

223 ENTRY

223 Entry arrived at Halton on 30.h June, 1971 and was attested on July 1st. After the sorting of classes was completed, the entry comprised of two classes of Airframe apprentices, one class of Propulsion apprentices, and one class of Ground Electrical apprentices.

The entry immediately showed sporting capabilities in both athletics and cricket, by supplying the station teams of both sports. Also, as both trade and educational studies progressed, only those who could adjust to the pace of work remained within the entry. A number of apprentices decided to either re-trade or leave the R.A.F.

As winter approached, the accent was once more on sport, despite the decreased strength of the entry. Both football and cross-country were a main feature, the cross-country team finishing an honourable third against senior opposition, in the inter-flight tournament.

Time passed, and during February, the whole entry moved from the Maitland area of the camp to the Henderson area. The entry managed to overcome the inconvenience of the move, and settled down after a period of intense spring cleaning. At this time, there was a major change in the chain of flight staff; Flt. Lt. Chew replaced Flt. Lt. Plumpton and Sgt. Thomas replaced Sgt. Meeham. Only Cpl. Young remained of the original flight staff.

Towards the end of spring, the entry began its phase of training in preparation for the summer camp. The training reached its zenith with the "Dunstable Week-end Expedition". The entry achieved exceptional results, in the worst weather experienced for years. Casualties were minimal, the last syndicate arriving at a belated time of 22.30 hrs. An improvement in weather conditions on the return journey was welcomed by all, resulting in the general enjoyment of the whole week-end.

After the calm, the storm, and the G. Fitt. (E)'s were the first to sample the delights of summer camp in Montgomery,

N. Wales. The Airframes and Propulsion classes followed later; they achieved the distinction of every member completing the main three-day expedition, clocking up the second fastest time overall for the whole summer. They once more experienced the worst weather of the summer, however, during the one day walk to Ford, one syndicate experiencing mild exposure.

After the return from summer camp, the entry set its sights on making an impact at the R.A.F. Halton Motor Show. With contributions from both the 119 and 120 entries who lived in the same flight, this was totally achieved. However, the project would not have been so successful without the help of Cpl. Hogan, who had replaced Cpl. Young on the flight staff after summer camp. The total effort produced a "plate smash" side-show. Old crockery, having been collected from the whole camp by the entire flight was supplied in huge amounts. Profits of over £30 at the end of the day, earned the side-show the best static stall award. This was the only consolation to the fantastic amount of cleaning up that had to be done.

Peace returned to 223 entry, as our second winter at Halton approached. Apprentices were selected to represent the station in football, cross-country and long distance canoeing, among other sports. Once again the entry achieved third place in the inter-flight cross-country tournament.

The entry returned from Christmas leave only to learn that they were to move, once again, to another part of the camp. The move was completed from Henderson to Groves, in time for the ceremonial spring cleaning season. The move was accompanied by a further change in flight staff; Flt. Lt. Yates replaced Flt. Lt. Chew, and Sgt. Wiseman replaced Sgt. Thomas.

223 Entry would like to thank the numerous members of staff associated with our stay at Halton, on all three areas of the camp, especially those whose names we have been unable to mention.