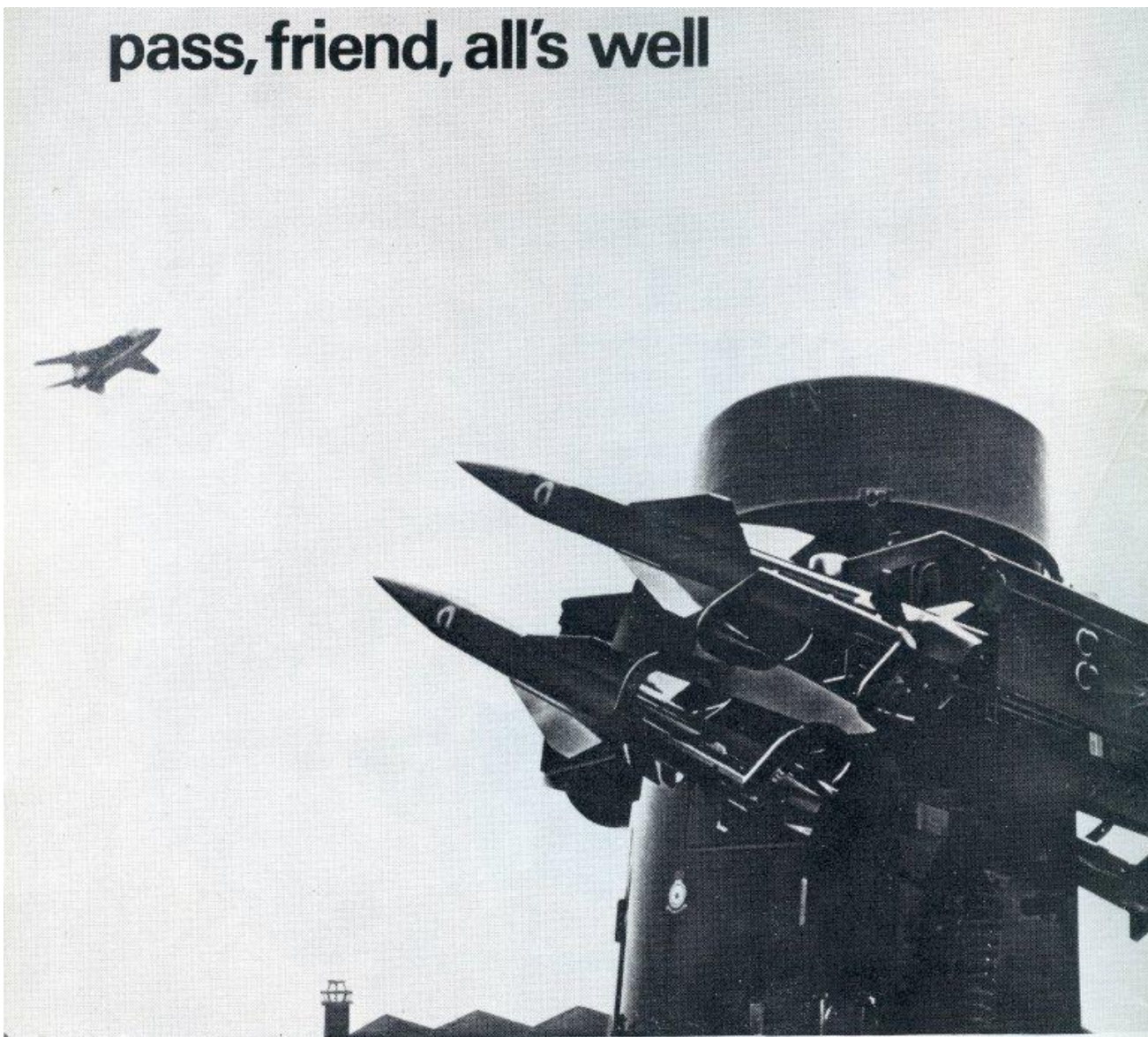


The Haltonian Magazine

Spring 1972

(Scroll down)

pass, friend, all's well



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EDITORIAL

A CHILL wind of change is beginning to blow through Halton. It threatens not only to extinguish the flickering candle by which light this editorial is written — thanks to the miners' strike — but also to eliminate the Halton Magazine.

At a time when the term 'management' has an almost sacred ring about it and when the training of managers is a near religious ceremony within the Royal Air Force, we are witnesses to a paradoxical situation. Managerial expertise decides, on the one hand, that there must be economical improvements in the running of the Service, whilst on the other it calls for advice from the shop-floor on how best to deal with the surplus manpower thrown up by these economies.

The rights and wrongs of such management are not for argument in these pages. But what is of direct concern to the Magazine staff is the recent managerial decision to reduce drastically the apprentice population at Halton during the next twelve months. The Journal of No. 1 School of Technical Training has survived for half a century. The Magazine's life has been marked by many vicissitudes, but none can have appeared so shattering as the prospect that today lies before it. By the end of the year its local reading population will have been reduced to about thirty per cent of the present figure. Consequently so will its revenue.

Those well versed in the economics of management, especially those concerned with printing costs, will realise that the expenditure on publishing is not in direct arithmetical progression with the number of copies printed. Thus, although the requirement for the Magazine may be reduced by seventy per cent, the printing costs certainly will not. Inevitably therefore, the Magazine has a number of alternatives before it: first, it may endeavour to increase its advertising revenue; second, it may seek to increase its sales beyond Halton, and third, it may be forced out of circulation.

Let us consider each possibility in turn. Increasing advertising revenue is easy to quote but near impossible in practice. Other managerial decisions in industrial and business concerns also centre around economics and one obvious area for reduction of expenditure at present is in advertising. Thus there is no immediate prospect of obtaining further income from advertising sources. So we turn secondly to consider the increase of sales of the Magazine beyond the confines of Halton. The immediate thoughts turn to ex-Haltonians. Unfortunately, this happy fraternity are bonded by rather intangible links with their alma mater and, in the words of a past Commandant who was also an ex-Apprentice, 'Old Haltonians maintain their sentiments for Halton without expressing them through a Magazine'. Reluctantly therefore, we appear to be left with the third and rather final alternative: the Halton Magazine may be forced to cease publication in this, the fiftieth year of the opening of the Halton Apprentice School.

The Royal Air Force, in its relatively short life, has developed traditions and a glorious sense of pride in its past achievements. Halton is an integral part of those achievements and the Magazine has become a traditional organ for the voicing of those accomplishments. In the present era of so-called objective management are we going to witness the demise of a periodical which has all the characteristics of an historical document? Chill indeed is that prospect which now gloomily lies before us.



PASS OUT PARADES

405th Entry

The Pass-Out Ceremony for the 405th Entry of Mechanic Apprentices took place at Royal Air Force Halton on Wednesday, 22nd December 1971. Group Captain G. A. Crabb, O.B.E., C.Eng., A.F.R.Ae.S., M.I.Prod.E., M.B.I.M., Staff Officer Engineering of No 11 (Fighter) Group, presented the prizes and addressed the passing-out Entry in the main hall of Basic Studies Wing.

After the dedication ceremony in the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Family, the Entry marched past the reviewing officer.

PRIZE WINNERS

Highest in Order of Merit — All Subjects

Mechanic Apprentice P. B. Garrett

Highest in Order of Merit — General Service Subjects

Mechanic Apprentice P. B. Garrett

Highest in Order of Merit — Technical Subjects

Mechanic Apprentice A. M. Cummings

217th and 406th Entries

The Pass-Out Parade of the 217th Craft Entry and 406th Mechanic Entry took place at Royal Air Force Halton on Thursday, the 24th February 1972. The parade was reviewed by Air Vice Marshal A. McK. S. Steedman, C.B.E., D.F.C., M.B.I.M., the Senior Air Staff Officer, Strike Command.

The parade was commanded by Sergeant Craft Apprentice D. P. Lavender, and the following Apprentices acted as subordinate commanders:

<i>Parade Adjutant</i>	Cpl. Cft. App. I. J. Davidson
<i>Parade Warrant Officer</i>	Cpl. Cft. App. M. J. McCloy
<i>Colour Bearer</i>	Sgt. Cft. App. D. E. Badland
<i>Colour Escorts</i>	{ Cpl. Cft. App. B. W. Webb Cpl. Cft. App. B. A. Gooch
<i>Colour Warrant Officer</i>	Sgt. Cft. App. C. L. Trimm
<i>Escort Squadron Commander</i>	Sgt. Cft. App. C. Cann
<i>No. 1 Squadron</i>	Sgt. Cft. App. P. H. Mann

PRIZE WINNERS, 217 ENTRY

Highest in Order of Merit — All Subjects (Ministry of Defence Book Prize)

Ldr. Cft. App. D. A. Battenbough

Highest in Order of Merit — Technical Subjects (Ministry of Defence Book Prize)

Ldg. Cft. App. B. E. Cole

Highest in Order of Merit — General Service Subjects
(Ministry of Defence Book Prize)

Sgt. Cft. App. D. P. Lavender

Highest in Order of Merit — Educational Subjects
(Ministry of Defence Book Prize)

Ldr. Cft. App. D. A. Battenbough

THE PHILIP SASSOON FLYING AWARD

Cft. App. M. D. Drury

PRIZE WINNERS, 406 ENTRY

Highest in Order of Merit — All Subjects
(Ministry of Defence Book Prize)

Mech. App. N. P. Wilkins

Highest in Order of Merit — Technical Subjects
(Ministry of Defence Book Prize)

Mech. App. N. P. Wilkins

Highest in Order of Merit — General Service Subjects
(Ministry of Defence Book Prize)

Ldg. Mech. App. R. Hill



FROM ENTRY TO RETIREMENT

FROM APPRENTICE TO AIR MARSHAL; AT HALTON OR IN HONG KONG; WHETHER YOU SPEND £1 OR £100, YOU CAN ALWAYS BE SURE OF A PERSONAL AND INTERESTED INSURANCE SERVICE DURING AND AFTER YOUR SERVICE CAREER.

LIFE ASSURANCE tailored to your own requirements. Whole Life, Endowment and Unit Trust. For apprentices who wish to make an early start with this excellent form of saving and investment, special endowment schemes are available with reduced early premiums.

HOUSE PURCHASE mortgage arranged and advice given. Future house purchase schemes can provide up to 100% advances. Unit Trust linked life assurance for house purchase enables you to get the best of all worlds.

COMMUTATION OF RETIRED PAY Officers about to retire are welcome to advice without obligation on how to increase their income or to obtain a capital sum without loss of net income.

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Craft Apprentice Breen graduated from Halton with No. 216 Entry in October, having won the Sassoon Scholarship for 1971. He went to Perth for his flying scholarship and we have now heard that he went solo in the Chipmunk in 3½ hours—an outstanding performance. During his stay at Halton C.A. Breen, now Jnr. Tech. Breen, gained the following notable firsts (for an apprentice) in the gliding world:

Glider Instructor Qualification, October 1970

Winner Novice of the Year Trophy, November 1970

2nd in Junior Inter-Service Championships, August 1971.

In addition he qualified for his Silver 'C' in the Spring of 1971 and was the winner of the Sassoon Flying Scholarship for 1971.

APPRENTICE WING NOTES

BUCCANEER FLIGHT

Foremost in the Buccaneer Flight projects over the past 3 months is the participation of the members of 409 Entry in the Wendover Emergency Light scheme. Members of the Flight have adopted old people in the Wendover area and visit them regularly to check the red lights which have been installed in each house. The lights, which are battery operated, are placed in a window where they can be easily seen by passers by should an emergency occur. In December the Entry distributed Christmas parcels to many of the old folk on behalf of the Station. Recently the Flight were invited to the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing (U.S.A.F.) base at Upper Heyford and were given the chance to see the F.111 aircraft at close quarters.

In February, the 409 and the newly arrived 411 Entry challenged the Wing staff to a soccer match. The staff, led by Sgt. Brett and the Flight Commander, were extremely lucky to win by the narrowest of margins (7-2)! The Flight team is now in strict training for the replay and will refuse to be intimidated by the staff's threats to charge us if we win.

Finally, 'B' Flight extend greetings to the 411 Entry who arrived in January and to the 118 Technicians who are joining us from 3 Wing.

DEFIANT FLIGHT

When 221 Entry arrived at Halton they were known as Dominie Flight within a few weeks. Their determined nature began to show and a request was made to change the Flight name to "DEFIANT". This was done and every member has been and still is determined to live up to its title.

Shortly after the Flight settled down in the everyday life of Halton it took part in activities and projects such as the Winterton House Old Folks' Home in Wendover.

The Flight also played an important part in the Motor Show last year which was in aid of charity. The Flight side shows made the most money on the day with a total of £15.00 profit despite a similar claim by Anson Flight. Defiant were way out in front. Also Anson were not the only ones who stayed behind to clean up. Defiant voluntarily spent a weekend cleaning up while Anson were still thinking about it. A second Motor Show is planned this year for the

29th July. We are now starting on the preparation early as we did last year.

Within the Flight a disco has been formed and music is piped through the block by C.A. Childs who thought of the idea and built the equipment with help from C.A.s Surtees and Rushworth.

A Group has also been formed called 'Fantasy'. This group won the 1 (A) Wing talent contest at Christmas and at that time the group stood at three members, C.A.s Clements (drummer), Henderson (lead guitarist) and Osgathorpe (acoustic guitarist). Since then C.A. Hadwin joined the group as (lead vocalist). Accompanying the group travels it's own mobile disco with C.A. Harrocks at the turntable.

On the sporting field C.A.s Ramsey and Bartley have represented the Station and also Bucks Youth football teams. C.A. Thomas has represented the Station Rugby and Basketball teams. Also on basketball C.A.s Clements and Campbell have represented the Station. Members of the Flight have taken part in just about every sport at Halton.



Who said 'Pull your finger out?'

Just before Christmas C.A.s Johnson and Slater were promoted to Leading Apprentices. These were the first of what we hope will be many from 221 Entry.

Another project in the Flight is a detailed study of the aircraft Defiant with information flooding in from everywhere and photographs galore. Recently the Flight found out that an unretrieved Defiant crashed into a lake at Valley and they are considering a recovery operation of this aircraft.

So in all Defiant Flight are making full use of their time at Halton and intend in 1972 to improve on last year's achievements.

* * *

The Defiant Disco

C.A. Childs

Before I joined up I was a member, along with my brother, of a mobile "disco" which was 'home made' from two similar decks.

When I arrived I was interested in the Radio Halton but discovered that it was no longer broadcasting. So I discussed it with our Flight Commander. I told him of the mobile disco, and he asked me if I could build a disco for our block. I accepted the task.

At first myself and two other apprentices built a large console to seat the decks but it was found to be too large for its purpose, so over the Christmas leave I designed another much smaller and compact console and it is now very near completion.

The equipment comprises:

- 2 Garrard SP25 Mk III decks
- 1 Mixer Unit
- 1 Amplifier (25 watts channel)
- 2 18" speakers in boxes.

I have taken full advantage of the ex-Radio Halton speaker system throughout the block. All that I have done is to reconnect all the speakers to one main source in the bunk and the speaker connects at the back of the amplifier to a main junction box for the speakers. All the rooms now have music throughout the evening.

The money to buy the necessary equipment has come from our Flight Fund; the total cost has been around £50, the decks costing £11.30 each and £2.37 for each stylus. The amplifier cost us only £25 which was a great bargain.

We hope to be able to hire the Disco out to other Flights for entry nights, pass outs, D-Rookie nights. You name it and we will do it. So if you would like to hire a disco for the night would you please contact C.A. Childs of "D" Flight, Room 1.

I would like to thank the Flight Commander, N.C.O.s and the remainder of the Flight for the support that C.A. Surtees, C.A. Rushworth and myself have been given during the building of our Flight Disco.

Defiant Flight Winterton House Project

Defiant Flight first heard about the Winterton House Old Folks' Home at the beginning of September last year after Mrs. Soutar had spoken to the flight about social work in this area. The first visit to the home by the two committee members was made on the 21st of that month.

The home is situated in a quiet spot in Wendover, but has easy access to the village shops.

The home started as a vicarage, and then as a home for wayward young ladies. The old house was then turned into an old folks' home, with four residents. In later years an extension was required, and it was completed in April 1965, having been started in 1964. Today the old part of the home is under repair. The new extension has mod. cons. such as a lift, central heating, push-button alarm system for the old folks and single or double bedrooms for the forty-three residents. Regular visits are made both during the working week i.e. sports afternoon and evenings, and at weekends. Much work has been done by the lads indoors and out. When the weather is fine gardening is done, a brick wall is being finished, and in the past few months a greenhouse has been erected, several old trees disposed of and gardens straightened up and lined up with brick boundary walls. Indoors, residents are taken to and from meals, taken to bed, shoes cleaned and general handiwork. Two ideas have been put forward for the building of an aviary and a summer house later on this year.

A few weeks before last Christmas a colour T.V. set was presented to the Home, by the Flight Commander on behalf of R.A.F. Halton. The T.V. was paid for out of the funds raised at last August's 'Motor Show'. Also the week before we went on Christmas leave, on the 16th December, a party was given for the old folks at the home by Defiant Flight. A full Christmas Dinner of turkey, etc. was laid on, followed by wines fruit etc. Entertainment included guitarists from the flight, L.C.A. Morrison who played bagpipes, and singing of carols by the lads who helped out. The evening was enjoyed by all, especially the residents who were truly grateful.

Everything we have done at the home has been appreciated immensely by the residents and the Matron and her staff, who, considering that they are understaffed, do a magnificent job.

Anyone wishing to help by means of donations should contact the O.C. Defiant Flight, F.O. D. A. Slatter. Any donations would of course, be greatly appreciated by the Home.



EAGLE FLIGHT

220 (P.) Entry, Eagle Flight are in agreement that it is time our voice was heard in the Halton Magazine.

The Entry started life at Halton on the 5th January 1971. After two nights in Lightning Flight, the propulsion class was moved, lock, stock and barrel, to Eagle Flight. After the odd tussle with 217 Entry we settled down to a state of "blissful harmony". We have much to thank the 217 Entry for, particularly their guidance in distinguishing between the right and wrong of Air Force life (mainly the wrong).

The sporting achievements of 220 (P.) Entry cover a wide selection of sports. L.C.A. Fowler and the inseparable Bamford twins have graced the apprentice hockey team on several occasions. C.A. Hughes is going great guns with the Station shooting team. L.C.A. Holloway has represented the Station at swimming and water-polo throughout the year, and last July earned a place in the apprentice Station canoeing team. Finally we must not forget C.A. Macdonald's epic performance in the long jump against Cosford and Locking.

A word about Flight Staff. We were sorry to lose Cpl. Robinson at the end of last year in preparation for his retirement from the Service.

We wish him well. We have been joined by Sgt. Nankivell, who is off any day now for a course at Colchester to learn how to look after prisoners of another type. Cpl. Hurrell is posted to Germany in April in order to watch the World Cup and the Olympic Games. Fg. Off. Tait, with one eye on having Saturday mornings off, has just got us through our Final G.S.K. exam, for which he has just been rewarded with a posting to R.A.F. Gatow, West Berlin.

Postscript by Flt. Cmdr.

In a week's time, the 217 Electricians (?) will be passing out and scattering to the four corners of the U.K. Since I took the Flight over, nearly two years ago, I can say that there has never been a dull moment — quiet moments, yes, usually spent in trying to discover what was happening behind the scenes. I wish the 217 the best of luck in their Service careers.

The 220 (P.) will shortly be joined by 50 apprentices from 3(A) Wing. To these apprentices, we extend a welcome and we look forward to welding them all together as one Flight as quickly as possible. I would like to thank Sgt. Nankivell and Cpl. Hurrell for their work on the Flight and wish them the best of luck when they leave on posting.

* * *



The Defiant

FURY FLIGHT

Although the millstone of the 115s has been lifted from our necks our return from the October leave saw us embarking on the daunting task of 'aping' the Regiment. With Anson Flight we stood by to undertake ceremonial jobs that would normally be done by the Queen's Colour Squadron. This delighted the drill instructors. However, apart from the tortuous sessions on the "Mad Acre" the period passed uneventfully and we were not called out. Just as well really! When it was all over the 2 flights departed gleefully on a 'thank-you' 48.

Soon after this epic we were again called on to do our thing in London for the King of Afghanistan. With the same apprentices standing on the same old kerb stones as last time the only novelty was provided by the packs of Afghan hounds which threatened to nip everyone's ankles.

After the Christmas break we again found ourselves pitted in a drill competition against our old rivals on Anson Flight. This time it was to decide which Flight should go forward to represent the Wing in the Guard of Honour competition. We lost, and in retrospect it proved a bright move. Poor Anson had to do another competition in appalling weather and lost to 2 Wing.

Finally with much groaning and complaining the occupants of Room One were squeezed

upstairs so that we could accommodate eleven surplus 226s from Gladiator. Welcome chaps, and good luck. With two years to run you will need it.

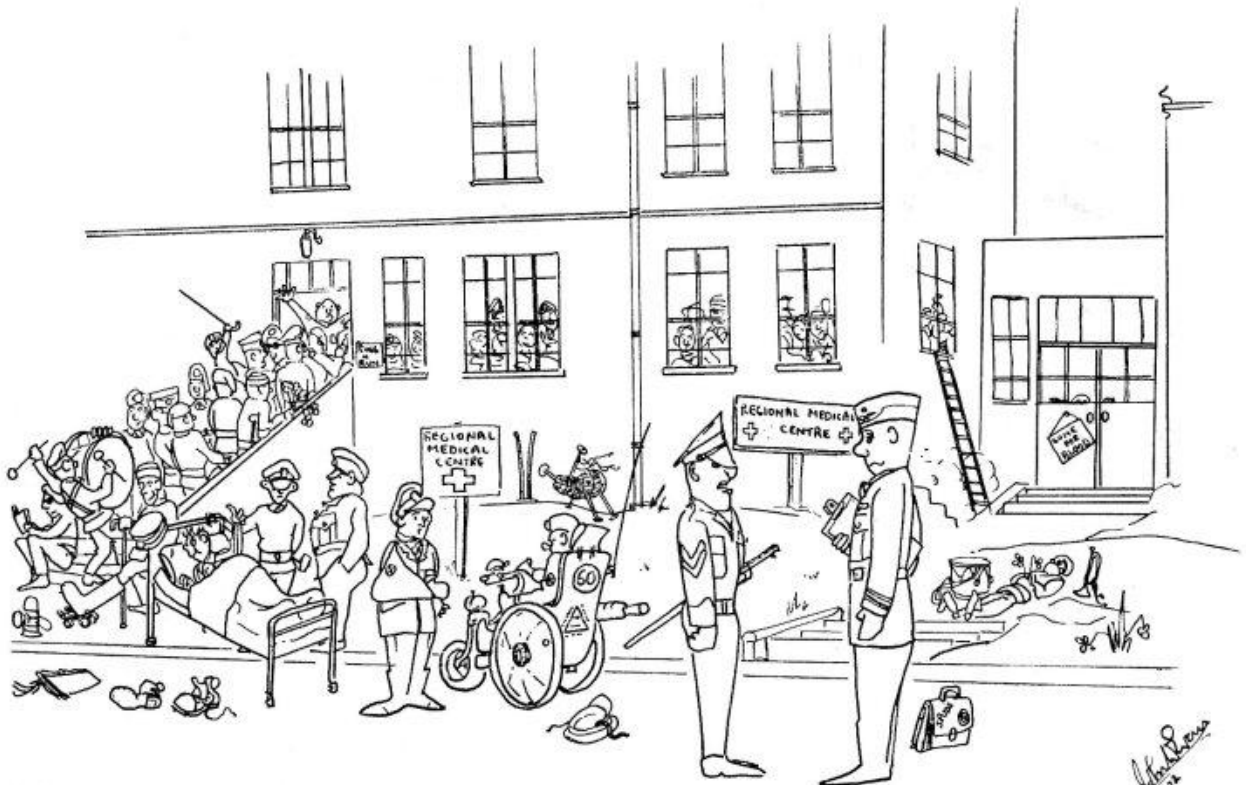
GLADIATOR FLIGHT

After a somewhat quiet and restful period since the departure of the 216 Entry, Gladiator Flight once again finds itself fully operational and noisy. The newcomers to the Flight are, of course, the 226 Entry who, by their arrival, necessitated the removal of the few remaining T.A.s to the 'serene' surroundings of the band block, Harrier Flight where, amongst the clatter and bangs of trumpets and drums, a new home was reluctantly made. Happily though now, they have all been allocated the long overdue bunks to which their seniority entitles them.

We say goodbye to two comrades, namely Rob Green and Pete Richards who have been granted University Cadetships and we wish them both the best of luck.

In January the 117s sat their final G.S.K. examination and obtained, need we say it?, excellent results.

Now for a few words about the 226s. On first appearances they seem a keen and intelligent lot and we think everybody has high expectations of them, perhaps even to emulation of the standards set by their predecessors. Already a few very keen sportsmen have come to light,



"IT SEEMS SOME FOOL STARTED A RUMOUR THAT THERE'S A FEMALE M.O.!"

one of whom is already in the Apprentice Soccer Team.

As far as the 117s are concerned all we have to look forward to now is our final Liberal Studies exam, final Airfields, and final Trade exams, all leading up to the magic event of passing out.

Footnote:

- i Latest from the 117 "underworld" F.S.T.A. (one-eye) Smith runs a squash racket.
- ii Does S.T.A. Pickering think there's a cup for trying to win B.K. single handed?

INVADER FLIGHT

Since the last Invader Flight note we have been through a large re-organisation; now all the block apprentice N.C.O.s are from 218 Entry, the 117 N.C.O.s having been evacuated to other blocks in order to raise the tone of the Wing in general.

To the 218th Entry graduation now seems very near. Schools finals were completed before Christmas, so now only the 217 Pass Out Parade, Airfields and Workshops finals stand in their way. The 117s have to soldier on until October but we are told that the money is worth waiting for.

On the sporting side C.C.A. Mike Phillips is still captain of the 1st XV while S.C.A. 'Jock' Johnstone has now relinquished rugby in favour of cross country running — he has already represented R.A.F. Training Command and is now training with a view to the R.A.F. Championships.

On the soccer front, C.C.A. John Sexton and C.A.s John Mulcahy and Roy Dawes have all played in the Wing B.K. Team. C.C.A. Bert Roberts and C.A.s 'Ed' Dawson, Abas and Barker play for the Wing and Station hockey teams. C.A. 'Jonah' Jones (441) is the captain of the Flight, Wing and Station shooting teams (Well done Jonah).

To pass on to more domestic happenings on the Wing, as far as we are concerned, during the festive season there was a Christmas party in No. 2 (A) Wing N.A.A.F.I. for some of the local underprivileged children — I think everyone will agree that it was a success, most of the planning and preparations for this party was by members of 218th. The 218s held a Disco and Dance on 22nd January. We have spoken to some of the girls who attended the dance and they all agreed it was one of the best that had been held on the Apprentice Wings.

218's last ceremonial duty was to provide Nos. 1 and 2 Flights to route-line for the King of Afghanistan, so now their only drill duties are to support the 217s pass out and (of course) to graduate from Halton on 27th April 1972. Meanwhile all the original 117s have made Apprentice N.C.O. rank and are looking forward to the October mass migration Parade.

* * *

JAVELIN FLIGHT

Javelin Flight bade farewell to 405 Entry on 22nd December 1971. Famous mechanics from the Entry were:

- M.A. Barrett—Colour Bearer. Highest in Order of Merit (All Subjects). Highest in Order of Merit (General Service Subjects).
- L.M.A. McGrogan—Parade Commander.
- L.M.A. Feltoe—No. 1 Flight Commander.
- M.A. Cummings—Highest in Order of Merit (Technical Subjects).
- M.A. Walker—Colour Warrant Officer.
- M.A. Rogers—Colour Escort.
- M.A. Pentecost—Colour Escort.

405's Pass Out Parade was the smallest Halton has ever seen; it must also have been the first ever to take place without the use of a parade square. This enlightened approach to pass out was typical of 405s who decided to abandon the mindless mark of destruction left by some other Entries, the numbers of which readily spring to mind. Instead they wisely spent their entire fortune on good living. The living was so good that the Flight staff were reduced to mere shadows of their former selves and were barely able to turn up for the P.O.P.

The 220s were not to be out done by 405 and contributed to the downfall of the Flight staff by holding a very educational dinner and cabaret. They also saw their 405 chums off by shouldering all the chores thrown up by the P.O.P. These chores were particularly annoying as they had to be performed on the last day of term. Predictably all records were broken for completion times of these jobs.

The whole Flight congratulates L.C.A. Dawson and his wife on the birth of their son on 23rd January 1972 and wishes them every happiness for the future.

This will most probably be the last report from Javelin Flight as the wheels have been set in motion for a change to the trendier name of Jaguar. There are also strong rumours that "Gentleman Jim" will be promoted out of the turmoil of the new blue Jaguar and that young Geoff will be carried off to recover from his 2½ years at Halton.

KESTREL FLIGHT

Congratulations are first due to Squadron Leader Blackburn, our erstwhile Flight Commander. He has done a great deal for Kestrel Flight and we are sorry to see him go, but wish him the best of luck in his new posting. At the same time we welcome our new Flight Commander, Flight Lieutenant Brown, also a navigator, and our new mascot Beau, who replaces Seamus.

The Flight have had a fair amount of success recently. We are fielding 2 soccer teams regularly in the Sunday League and occasionally manage 3 or even 4 teams. The first team is unbeaten this season, is top of the league and seems pretty certain of being there at the end of the season. The only team likely to give us

a hard game is Oxford Flight and we are confident we can beat them.

Not only the landlubbers have been busy. The swimmers have also done well. They won the Wing swimming trophy by a good margin, mainly through the effort they put in. Although not one team member won an event, they were so consistently in the first 3 that they won the trophy. Unfortunately their exertions tired them and they lost in the final of the water-polo competition. We must thank Cpl. Dickinson for training our swimming squad.

The enthusiasm for life in general and sport in particular within the Flight knows no bounds. Soccer players in particular give up a great deal of spare time to attend Cpl. Williams' torture sessions to keep fit, and regularly return from 36 hour passes on Sunday lunchtime to play. We are sure this enthusiasm will carry us on to even greater success in the coming months.

METEOR FLIGHT

With the trials and tribulations of infancy at Halton being successfully overcome, we now face the next eighteen months at our new "home", Meteor Flight, with renewed vigour. With our new accommodation we welcome a new Flight Commander, Flight Lieutenant G. R. Walker, from R.A.F. Benson. We wish his predecessor, Flight Lieutenant M. A. Taplin, every success for the future.

As we fall into the routine of Halton, the members of our Flight have started to make their mark at sport in the Station and Wing teams. Rugby, Soccer, Table Tennis, Shooting, Cross Country Running, Lawn Tennis, Basketball and Boxing have all had representatives from the Flight. A special mention must be made of Craft Apprentice Hill who represented the Station at Boxing in the Training Command Novice Championships, being narrowly defeated on points in the final. Our past success in the Drill competition was swiftly followed up by winning the Inter-Flight Shooting Competition in spite of fierce opposition from Invader Flight. Three of our marksmen went on to win their B.K. Colours and also to represent the Station teams.

Parents' Day was held on the 21st January 1972, and as is their prerogative, our parents controlled the elements and brought fine weather with them. The results of our hard work of the preceding three days were well rewarded and our parents were able to spend the day inspecting the scenes of our labours throughout the Station. Our thanks go to all the Staff of No. 1 School of Technical Training for making this a most enjoyable day and enabling our parents to have first hand knowledge of what Halton is all about.

NIMROD FLIGHT

The transfer of Sgt. Hodgson for a record fee to R.A.F. ... marked the conclusion of a

Taking advantage of the 2 Wing Christmas Party the Flight were able to mark his departure by publicly thanking him for all that he did for them, wish him well in his new appointment and congratulate him upon his long awaited and deserved promotion. Now that "Sir Alf" has gone the tie line to F.A. Headquarters has been disconnected and normal "running" traffic may resume.

Supporters from as far afield as Aylesbury witnessed the Flight badminton competition although why they should bring a basketball with them is a mystery. With Prescott, Martin and "Socks" Osborne in the Station Squad things look good for Nimrod here. Maybe we can look for another success to follow up that of the team led by Shelley in winning the Inter-Flight Water Polo Competition, which broke a long spell of being the Runners Up in various physical pursuits.

The schedule of Christmas activities in the final two weeks of the term required a great deal of hammering out, and not forgetting the D.E.A.S. entrants, chopping also. To those apprentices who decorated ward 12 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and required brushes and paint, why not have a look on the tree in Room 5? Or the Mini-tree in the Staff Office. A proposed Nimrod Flight Christmas Party, complete with room acts eventually became a Disco Party. L.T.N. 18 para 2 refers. Eventually in the operative word, having two thirds of the line group in hospital and with two minutes to go no disco, no lights, no group and worst of all no girls it looked like being a real "first" for Nimrod and not the success it finally proved to be. The group recovered their health and, being ably backed up by absent minded actors and Golden Shot experts, are congratulated on winning first prize in their category during the 2 Wing Christmas Party. They also entertained at a Children's Party in the N.A.A.F.I. over the period and accompanied the singing of carols in the Station Church. Finally, from the rear of a suitably decorated 3-ton track, provided the music for carols being sung by the Flight Choir to Wendover Old Folks, as gift parcels donated by them all were distributed.

Christmas Fare to Old Folks in Wendover

Many members of Nimrod Flight were surprised to find that local papers from Durham to Hampshire who named the individuals concerned had published the story of their project to provide Christmas Fare to selected old folks in Wendover, as the theme "Local boy makes good".

Preparations for the event began in the balmy days of Summer when the Flight group could be heard practising outside the block, and transacting huge amounts of money inside. The Selection of Carols required to be learnt was coordinated by C.A. Dawson and the group consisted of C.A. Berrino lead guitar, J.C.A. Ash-

No. 3 APPRENTICE WING NOTICES

When these notes appear 3 (A) Wing will be no more. The short modern history of the Wing began just over two years ago when the function was changed from that of reception and basic training to "straight-through" training. The Wing has shown in this relatively brief period that it has been more than the equal of its two rivals. The amenities within the Flights have improved beyond recognition. Every Flight has a coffee-bar, a library cum sitting room and each dormitory has its own study room.

Any sport that is played at Halton would find at least one member of the Wing representing the School. The exceptionally high standard achieved is reflected by the winning of both the Winter and the Summer Barrington-Kennet Trophy in succession. Several members of the Wing have gained recognition outside the Station teams. There has been a R.A.F. Swimming team representative, (C.A. Walkden 219 (T)) a R.A.F. Open Flyweight Boxing Champion, (M.A. Puzzar 406 (Q)) and Buckinghamshire County Rugby XV (L.C.A.s Yaffie and Curley 217 (Z)) to name but a few. The more exotic sports of four-man bobsleigh and sport parachuting have also had their following.

The Wing has provided substantial contingents for all ceremonial occasions — Route-Lining for State Visits, Battle of Britain Parades, Aylesbury's Mayor's Sunday and the Station Guard of Honour.

The various projects and activities of the Flight played a large part in the Wilkinson Sword being presented to the Station. These activities included helping at the International Paraplegic Games, giving assistance at Manor House Hospital, fund-raising by Marathon Cycling and Five-a-Side Soccer. Not all the help given was in the public eye. For example, the moving of scores of beds and mattresses from the top floor of Halton House was a drab and wearying task but the willingness with which it was carried out typified the spirit of all the efforts which have been made in social service and charity schemes.

Any organisation depends for its reputation upon people and 3 (A) Wing is of course no exception. We have our share of rogues and eccentrics (anyone who is prepared to jump from the top floor of a Barrack Block for five shillings must be included in the latter category) but these are soon forgotten. It is the day-to-day providers of a service who do so much to influence the morale and hence the reputation. The closing of the Wing also means the closing of the Mess and the N.A.A.F.I. W.O. (W) Ent-whistle and her staff will be remembered by all for the consistently high standard of meals produced in the Mess and in particular for the superb, gargantuan Christmas Dinners.

Miss Robinson has been with 3 (A) Wing N.A.A.F.I. for over three years and her efforts provide cheerful and efficient service.

hours of relaxation and pleasure to hundreds of apprentices.

This note would not be complete without mention of the Wing Warrant Officer, W.O. Elliot retires from the R.A.F. in April after 34 years of service in almost every part of the world. This is his second tour at Halton giving him a total of seven years here. His normally quiet speaking voice which can when occasion demands put Stentor to shame will be remembered by very many Haltonians — few escaped his attention! Many Officers will also remember his skilled (and firm) instruction in sword drill. We wish him and his wife all the best in their retirement from the R.A.F. Another departure from the Wing is that of Sgt. (W.) Smith. Our hearty congratulations go with her as she leaves Halton for officer training at R.A.F. O.C.T.U. Henlow.

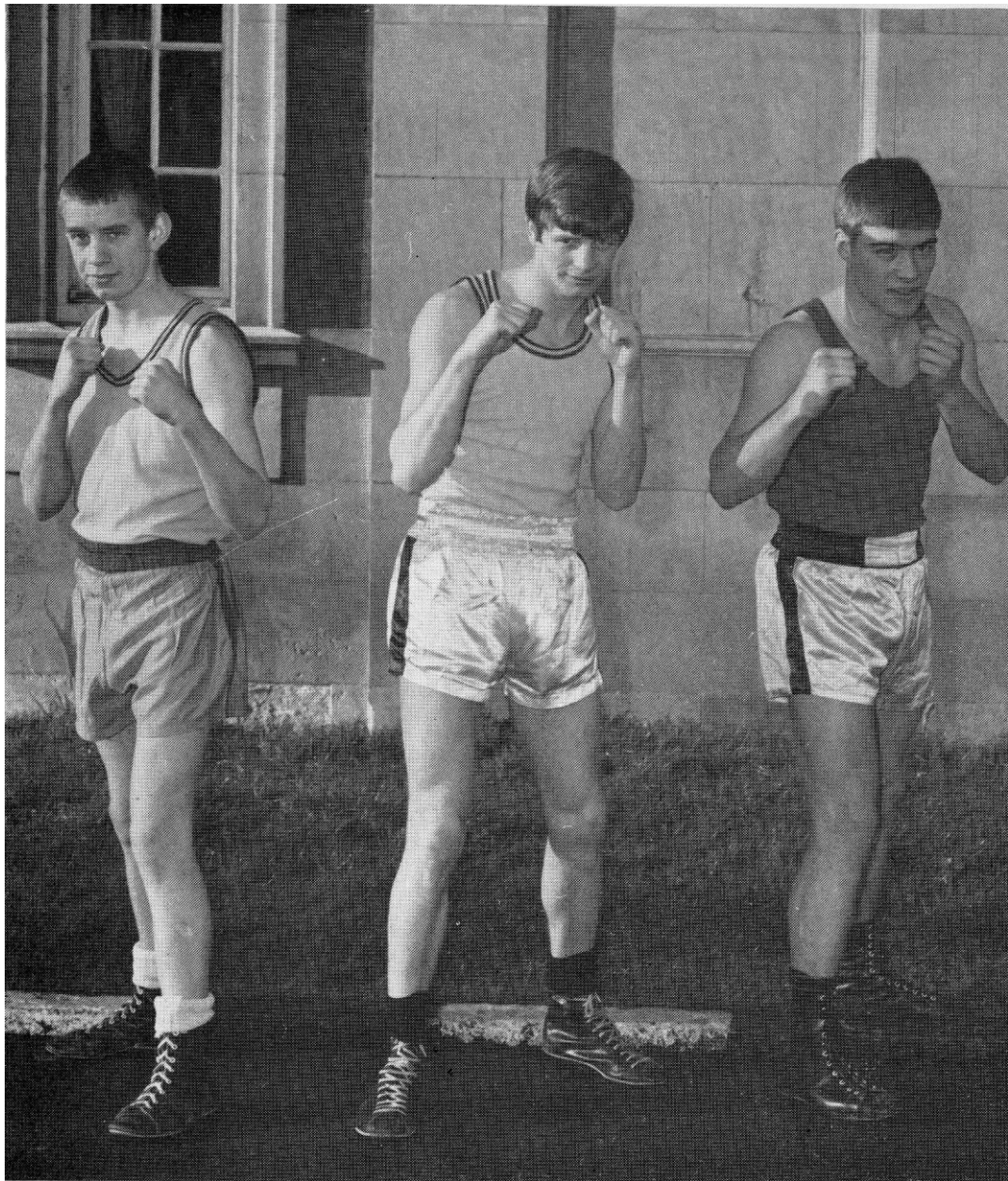
No. 3 Apprentice Wing has certainly made its impression on Halton, sometimes, as with the Main Point bus-shelter, in a visible and tangible way (is it true that 3 Wing is being closed so that Cpl. Willis can re-build 1 and 2 Wings?) Perhaps the Wing has the qualities of the Phoenix and will rise again.

QUEBEC FLIGHT

The wheel has turned almost full circle since we last appeared in these columns: we welcomed in the 406 Entry then and now they will have graduated before you read this, so it is very right and proper to record their achievements. A year may seem a long time at the beginning of training but in reality it is too short for a mechanic entry to establish itself at Halton, win some publishing space off that other Wing, and graduate all in the time it takes a Craft Entry to reach their intermediate exam. Nevertheless, the 406 has made its mark and been a force to be reckoned with on 3 (A) Wing as many will testify.

The 406 has made some impressive individual achievements in sport starting with 5 School colours and culminating in L.M.A. Hill's winning the javelin in the Training Command Athletics and M.A. Puzzar's remarkable success in becoming the R.A.F. Open Flyweight Boxing Champion which, as far as is known, is the first time that an apprentice has held an R.A.F. Boxing title. In the other sports M.A.s Eastoe and Lees have played regularly for the Station rugby 2nd XV and M.A. Plummer earned his colours at Badminton. M.A.s Williams and Woolfenden won their colours shooting full-bore for the Station at Bisley, and M.A. Routh, when not marshalling for the Halton Motor Club rallies, earned his colours at that most masochistic sport—Cross Country.

After R. & I. Camp the block was full of girls over the Summer Leave, having first been cleared of apprentices, of course. In their absence Quebec Flight hosted the P H A R 71 course...



Left to right: Mech. App. A. J. Puzzar; Cpl. P. J. Moyse; Ldg. Cft. App. C. Austin.

Three boxers from R.A.F. Halton were in the R.A.F. Individual Boxing Championship held on the 12th January 1972 at R.A.F. Brize Norton.

Cpl. P. J. Moyse won on points to become R.A.F. Featherweight Champion; Mechanic Apprentice A. J. Puzzar won on points to become the R.A.F. Flyweight Champion—the first time an Apprentice has ever won an R.A.F. Championship; and Leading Craft Apprentice C. Austin won on points to become the R.A.F. Bantamweight Champion.

accommodate the wheel-chairs on the ground floor. 406 Entry were helpers at the 1971 Paraplegic Games and also at the Biggin Hill Battle of Britain Air Display in September when the 408 Entry were away to Llangurig. They say it was too cold at night to sleep, but too foggy to find it in the dark.

We hear that Jnr. Tech. Lewis of 214 Entry is now training as an A.E. Op. and several others send in their news of the good life in the R.A.F. all over the world. Meanwhile, back at the ranch things are changing and 3 (A) Wing will soon be no more. We shall have to leave behind the results of all the hard work done in the block. Phase I produced the finest coffee bar at Halton; rumour has it that Phase II would stock it with go-go girls. No such luck now for we are all moving on and Sgt. Murphy, soon to start his seventh year at Halton, is keeping his fingers firmly crossed.

RAPIDE FLIGHT

Farewell to 218

This issue of our magazine affords us the opportunity to say farewell to the 218 Entry of Rapide Flight which will pass out in April, and it is appropriate therefore to honour the Flight by recording some of their noteworthy contributions and achievements in their two years at Halton.

The lads had barely settled down at 3 (A) Wing when they got involved with the International Paraplegic Games held at Stoke Mandeville, assisting first with the accommodation arrangements and then at the numerous competitions which are held over a period of two weeks which meant sacrificing several evenings and a week-end.

Christmas 1971 — and the 'boys' were once again in their element formulating plans for charitable activities and these culminated in splendid work at Manor House Hospital Aylesbury which has about one hundred and fifty handicapped children, the majority being very severely handicapped physically and mentally. There were seven wards in all and each had a Christmas tree which was decorated by the apprentices. An abundance of goodies, crackers and the like were contributed. The Flight then entertained the children with a musical programme and while this was in progress those children who were unable to feed themselves were fed and washed by the boys—a remarkable effort for some of the lads who, although they were shocked at the condition of the children, nevertheless participated in amusing and entertaining them.

Please remember that the award of the Wilkinson Sword to Halton was made on three major items of charitable work and two of these were the deeds of 218. So hats off to 218 and particularly to C.C.A. Whitmore who was the cor-

guish themselves in the muscles games some obtained School colours, namely C.A. Mellor for representing Halton's Apprentice Tennis team, C.A.s Holbrook and Kernaghan for Rugby, C.C.A. Blankley for Judo and C.C.A. Andrews for Fencing.

We must mention L.C.A. Ford and his heroic syndicate who set up a record 16 hrs. 11 mins. for the three day expedition at camp and did a fantastic 3 hrs. 50 mins. for the marching leg to Llangurig, this latter time was achieved with the assistance of the redoubtable Pete Smith (Flight Lieutenant B.S.W.—Sir! to you), who paced the boys (he had no pack remember!) for the final chapter of this epoch making march. The camp expedition proved useful for C.A. Henderson in that his main project for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award required a physiological survey of a number of apprentices' cardiac reaction "art beats" to those few who have not got links with trainee nurses, those poor lasses are going to miss Menzies except the two who have retired to "somewhere in Lincolnshire". Switching to the academic achievements of 218, we are very proud that we could not pass all our exams without several "re-sits", and it is only our modesty which prevents the naming of our heroes in capital letters. Seriously however!—our congratulations go to the Royal Malaysian Air Force chaps C.C.A. Han, L.C.A. Peoh and C.A. Hamzah who obtained two "O" levels, three "O" levels and one "O" level respectively whilst at Halton, and to C.C.A. Scott for his "O" level pass in English. 'Come the great revolution' says Teoh, he will be the P.M. appointing Han as C.A.S., obviously 1 S. of T.T. does find some with great ambition.

Looking forward to pass-out day we shall have drumming the victory beat three stalwarts of the Rapide Soccer XI who became proficient drummers in the Band, C.A.s Bennett, Danks and Shaw.

TYPHOON

219 Entry were pleased to see the completion of their first year's training—a year into which they had put a great deal of work, including being the only Flight in the history of 1 S. of T.T. to complete R. & I. training without any apprentice falling by the wayside. In this year members of the Flight represented the Station on the sports field and Walkden for the Royal Air Force.

In November 219 were joined by 120th Entry Dental Technicians, seven in number, who very shortly moulded into the Flight.

However, the coming year holds far more changes for us, Sgt. 'Daddy' Lewis has been promoted to Flight Sergeant and is posted in April and 3 (A) Wing is to be closed and we must move to new premises — but at the moment it's still "business as usual". Whereas we congratulate Sgt. Lewis on his promotion

WELLINGTON FLIGHT

The 116 Entry have large wall graphs in their rooms at present, counting off the days to their pass out in April but enjoying immensely their Airfield Training Phase. To their surprise the aircraft the service are actually starting up — well most of them anyway. The occasional aircrew member has cast a worried eye in the hangar to see how the future cream of the Technician world is shaping up and noting down any tendencies for the appearance of the phrase "Ground tested and found serviceable — no fault found".

S.T.A. Smith represented the Wing in the all-conquering B.K. hockey side and plays for the Station. S.T.A. Russell's kilt is still to be seen swirling around masculine knees that girls swoon over while piping at shows all over the country. Finally F.S.T.A. Hull is rumoured to be going on a crash diet to bring back his former trim figure won on the playing fields and now lost in the social whirl of Wing Flight Sergeant.

The 118 Entry in Wellington has been very quiet recently because of the impending O.N.C. examinations and there are unusual signs of frenzied academic activity behind the scenes. Soon afterwards they sit their 4th Progress exam which involves yet another pay rise. This is one exam that they will all pass with academic colours which will set an Entry record no doubt!

T.A. Haslem is going to represent 3 (A) Wing in B.K. basketball and T.A. Durno for badminton. L.T.A. Wisbey spends his time scraping paint off sailing boats imagining sea breezes and azure skies along with recent technological progresses in the realms of mechanical scrapers. T.A. Amphlett is preparing to spend time with the Mountain Rescue team at Easter and furiously practising his first aid, dirty jokes and tankard forearm muscles — tough customers these mountaineers.

The 220 A.Fitt.A.s and W.s are poised to start a spending spree on their second year pay and beginning to appreciate that they are half-way to their Pass Out.

They recently held a 50-hr. non-stop charity football match: for the statistically minded; 1654 goals were scored, 30 bottles of squash consumed, and £100 raised in Aid to Mental Welfare — allegations that the choice of charity has significance to staff were strenuously denied.

C.A. Robertson, L.C.A. Mugford and C.A. Smith (Gareth) were busy ploughing up rugby pitches and opposing players all winter. Smith gained a trial for the Bucks County under 18 side and Mugford gained a trial for the Apprentices Youth Schools side. Congratulations to C.A. Scourfield who culminates a successful fencing season with his appointment as captain of the Apprentice Fencing Team. C.A.s Jack, Good, Greetham and Holt all took part in the B.K. Trophy this winter, and C.A. Marr came a respectable 13th in the R.A.F. chuck gliding championships this year.

Finally and sadly "W" Flt. is soon to close

down and we should have guessed earlier when the carpenter arrived with new doors. They will certainly need a few new windows as well — the Flt. Cdr. is investing heavily in glass company shares in the expectation of spectacular profits. Still, we are sure that it won't be long before it is re-opened with some new bewildered recruits — a pity that we won't all be here to see it happen.

YORK FLIGHT

The Entry attested on 1st July 1971 at a total strength of 73 but has now reduced to 62 with one member unfortunately in Hospital: C.A. Myers having been admitted for an operation to a particularly awkward spot. He was unlucky to be in Hospital over Christmas but I hear from the Hospital Staff that he thoroughly enjoyed himself even if he wasn't able to sit down. We hope to have him back soon.

The Entry arrived at Halton just in time to make out their leave passes for the Summer Break of three weeks leave in August.

This was followed by hectic preparations for and execution of, a very successful Parents' Day on 26th November 1971. Over 130 parents and other guests were entertained in York Flight. The Barrack Block had had much hard work carried out, and plenty of paint added to it, to make it a most attractive spectacle for both parents and inmates alike. This Barrack Block had the added advantage of having been completely redecorated in April last year. Coffee and biscuits were provided non-stop by C.A. Christopher Lowe and his assistants, other Flight apprentices who had no parents or family visiting that day. The organisation worked smoothly throughout the day thanks to all their efforts.

The 'Coffee Bar' had been a self-help Flight achievement, with the Flight Fund providing the cash for paint, formica and half the cost of the Electric Oven, and the manpower in the shapes of C.A.s Thomson, Godden, Carter, Steeples and Hovey providing the carpentry and expertise required in providing the excellent, and professional looking bar counter. The psychedelic wall colourings, not exactly to the Flight Commander's taste, were also applied by the same quintet.

Meanwhile C.A. Lowe had taken on single handed the furnishing and complete decoration of the Flight Library, starting from scratch in a bare disused bunk. He bought the paint for the walls, and repainted the four sets of shelves in Hard Gloss blue and white panels alternatively, making this time a very pleasant contrast, with the pale pink walls and white ceiling. He has now built the library up to well over 250 books and this is run by him solely, he being responsible for booking in and out of all books. Flight members keep adding to the books; as they buy, and finish reading current paper-backs which are donated. Thus the Library is kept up to date in reading material.

The rest of the Flight have all helped in gen-

eral painting and decorating of the Flight and extra attraction has been added by the paintings, purchased out of Flight Funds, for the Recreation Room and Coffee Bar. The Flight pays a monthly rental for its 24" Colour Television set, donated by each apprentice.

In spite of the Entry having only been here for just over six months some outstanding sporting personalities have been found, C.A. Squires having represented R.A.F. Halton apprentices at Athletics and Basketball. He came 4th in the 1500 metres and has had about 15 games of Basketball for the Halton apprentice team. He will also be representing the 3 Wing team in the Inter-Wing Basketball Championships in February. C.A. Sawyer has represented R.A.F. Halton apprentices at Rugby 17 times and scored 3 times to date. He was also a member of the winning B.K. Rugby 3 Wing Team and the Inter-Schools Championship team which beat R.A.F. Cosford 28 pts. to 3 pts. C.A. Shepherd has also represented Halton at Rugby in the 3rd XV on two occasions.

On the occasion of the 3 (A) Wg. B.K. Hockey Competition, 3 Wing team were short of players so C.A.s Jones (065), Tanner, Stewart and Wright volunteered to turn out even though they were complete novices, one never having held a stick before. Thanks to them 3 Wing won the Hockey by beating 1 Wing by 6 goals to 1 and drawing 0-0 against 2 Wing.

At Soccer C.A.s Fishburn and Ryan have represented the Wing, Fishburn has been selected for the 1st year Apprentice Team Squad, and Ryan plays regularly in the R.A.F. Halton Apprentices 1st Team.

As well as being Librarian C.A. Lowe has represented 3 Wing in the B.K. Cross Country Championships in which his team came second and is a full time member of the Station Cross Country Squad. He should do well in the Athletics Season this year as he runs the 5000 metres and was running for the Hereford Athletics Club 'A' team last year.

In the R.A.F. Apprentice Badminton Championships C.A. Deakin was one of the Halton Apprentice Doubles Finalists. C.A.s Rogers, Dorman and Reynolds are all members of the R.A.F. Halton Apprentice Angling team. In training now for the B.K. Boxing Trophy are C.A.s Wilson and Scott, who hope to represent 3 (A) Wing in February 1972.

Also No. 223 entry are great supporters of the three R.A.F. Halton Apprentices Bands, having no less than eleven Bandsmen split up as follows:

Pipe Band

C.A.s Davidge (Pipes)
Gingell (Side Drum)
Jenkins (Side Drum)
Lynch (Base Drum)

Brass Band

C.A.s Stockton (2nd Cornet)
Melves (1st Cornet)

Trumpet Band

C.A.s Foster (077) (Trumpet)
Reynolds (Trumpet)

And finally to prove that the Entry is not "all brawn and no brains" the following successes have recently been published in G.C.E. 'O' Levels obtained by the following apprentices of 223 Entry:

C.A. 062 Stockton, English Language
C.A. 018 Hearfield, Mathematics
C.A. 035 Squires, Mathematics
C.A. 025 Jenkins, English Language

The Entry Night Party to be held in the Sergeants' Mess Annex No. 1 Apprentice Wing has been arranged for Saturday 26th February 1972, being the 223rd day after attestation. All funds have been donated by the apprentices themselves and it is hoped that a very enjoyable evening will be had by all. C.A. Dunne has taken on the complete organisation of this event and congratulations to him for accepting such a mammoth task.

ZEPPELIN FLIGHT

The Flight bids farewell to Halton at the end of February in more than one sense; all the members of the Flight, comprising the 'airframe' element of 217 Entry, graduate on 24th February, and the block will be handed over to the Station on 29th February. Everyone eagerly awaits the pass-out date and the new life that will follow, but there is always a touch of sadness about these occasions, when one has to part with so many friends.

Reviewing the achievements over the past two years, the Flight has been principally noted for its sporting record, particularly on the Rugby Field. Curley, Darby, Yaffie and Smith P. J. all played consistently well for the School Rugby XV and have been awarded colours. Colours have also been awarded to Grandpierre, Moyes and Skelton for Fencing, to Middleton for Swimming, to Morse and Jeffery for Boxing, to Barron for Soccer, to Brownlie for Athletics, to Ward for Canoeing, and to Fields and Byrne for Angling.

The Flight has had an unusually high contingent in the Apprentice Bands. Robertson was promoted to Band C.C.A. and Shelley reached the position of 1st class drum-major in the Pipe Band. Zeppelin also held the Guard of Honour commitment for a record period of time, from July 1971 to February 1972. In that period they also took part in the Mayor's Day Parade of Aylesbury in June 1971, the Battle of Britain Parade in Aylesbury on 19th September 1971 and the Lord Mayor's Parade in London on 14th November 1971.

There were no candidates eligible for commissioning at the end of the course — the Flight always has been a red-blooded lot — but C.A. Drury distinguished himself by winning the Philip Sassoon Award; we congratulate him for

OLD HALTONIANS

FAREWELL SKIP

Readers of the August 1971 edition of the Magazine and Old Haltonians who have corresponded with the Honorary Secretary in the last few months will have been aware of the impending retirement of Squadron Leader (Skip) Skerrett from the job of Honorary Secretary and from the Royal Air Force. Skip's retirement finally occurred on 22nd December 1971 having been Honorary Secretary for six years. From the letters I have received so far one fact is paramount; that Skip performed a difficult task with great enthusiasm and energy and, surprisingly, achieved a good measure of success in fostering comradeship among Old Haltonians.

On behalf of all Old Haltonians I extend many thanks to Skip for his excellent work and wish him a long and happy life.

HELP !

The Old Haltonians are a group of people now numbering nearly 30,000 who have successfully completed a course of training at No. 1 S. of T.T. It would appear to be one of the most loosely knit associations in the world since it has no Roll of Membership other than the graduation lists, and its members pay no fees. In November 1970 a committee was formed to help further interest in the association and efforts are being made to obtain a President. The committee consists of any member who is willing and able to attend a meeting once or twice a year and if possible represent the views of a group of other members. Meetings are chaired by the Senior Training Officer No. 1 S. of T.T.

My task as Honorary Secretary is to maintain a link with the membership by answering, wherever possible, queries raised in personal correspondence and give news of forthcoming activities through those

members brave enough to act as representatives within the Ministries, Headquarters, Units and Industry. I should also be responsible for correlation of articles from members for publication in the Halton Magazine. Hence my cry for help. The Old Haltonian section of the magazine is generally set aside for news, views, reminiscences and even articles of educational value from Old Haltonians to Old Haltonians and present Apprentices. Unfortunately this aspect of the task has failed to materialise and, as a newcomer to the job, I do not apologise for giving another reminder. Someone somewhere wants an article from you! That someone is the Hon. Sec. here at Halton.

PINK CHITS

Are you in an area populated by other Old Haltonians? If so why not get together, it is a good excuse for a pink chit.

* * *

73 Robin Hood Crescent
Knaphill
Woking, Surrey.

The Editor
The Halton Magazine
Royal Air Force Halton
Nr. Aylesbury, Bucks.

Dear Sir,

Further to your request for material for the Halton Magazine from Old Haltonians, as the Old Haltonian representative at B.A.C. Weybridge I am trying to remedy this for you. We intend to obtain a comprehensive list of those Old Haltonians who are employed here, together with a group photograph.

In the meantime please find the enclosed photograph which is very similar to one which appeared in the December 1971 issue of "AIRFRAME" the B.A.C. Company Newspaper. Pictured 3rd from the right, wearing a coat with a simulated fur collar, is Mr. Dave Stallworthy (57th) who was the flight foreman. The story which accompanied the photograph reads as follows:-



* * *

"The fourteenth and last Pembroke to be re-sparred at Weybridge, left Brooklands last month for return to the R.A.F.

The re-sparring programme completed by Weybridge which has continuing responsibility for all former Hunting transport aircraft, means an extra 10-15 years service life for the Pembroke, which first entered service in the early 1950s.

The last aircraft was given a fond farewell by erecting shop men led by Dave Stallworthy (flight foreman) and the flight trials crew, before being flown out by One-eleven Chief Pilot Roy Radford".

Dave Stallworthy joined the R.A.F. with No. 57 entry at Halton as a trainee Airframe Fitter; the 57th were accommodated in No. 2 Wing. After graduation he was selected for aircrew training which led to a Commission

left the R.A.F. in 1954 and up to joining what was then Vickers Aircraft he worked first for Airwork and then Hawkers as an Airframe Fitter. Upon joining Vickers Dave worked on the Vanguard and subsequently by the T.S.R.2, V.C.10 and B.A.C. 1-11 aircraft, being involved mainly with the final systems function testing and flight clearance.

During his spare time, that is from 1954 to 1965, Dave was a part time soldier being commissioned as a Captain in the Royal Engineers and later the Royal Corps of Transport, Commanding 485 and 430 T.P., 165 Sqdn., R.C.T. Army Emergency Reserve.

I hope that this material will be of use to you and if I can assist you in any other ways please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,