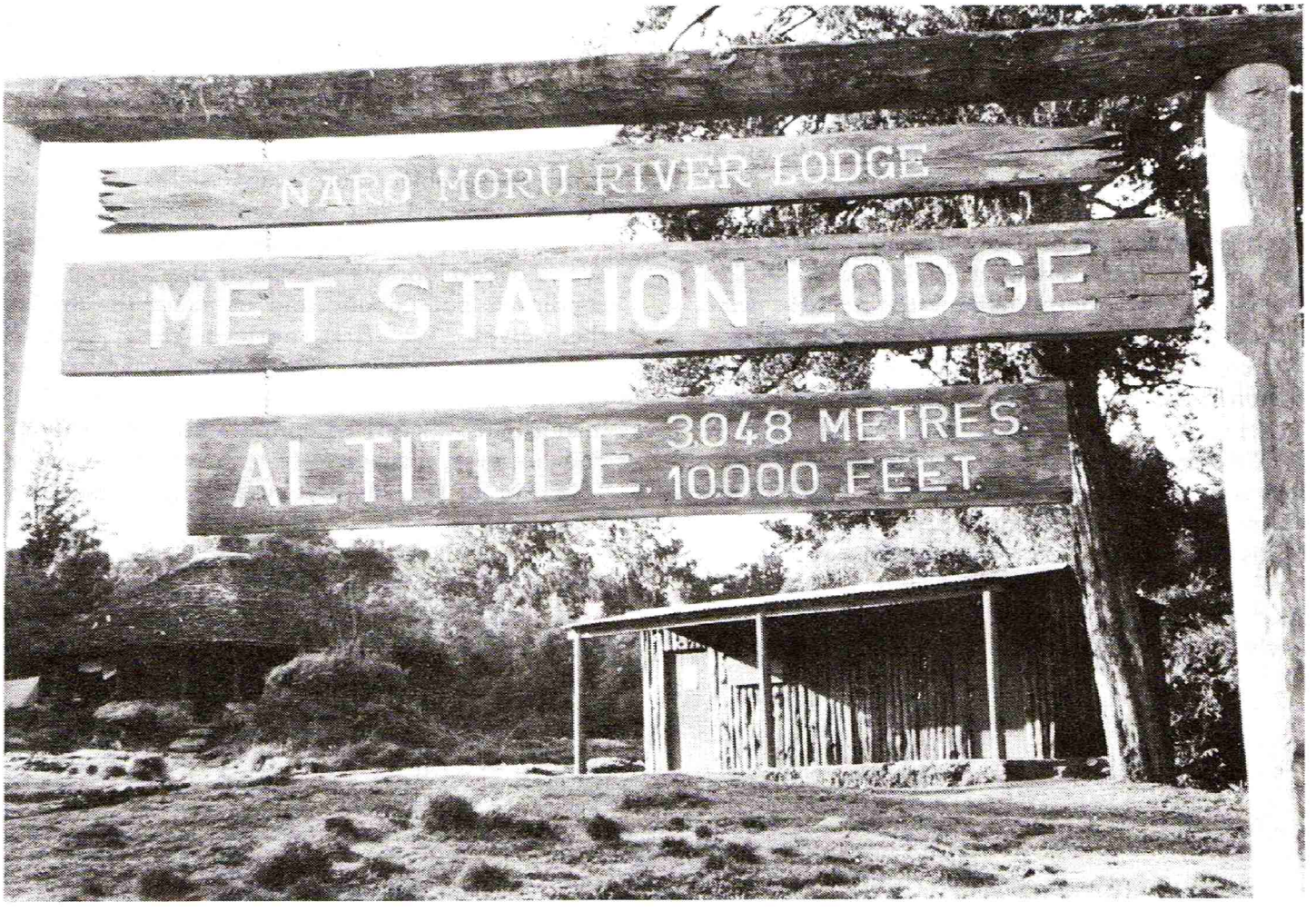
A lone Tornado streaked over and a blast of gunfire was directed at us.

The enemy was beaten and rounded up. Everyone had a piece of the action and we had succeeded in our mission.

Endex was called an hour after the enemy were beaten. I could not find anyone who said they didn't enjoy the exercise.

EX SWAHILI ASCENT

RAOC Apprentices College Expedition to Kenya



Last stop below the tree line

The origin of this exercise is clouded in mystery; the idea of an expedition on the equator was formulated by the ELT instructors of Ex El Cervin. The idea crystalized, it is said, as the instructors huddled, in sub zero temperatures, on a scree slope half way up the Matterhorn in the middle of an electrical storm. So on return to the College the ideas formulated, were put on paper and the bureaucratic machinery of the College started to whirr.

The basic idea was for a group of 8 apprentices and 4 permanent staff to be flown to Kenya and back by the RAF. Once in Kenya the group were to attempt an ascent of Mt Kenya to Pt Lenana, at 16,355-ft.

The preparation for the exercise was running quite smoothly and everybody concerned was looking forward to the venture. Unfortunately, three weeks before departure Lt Wilkes (OIC Exercise) banged his head rather badly and was unable to attend through medical reasons. Owing to this a vacancy appeared which was duly filled by Lt Hayward, still everything continued to run smoothly. The apprentices' passports were picked up (after the third attempt!). The freight was packed and sent off, thanks to the herculean efforts of the CQMS and Ssgt Tarwacki (and yes, we still owe you that bottle of duty free!).

Finally the great day (24 July 1985) arrived and the group all climbed onto a bus and departed for Brize Norton. As usual the old adage of rush to wait raised its ugly head. The departure time was 1230, Lt Hayward was determined to arrive at 1030. Unbeknown to us the departure time of 1230 had been taken forward to 1045. As we climbed off the bus at departures we were harassed all the way to the aircraft door. Our feet literally didn't touch the

ground! As the plane wound its way across the earth we all began to relax; some more than others - ALCpl Murphy was heared to address a Col affectionately as 'mate'! On our outward journey, a stop at Cairo was scheduled. As the plane doors were opened the first sensation was the extreme heat, this was closely followed by the rather unappetizing smell of the Nile. Our stop was extended to 2½ hours, which was spent sitting in arrivals. When we finally left everyone was pleased to accept the confines of the VC10 and before we knew it we had landed at Nairobi airport.

At the airport we were met by a representative from the British Army Training Liaison Staff Kenya (BATLSK) whom throughout the exercise were helpful and cooperative and for this many thanks. Within a short space of time we were through customs and on our way to BATLSK Barracks. Throughout the journey we were kept amused by the driver who seemed convinced that reverse was a forward gear! He did, however, get us to BATLSK where, after a cup of welcome tea, we all got our heads down at 0200 hrs for some well earned sleep.

The next morning we woke keen and excited. After a shyly stolen breakfast the apprentices, under the watchful eye of SSgt Cook and Cpl Wilson, started to unpack the exercise kit. While this was being done Lt Hayward and Mr Bill McShea drove to Nairobi to be briefed on general conduct by the British High Commission. While at the Commission the worrying subject of return flights, or more precisely the lack of flights, came about. However, it was finally resolved and after phone calls and signals to the UK we were booked on a Hercules - departure date 14 August 1985.

With the problems of return flights solved we packed the kit and apprentices into the two landrovers and set off for Naro Moro River Lodge. We had been forewarned about the Kenyan road conditions but nobody told us about the drivers themselves. We first noticed their suicidal tendencies as our slow moving convoy was overtaken on the outside lane and the hard shoulder. This manouveur was carried out on a blind corner. We did, however, manage to survive the ordeal and at 1600 hrs on the 26 July we arrived at the River Lodge.

The River Lodge is a very picturesque and profitable set of buildings. There was a continuous and constant flow of tourists and climbers using the



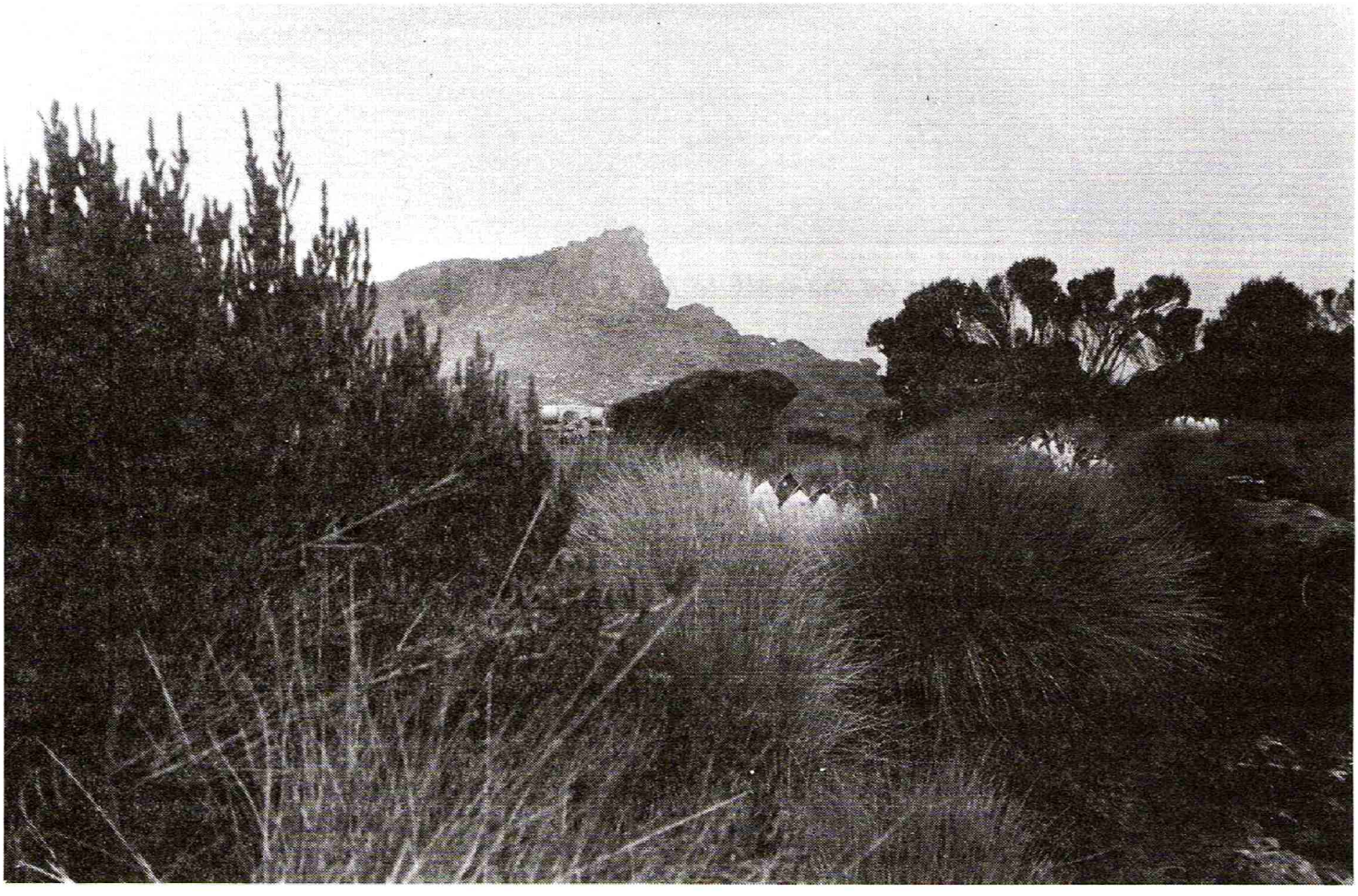
'The Birdcage!' Tac HQ at 1900-ft

facilities when we were there.

The lodge is based at 6,500 feet and we used the camp for acclimatization walks and advance recces using the landrovers. The acclimatization walks were over a period of 3 days, the maximum height reached being 8,000 ft. After this training period we felt confident enough to move our camp to the Met Station based at 10,000 ft. Here we continued acclimatization by walks into the Vertical Bog. The Vertical Bog is exactly that, it is energy sapping terrain which is monotonous and rather boring after about 3 hours walking. It did, however, have the effect of giving all the expedition personnel good acclimatization training.

While the apprentices and instructors were enjoying the delights of the bog, Ssgt Cook, the expedition admin NCO, was battling against monkeys and buffalo. Move more than 5 feet away from any removable object and turn your back, the monkeys would swoop and vanish into the bamboo forests with the said article. Because of this security of kit was paramount but even with great care on our part the monkeys won 2-0. We all hope, however, they enjoyed their pot of mustard and stale bread!

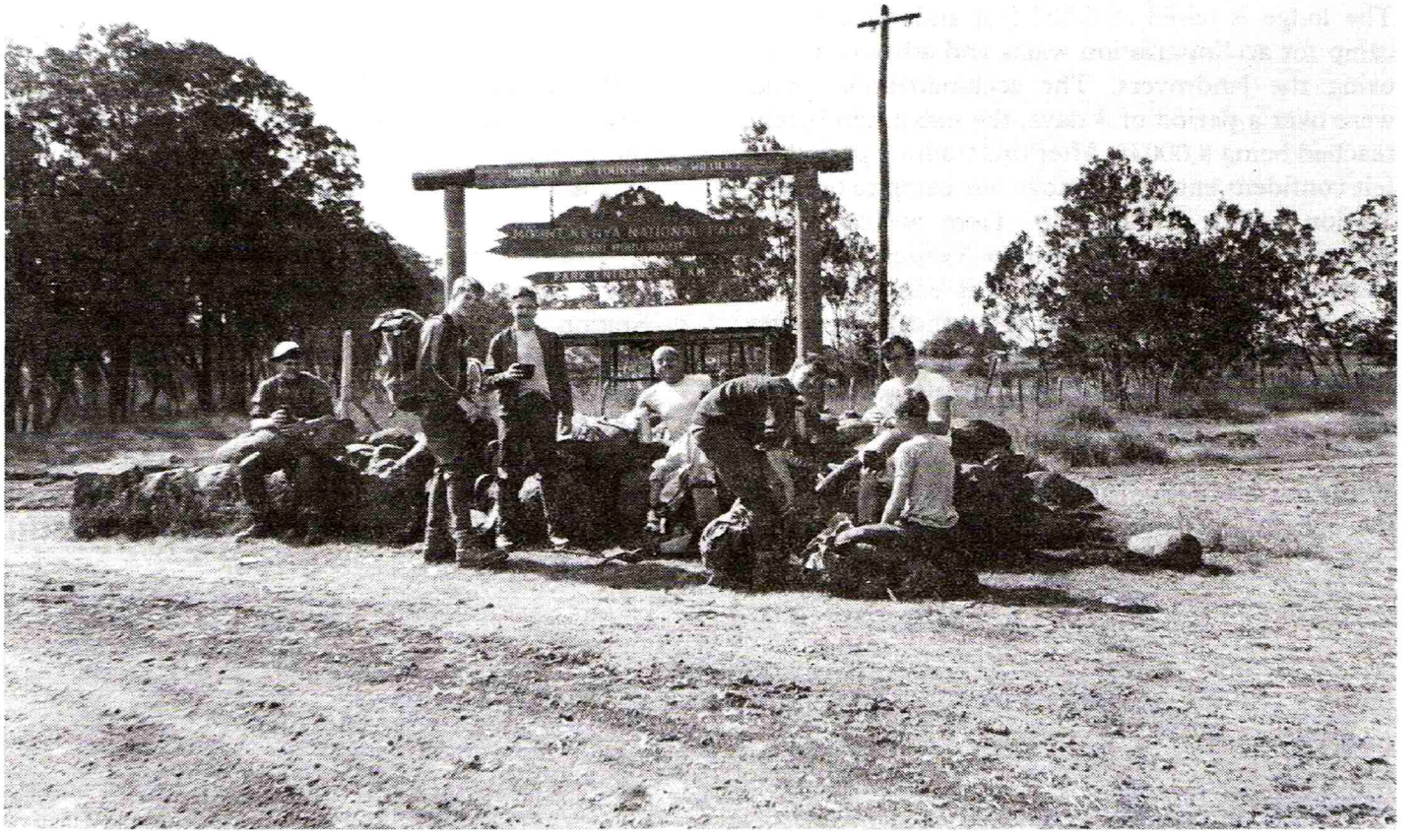
At 10,000 ft the mountain seemed to be continually under cloud. Throughout our stay at the Met Station the absence of the sun was acutely noticeable. Drizzle and on some occasions torrential rain was our companion during the day and light frosts at night. Because of this we decided to move up and onward as soon as possible and so on the 31 July we woke early and moved on towards Austrian Hut (16,000 ft) and ultimately Pt Lenana (16,500 ft).



Spot the Apprentice Competition. Place an X where you think he is

The group was waved farewell by Ssgt Cook who had the unenjoyable task of remaining at the Met Station.

The route taken from the Met Station is across the vertical bog. All you have to do is either follow some porters, sweet papers or the red and white posts (all 26 of them). The bog takes about 4 hours to cross and once done the scenery and vegetation are unbelievable. From the bog we followed the Teleki Valley and marvelled at its beauty. Giant heather, 10 feet high, grew in clumps and further down the valley the extremes of temperature and altitude (now 12,000 ft) could be seen in the shapes of the tropical plants. Giant lobelia (5-10 ft high) were dotted at random across the Valley sides, their fleshy leaves



Sign post on the walk to Mt Kenya National Park

and compact growth indicating an attempt at water preservation. At the time Mr McShea's natural history lessons fell on stony ground as the apprentices plodded on in their own private worlds. A short, well earned, lunch break was taken at McKinders Camp after which the group once again continued on their way. The plan was to reach Austrian Hut, stay the night, ascend Point Lenana the next day and the day after return to the Met Station. As it turned out the group missed Austrian Hut by 200m and dropped 800 ft to a nice camp site to spend the night in their polythene bags. At this altitude, 15,000 ft, the temperature drops to at least 10^{0}c. A night's sleep was extremely welcome and needed by all. We all woke at dawn or rather Cpl Wilson woke us all at dawn. After a hearty breakfast the packs were once more picked up and we headed off towards the Met Station once more. The walk down was easier, the apprentices, extremely pleased with themselves, chatted about their endeavours and, for once, forgot to complain! We all felt the affects of the walk once at the Met Station, we were met, however, by the welcome sight of a brew and a huge pat of corned beef curry (one of Ssgt Cook's many delicacies). This duly eaten we retired for a well earned sleep.

In the morning over coffee Cpl Wilson volunteered to do the journey once again with Ssgt Cook. The reason for this was obvious afterwards - he had seen some kit left in the rocks. So after being loaded with chocolate and sardines the two were waved off by Lt Hayward, Mr McShea and the 8 apprentices. While Ssgt Cook made his ascent it was decided to give the apprentices some well earned R & R at Nanyuki. Here they could exchange their money and meet the people of Kenya.

The visit was interesting and the apprentices had their first experience of bartering with pavement sellers. We also visited a cluster of shacks situated on the equator. These also sold souvenirs with great effect. The owner's sales pitch was rather unusual to say the least. Many apprentices were frogmarched into shops and almost forced to buy something. The instructors, after a few visits, stayed clear in the fear of apprentices getting stripped and using their clothes to barter with!

After a few visits elsewhere the group waited to Ssgt Cook and Cpl Wilson to make an appearance.

This they duly did, it was now 5 August. With the aim of the exercise now completed we decided to see a bit more of Kenya. It was decided to take the apprentices on a Safari! We chose the Meru Game

Park which was on the far side of Mt Kenya. This enabled the apprentices to see the countryside north of the mountain. The safari was a great success. The group seeing many different animals in their proper habitat. The vastness and beauty of the land amazed all of us and it was well worth it. It would be unfair not the mention the game wardens with their ancient .303s, tribal scars and huge smiles. They enabled the whole group to visit, at close quarters, a group of 5 white rhino. They were beautiful and majestic creatures who even impressed the apprentices.

The safari slowly came to an end as the return date came closer. On the 11 August it was decided to travel back to BATLSK in good time for departure - the memory of nearly missing the first plane still sharp. As fate would have it, as the convoy pulled off the dirt track and onto the main road the rear vehicle developed symptoms of wheel wobble. This was caused by the loss of 3 out of 4 retaining bolts which held the wheel firm to the steering arm. The fault discovered, the other landrover went of in search of 3 bolts.

The 11 August was a Sunday and all shops seemed to be shut. Was fate really trying to keep us in Kenya?

Luckily, however, Ssgt Cook discovered a shop run by an Asian gentleman which as usual stayed open 7 days a week! With the offending bolts in our possession we fixed the other landrover and made our escape good.

Time seemed to pass slowly until the 14th when we finally arrived at the airport and caught a glimpse of theHercules. The aircrew were rather surprised to find they had passengers but after introductions they became resigned to the fact. The flight back was as follows: Nairobi, Mombassa, Bahrein, Salalah, Cairo,Palermo and finally Lyneham. This trip was to last 4 days, because as it happened the plane 'broke down' in Mombassa. Due to this the group had the unenjoyable task of staying in a 4 star hotel on Mombassa beach for 4 days. This was hard to accept at first but soon everyone managed to come to terms with the harsh environment. It was difficult to keep the apprentices busy but the instructors managed with runs, volleyball, windsurfing, snorkling, swimming and, of course, sunbathing. (The College now boasts 8 B3 sunbathers).

After 3 weeks under canvas the short interlude was very welcome but everyone was ready to depart when the time came. Luckily our route home had been shortened to an overnight stop in Cyprus and then home. We were all relieved to see England, 4 weeks away is enough for anyone! Once on English soil again the whole group used their waterproofs once more and waited for their kit to pass through customs. While we were waiting the transport turned up and after a short delay we all departed for the College. After the usual kit checks the apprentices were sent on a well earned break to brag about their exploits to anyone who wished to listen.

EX ENGLISH SUMMER

Ex English Summer was originally planned as a canoeing expedition to the Dalsland Wilderness in Sweden, where it is possible to canoe for a week without meeting another soul. When this plan fell through due to a variety of financial and administrative problems it was decided, late one night while propping up the bar at a well known local nightspot (the HQ RAOC Officers' Mess) to take a party adventure training to the heart of civilisation rather than to the remoter areas of the world. Thus the basis of Exercise English Summer was laid.

The plan was for a party of novice canoeists with two instructors to be dropped off at the limit of navigation on the River Thames, namely Lechlade, near Swindon with all their equipment and to be picked up 6 days and 130 miles later at Teddington Lock. Consequently on 9 August Capt Wilson, Lt Wilkes and 7 novice canoeists found themselves standing on the river bank at Lechlade surrounded by mountains of equipment and food watching the 4 ton vehicle disappear into the distance. The party was to use five kayaks and two open Canadian canoes that the unit had recently purchased. These Canadian canoes were soon loaded with all the stores and with some trepidation were launched. Though all the party had paddled the boats during the build up training this was the first time that they had been on the water fully loaded with over 600 lbs of kit and we were not sure how stable they would be. However, they proved to be ideal for the job and the party set off late in the afternoon.

This first leg was only about 6 miles in length and was designed to allow the exercise to sort itself out on the water and to overcome any problems, consequently just over 2 hours and 3 portages later we arrived at the first location, Radcot, where the camp site was located very conventiently next to the Swan Inn. As there was still a couple of hours until



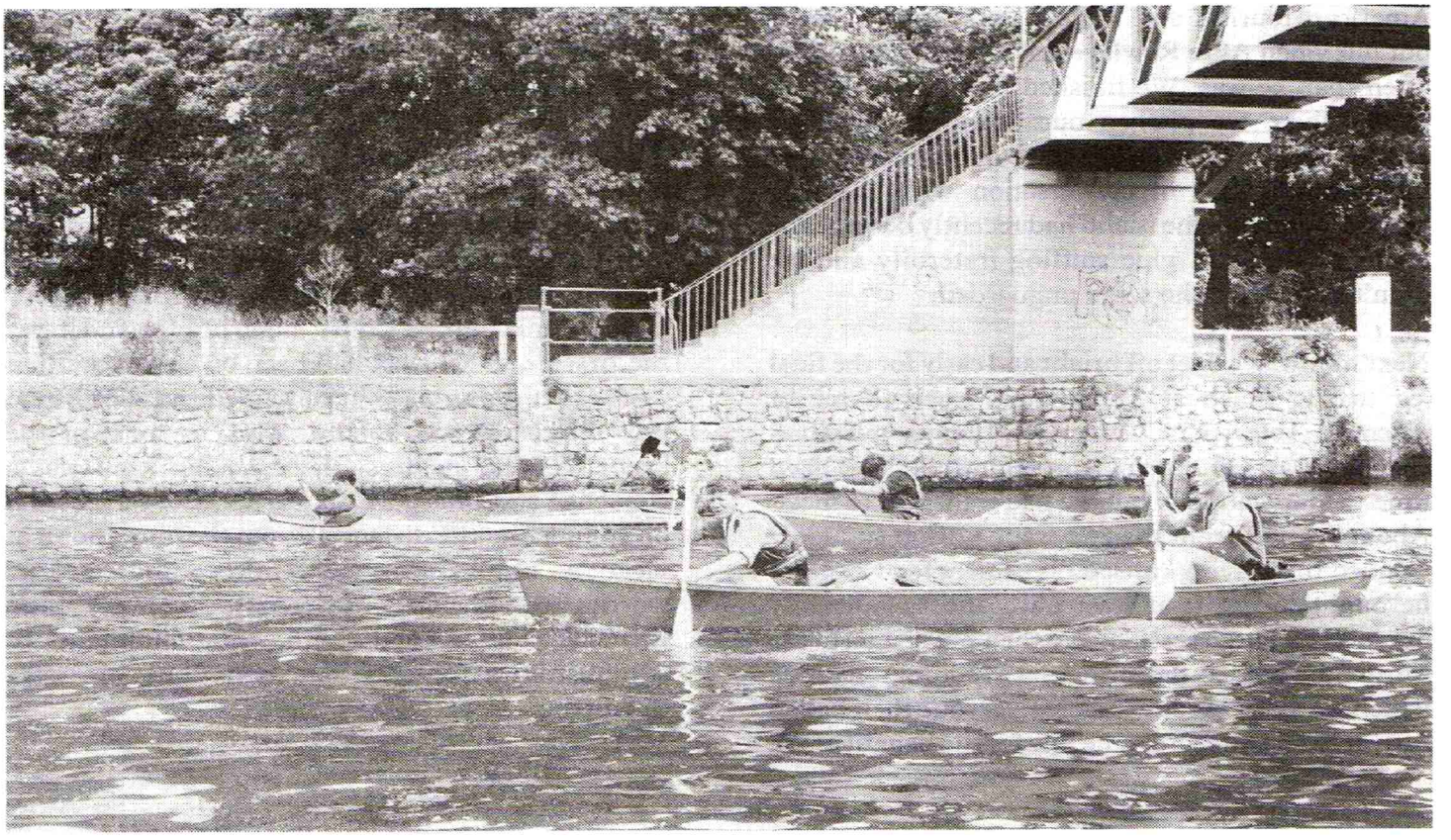
"Imagine it is the Missisippi, lads"

opening time the two tents were quickly erected and the evening meal cooked.

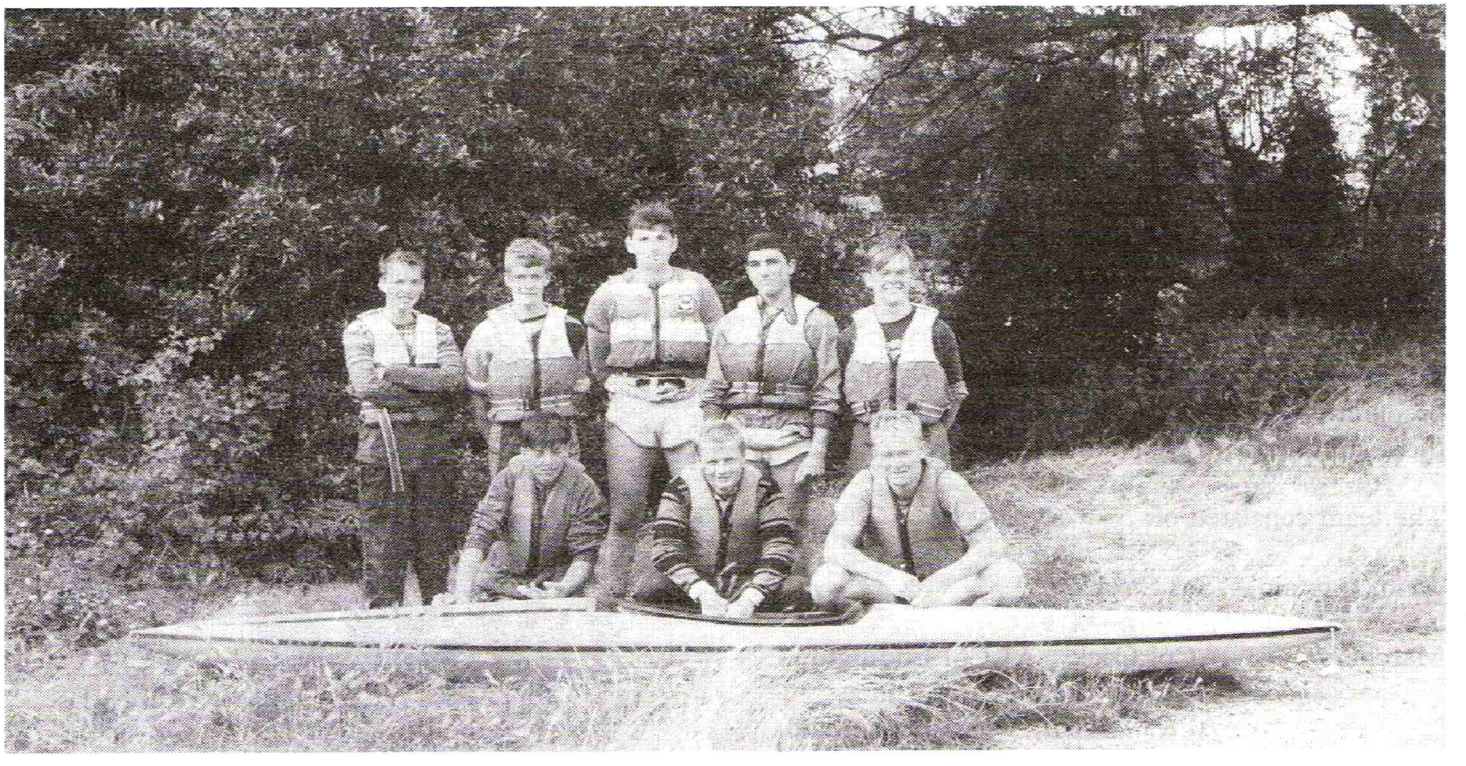
By 0800 hrs the following morning the party was back on the water and starting the first long paddle of the exercise. This second day involved an 18 mile canoe along one of the least interesting stretches of the river. The miles soon disappeared and by mid afternoon we had arrived at the second camp site at Eynsham Lock where the camp site was on the lock island. While the tents were being erected Capt Wilson and Lt Wilkes went to buy food and on their return found that the apprentices had remembered that it was Lt Wilkes' birthday. Fortunately he could run faster than the boys and narrowly avoided a 'dip in the river'. It was that evening that we discovered APte Heycocks' culinary expertise that involved putting lemon curd in everything, we then banned him from the kitchen and APtes Kirkpatrick and Jackson appointed themselves cooks, even though they burnt the rice pudding on every attempt. Next morning to make up for this Lt Wilkes managed to capsize while the party was setting off. This turned out to be the only capsize of the exercise and one of his shoes was recovered ¼ mile downstream.

This second day was by far the worst day of the exercise. It was long, 24 miles, and the wind and rain were against us all the way. The only highlights of this leg being the paddle through Oxford and Abingdon. It was a tired and wet party that finally arrived at Days Lock near Abingdon at 7.30 that night. In no time though tents were erected, clothes changed and a meal cooked and everyone felt much better.

The fourth day saw the scenery along the river bank become more interesting. There were more towns to canoe through and a large number of holidaymakers on hired boats around. We struck up many interesting but brief conversations while travelling through the locks. That evening we camped in a field belonging to Mapeldurham House, a National Trust owned stately house. Unfortunately the house was closed to the public that day (or did they see us arriving, dripping water all over the place), but it was an unusual campsite that is not open to the public. By now all the party were getting used to paddling 20 miles a day and the next day we made excellent time as we zipped through Reading and had arrived at Henley an hour ahead of schedule and thus decided to spend an extended lunch break walking around Henley (still wearing our wet canoeing clothes). That afternoon just below Henley we met 3 young ladies who were rowing the same route as we were for charity, we followed them (or they followed us?) for the next few miles until we stopped to camp at a proper campsite complete with



Crossing the finish line



At the finish

hot showers at Hurley. One week later the girls were interviewed on national television but didn't give us a single mention.

The penultimate day was the longest paddle of all, being over 26 miles, but it was along the most interesting stretch of the river, passing through Marlow, Cookham and Windsor and running alongside Windsor Castle for several miles. We stopped for lunch in Windsor but would have liked the time to stop and sightsee more often. Just below Windsor we were overtaken by a boatload of

American tourists and APte Fairclough was most put out when APte Rowley was photographed more often than he was. We finished that day at Penton Hook where we pitched our camp on the Lock Island. We had intended to all go out for a meal that final evening but in conversation with the lock keeper found that the island had recently become the haunt of the local glue sniffing fraternity and we didn't dare leave the tents unguarded.

Next morning we set off bright and early for the final leg to the finish at Teddington Lock (home of Thames Television). We soon found ourselves canoeing past Hampton Court and would have liked time to stop and look but we had transport to meet. About 3 miles from the end Capt Wilson suddenly decided that having carried his camera for 125 miles he ought to use it at least once and so hurriedly organised a photo session. We then pushed on to the finish line under the bridge at Teddington Lock which we all crossed together. Everyone then had to turn around and recross the line for the benefit of the camera. It was then that we suffered the only casualty of the exercise when APte Knowles gashed his hand climbing out of the canoe for the last time.

Though canoeing along the Thames would nor normally be considered adventurous training all members of the exercise enjoyed themselves and learnt a great deal. It was the first time that some of the apprentices had seen such sights as Windsor Castle and Hampton Court, albeit briefly, and it was the first time that they had been on any expedition where everything was self contained and they had to rely on themselves totally. Also, as most of the canoeists were novices, the canoeing itself was a challenge and thus gave a great sense of satisfaction on completing the distance. From the unit's point of view a number of apprentices undertook a worthwhile adventurous exercise for very little financial outlay and with the minimum of administrative organisation and thus all were satisfied.

NIJMEGEN MARCH 13 - 21 JULY 1985

by Sgt Starbuck

The Nijmegen Marches were introduced in 1908 with the aim of improving the fitness of the Dutch civilian population. The basic aim of the occasion, which has not changed since its introduction, is to march, as a squad or individual, a distance of 100 miles in 4 days.

The team has been training hard and regularly in preparation for the event. I am pleased to say that all the team members were volunteers.

The team consisted of:

Team Captain - Sgt Starbuck

Marchers ACpl Cocks, ALCpl Eddington ALcpl Forrest ALcpl Lima, APtes Nolan, Keenan, Latham, Kirby, Hawkes, Baker

Tent Orderly - APte Hodkinson

Bicycle Orderly LCpl Simpson

One of the main problems on the march that had to be overcome was the boredom, to do this we spent a lot of the time singing and when we were in the tent at night we would be writing new verses. So not only were we suffering from sore feet but we also had sore throats.

The days marches were on Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri (16-



Left, Right, Left . . . . . .

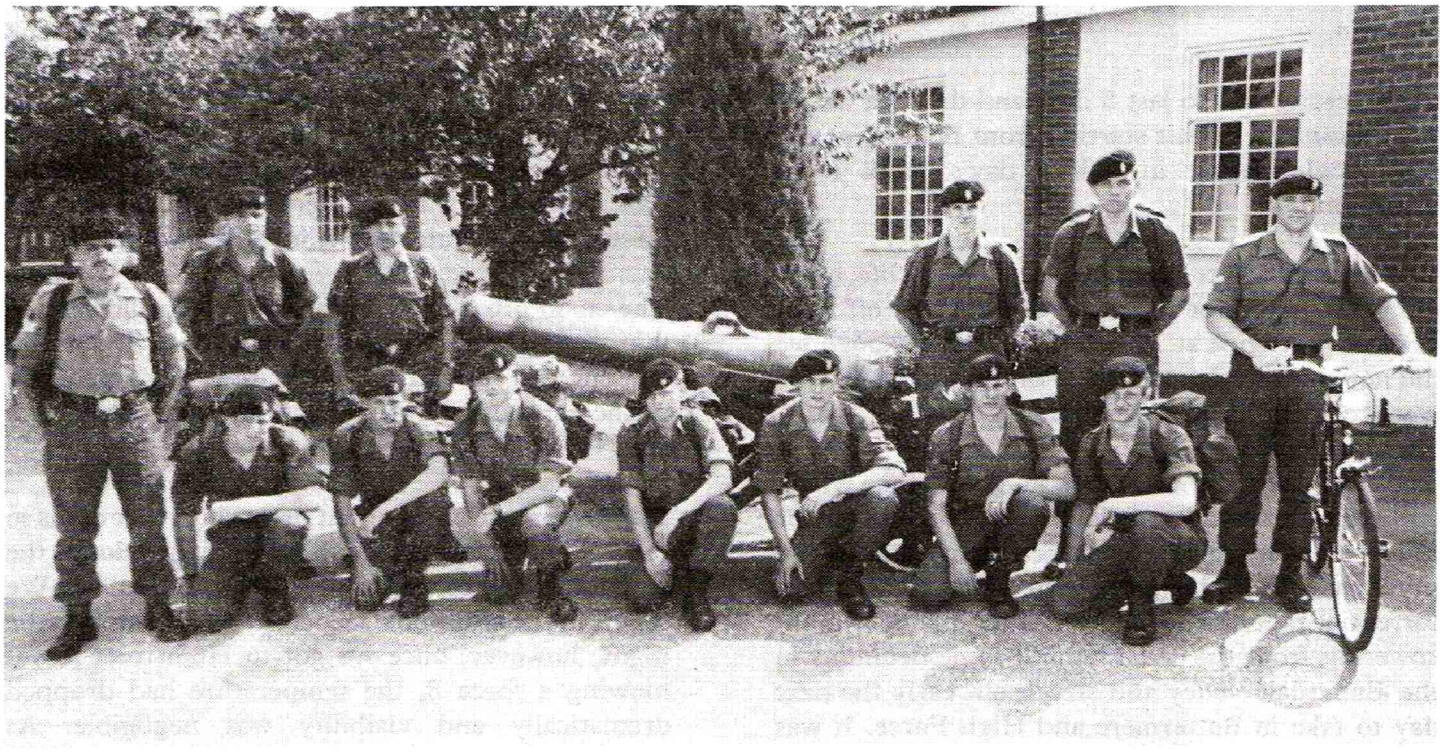
19) and we would start marching about 0430 and be finishing about 1230, which always gave us time to sort out any feet problems, have a good shower, dinner (1600 hrs) and then we would be thinking about sleep (for those who hadn't fallen asleep already), as reveille the following day would be at 0300 hrs.

Although the event is not a competitive one it becomes one on the last day as the order you come in on is the order in which you march past (for the British anyway). We worked very hard on the last day, leaving at 0330 we marched 23 km before having a 5 minute rest (well nearly 5 minutes), and then on to the rest area. We were finished by 0940, being the 5th team in and also the first junior team in, and what really pushed us on was the fact we had overtaken 10 Para at the rest area. They eventually came in 6th.

The final march past was at 1330 hrs and was 4 kms, the roads were packed with people, it was truly a splendid occasion enjoyed by the whole team.

We left Nijmegen on the Saturday evening arriving back at Deepcut on Sunday at 1130 hrs.

Special thanks should go to APte Hodkinson who was the tent orderly, who reluctantly volunteered to do the job (nobody wanted to), also to Lt Hayward who did the organising, Save and Prosper who helped to sponsor the trip along with the Corporals' Mess, and to anyone else who sponsored us.



The team plus bicycle

INDIAN CLUB SWINGING TEAM

The Indian Club Swinging Team was formed in January of this year from members of Arnhem Platoon under the instruction of QMSI Martin APTC and their Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Ricky Dunne.

Training and practice has been carried out in their spare time as they complete the normal military training syllabus during the day. This practice has led to a number of public performances all over the country.

Our performances began in May when the team performed at the Corps open day at Blackdown. Later in the same month we went down to Maidstone to the 36 Engineer Regiment Open Day. In June we hopped off early from our Summer Camp in Tenby to sample the delights of the North and also to take part in the Northumbria Tattoo. This was an exceedingly taxing 4 days as it meant we had to stay in a 3-star hotel and get paid 1/2 NRSA for the privilege.

July saw us at the Army Exhibition for Schools at Bassingbourn, not only Club Swinging but also running a display of College activities ranging from external leadership and adventurous training to trade and educational training. Later in the same month we were invited to perform at a civilian County Show at Stroud in Gloucestershire.

We departed on leave on 8 August excited at the prospect of spending a week of September in Berlin, only to arrive back the week before to find that it had been cancelled. The show must go on, however, and we are preparing now for our final performance (thank goodness) which is to be at the Army School of PT in Aldershot. Then it is hang up the clubs and back to real training!.

EX ROUGH RIDGES

Having completed their first half term's training, the 4 apprentices ALcpl Dennis, APtes Mancey, Miller and Hume were looking forward to a pleasant relaxing stroll around some of the Lake District's famous (now infamous!) land marks. Well, that's the scenario.

The exercise was to last 8 days and the idea was to walk around a circuit starting from Boot, near the coast, culminating in half a day's R & R in Windermere.

The weather was tremendous for the plant life, but it didn't do much for the party of 5 that set off from Boot on 9 August at 1800 hrs. In fact, although we did not know it, that was to be the only dry night we were to spend on the exercise.

The first day's full walk took in Scafell Pike which surprisingly was clear of cloud and one could see for miles in every direction which was ironic as 10 minutes earlier the party had been climbing in torrential rain and cloud. We spent the next night cowering from the wind behind some drumlins in the Ennerdale valley and struck out early the next day to take in Buttermere and High Force. It was during this leg of the journey that the route card went slightly adrift as the going was a lot worse than anticipated so High Force was missed out. That night we were going to spend on high ground but due to conditions we camped in a wood above Lower Braithwaite.

The next day the packs were left in care at a campsite and the party went to scale Skiddaw from the South. Again contrary to the run of the weather the rain lifted and we had a tremendous view of the Southern fells. That evening we spent washing out filthy clothes and trying to dry out our kit using the campsite facilities.

Now into our 5th day we assaulted the last remaining peak above 3,000 ft (not including Scafell), Helvellyn at 3,116 ft which was not bathed in brilliant sunshine but in driving rain and cloud. Then quickly on to Grasmere instead of heading East as the wind was so violent it would have torn us off any of the routes down into Patterdale.

The cloud lifted for the next day which allowed the rain to fall even harder for our walk to Troutbeck and once we arrived, we shelved the day's walk and washed and dried our kit again in preparation for a long walk the next day.

The 4 apprentices set about preparing route cards so they could walk through the night along the Kenmore Horseshoes and on to Windermere. We set off in the afternoon prepared to walk through the night, however, once we got to Highstreet it was blowing a force 8, the temperature had dropped dramatically and visibility was negligible. As everyone was tired and a few minor injuries were affecting our progress the party took the route down into the next valley which in retrospect was the only sensible decision due to the atrocious conditions.

Another night spent in wet sleeping bags, in the morning on to Windermere for the transport. In conclusion, the exercise completed all its aims but due to the awful conditions the route was less adventurous but no less demanding on all the party.

SKIING

OIC - Lt Watkins

2IC - Sgt Beveridge

This year the College had a very successful season. 65 Apprentices managed to attend one of the 3 skiing exercises. Either Berlin Platoon's Exercise Hibernian Snow in Newtonmore, 10 men each from Alamein and Benghazi/Brunei on Exercise Snowcross Minor in BAOR, or the remainder on one of the exercise Knees Bend courses in Nethybridge.

The College novices' team (never even seen skis before) came 9th in the Army Junior Championships. The OIC Skiing was suborned by Trg Bn & Depot and was in the 13th placed team in the Army Ski Association Scotland Championships, (second placed RAOC team).

Plans are already afoot for next season's skiing which despite the fewer RAOC Juniors will involve almost as many people.

BASKET BALL/VOLLEY BALL

OIC - 2Lt Fisher

During the summer term there was an exodus from these two indoor sports to the outdoor hobbies in a fruitless search for the sun and this left us with only a nucleus of 6 core players. This meant that 2Lt Fisher and Cpl McCarter joined in with each game that took place, Cpl McCarter managing to run rings around all those playing against him.

Volleyball was played on many sports mornings on Saturdays and was highly competitive with several competitions being run, including one very good match at Brown Down Camp.

Now that the weather has turned colder it will no doubt boost attendance figures well beyond those of the Summer term, thus we can have some games of basketball with a full complement. It is intended that we will enter a team into the SE District League in the new term.

JUDO

OIC - Lt Hayward

With the loss of last term's senior platoons, numbers and experience decreased noticeably in the Dojo. Undisturbed Cpl Morgan (the unit instructor) scoured the recruit platoons for fit and willing apprentices to boost the numbers.

With the influx of novices, training began at once with the aim of grading the apprentices. With bodies stiff from practice and minds numb from revision, the apprentices (and the Judo Officer) shuffled into the Aldershot Dojo on 14 July 1985 for the infamous grading. The hours of training obviously paid off and out of the 11 apprentices at the grading only 3 failed to obtain a higher grade.

At present the club now has 7 orange belts, 5 green belts and 4 blue belts. This mix of talent will hold us in good stead for next season's events.

WEIGHT TRAINING

OIC - Sgt Wells

The weight training has progressed well this term, and at present has 14 participants. Under Sgt Wells, the lads 'pump iron' twice a week, searching for the 'Schwarzanegger' formula.

At the present time the training is geared more towards stamina rather than record breaking and back breaking lifts.

CROSS COUNTRY

OIC - Lt Ness

The 1985 Cross Country season was not memorable! After holding 3rd position in December the team's performance began to slip due mainly to injury, exercise commitments and term leavers. We missed 2 important races whilst in Tenby and finished a rather disappointing 5th in the League. Despite this, however, a few runners emerged to show great potential for next year. APte Hayes of Aden Platoon, despite suffering from injuries, continued to produce fine results as did ALcpl Le Carpentier of Ardennes Platoon. The arrival of Arakan and Benghazi platoons in June brought the addition of some promising runners, suggesting that our final season may be a winning one.

ATHLETICS

OIC - Lt Ness

1985 has been a successful year for the College Athletics squad. Despite many other commitments, in particular the summer camp in Tenby, the squad managed to train and compete well in 2 important competitions.

The first was the Travers Clarke RAOC Athletics Championship in May. A mixed Permanent Staff and Apprentices team was entered and we managed to produce a very creditable 3rd place behind CAD Kineton and 9 Ord Bn. Notable individual performances came from Lcpl Brookes, winning the 5000m and coming a close 2nd in a fast 1500m. Sgt MacDonald won the Pole Vault, APte Higginbottom coming a close 2nd.

Congratulations go to ALcpl Newell who came 2nd in the 200m, and won the Junior Soldiers Cup for excellent performances in the sprint events.

The undermentioned results were obtained:

100m	ALcpl Newell 5th
200m	ALcpl Newell 2nd, Cpl MacCarter 5th
400m	APte Duncan 6th
800m	APte Duncan 5th
1500m	LCpl Brookes 2nd
5000m	LCpl Brookes 2nd, APte Hayes 6th
110H	APte Hunt 2nd, ALcpl Dulston 3rd
4 x 100m R	Sgt Dunne, Cpl MacCarter, ALcpl Newell, ALcpl Dulston
HJ	APte Rutterford 2nd
Shot	Sgt Christopher 2nd
Hammer	Sgt Christopher 2nd
Pole Vault	Sgt MacDonald 1st, APte Higginbottom 2nd

The second and more important event was the Army Junior Championship at the end of June. After a close competition the College won the Minor Units trophy, our third title in 5 years.

In addition to the trophy 3 athletes were entered in the Army Individual Championships. ALcpl Hagen

just failed to qualify for the Long Jump final and APte Sinclair came 4th in a fine Discus competition. APte Rutterford deserves special congratulations. Despite coming a close second in the High Jump, he was selected to represent the Army Junior Team and finished 4th in the Combined Services match.

Other individual results are below:

200m	ALcpl Newell	1st
400m	APte Duncan	3rd
800m	ALcpl Nolan	3rd
1500m	APte Lucas	4th
Shot	APte Watson	2nd
Discus	APte Sinclair	3rd
Javelin	APte Bond	4th
LJ	ALcpl Hagen	1st
HJ	APte Rutterford	2nd
4 x 100m R	ALcpl Newell, ACpl Eccles ALcpl Knott, ALcpl Dulston	2nd

The final event of the year was the Inter Company Athletics which was retained by A Company 123½ pts - 100½ pts.

CANOEING

OIC - Capt Farrow

The sport of canoeing having lain dormant for most of the summer term is under new management and is awakening to meet the new term.

The first activities of the season were during the summer recess when 3 separate canoeing exercises were mounted namely; Ex Trier Trek, canoeing in Germany, run by Capt Farrow, Ex English Summer which involved Capt Wilson, Lt Wilkes and 7 apprentices canoeing the River Thames and Ex Keswick Caper in which Lts Rustworth/Astley took a party canoeing and walking in the Lake District. Detail reports of these exercises can be found elsewhere in Thunderbolt.

This term 11 eager volunteers, their appetites whetted by summer camp and these exercises regularly attend the Thursday afternoon training sessions. At the moment canoeing is limited to basic training on the safe but boring waters of Hawley Lake. Soon, however, we will progress to learning moving water skills on the weirs along the Rivers Thames and Wey. Once these have been mastered it is intended (timetable permitting), to spend a couple of weekends canoeing the white water of Wales.

The final aim of the term is to enter teams in the Army White Water Championships to be held at Richmond, Yorkshire in November where all the skills learnt during the term will be put to the test competing against other junior units.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

OIC - 2Lt Salmons

The College finished the 1984/85 season on a high note by wining the SE District Under 18 Challenge Cup. In an end to end match played on a heavy pitch, ALcpl Woodley broke the deadlock with a cool solo effort. Both the A and B teams missed the honours in their respective leagues but finished as runners-up.

The credit for such a successful season must go to 2Lt C P Dawson, (the then OIC), Ssgt Cook, Sgt Turpin, Sgt Wells and Sgt Haslett and not least of all to the apprentices themselves.

Due to the move to Colerne, the 85/86 season is to be limited to league fixtures. We will play all our fixtures before the end of the year.

The College lost some players to Adult Service but we are finding some good replacements amongst the latest arrivals and hope to do well once again.

CRICKET

OIC - Lt Rushworth

The season was marred this year, not by the weather as might have been expected, but by some less than enthusiastic cricket reps around the country. The Army Junior Soldiers cricket competition got off to a shaky start despite the professional attention of the organisers and through a series of unfortunate defaults by other units, the College found itself in the final having played only one match in the competition. The final against the RAPC was played on a pleasant summer's day at the Aldershot Officers' Club where a College batting collapse left the Pay Corps team to scoop up the trophy very convincingly for the sixth year running.

Other matches throughout the season produced evidence of some strong talent with bat and ball but the recurring shortness of matches failed to increase bowling stamina and consistency which showed in the cup final. A fairly good season despite the weather and the absence of glittering prizes at the end of it all.

PARASCENDING

OIC - Lt Rushworth

This year has not been kind to thesport of para-scending. The continuous bad weather has restricted the amount of flying possible, particularly due to the safety constraints on novices. A number of apprentices had an intensive weekend at Warminster covering all the basic training in round canopy ascents and launch point procedure and quite a considerable amount of time was spent in the air thanks to the patient instruction and slick operating procedures of the members of the Warminster PC to whom we were extremely grateful. All concerned had a good time including Sgt Dick 'Awayday' Turpin going for the distance record (we think!). Farnborough airfield featured with its usual prominence throughout the year and our CCI, Sgt Mark Snelson, has put in many hours outside the College to further the sport. The anticipated highlight of the year, Exercise Sunny Venture in Cyprus, did not eventually come off and thus the last possibility of finding decent weather slipped from our grasp.

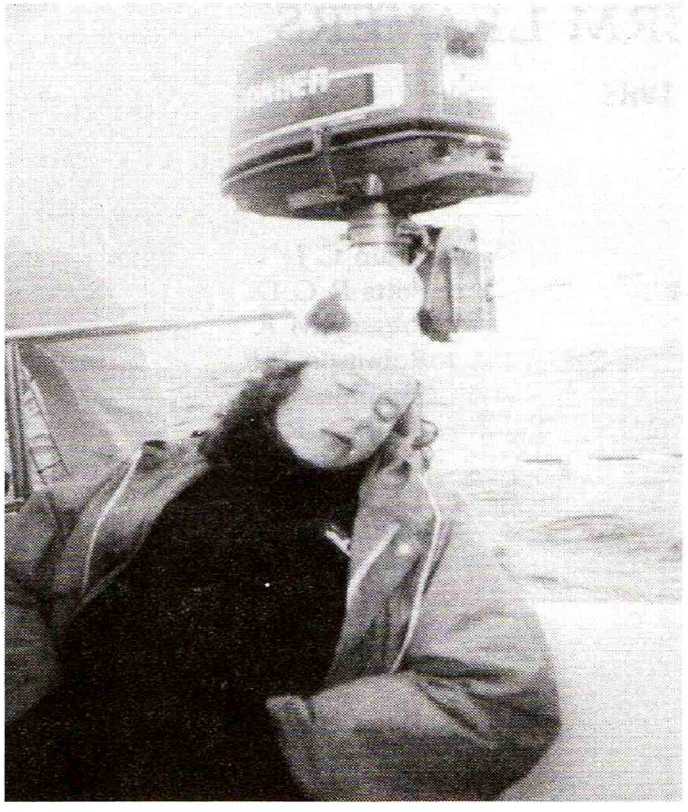
College Camp in Tenby was a windswept, grey affair but a couple of good days early on ensured a good turnover of novice fliers. A mixed year's performance but a lot of fun was had.

EX BENODET THUNDERER



Living on the Corps Yacht 'Thunderer' for a week was quite an experience, the art of eating greasy egg and bacon at 45^0 without it slipping off the plate was quite irritating. The early morning starts were the main problem, reveille being around 0400 hrs, though once the day got underway sailing was most enjoyable with Miss Simms spending most of her time asleep, as you can see, whilst the Skipper, Maj R H Farey navigated us through the fast and furious Alderney straits. At our first port of call, the island of Jersey, a welcoming shower awaited us, after which we ventured into the exciting night life. Through

APte Medley steering through the calm



experience Apprentices Medley, Talbot and Oram found that deck scrubbing wasn't an enjoyable pastime.

However, whilst travelling from Jersey to Saint Malo the general routine was 3 hours of sun-bathing, 1 hour of helming - which after a while got boring, the helming that is! Though Apprentice Medley seemed to put on a brave smile.

As the Ferry entered Saint Malo Exercise Benodet Thunderer came to an end for us with the tourist sights of Saint Malo deeply embedded in our minds.

Dozing in the line of duty

TERM LEAVERS

SUMMER 1985

Supply Controllers

ACpl	Brash A	APte	Ford A	Apte	Phillips D E
APte	Cook D J	ALcpl	Grimshaw S	APte	Rainsley S B
ACpl	Eccles S M	APte	Hardway M T	APte	Turner A E
ACpl	Ewen M	ALcpl	Johnson J M	ALcpl	Woodley D D
APte	Fleet P	ACpl	Kennedy C	ACpl	Andrews S D

SUPPLY SPECIALISTS

APte	Andrews S D	ALcpl	Grayton P	ALcpl	Newell R J
APte	Armstrong M A	APte	Hall D	APte	Phillips R A
APte	Bamforth D R	APte	Hulatt D W	APte	Phillips S F
APte	Bedford D	Apte	Hunt S J	APte	Philogene A G W
APte	Connelly S	APte	Jennings S P	ALcpl	Rimmer M A
APte	Cotton T A	ACpl	Knott S A	APte	Sinclair M J
ACpl	Crawford	APte	Knudsen M J	ACpl	Sparrow D R
APte	Didcote M A	APte	McCully J	APte	Waite N
APte	Embling N				

STAFF CLERKS

ASgt	Symonds A J	APte	Vosper C M

ANTICIPATED TERM LEAVERS

WINTER 1985

SUPPLY CONTROLLERS

Ashton S M
Baker S R
Bamforth P J
Bowen S T
Bowerbank S
Cloonan N J
Davies J L G
Dulston A P
Fairclough M
Green S A
Grundy S P
Guffogg D A
Haddow D A
Hagen J
Hawkins I
Keenan A M
Knight J
Kniveton D
Lavers M I
Lewis C
Lima C P
Lowton N
Martin S J
Miln D L
Nolan M A
Nolan T K
Norrie C B
Oram C J
Potts R G D
Pressey M R
Robinson P R
Simmons J R
Smith S R
Talbot P M
Taylor W F
Thomas D E
Thompson A
Whiley G A J
Williamson I
Young G M

STAFF CLERKS

Callan I A
Collins A P
Crawford S J A
Green D W
Hill D R
Johnson P A
Jones W M
Maass J A C
Medley J C
Miller B
Reece I M
Shear M S
Thompson S M
Turnbull N C
Vrac J S
Wilkinson A
Tasker D N

SUPPLY SPECIALISTS

Anderson D S
Arnold J A
Ballinger K C
Bennett A R
Bidmead V
Blewitt S P
Bond P N
Brocklehurst B J
Burrows S
Burkett L S
Caddick M
Capel D R
Carruthers A
Chance A D
Cocks J A
Colahan J
Collins R J
Coulter E
Cowan S D
Doggett N
Duncan G S
Eddington R
Hardman C J
Harris M J
Harris R P
Hayes G J
Heycock E J L
Higginbottom S C
Hodkinson R A
Hopewell D
Jackson A
Jackson R C P D
Kirby S N
Knowles G
Kirkpatrick N B
Latham A R
Leatherbarrow M
Le Carpentier C P
Littler C
Lucas D J
MacGillivray D G
McHugh S F
MacLean D T
McDonald P
Plackett J W
Platt M P
Price R T
Pugh K A
Rabbage D P
Redhead P A
Robinson M V
Rooney J
Rowley A S
Rutterford N P
Salt D M
Sanders P
Schooley W R
Scott G S
Sim I S
Stead A D
Street M D
Thorrington C A
Waite J S
Walker A J
Walker D
Watson G