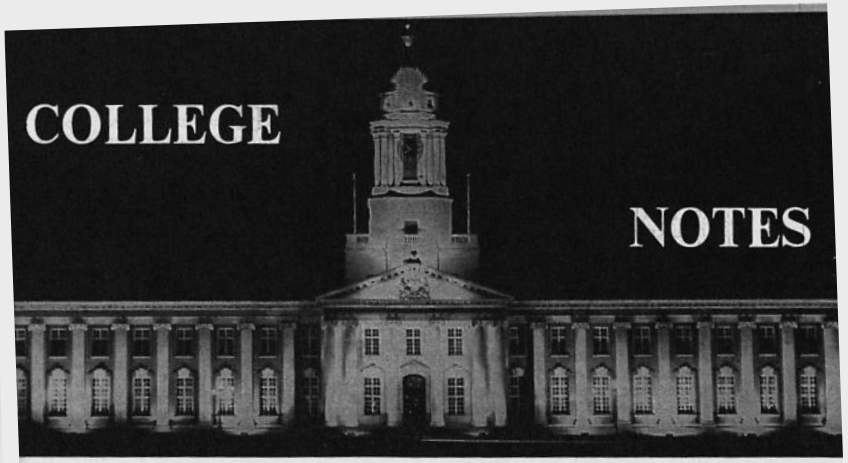
RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL
College Journal Extracts

1978

1978 - College Notes (1)

Air Vice-Marshal D Harcourt-Smith DFC Air Officer Commanding and Commandant



THE COMMANDANT

AIR VICE-MARSHAL D HARCOURT-SMITH DFC RAF

Air Vice-Marshal David Harcourt-Smith succeeded Air Vice-Marshal Edward Colahan as Air Officer Commanding and Commandant of the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on 28 January 1978. Air Vice-Marshal Harcourt-Smith was born in Singapore in 1931. He was educated at Felsted School, trained as a Flight Cadet at the Royal Air Force College, and was commissioned into the Royal Air Force in 1952. He has served in a number of Fighter / Ground-Attack squadrons and took part in the Suez campaign in 1956 for which he was awarded the DFC. He has commanded Nos 6 and 54 Squadrons equipped with Phantoms and Hunters respectively, and from 1972 to 1974 he was Commanding Officer of Royal Air Force Bruggen in Germany. His staff appointments have included tours as a member of the Defence Planning Staff in the Ministry of Defence, a Group Captain in the Royal Air Force Central Tactics and Trials Organisation, and most recently as Director of Operational Requirements in the Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence, responsible for the procurement of future aircraft and weapons.

The *Journal* extends a warm welcome to the Air Marshal, his wife Mary and their family.

1978 - Lead Article (1)

SINGLE GATE INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING

In 1977 the Air Force Board decided that, in future, entry to commissioned service in the Royal Air Force would be through a 'single gate' located at the Royal Air Force College. Since then the phrase 'single gate initial officer training' (SGIOT) has become an essential and constantly recurring phrase in the vocabulary of all those involved in the formulation of future training plans. For an insight into the origins of this important development and an appreciation of the impact it will have upon the Cranwell scene, it is necessary to review some of the related events of the past 15 years and the current organization which has resulted from them.

The Royal Air Force Technical College at Henlow merged with the Royal Air Force College in 1965 to become the Department of Engineering located in the custom-built Trenchard Hall. Technical cadets lived alongside flight cadets and received their officer training in the Department of Cadets. The decision to discontinue both the Flight Cadet and the Technical Cadet Schemes in favour of the University Graduate Scheme led to the arrival in 1971 of the first university graduates to receive their initial officer training at Cranwell. The last of the old-style cadets graduated with No 101 Entry in March 1973.

The year 1973 saw another major development for the College. The Royal Air Force College of Air Warfare at Manby closed and the training conducted there was transferred to the new Department of Air Warfare (DAW) which opened at Cranwell in January 1974. Training accommodation for the DAW was made available in one wing of the Whittle Hall which underwent considerable modification in preparation for its new task. Previously, the area had contained laboratories and lecture rooms for the use of the old Basic Studies Wing, part of whose function was to provide a scientific and technical education for cadets. With the introduction of the Graduate Entry Scheme, it proved possible to reduce this commitment significantly and to transfer what remained to the Trenchard Hall.

To these and several other changes, the College has reacted by making the necessary adjustments in organization and redistribution of accommodation and facilities in order to provide for the expanded range of training activities now concentrated at Cranwell. Titles and taskings have changed quite rapidly, the Department of Cadets, for example, becoming the Department of Officer and Flying Training, before assuming its present title of the Department of Initial Officer Training (DIOT), and the Department of Engineering being replaced by the Department of Specialist Ground Training (DSGT). In view of the possible confusion, it may be advisable to remind the reader of the current College organization.

The College, under the command of the AOC and Commandant, has group status within Royal Air Force Support Command. The various training functions are discharged by :

a. The DAW, which is responsible for the postgraduate training of a wide cross-section of officers drawn mainly from the GD Branch.

b. The DIOT, which conducts initial officer training and exercises functional control of the 16 University Air Squadrons.

c. The DSGT, which provides mainly for the professional training of officers of the Engineer, Supply and Administrative (Secretarial) Branches.

d. Flying Wing, Royal Air Force Cranwell, which is responsible for basic and intermediate pilot training for some 50 per cent of new pilots entering the Service. Royal Air Force Cranwell also provides administrative support for the whole College.

In 1966, the Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU) moved from Feltwell to Henlow taking over the accommodation vacated by the Technical College. The Aircrew Officer Training School at South Cerney merged with the OCTU in 1969 and since then Cranwell and Henlow have provided the only 2 points of entry into commissioned service. With the graduation of No 101 Entry from Cranwell in 1973, both establishments were conducting essentially similar initial officer training programmes. Although Cranwell trainees were all university graduates, some university graduates completed their initial officer training at Henlow. The stage was set for the eventual merger of the OCTU and the DIOT.

The decision to introduce SGIOT at the College was based upon studies which confirmed that the syllabus for initial officer training at Cranwell was basically the same as that of the OCTU at Henlow. Furthermore, there was no noticeable difference in the standard of performance in early appointments between the Cranwell and Henlow products. The merging of the 2 courses at Cranwell will make available to all the unique environment of the College, encouraging the creation of an improved esprit de corps.

Some progress towards the implementation of SGIOT is already evident. The AOC and Commandant assumed responsibility for OCTU training in July 1978 when Royal Air Force Henlow joined the College Group. Ten students who are not university graduates began their training on No 34 Course in the DIOT in December 1978. Plans have been developed for a gradual build-up of activity in the DIOT culminating in the full implementation of SGIOT during 1980. The College is therefore poised on the brink of the most momentous training development of recent years.

At present the DIOT accepts only 2 courses of 60 students at any one time. Sometimes only one course is in residence. By the summer of 1980, it will be possible to accommodate almost 500 students under training continuously, yielding an annual output of approximately 1200 new officers. Clearly the DIOT will need access to a great deal more domestic and training accommodation. The impact of these demands will make itself felt throughout the College. An extensive programme of works services has been scheduled and is already well under way.

The DSGT has been reorganized to release a large volume of training accommodation in the Trenchard Hall. After the necessary

1978 - Lead Article (2)

modifications have been completed, the DAW will transfer from the Whittle Hall to this new location. The DIOT will expand into the space vacated by the DAW and will then occupy the whole of the Whittle Hall.

To provide the additional domestic accommodation required by the DIOT, a barrack block in the East Camp is to be made available and the old Junior Cadets' Mess is to be reopened. In the recent past, students undergoing initial officer training in the DIOT have lived in the College Hall Mess together with officers undergoing initial specialist training in Flying Wing or the DSGT. In the future DIOT students will spend their first 6 weeks in the East Camp area, their second 6 weeks in the Junior Lines and their final 6 weeks in the College Hall Mess, which they will fill to capacity. Having completed initial officer training, students remaining at Cranwell to train in Flying Wing or in the DSGT will transfer to the Trenchard Hall Officers' Mess. York House Officers' Mess will be used to accommodate officers attending post-graduate courses and study periods.

There can be little doubt that the impending population explosion will impose a considerable strain upon all the resources of the College. There will of course be some relief if recruitment figures fall below the targets set but this would be most unwelcome in view of the implications for the future of our Service. We must hope that the required numbers will materialize and attempt to find effective solutions for the many attendant problems. The next few years promise to be particularly significant in the continued evolution of the College.

1978 - The Annual College Review

The Sword of Honour winner, Flight Lieutenant M W J Hare

THE COLLEGE REVIEW

The College Review was held at the Royal Air Force College on 22 September 1978. The Reviewing Officer was Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, GCB, CBE, DFC, AFC, ADC, Chief of the Air Staff. During the Parade the Annual Prizes were presented by CAS.

The Sword of Honour, awarded by the Air Force Board of the Defence Council to the student who in his academic year has most distinguished himself in leadership and in general influence for the good of the College, was presented to Flight Lieutenant M W J Hare, LLB, a graduate of Southampton University and a member of No 26 Graduate Entry.

The Queen's Medal, awarded to the Graduate Entry Officer who has proved himself to be the most outstanding Student Officer of his intake year, was presented to Flying Officer R G Smith MA, a graduate of Edinburgh University and a member of No 27 Graduate Entry.

The Chicksands Cup, awarded to the Graduate Entry Officer who has achieved the highest standard in professional studies on Initial Engineering Courses during his academic year, was presented to Flying Officer S P West, BA, a member of No 27 Graduate Entry who obtained his degree at Oxford.

Flying Officer S W Chase, BSc, of No 28 Graduate Entry and a graduate of Leeds University, received the Prize for Secretarial Studies as the Graduate Entry Secretarial Officer who has achieved the highest standard in Secretarial Studies during his intake year.

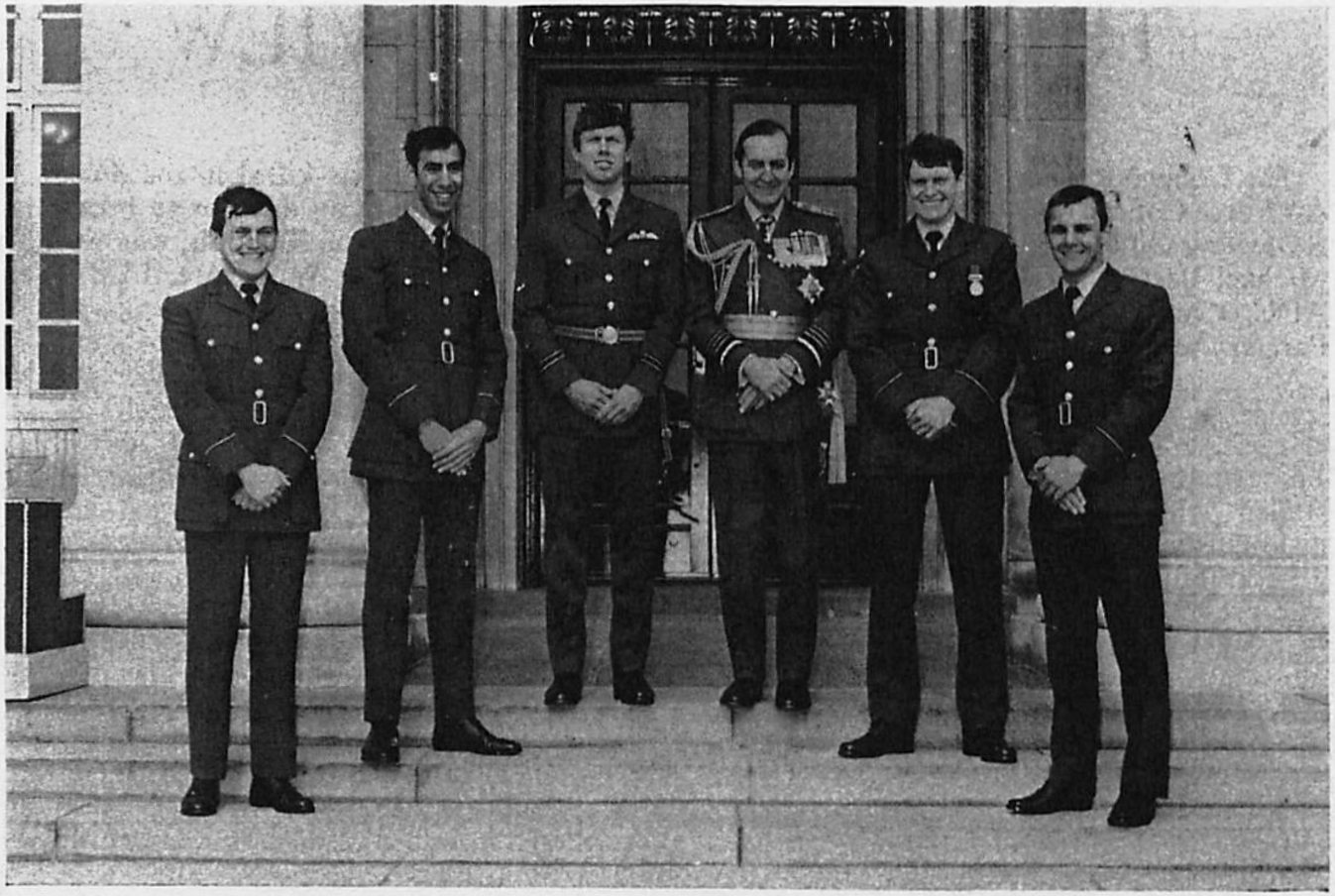
Flying Officer J G Potter, BSc, a graduate of Lancaster University and a member of No 27 Graduate Entry, received the Prize for Supply Studies for achieving the highest standard in Supply Studies in his intake year.

The Kinkead Trophy, presented to the Royal Air Force College in 1929 in memory of Flight Lieutenant S M Kinkead, DSO, DSC, DFC, who was killed in the Solent in 1928 whilst making an attempt to break the world speed record of 300 mph, was won by Flight Lieutenant M W J Hare, LLB. The prize is awarded to the officer who is placed first in the combined final order of merit for flying and associated ground school studies during his intake year.

College guests of the Review included Lady Beetham ; Mr J H Nelson, Deputy Under-Secretary of State (Air), and Mrs Nelson ; Air Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Royal Air Force Support Command, and Lady Williamson ; Air Vice-Marshal P E Bairsto, Air Officer Training RAFSC and Mrs Bairsto.

After a formal luncheon in College Hall, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham planted a commemorative tree in the north-east extension of Queen's Avenue.

1978 - Prize Winners



The Prize Winners with the Chief of the Air Staff
l. to r.: Flying Officer West Flying Officer Potter Flight Lieutenant Hare
Flying Officer Smith Flying Officer Chase

1978 - Pride of Place for Inspirational Leader

PORTRAIT OF MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE SIR ANDREW HUMPHREY

A portrait of the late Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey, Chief of the Defence Staff from October 1976 to January 1977, was unveiled at the College on 19 December 1977.

The portrait, painted by Mara McGregor, is the fourth by the artist to be hung in the dining room at the College. It was unveiled by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron who was at one time Assistant Commandant at Cranwell.

Those attending the unveiling ceremony included Lady Humphrey ; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff ; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, Air Member for Personnel ; and a former Commandant of the Royal Air Force College, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville Stack, Air Secretary. The Old Cranwellian Association was represented by Air Commodore E D McK Nelson its Vice-President, Group Captain F E Nuttall and Wing Commander M E Howells. The artist was also present.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, CAS, Lady Humphrey and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron, CDS, admire the portrait of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey

1978 - Humphrey Memorial Medal

Lady Humphrey presents the Andrew Humphrey Memorial Gold Medal to Squadron Leader G L Thurston

THE ANDREW HUMPHREY MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL

In memory of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Andrew Humphrey, GCB, OBE, DFC, AFC, Chief of the Defence Staff 24 October 1976 to 24 January 1977, Lady Humphrey has generously donated a specially designed gold medal which is awarded annually to the best student on the General Duties Aerosystems Course within the Department of Air Warfare at the Royal Air Force College.

To mark the occasion of the inaugural award, Lady Humphrey honoured the College by making the first presentation at a special ceremony on 14 December 1978. Lady Humphrey, accompanied by the AOC and Commandant and Mrs Harcourt-Smith, was met at Whittle Hall by the Deputy Commandant, Air Commodore Carver and the Director of the Department of Air Warfare, Group Captain Leech. After coffee there followed a presentation on the General Duties Aerosystems Course by the Directing Staff Aerosystems Section, Wing Commander Wilkinson. The party then drove to College Hall for the presentation of the memorial gold medal in the Rotunda. The ceremony, attended by staff and students of 11 GD Aerosystems Course and their wives, was opened by Air Commodore Carver who read the citation and invited Lady Humphrey to present the Andrew Humphrey Memorial Gold Medal to the winner, Squadron Leader G L Thurston, MA.

Squadron Leader Thurston, a graduate of Oxford University, joined the Royal Air Force in 1969. He trained as a navigator and flew Buccaneer aircraft with No XV Squadron in Germany. In 1976 he returned to No 6 Flying Training School at Royal Air Force Finningley as an instructor. On completion of No 11 GD Aerosystems Course, Squadron Leader Thurston was posted to the Royal Air Force College, Department of Air Warfare as the Astronautics and Ballistic Missiles Specialist.

After the ceremony a luncheon was held in College Hall.

No 11 GD AERO-SYSTEMS COURSE

Back Row (l to r): *Flt Lt V Strachan: Flt Lt C Morris: Flt Lt S Heppenstall: Lt P Taylor RN: Flt Lt M Ellaway: Flt Lt A Thompson: Capt V Sprecacenere IAF.*

Centre Row (l to r): *Flt Lt K Walne: Flt Lt I Sampson: Flt Lt G Thurston: Flt Lt A Lovett: Flt Lt R Hardcastle RAAF: Flt Lt B Robinson RAAF: Flt Lt J Sabin: Lt C Landi IAF: Capt J Freedman USAF.*

Front Row (l to r): *Lt P Fothergill RAN: Sqn Ldr K Bomber: Sqn Ldr D Adams: Sqn Ldr S Glencorse: Lt Cdr C Linsell RN: Sqn Ldr P Goodwin RAAF: Sqn Ldr R Kemp: Sqn Ldr P Barrett.*